

Community Members Meeting Minutes

Date: March 27, 2023 **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)

Chair: Larry Stranberg **Minutes:** Bree Odd

Present: Larry Stranberg, Bree Odd, Laurie Walters, James Evans (guest speaker), Marnie Brenner, Laurel White, Chris van der Mark, Krista Harvey, Sherry Yonkman, Rosanna McGregor, Hannah Diether, Kelly MacDonald, Barb Jones, Michael Moses, Craig Glover, Pat Biblow, Carla Bullinger, Silvia Seibert-Dubray, Robin Hunt, Nancy Colton

Regrets: Brianna van de Wijngaard, Melissa Newberry

Land Acknowledgement

The Social Planning Council of Williams Lake and Area would like to acknowledge this meeting is taking place on the traditional unceded territory of the Secwepemc Nation and the T'exelc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for March 27, 2023

Motion to accept Shannon Thom **Seconded** Krista Harvey **Carried**

Review & Approve Minutes for February 27, 2023

Motion to accept Barb Jones **Seconded** Krista Harvey **Carried**

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent.

Guest Speaker: James Evans, Labor Market Study Project Manager – Economic Development, T'silhqot'in National Government

- Seven month contract to complete the labour market study
- Expansion categories geared for 2030
 - Expect 650 new babies by 2030
 - Expected economic growth
 - T'sideldel business ventures with two resorts
- Wildfire report completed and shared publicly, winding up on end of database
- They will be back at the negotiation table for healthcare education, fostering education locally, to encourage staying and serve in community
- Working with the Cariboo Regional District and the City of Williams Lake with links to the website for population retentions and share employment opportunities out west

- Second phase goals to have six community liaisons from respective communities survey approx. 1000 people, especially youth an large older working base
- Third phase goal to pull data together to complete final report and share with local communities, with final goal to share with province
- In process of finalizing database framework, 5-6 months to complete
- Hope to role report out in October

Questions, Answers, Comments

Carla – thank you, it will be a valuable tool for keeping members in community

James – TNG is growing at the table, locally and provincially

Laurie – Thank you, looking forward to having you back, open to connecting and assisting with the survey and potential partners where she can.

Lightning Round - Organizational Updates, a Challenge/burning questions, or a Success

Michael Moses, City of Williams Lake: Message from Shannon O'Donovan – advocate for climate action. Release of “*We Can Think It Out*” on Friday, March 3

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VddZgwBhVNs>. This was a very special collaboration project between a group of youth ages 10-18 yr. olds and a few Cariboo local musicians, Pharis Romero, Shannon O'Donovan and Dena Baumann. The film festival is hosting the “What’s Up in the Puddle” at the Arts Centre, tonight. Tickets are \$10, cash only at the door.

Shannon Thom, Horton Ventures (d.ba. WorkBC Centre Williams Lake): Class 1

Professional Driving - Williams Lake - This tuition free program will give the training needed to gain multiple career opportunities in commercial driving. By including the new Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Class 1 it prepares graduates for employment driving class 1-5 motor vehicles or combination of vehicles (not including motorcycles). Classes also include focused training on load securement, transportation rules and regulations, plus, the importance of safety and professionalism as masters of the road/ highway.

The training includes:

- Class 1 MELT (60 hours in-cab driver training + 34 hours yard time + 48 hours theory)
- Airbrakes Endorsement
- Communications and Team Building
- Occupational First Aid Level I
- Transportation Endorsement
- Work Experience (7 weeks)

Course Schedule: May 1 - September 29, 2023. Participants eligible to receive training must:

- Must be an EI Eligible Client, a BCEA PWD Client, a BCEA Non-PWD Client, or have had a claim in the last five years or have earned more than \$2,000 in insurable earnings and paid employee EI premiums on those earnings in at least five of the last 10 years..
- Be eligible for WorkBC Case Management and be referred by a WorkBC Case Manager
- Have a valid Class 5 driver's licence

For more information, please contact:

Patty - 250-515-3662 or email: patty@goteamprotraining.com

Laurie - 250-613-9422 or email: goteamprotraining@gmail.com

Krista Harvey – BGC Williams Lake: Spring Break – Sprott Kids filling up, May 6. In need of volunteers, volunteer forms are available to fill out <https://www.bgcwilliamslake.com/volunteer>. May 1, 3:30 – 6:00 pm Mountain biking at Fox Mountain. Hiring summer staff. Rec Leader for 13-18 age group and three-summer camp leads for age groups 5-12. Interested individuals should be interested in hiking, biking, etc. **Question from Carla** - *do you have updates on activities for youth week?* **Krista** – *May 1-7, Derek is in charge of the planning; please connect with him for more info or if you have ideas.*

Marnie Brenner – Interior Health (IH): New Community Health Facilitator, working on long-term planning, policies, and connecting organizations. An Extreme Heat Mapping workshop, facilitated by Anne Burrill is coming up on April 5. The focus is on mapping areas of concern.

Barb Jones – Communities That Care (CTC): CTC is a prevention-based model. The network meetings take place the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1-3pm. CTC is working to support BCG during youth week.

Michael Moses – City of Williams Lake: Looking for local encampment information to gain a better understanding and build awareness. The Supreme Court law not to evict people when housing is not available dramatically changed what is happening in other areas of the province. Please share any insights, resources, ideas, etc. with him at mmoses@telus.net or call 250-267-2562. **Laurel White, Kelly MacDonald, & Marnie Brenner** are interested in connecting to provide encampment education. **Rosanna commented:** *it is important to recognize there is enough housing; some people choose to live like this. There is four pilot projects taking place right now, looking at how to attach individuals to psychiatrists and physicians. Keeping an open mind on how to provide safe injection sites, and connections and educate the public. Cariboo Friendship Society is always open to assist.*

Rosanna McGregor – Cariboo Friendship Society (CFS): A member of the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The Volunteer Income Tax program is busy, with an increase in people looking for assistance. Would like to see TRU provide more management, supervisor, and HR communication skills courses. There is a need to have junior

staff members attend training. **Pat commented:** need 10 people registered for a course, open to further discussion and will pass info onto Allison for a needs based course. **Krista & Sherry commented:** they are interested in courses like this. Rosanna recently attended the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association meeting, \$1MIL funds held by red tape, there is a reluctance to bring it to BC. National Housing funds released to provinces to aid in increasing housing stock. Increasing seniors housing opens up housing for those living in encampments. Glad to see City will be amending bylaws to allow for carriage/garden homes.

Pat Biblow – Thompson Rivers University (TRU): TRU is hosting the “Living Language” exhibition, from Museum of BC. It has seven stations to learn about Indigenous language in BC. The semester is winding down and commencement ceremonies are coming up June 2. There are summer courses in place. Challenge to find replacement for Bryan Daly. Reta Langlands is moving on and there will be a gap to fill there. TRU postponed the Gala to October. **Question from Michael – will ticket payments be refunded. Pat – Refunds will be given if not already.**

Sherry Yonkman, Downtown Business Improvement Association (Downtown BIA): Accepting application for the public art display. Interested artists can have their work on display in community for up to 10 years. Two grants each for \$5000, one from the City of Williams Lake, one from BIA are available. Application deadline is April 30, for more info visit, <https://downtownwilliamslake.com/> This year’s Art Walk will be Aug 11 – Sept 6. The BIA AGM in April is at the fire hall, each business gets a vote. Connect with Sherry at info@downtownwilliamslake.com if interested in sharing community updates in the BIA newsletter. The next monthly coffee, at Appoi Kitchen will be Wed, April 12, starting at 8 am.

Laurel White – BGC and Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA CCB): The Community Action Team is hosting a BBQ at Boitania Park, Friday, April 14 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. This is 7th year of the toxic drug supply/overdose crisis as recognized by the public health emergency. Everyone is welcome.

Carla Bullinger – Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Two challenges. First challenge related to funding from UBCM for supporting seniors in accessing online supports. Seniors are facing complex issues, especially in relation to housing. Eva Navrot established a monthly meeting to discuss these issues; she is looking for input from community. Please connect with Carla at carla@caribooliteracy.com or Eva at evanavrot5@gmail.com Second challenge, in launching the second tutoring pilot at Nesika and the library, there is info to share for anyone writing grant proposals.

Kelly MacDonald – Interior Health (IH): She will be supporting Marnie in taking over her role as Community Health Facilitator. The Active Transportation group will be hosting an event on April 27 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the rec centre. This is an opportunity to sharing info, engage, and address active transportation challenges locally.

Hannah Diether – Cariboo Regional District (CRD): Hired Primary Care Network dietician, to start in May. One physiotherapist still needed.

Chris van der Mark – School District 27 (SD27): Ongoing work at former dorms for day care site. Shout out to the City for \$3MIL towards permits and fees. Still require funds to get cafeteria operating to code. Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) has been instrumental in helping with respect to the cultural learning designs. Recruitment remains a challenge; having 3-4-5 interviews per week. A pilot project hired a recruiter to assist with hard hit areas. The RCMP Youth Academy was a big hit and the Heavy Metal Rocks program is coming up in May. The upcoming year budget is looking good. The pro-d learning series with top end professionals for next year is looking spectacular.

Laurie Walters, Community Futures (CF), and Social Planning Council (SPC): Focus on reigniting Thrive. Working with Carla to write UBCM grant application for education and awareness campaign video. Video profiling who we are, what we do, especially in regards to the Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy written during the pandemic. **Carla commented** – thank you for sharing info about the Thrive Strategy, it's important to recognize the priority initiatives, like the Food Hub and the tutoring pilot, that came about because of it.

Nancy Colton – Community Member: Thank you for all the hard work.

Craig Glover – Williams Lake and District Credit Union (WLDCU): Lending has dropped a bit, with spring pick up expected. WLDCU has been out in community sharing info for first time homeowners. Connect with Heather for more info. The economy is steady.

Bree Odd, Social Planning Council (SPC), and BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS): Ongoing updates to SPC website, marketing and branding. Please share updates as soon as possible. Tentatively, scheduling [LEAP](#) workshop for May. Started position with CMHA as the new Training Coordinator.

Larry Stranberg, Community Futures (CF): Still reviewing lots of business plans

Meeting Adjourned 12:35 pm, Krista Harvey.