

Community Members Meeting

Date: April 24, 2023

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: [Zoom](#)

Chair: Larry Stranberg

Minutes: Bree Odd

Present: Larry Stranberg, Bree Odd, Barb Jones, Laurie Walters, Carla Bullinger, Shannon Thom, Silvia Siebert-Dubray, Craig Glover, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Michael Moses, Stephanie Masun, Anne Burrill, Marnie Brenner, Laurel White, Brad McKinnon (Guest Speaker), Josh Smith, Heather Silvester, Madison Rushton, Hannah Diether, Beth Veenkamp, Sherry Yonkman, Krista Harvey, Wylie Wystedt, Angie

Regrets: Tammy Levesque-Holyk

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 April 24, 2023

Motion Silvia Siebert-Dubray Seconded by Carla Bullinger Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for March 27, 2023

Motion Laurie Walters Seconded by Silvia Siebert-Dubray Carried

Member Introductions: all members shared.

Guest Speaker(s): S/Sgt Brad McKinnon and Sgt. Josh Smith Williams Lake RCMP S/Sgt Brad McKinnon

- An interim replacement for Dell Byron & Darren Dodge
- Relocated from Nova Scotia, 13 years with the RCMP in three different provinces
- Learned a lot from his time in Ottawa during the terrorist attack
- Firm belief in the importance of mental health
- Experience in everything from homicides to LNG project services, and major highways incidents
- Looking forward to being here

Sgt Josh Smith

- 18 years with the RCMP, mostly in BC North
- Experience in everything from Indigenous services to trafficking, and bike patrol

- In Lynton during the forest fires
- Active in community initiatives like school wrestling and Kids, Cops, & Computers
- Provides office support 2nd to Brad

Questions, Answers, Comments

S/Sgt McKinnon, the RCMP is open for business and interested in contributing and working together in the community.

Larry, can you share info about the Violent Offenders Program pilot project? S/Sgt McKinnon, it is a strategic enforcement project, focused on a percentage of violent offenders. It is a program in collaboration with Crown Counsel and BC Sheriffs. It is about developing a strategy to hold those committing violent crimes accountable for the bad doings in the community. Having them put away, and may mean rehabilitation. Waiting for expectations from the province. There is a struggle with “catch and release” not addressing the crimes, there is a passing off to the courts, which can create greater challenges for those in custody. Crown Counsel is leading the charge.

Carla, to clarify, is RCMP looking to fill another position? S/Sgt McKinnon, we are waiting for the Senior Management replacement to come, it was previously Myron Friesen and Jeff Pelley. Together with the new hire, Brad and Josh will make up the senior team.

Marnie, will you be open to an RCMP stop & chat and is there going to be a mental health nurse going out on some calls? **S/Sgt McKinnon**, for sure interested in a stop & chat. We are looking into an integrated approach for mental health calls. Every option is at the table. There is a process in place with the crisis nurses and walks in the community with them. Looking for approaches to resolve issues peacefully, such as how the encampments at City Hall were managed. Prince George has new initiatives and we are excited to see what comes of it.

Lightning Round - Share an Organizational Update, a Challenge, or a Success

Heather Silvester, Canadian Mental Health Associations Cariboo Chilcotin Branch

(CMHA CCB): CMHA CCB is a non-profit, operating on contract grants. CMHA CCB is hosting an open house in recognition of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week on May 16 open to the public from 12:30-4 pm. We provide many different services including Perpetrators of Violent Crime education, Counselling for youth, adults, and couples and the crisis line. No one is turned away; however, those at high risk are referred to the Mental Health and Substance Use team. Last year our crisis line provided 6,000+ interventions; 2500 hours locally; 33,000 hours province-wide; 36,000 calls and 540,000 minutes of support. The majority was done by volunteers with over 800 free additional minutes by staff.

Laurie Walters, Social Planning Council (SPC): She and Counselor Michael will attend the Summit through Tamarack Institute; the focus is on policy changes. If you haven't purchased an SPC membership we encourage you to do so. Applying for several grants, and looking for more ideas. If you have any please share them with her at laurie.walters@wlspsc.ca

Madison Rushton, CMHA CCB: New Training Coordinator with CMHA CCB, focused on

building community resiliency with funding from the Red Cross. Working toward ASIST and safeTalk train the trainers to provide the workshops locally and will be looking at other workshops to build resiliency in the community.

Laurel White, CMHA CCB & BGC Williams Lake: The Community Action Team (CAT) with CMHA CCB will be providing another free community-wide training event in August, hoping to coincide with International Overdose Awareness Day.

Silvia Siebert-Dubray – City of Williams Lake: Received funding from Red Cross to increase resiliency after the fires, floods, pandemic, etc. The Wellness and Safety Committee is working toward reducing trauma, and asset mapping. The Cariboo Chilcotin Action Response Team (CCART-situation table) has supported 238 situations to date. If anyone is interested in CCART, community policing, or restorative justice connect with her.

Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake Business Improvement Association (BIA): Developing a five-year strategic plan with input from downtown businesses. The BIA Strategic Plan Survey (10 questions, approx. 3-min to complete, link below) to determine time, focus, and funding. <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/uGT70N5/DWLBIA> The Art Committee is taking applications for 10-year art projects with a \$5000 award from BIA and a \$5000 award from the City. The application's closing date is April 30. Art Walk applications are accepted until May 4, the Art Walk is happening Aug 11 - Sept 6. Amanda Fuller is organizing a Shop & Win (baskets) for Mother's Day and Father's Day, with entries completed on the spot for each purchase at participating businesses. Send community updates for the BIA newsletter to info@downtownwilliamslake.com **Larry**, appreciates Wednesday morning coffee for businesses to network. **Sherry**, thank you, they have been successful at the Appoi Kitchen, and the next one is May 10 at 8:00 am

Barb Jones, Communities That Care (CTC): Also provides family mediation and participates in Restorative Justice. Provided brief CTC and "[It takes a community...](#)" report overview. CTC Advisory Council working to reignite [Circle of Courage](#) The CTC network meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month from 1-3 pm, location changes each month. Supporting BGC in Youth Week with a challenge going out to partners to collaborate with BGC on a youth week activity. Those accepting the challenge will have their names added to a draw for a Smashing Smoothies gift. Working to create "a sense of belong" newsletter so please share your "sense of belonging" stories to communitiesthatcare@wlspc.ca

Carla Bullinger, Cariboo Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Bright Red Bookshelf: CCPL is collecting gently used children's books for our Bright Red Bookshelf program. Please drop off at #302-172 Second Ave or call 250-392-7833 to arrange drop off. **Larry**, have you connected with the Rotary Club? They often have books. **Carla**, yes, thank you, through Suzanne.

Krista Harvey, BGC Williams Lake: Youth Week is May 1-7, watch for activity updates on social media. Hiring two leadership positions for NOOPA (for 12-18 year-old youth programs),

and four summer camp leaders (for 5-12-year-old summer camp kids). Bottle Drive takes place May 8 and Street Party is Aug 30. Those interested in Mountain Biking program will have to sign up online; we can provide assistance in registering for families in need. BGC Open House is June 2, **Carla**, to clarify all youth interested will have to sign up online. **Krista**, youth can drop in though they will still have to register. For liability reasons and to keep track. Sprout Kids leaders have to participate in training; there is a cost for this.

Wylie Bystedt - T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG): New to Economic Development Office with TNG, looking forward to attending meetings regularly.

Michael Moses – City of Williams Lake: Assisting in planning a 4-Day, 10-year anniversary event for Orange Shirt Day. If interested in helping with the event contact Michael, planning meetings will happen more frequently as we get closer to the event. We are open to entries for brochures, related to every child matters, for gift bags. Organizations interested will have to print 2500 copies. There is a call out to local artists and vendors to share their arts and crafts at the festival. Orange Shirt Society is creating Orange Shirt Day scrubs; Michael can connect you with Blair if interested. **Krista is interested.** Also working on Orange Shirt Day flags. Michael is also attending the National Indigenous Day planning sessions. Indigenous Relations in WL are growing with a new position for Indigenous Relationships and Reconciliation coming. Working directly with [Women Transforming Cities Laurie](#), based on Michael's interest in learning about encampments, would like to connect after the Summit before the City writes encampment policies. **Laurie to connect with Silvia. Michael to connect with Laurel** for the upcoming Community Harm Reduction Training.

Beth Veenkamp, City of Williams Lake: Attending housing conferences, is tough for the province. There is a lack of communication related to housing in rural housing matters; missing rural acute crisis at larger meetings. There is a push for a Northern Rural-based housing summit. Infrastructure costs always. There is rezoning in WL for garden/carriage homes, based on property suitability. The City of Quesnel has pre-designed garden/carriage home plans at <https://www.quesnel.ca/building-development/accessory-dwelling-units/pre-reviewed-accessory-dwellings> Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), very few successful applications in March, will host another round for non-profits. Myth-busting - Williams Lake is **NOT** a “SMART City” Anyone spreading the word that it is, is wrong. **Larry**, how is the mall developing? **Beth** is slow and progress is being made. **Sherry**, is the CRD looking at the bylaws for garden/carriage homes? **Beth**, talks are happening at CRD to address concerns around wells and utilities. There are creative ways to overcome some of these barriers.

Marnie Brenner – Interior Health (IH): New Healthy Community Development team, is interested in being a part of the discussions with the CRD. Participating in the Active Transportation Week planning for April 27 discussion at the Gibraltar Room with Dr. Trent Smith. Doors open at 5:30 pm. There is a community connectedness grant coming from Plan H

Brianna van de Wijngaard, The Central Cariboo Community Food Hub: Provided a brief overview of Food Hub goals to get more food into the community through organizations already doing so. Working with Stephanie Bird and Robin Hunt to coordinate food literacy Pierogi Making workshop, reserved for clients, in need and is fully sponsored. Send an email to foodhub@wlspc.ca if you have an interested client. United Way BC (UWBC) is hosting a survey for community impact and investment projects that might need volunteer support, it is not area specific. Complete the survey at https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Fb1Mtc9DG0WhW_EGvHTciY4gOFRSYPZHqaDun0pRjGdUMUk4WEtPUkZPQUwwRDdQWFJPQINJOUZOSS4u

Hannah Diether, Rural Divisions of Family Practice: A new dietician and Social Mental Health Clinician starting in May. Collaborative service planning for primary care in the community for those impacted by the closing of the Yorston Clinic and attaching patients to maternity care.

Craig Glover, Williams Lake and District Credit Union (WLDCU): Lending for real estate is increasing. Those in need of restructuring due to shutdowns, layoffs, etc. can contact WLDCU for assistance and temporary solutions. There is a chance interest rates will go up again if we don't see a dip in inflation.

Angie: NA

Bree Odd, Social Planning Council (SPC) and BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS): Working behind the scenes to update and revise the SPC website and planning guest speakers for May and June. Facilitating in-person Family Support Groups (FSG) starting May 4, 6-7:30 pm. LEAP Communication workshop May 26 from 9-4, location TBA. Strengthening Families Together (SFT) a six-week program specific for families and friends supporting a loved one living with a mental illness will start May 30.

Larry Stranberg, Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin (CF): Met Brenda Bailey to discuss an extension to the Planning for Succession program. Still seeing many new business plans.

Brad McKinnon, Williams Lake RCMP: We are finalizing plans for this year's Stampede and will have a strong police presence there. We are assisting the city with the homelessness challenges. In the process of meeting with stakeholders for the annual performance plan, consider how we do business and whom we do business with. Already looking at the middle of May for a coffee talk, we want people to see us people first. **Laurie**, we would like to extend the invitation to attend SPC community meetings on a regular basis, when available. **Brad**, please send the invite.

Meeting Adjourned 12:55 pm, Krista Harvey