



# Social Planning Council

Williams Lake  
and Area

*Many Voices - One Table - Shared Goals*

**WORK**  
IS ONLY IMPORTANT  
BECAUSE IT HELPS  
US CONNECT WITH  
& IMPACT  
PEOPLE

Thank you to everyone who joined us in the last meeting. It was great to hear about all the great work you are doing in the community and the connections that were made between organizations and individuals. Connection is why we're here and I'm proud to be a part of it.



I hope you got to enjoy some of the Halloween events. They were really well done and as a young family, we enjoyed the kid-friendly activities, so a big thank you to everyone involved!

A friendly reminder that our next meeting on November 27th is our AGM. We hope you can all join us.

Also, please remember your membership fees are due prior to the AGM.

Stay Warm!

---

**Next Meeting: November**  
AGM 11:30 - 12:00  
Community Monthly Meeting 12:00 - 1:00

## HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED

October Community Meeting Minutes

### Community Members Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 23, 2023      **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Chair:** Larry Stranberg      **Minutes:** Liane Nunn

**Present:** Michelle Johnston, Sherry Yonkman, Chris Vandermark, Larry Stranberg, Marnie Brenner, Laurel White, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Wylie Bystedt, Lindsay Sidor, Shannon Thom, Laurie Walters, Liane Nunn, Michael Moses, Hannah Diether, Jean Oke

**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'exelcemc people.

**Review & Approve Agenda for October 23, 2023**

Motion Shannon Thom                      Seconded by Sherry Yonkman      Carried

**Review & Approve Minutes for September 25, 2023**

Motion Chris Vandermark                      Seconded by Wylie Bystedt              Carried

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

**Guest Speaker(s):** Brianna van de Wingard - Community Food Hub

- Food Hub project is stewarded by Social Planning Council, funded by United Way BC.
- United Way consists of a network of stakeholders who work collaboratively to increase the food security in our communities.
- Our Food Hub Goal – reduce household food insecurity through collaboration and funding support. Meet increasing needs of those recently finding themselves in food insecurity. Building a more resilient local food system – working with local producers to strengthen local food policies.
- Focus on addressing the inequity of who is affected by food insecurities, increasing access to health and local food, and building community awareness.
- Food security gaps that we've learned so far:
  - Higher food costs mean donations per client are getting smaller.
- K-12 schools have limited to no meal planning due to low staff/funding. No federal meal planning for school.
- Chris Vandermark (SD27) – no constant method for meal plan. Provincially, there has been some significant funding provided to the schools to help them make better choices in terms of what's available.
- Limited infrastructure in place to process, store, and distribute perishable and healthy food donations.
- Initiatives/Project Work:
  - WL Farmers Market, local food donations – Pregnancy Outreach Program collects fresh food donations from the farmers' market.
  - Cariboo Seed Project – delivering educational events to build diversity and maintain skill sets.
- Strategic Priorities:
  - Increase capacity for partners and meet the needs of women/single mothers, youth, and Indigenous community members.
  - Work in partnership with our local governments and organizations....
- Our Work So Far:
  - Over \$20,000 in direct financial support to existing food programs
  - \$12,000 in grocery card donations and BCFMA nutrition coupon donations
  - \$7020 locally produced food donations
  - Delivered cooking classes and cooking kits to at-risk youth and mothers.
  - Purchased 3 freezers and 1 fridge for food storage and donation.

- Where We're Headed:
  - Physical location for Food Hub
  - Workshop series
  - Holiday healthy food hamper drive
  - Educational material development
  - Support for School Districts Feeding Futures funding programming.
  - Online resources
- How Can We Help?
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Funding – if there is food security-related financial needs, let us know.
- Physical space – if your organization has a need or dream for a space that would help local food security programming.
- Get Involved:
  - SD27 Feeding Futures Fund Stakeholder Forum – November 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - Get in touch with Brianna for more information.
  - Holiday season food drive
  - We are looking for a Community Fridge location.
- Contact: [foodhub@wlspsc.ca](mailto:foodhub@wlspsc.ca)

## Questions

- Community Fridge – Would it be outside? Worried about vandalism?
  - Were going to mitigate it as best we can, make it safe and clean and accessible.
- What Months?
  - That would be discussed during the logistics planning process.

## Lightning Round

### Chris Vandermark, SD 27

- In partnership with the City of WL, CRD and WLFN on an update to the Marie Sharpe school. Will find out in the spring more about the possibilities.
- Thanks to the City and CRD and WLFN for their work on the project.
- Shout out to all schools for good engagement around the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day – focused more on the learnings.
- SD is running what is being considered best learnings – seeing highest engagement from teachers on pro-d days.

### Shannon Thom, Work BC Williams Lake

- Pathway to Employment Program offered by Horton Ventures Inc. & M. Daniels Consulting.
- A 12-week program starting in January that provides incentives for employment and provides participants with a living support of \$300/week.
- The program includes training for security, early childhood educator assistant, office skills, customer service, and labor

### Sherry Yonkman, Downtown Williams Lake

- Amanda Fuller is organizing Winter Lights festival. If you want to put something in the winter parade, or you're a downtown location that wants to host family friendly activities, let us know.
- Clean Team – Trying to put together for next year. Purchasing equipment and start up supplies.
- Downtown Dollars, shop local promotion. Selling gift certificates at BIA office to be used in Downtown business (who choose to participate). 35 businesses signed up so far.

### **Wylie Bystedt, T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG)**

- Entrepreneur program – starting in new year, taking names from TNG.
  - Looking for coordinator.
- Hoping to gain some more indigenous businesses to promote next year.
- Questions- who are the candidates:
  - Keeping it open to T̓silhqot'in members. If we have room, we may open it up to others.

### **Lindsay Sidor**

- Focusing on how to better help individuals with rising costs and new mortgage rates.
- Helping clients make plans and budgets.

### **Jean Oke, Scout Island**

- Redoing the trails that were damaged a few years ago.
- Ongoing programs in partnership with SD27.
- Anglican Church is hosting a free store (bedding and clothing) and soup kitchen.

### **Michelle Johnston, CMHA**

- Take Back the Night happening on Thursday. Starting behind BMO, doing a walk over to Botanio Park with live music, food vendors. 6:00pm – 9:00pm.
- Two workshops coming up:
  - Assist Program, 2-day workshop on Suicide Intervention skills November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Marnie Brenner, Interior Health**

- Food In Schools forum – Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup> – collaborating opportunity to enhance nutritional programs for children.
- Student Radon Skill testing contest.
- Grades 4 – 7 contests.
  - Radon is a radioactive gas that lingers inside our home, school, and workplace.
  - It is the leading cause of lung cancer in Canada after smoking.
- Highlighting monthly newsletter – Breastfeeding and Community Wellbeing booklet, Homeless Counts, learning opportunities.

- Funding opportunity BC Active Transportation Grants, Climate Action Grants, New Horizons for Seniors Program, First Nations Wellbeing Fund.
- Sign up for newsletter – Marnie will share link with Liane and Liane will communicate out.

### **Liane Nunn, Thrive**

- Hosted our first workshop around the Revive Thrive Poverty Awareness video.
- Second workshop scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Laurie Walters, SPC**

- Starting work on Organization Resilience and Stability plan for how the organization is going to move forward.
- Video series as a kick off for Education and Awareness strategy on Revive Thrive
- Continue to be stewards for Central Cariboo Food Hub and Community that Cares.

### **Michael Moses, City Council**

- At the Conservation Society, our new president is Amber Greg.
- At CMHA, begun creating a psychology health and safety implementation plan for our staff. Creating a 5-year plan.
- At CMHA, focus to indigenize mission statement and some policies to mention First Nations government, organizations, people. Feedback from BC wide CMHA said can't do it because it is a Canada wide policy and mission statement.

### **Laurel White, Boys and Girls Club & Community Action Team**

- Community Actions Team – working on getting team hoodies while doing outreach work so we are easily noticeable. Planning to be parked places throughout the community to be sure people have access to supplies such as toques, mitts, snacks.
- BCG – haunted house week starts Friday night 6:00 – 8:00pm
  - Food and monetary donations for entry. Donations will stay at BCG.
- Working on getting a playground and a 15-passenger van.
- Question: Who is part of the Community Action team?
  - Group of service providers and people with lived experience.
  - CMHA, WLFN, Interior Health, BCG.

### **Hannah Diether, Division of Family Practice**

- Losing a couple of providers at the end of the year.
- Working on a few new models:
  - Primary Care Network clinic
  - Urgent Primary Care centre

### **Carla Bullinger, Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy**

- Baby Fest, November 17<sup>th</sup>. An event focused on information and support for families with new babies.

### **Larry Stranberg**

- Loans are slow because of higher interest rates.
- Succession planning for businesses.
- Reviewing a lot of business plans - amazing people are wanting to start their own business.
- Free courses at [takingcareofbusiness.biz](http://takingcareofbusiness.biz)

**NOTE:** *Anyone can share feedback, possible connections, or thoughts to what they heard during their time or in the chat.*

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:50**

**Motion to end: Lindsay Sidor**

---

## **Community Events**



**FOOD IN  
SCHOOLS  
FORUM**

**WED NOV 8  
10 AM – 2 PM  
Gibraltar Room,  
Cariboo Memorial  
Rec Complex**



**DOWN TOWN** presents  
WILLIAMS LAKE

# Winter Lights Parade

December 2, 2023

# Baby Fest

**Welcoming babies born in 2023**

Join us in the **Gibraltar Room** (525 Proctor St)  
Sat, Nov 18, 2023 from 10:00am-1:00pm

**Free Event**  
Meet local agencies and learn about programs and services while you fill up a bag of goodies.

For information, email [ccrr@womenscontact.org](mailto:ccrr@womenscontact.org) or call 250-392-4118

## Resources and Opportunities

### Pathways To Employment

**Unemployed, Precariously Employed, Need Training?**  
The Pathways to Employment Program provides incentives for employment. This 12-week program provides participants with a living support of \$300/week.

Must be unemployed, precariously employed, and facing barriers to employment. To be eligible, participants need to be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or a protected person entitled to work in Canada and live in BC.

TRAINING OPTIONS INCLUDE:  
• Security Training • Early Childhood Educator Assistant • Office Skills and Bookkeeping • Customer Service • Labourer

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 250-398-5133 ext 203**

# COME AND VOLUNTEER WITH US!

**Upcoming Volunteer Training**  
When: November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Where: Seniors Activity Center, 176 North Fourth Avenue

Training to work with seniors in a supportive environment, communication, form filling and so much more...

Discussion about volunteer opportunities in the organization and community  
Contact Eva to register 778-412-1855  
Lunch included 😊

**We will also be talking about other volunteer opportunities, there is something for everyone!!!!!!**

Senior's Support Program

Interior Health Newsletter Subscription link: [IH Healthy Communities \(list-manage.com\)](https://list-manage.com)

## Important Dates

January 23

July 24

February 27

August - summer break, no meeting



March 27

September 25

April 24

October 23

May 29

November 27 - AGM & Community Meeting

June 26

December - winter break, no meeting

---

## Become a Social Planning Council Member!

Social Planning Council is a member-supported organization. Your membership fees are critical to supporting our work connecting, collaborating, and bringing our community together for a better quality of life for all.

For more info contact [info@wlspc.ca](mailto:info@wlspc.ca)

---

266 Oliver Street, Williams Lake, BC V2G 1M1

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



