

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING NOTES

Date: February 23, 2026

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: [Zoom](#)

Chair: Shannon Thom

Notes: Bree Odd

In Attendance: Bree Odd, Shannon Tom, Melissa Klassen, Shaun Edwards, Jean Oke, Eric Davidson, Mike Franklin, Jen Johnson, Lizelle Pierce, Larry Strandberg, Hannah Diether, Angelika, Emma Swabey, Madison Rushton, Marnie Brenner, Sarah Jackman, Hanna Favel, Barb Jones, Lexi Davis

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'exelcenc people.

Approve Agenda with Additions for February 23, 2026

Motion Jean Oke **Seconded by** Larry Strandber **Carried**

Member Introductions: All Shared

Guest Speakers

Lexi Davis – Capstone Research Project (College of the Rockies / SPC)

- Conducting a capstone research project to support Social Planning Council organizational effectiveness and direction. Focus on identifying frameworks, policies, and practices that may strengthen operations. Review of current operations, strengths, and opportunities.
- Interviews to be conducted with stakeholders, board members, and community partners.
- Comparative research with similar communities across Canada.

Discussion / Connections:

- Opportunity for participants to share insight and contribute to future organizational direction.
- Potential to inform future planning and structure for SPC.

Shaun Edwards – Primary Care Hub & Melissa Klassen – Division of Family Practice

Topic: Supports for Unattached Patients & Cancer Screening Access

Shaun Edwards – Primary Care Hub Role:

- Focus on individuals without a family physician (unattached patients).
- Provides chronic disease support and education, preventative screening and follow-up support, medication review and health navigation, system navigation (appointments, online forms, virtual care), post-discharge follow-up
- Connect clients to additional supports within the Primary Care Hub and community.
- Referral form preferred; walk-ins supported if needed. Services are non-urgent.

Melissa Klassen – Cancer Screening Initiative:

- Partnership between Division of Family Practice, Interior Health, and CanScreen.
- Supports access to screening for individuals without a primary care provider.
- Focus on early detection (breast, colon, lung screening).
- Target population: primarily ages 40–74.
- Combines:
 - virtual care through CanScreen, in-person support through Shaun
- Initiative launching publicly following initial community outreach.

Discussion / Connections:

- Interest in outreach to Indigenous communities, employers and workplaces, community organizations
- WorkBC offered space for materials distribution.
- Gibraltar expressed interest in internal promotion and potential workplace presentation.
- CMHA identified opportunities to connect through programs and housing supports.
- SPC offered support to share materials broadly.

Lightning Round

Jean Oke, Scout Island Nature Centre / WL Field Naturalists

- Programming ongoing; Nature Kids event held Feb 21, spring break camps and March programming planned. Marsh Magic (May) and bridge project (anticipated June).
- Summer student hiring underway. Volunteer and membership opportunities available.
- Noted recent challenge related to public misinformation regarding permits.

Mike Franklin, Foundry

- Expansion into 100 Mile House underway. Initial school-based work started.
 - Soft launch of services anticipated for September, longer-term goal of satellite centre.

Jen Johnson, United Way BC

- Budget planning underway.
- Supporting development of a social response task force for emergency preparedness (wildfire season).

Lizelle Pierce, Gibraltar Mine

- Promoting local businesses through social media (recruitment/retention initiative).
- Strong engagement and increased visibility, opportunity identified for collaboration with health screening initiative.

Hannah Diether, Division of Family Practice

- Two providers closing panels this spring.
- New physicians expected Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.
- NP students showing interest in returning to practice locally.

Angelika Sellick, Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy

- Serving as drop-off site for Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.
- Integrating financial literacy support (Roberta Smith), posters to be shared.

Emma Swabey, Food Hub

- Year-end reporting underway.
- Seed bank and seed library launching, Soup Series paused in February, resuming March.
- Donation station returning for farmers market (2025), encouraging public and gardeners to donate surplus produce.

Madison Rushton, Canadian Mental Health Association

- SafeTALK training upcoming (free, 15+).
- Connect Parenting Program launching (April, 10-week program), focus on supporting caregivers of youth ages 8–18.

Sarah Jackman, Salvation Army

- Community generosity highlighted: Meal donation for 100 people, \$5,000 equipment donation
- Continued strong community support despite economic pressures.

Larry Strandberg, Community Futures / Elder College

- Increased workload due to staffing changes.
- Ongoing business support (loans, programs).
- Elder College: ~230 members, seeking instructors, courses available for 50+

Marnie Brenner, Interior Health

- Learning session attended on child and youth mental wellness (protective factors).
- Funding opportunities shared: FireSmart, Age-Friendly Communities, Climate Fund Finder
- Early conversations around heat planning.

Eric Davidson, BGC Williams Lake

- Temporary relocation to TRU due to plumbing issues.
- Youth programs continuing; transportation resumed.
- Spring break and after-school programs are ongoing. Youth Week planned (May 1-7).
- Hiring underway (multiple positions).

Barb Jones, Primary Care Network / SPC Board

- Highlighted Primary Care Network team support.
- Chelsea Lewis Memorial Award fundraiser raised ~\$10,000, supports women entering trades and technology.

Hanna Favel, Revive Thrive

- Planning spring pop-up (date TBD), inviting organizations to share materials.
- Potential table participation in TRU event (March 28).

Bree Odd, Social Planning Council

- Overview of Communities Ending Poverty Leadership Table:
 - Focus on data sharing and collective impact, gathering lived/living experience and sector insights, and informing policy-level change
- Partnership with Tamarack Community (learning opportunities).
- Budget development underway.

Shannon Tom, WorkBC

- 16 job postings received in one day.
- Indicates active hiring and employment opportunities in community.

Emerging Opportunities

- Share Primary Care Hub referral pathways and screening support across organizations
- Support outreach for cancer screening initiative (workshops, workplaces, Indigenous communities)
- Increase access to income tax and financial literacy supports through community sites
- Expand Food Hub community engagement (gardening, donations, seed programs)
- Collaborate on Revive Thrive tabling and pop-up events
- Share and align data to support CEP work and potential policy change
- Explore partnerships related to emergency response planning (United Way initiative)

Action Items

- Melissa Klassen / Shaun Edwards to share referral forms, scope information, and screening materials
- Bree Odd / SPC to circulate shared resources to partners
- Angelika (CCPL) to provide tax program and financial literacy posters
- Madison Rushton (CMHA) to share SafeTALK and Connect Parenting posters
- Organizations to identify opportunities for outreach, workshops, and collaboration
- Community partners to share data and insights that may support CEP and policy work

Adjourned