

**Date:** May 25, 2026

**Time:** 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom

**Interim Chair:** Marnie Brenner

**Notes:** Bree Odd

**In attendance:** Marnie Brenner, Bree Odd, Jean Oke, Dana Hamblin, Hannah Diether, Jenn Johnson, Angelika Selleck, Carla Bullinger, Margaret-Anne Enders, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Barb Jones

### 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.

### Review & Approve Agenda for May 25, 2026

- Agenda approved as amended to add Angelika Selleck's presentation after member introductions.

**Member Introductions:** Members shared their names and organizations represented.

### Guest Speaker: Angelika Selleck - Revive Thrive, Social Planning Council

- Presented preliminary results from the community survey on post-secondary education and the possible future closure of TRU Williams Lake.
- Survey received 232 responses in 28 days; goal remains 500 responses.
- Initial findings are being prepared for the June 19 TRU Board meeting, with longer-term use planned for conversations with local and provincial governments.
- Responses came from Williams Lake and surrounding communities; Horsefly participation increased after a Grade 12 student shared the survey through a community page.
- Respondents emphasized local access, affordability, family responsibilities, trades pathways, employment, skills, confidence, and community connections.
- Among respondents who studied at TRU, 53% said they could not have studied elsewhere, 23% said maybe, and 13% said yes.
- Examples of employment outcomes included nursing, health-care assistance, apprenticeships, required workplace certifications, career advancement, and higher pay.
- Organizations described partnerships with TRU through training, community events, English-language learning, practicum placements, board participation, and employment of graduates.
- Future program suggestions included education, office and bookkeeping skills, construction, health supports, Indigenous social work, addiction counselling, trades, and employment-readiness training.

### Discussion

- Members encouraged continued sharing through organizations, personal networks, schools, teachers, community pages, email, posters, and direct invitations.
- Survey link was shared in the meeting chat; email access was noted as helpful for people less comfortable with QR codes.
- School district outreach is underway, with emphasis on teachers and high-school programs connected to TRU.
- Members highlighted TRU's broader community role, including previous access to a nurse practitioner clinic and potential value of expanded local nursing education.
- A Williams Lake Tribune article was being pursued; City councillors had received the survey for further sharing. Local radio outreach was also suggested.

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

#### **Barb Jones - Primary Care Network / SPC Board**

- Most current referrals involve seniors with complex needs and limited available supports.
- Acknowledged Seniors Activity Centre and social-prescribing supports.
- Spring restorative justice training was cancelled; facilitator training may be offered in fall.

#### **Carla Bullinger - Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL)**

- Regular office and drop-in services continuing; summer hours reduced due to funding.
- CCPL supporting development of a multicultural festival led by Angelika Selleck.

#### **Angelika Selleck - CCPL / Multicultural Festival**

- Pilot multicultural festival planned for Saturday, July 25, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in the Rose Garden area of Boitano Park.
- Festival will celebrate varied understandings of culture while creating opportunities to address anti-racism through community connection.
- Cultural groups invited to offer booths, crafts, games, books, clothing, art, dance, music, performances, or food samples.
- Promotional posters expected in June; interested groups may contact Angelika.

#### **Jenn Johnson - United Way BC**

- Attended Williams Lake emergency-response planning and connected with City and First Nations partners.
- United Way may support coordination, connection, and possible funding during evacuations or climate emergencies.
- Upcoming grants of \$5,000-\$30,000 will support First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations with healing, remembrance, cultural gatherings, education, reconciliation, and related activities through March 2027.
- Marnie will send information about NSTQ and its Indigenous Peoples Day planning.

#### **Jean Oke - Scout Island Nature Centre**

- Summer programs beginning; summer students hired.
- Plant and yard sale completed; Marsh Magic planned for the following Sunday, approximately 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Preliminary work started on the Otter Point bridge. Archaeological assessment identified cultural traces requiring further review.

#### **Bree Odd - Social Planning Council**

- Noted Angelika's leadership on survey and Food Hub work with spokes, workshops, and Soup Series.
- SPC website remains viewable but cannot be updated; rebuild targeted for early to mid-June.
- Partners asked to submit newsletter and social-media materials as JPEG or PNG files rather than PDFs.

#### **Hannah Diether - Central Interior Rural Division of Family Practice**

- No organizational update shared.
- Asked whether 100 Mile House has a social planning council or similar network. Members advised its former council ended around 2015-2016 and no comparable network is currently known.

#### **Dana Hamblin - Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)**

- One-year funding secured for a counsellor; decision pending on an additional 0.5 position. Interviews planned for early June, with hiring targeted for July.
- Pathways to Purposeful Employment offers work placements at CMHA and stipends up to approximately \$3,600 for eligible participants receiving income or disability assistance.

## Community Members Meeting Notes

- Fee-for-service training and programs being developed for summer, including safeTALK, ASIST, Mental Health First Aid, Become the Change, and Living Life to the Full.

### **Margaret-Anne Enders - Orange Shirt Society / Awakenings Anti-Racism & Reconciliation**

- 2026 Orange Shirt Society designs available online and through Kit and Kaboodle; Phyllis Webstad also has a separate design available.
- School-focused Orange Shirt Day event planned for September 29 at the Arbor, Williams Lake First Nation; donations, volunteers, and appropriate information booths welcomed.
- Recognized five years since the announcement regarding 215 potential unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School; encouraged support for the sacred fire at Chief William Campground.
- Raised concern about residential-school denialism and encouraged members to challenge it through informed conversations and learning.
- Participating in the multicultural festival planning committee.

### **Brianna van de Wijngaard - Central Cariboo Community Food Hub**

- Cariboo Seed Project developing locally adapted seed production and a seed library at Williams Lake Library; community members may take seed and are encouraged to return saved seed when possible.
- Food-recovery bins available at Tuesday and Friday farmers markets; anyone may donate food for distribution through Food Hub spokes.
- Seeking a facilitator for a Soup Series session connecting Seniors Activity Centre clients and Foundry youth. Typical commitment is approximately 1.5-2 hours.
- Marnie suggested exploring a connection with secondary-school home economics, youth volunteer hours, and a teaching kitchen; Brianna will follow up.

### **Marnie Brenner - Interior Health**

- Shared Anti-Racism Awareness Week messaging: move beyond passive support, question assumptions, interrupt bias when safe, listen without defensiveness, and review policies or practices that may create inequities.
- Interior Health's local Population Health team participates in an anti-racism community of practice.
- Encouraged early heat-season planning, including cooling spaces, water, neighbour check-ins, awareness of heat illness, and event safety plans.
- Available to provide heat-safety presentations for organizations or community events.
- Flagged an upcoming 100 Mile House Council presentation on stabilizing the health-care system and possible opportunities for broader regional connection.

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### **Possible Connections/Gaps in Services/Alignments**

- Limited senior supports are contributing to complex Primary Care Network caseloads.
- TRU survey findings connect education access with employment, health-care recruitment, affordability, family responsibilities, and poverty reduction.
- Emergency-response planning, heat preparedness, and climate risks require continued coordination across local governments, First Nations, funders, and community organizations.
- No current social planning network was identified in 100 Mile House, creating a potential regional coordination gap.
- Multicultural festival, Food Hub projects, Soup Series, and farmers-market recovery offer opportunities for volunteerism, youth participation, cross-cultural connection, and shared outreach.
- Anti-racism, reconciliation, and responses to denialism remain shared community responsibilities.

## Community Members Meeting Notes

### **Actions / Next Steps**

- Angelika to continue survey outreach, school district engagement, media promotion, and preparation of findings for the June TRU Board meeting.
- Members to complete and share the TRU survey through organizational and personal networks.
- Jenn to circulate Indigenous-led funding information; Marnie to send NSTQ contact details.
- Interested cultural groups to contact Angelika regarding festival participation.
- Brianna to explore a Soup Series connection with secondary-school home economics and youth volunteers.
- Partners to send SPC promotional materials as JPEG or PNG files.
- Organizations interested in heat-safety information or presentations may contact Marnie.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:38 p.m.

**\*Community Meeting Notes:** *SPC is currently rebuilding its website following administrative access and platform management challenges connected to the transition between Weebly and Square. During this transition, community meeting notes will temporarily not be accessible through the website. If you would like copies of meeting minutes, please email [info@wlspec.ca](mailto:info@wlspec.ca).*