Social Planning Council Williams Lake and Area
Many Voices - One Table - Shared Goals

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING NOTES

Date: September 28, 2026 **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** Zoom

Chair: Shannon Thom **Notes:** Bree Odd

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 September 28, 2026
Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent.

Guest Speaker(s):

Guest Speaker: Alex Pelletier – CLEAResult Canada, Energy Conservation Assistance Program (ECAP)

- Presented the income-qualified home energy conservation program delivered through CLEAResult Canada in partnership with BC Hydro and FortisBC. Qualifying participants are not charged for assessments, eligible upgrades, or installation.
- Possible upgrades include weather stripping and sealing, ventilation improvements, attic/subfloor/exterior-wall insulation, and heat pumps or dual-fuel heating systems. Actual upgrades depend on the home assessment and eligibility; no individual upgrade is guaranteed.
- Eligibility depends on household size and pre-tax income, primary heating utility, housing type, and the utility account holder. Single-family homes, duplexes, townhouses, triplexes and manufactured homes may qualify; apartment-style multi-unit buildings were identified as excluded.
- Homeowners and renters can apply; renters require landlord consent. Where units share a house rather than being separately recognized utility accounts, household-income requirements may involve all residents of the home.
- Applications can be completed online or through paper forms. The utility reviews eligibility, followed by a home assessment, recommendations, participant approval and contractor installation coordinated through the program.
- Alex offered application support, outreach resources, printed materials and possible information sessions for community organizations. Additional funding had recently been announced, with the program expected to continue for several years, subject to available funding.

Discussion

- Members asked about separately metered duplexes, extended-family living arrangements, on-reserve homes, program timing and publicly owned buildings. Alex clarified that separately metered duplex units are treated separately and noted other programs may be more appropriate for First Nations communities or municipal buildings.
- Members emphasized the importance of sharing information through trusted community organizations. Alex offered to circulate resources, connect individually with organizations and explore outreach opportunities.

Social Planning Council / Thrive / Food Hub Updates

Bree Odd – Social Planning Council and Central Cariboo Community Food Hub

- The updated SPC website has been published; members were invited to flag broken links or display issues.
- SPC continues its connection with Tamarack and Communities Ending Poverty networks and is resuming fall activities.
- The Food Hub is resuming its work with spoke organizations, including partnerships, a gleaning pilot, the seed library and the "We Don't Waste Good Food" initiative. Members can contact the Food Hub team for details.

Angelika Selleck – Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy

- The Communities Ending Poverty Leadership Table is exploring regular informal pop-up visits at community organizations to hear directly from residents with lived experience and bring ongoing community feedback into its work.
- Urban Matters submitted a proposal for TRU's community-engagement process on reimagining post-secondary education in Williams Lake. SPC contributed input; the contract decision had not yet been announced.
- Angelika planned individual conversations with municipal-election candidates using questions developed with input from the CEP Leadership Table, to raise community and poverty-reduction issues and build relationships.
- Members were invited to forward questions to Angelika or Bree for possible use at the Chamber of Commerce all-candidates forum on October 5 at the Gibraltar Room.

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

Misty Ellis – Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

- Misty generally provides in-person Community Integration Specialist access at the WorkBC office on Wednesdays, approximately late morning to 1:00 p.m., subject to other commitments.

Margaret-Anne Enders – Awakenings Anti-Racism and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Society

- Shared upcoming Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day activities, including programming at the Williams Lake First Nation arbour and a community event at the Arts Centre featuring "Sunflowers for Survivors."
- A five-week "Decolonization and Me" book study was scheduled to begin October 20, with cultural leaders supporting the discussions.
- Encouraged community participation and visible allyship in response to anti-Indigenous racism. SPC received permission to share event information.

Angelika Selleck – Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL)

- ComTech drop-in learning has resumed Thursday afternoons at the Seniors Activity Centre and Friday mornings at the CCPL office while the library is closed for renovations.
- Financial literacy support continues through individual coaching and workshops tailored to organizations or groups.
- English-language learning is available, along with a new monthly "Let's Talk About" conversation series covering local topics such as elections, Orange Shirt Day and winter safety.

Anna Chubata – Next Mile Community-Based Employment Services

- The September 16 open house attracted 44 attendees. Jessica Walters joined as a second outreach worker on September 8.
- Peer-support groups are being planned, possibly beginning in November; scheduling information will be shared when available.

Liselle Pierce – Gibraltar Mine

- Gibraltar hosted an employee family appreciation day September 12 with about 350 attendees; approximately 553 registrations were received for a second visit later in September.

Hannah Diether – Central Interior Rural Division of Family Practice

- Four providers were starting or had recently started at Atwood Clinic, while two were expected to leave in October/November.
- A nurse practitioner is joining the Williams Lake Primary Care Hub and another is expected to provide some shifts at the Urgent and Primary Care Centre. The new Atwood and Hub providers have attached patient panels rather than accepting unattached walk-ins.
- The attachment list was approximately 3,500 people; changes are expected as new providers attach patients and departing providers release panels.

Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake BIA

- Art Walk concluded; Heather Gibson won the grand prize and selected artwork from Jeannie Rudick.
- The BIA is applying for 2027 Clean Team funding and beginning Winter Lights Festival planning with the theme "World of Winter," inviting participation from diverse cultural, faith and community groups.
- Organizations were encouraged to submit items for the October 1 Downtown Williams Lake newsletter.

Daniela – Big Brothers Big Sisters

- "Big on STEM Career Exploration Day" is planned for October 13, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at TRU; professionals from a range of fields are invited to host booths.
- Following the loss of a significant grant, the organization is seeking donations and volunteer mentors for its community and in-school programs.

Michael Moses – City of Williams Lake / CMHA / community organizations

- Expressed concern about increased anti-Indigenous racism and encouraged public support for reconciliation and community allyship.
- CMHA is facing funding, counselling and staffing pressures. City approvals for a proposed Jubilee Place / Carson Drive housing development have been completed; Michael described approximately 51 proposed units, with existing units to be replaced.
- A separate Cariboo Friendship Society housing project of approximately 50 units has plans and land but still requires funding. Michael described the potential of roughly 100 units across the two projects, subject to development and funding.
- Michael joined the Northern BC Crime Stoppers board and hopes to explore local information sessions and partnerships to re-establish its presence in Williams Lake.

Shannon Tom – WorkBC Centre Williams Lake

- Hosted open house for BC Disability Employment Month and highlighted WorkBC Assistive Technology Services for job seekers and employed people needing workplace accommodations, including adaptive equipment, software, vehicle modifications and hearing aids.
- Continues to offer support to job seekers and employers and welcomes visits to its centre at 172 Second Avenue.

Possible Connections/Gaps in Services/Alignments

- The energy-conservation program offers a potential cost-of-living and housing-stability resource for income-qualified residents, with community agencies well placed to help increase awareness and referrals.

- Thrive's proposed community pop-ups, election-candidate conversations and TRU engagement work offer complementary ways to bring community voices into local planning.
- Housing developments could expand supportive and affordable housing options, while funding and project completion remain important uncertainties.
- Provider turnover and an attachment list of approximately 3,500 continue to highlight access-to-care pressures despite new recruitment.
- Employment supports, mentorship opportunities, financial literacy, accessibility resources and community celebrations provide opportunities for coordinated sharing and referrals.

Actions / Next Steps

- Alex Pelletier to share ECAP information and connect with interested organizations, including Councillor Moses; explore printed materials and community outreach opportunities.
- SPC to share Orange Shirt Day materials and continue circulating relevant community program information.
- Organizations interested in hosting Thrive community pop-up conversations to connect with Angelika.
- Members to send potential municipal-election questions to Angelika or Bree ahead of the October 5 all-candidates forum.
- Angelika to share CCPL learning and workshop posters; Next Mile to circulate details of peer-support groups once scheduled.
- Interested professionals to contact Big Brothers Big Sisters about the October 13 STEM event; prospective mentors and donors encouraged to connect with the organization.
- Interested community groups to connect with Downtown Williams Lake BIA about Winter Lights Festival planning and October newsletter submissions.
- Shannon to seek a shareable WorkBC Assistive Technology Services information sheet or make a connection for Hannah Diether and the primary-care network.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:36 p.m.