

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** February 26, 2024

**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Location:** [Zoom](#)

**Chair:** Shannon Thom

**Minutes:** Liane Nunn

**Present:** Dereck Godin, Eric Davidson, Jean Oke, Larry Stranberg, Sheri Marsh, Kylie Thomas, Michael Moses, Cathy Carson, Hannah Deither, Marnie Brenner, Wylie Bystedt, Dom Mazzuca, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Pat Biblow, Sherry Yonkman, Lindsay Sidor, Madi Rushton, Ruth Lloyd

### 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 February 26, 2024

Motion Sheri Marsh    Seconded by Larry Stranberg    Carried

### Review & Approve Minutes for January 22, 2024

Motion Pat Biblow    Seconded by Larry Stranberg    Carried

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

**Guest Speaker(s):** Cathy Carson: TRU Your Local University and Your Community Needs

- TRU Vision – to be community minded and interconnected with nature, each other, and all things.
- TRU Mission – comprehensive, sustainable university that serves regional, national, and international learners.
- Needs Assessment – to identify gaps and opportunities to support strategies\*\*\*
- Haven't seen the same vibrancy on campus since the wildfire and the pandemic.
- Want to rebuild the WL campus.
- Needs Assessment Approach – Engage Communities - Thriving WL Campus and Regions
- Three phases
  - o Phase One – pre-assessment, focus
  - o Phase Two – assessment, engage.
  - o Phase Three – post-assessment, analyze/interpret.
- Reaching out to partners in the community to find out what is and what should be.

- Looking for feedback
  - What are we doing well, and should we keep doing?
  - What could TRU do better/do more?
  - What else could TRU do to achieve its broad goals of an engaged community and a thriving campus?
- Feedback
  - Larry Stranberg – compliment TRU agriculture program. Hired a recent graduate and have developed a program for ranchers and farmers. They have great feedback about that program.
  - Marnie Brenner – In relation to programs, for example the nursing program, if we could offer four years for students to complete their program in town as it is easier to stay in the community that you graduate from and complete the practicum.
  - Marnie Brenner – Housing opportunities for students and other community students.
  - Wylie Bystedt – Follow up on the Agricultural program – what was working well before Covid was the outreach into the community and having framers/ranchers show up for programming and special programs.
  - Dereck Godin – Human Service Diploma program – quite a few students from through BGC for practicums and it is a great service to the community.
  - Shannon Thom – Seconds Dereck’s comment. WorkBC offers funding to take certificate type programs and we see great participation.
  - Shannon Thom – Bring back some life skill programs. (Ester/Life Skills).
  - Brianna van de Wijngaard – More course work available online.
  - Wylie Bystedt – Do more within the trades training in partnership with TNG First Nations communities.
  - Sherri Marsh – In regard to the bachelor programs – extending the final two years to our community. More general interest courses.
  - Dereck Godin – An opportunity to eliminate the need to jump to another community/campus.
  - Larry Stranberg – From businesspeople, we’ve heard complaints that they can’t find HR support or daycare options.
  - Shannon Thom – Training financial supports are available for those in a one-year program.

- Madi Rushton – Not much available to further your education in WL. The opportunity for years 3 and 4 to be on our campus. More online programs. Programs around mental health/hard reduction.
- Kylie Thomas – I think there’s lots of opportunities. We are actively working on running an ECE program. We hear a lot from invested communities that we need to have this/that in the community, but if we run it we have a hard time getting the interest. Would be interesting to hear why people aren’t coming to TRU.
- Marnie Brenner – People’s previous experiences make it difficult, as classes have been offered and they’ve been cancelled – people may have a hard time trusting the system. Create new positive energy at the school, provide events and ways to invite the community and start building community relationships again.
- Marnie Brenner – Indigenous communities that are interested and coming in from out of town to find a place to stay is near impossible. Is there opportunity to take courses out to communities?
- Dereck Godin – Childcare accessibility is a major one for the community, and affordability. The thought of student loans/being in dept – people can’t afford to worry about that right now.
- Michael Moses – In regard to offering courses in First Nations communities – this does happen occasionally – appreciative for that.
- Liane Nunn – Provide options for people to attend courses/programs at different days and times to accommodate everyone’s schedules – IE. Night courses, online. Etc.
- Shannon Thom – Opportunity to expand micro credits/short credentials.
- Community Forum – community focus group to identify gaps and opportunities to revitalize education opportunities.
- Cathy Carson – [cathy@ccarsolutions.com](mailto:cathy@ccarsolutions.com) – please send thoughts, feedback, etc.
- Kylie Thomas – [kjthomas@tru.ca](mailto:kjthomas@tru.ca)

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

### **Ruth Lloyd, Streets for All Williams Lake**

- Currently working on planning the spring Go By Bike Week, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>
- If you are interested in participating, please reach out.
- Helping with the Bike Rodeo at the Children’s Festival in May.
- Work with Scout Island for World Ocean Day event – leading a bike ride to join the festivities.

### **Madi Rushton, Canadian Mental Health**

- CMHA had partnership with Cariboo Art Beat the other night – excellent evening. The art studio had an event with different art pieces related to mental health. Donations made and partial proceeds of the art sold that evening are donated to our organization.
- WL Community Action Team Lead – providing harm reduction within WL area and host a monthly meeting for individuals in the hard reduction field to sit on the team to help support different events throughout the year.
- Hosting a BBQ April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sherry Yonkman, Downtown WL**

- Partnered with Women’s Contact Society for an event on March 8<sup>th</sup> in celebration of International Women’s Day. Six different speakers throughout the day. Free to attend but need to RSVP.
- Applications being accepted for annual art grant (total of \$10,000). Projects needs to be in a publicly accessible place, to last 10 years. Traditionally it’s murals, but we’ve widened the scope so if you have an idea, go to the website [downtownwilliamslake.com](http://downtownwilliamslake.com). Application close March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Lindsay Sidor, CIBC**

- Coming out with trades program.
- A lot of focus on financial planning with clients.

### **Brianna van de Wijngaard, Central Community Food Hub**

- Piloting a Cariboo Seed Project with a goal to develop more regionally adapted seeds.
- Workshop geared towards our agricultural community, there is an event on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at TRU – Community Meat Up for livestock producers.
- Third week of March, we’re planning a workshop for single moms at Pregnancy Outreach – Food Positive Cooking Workshop. Registration form will be coming soon for clients.

### **Pat Biblow, TRU**

- Winter semester is in the swing.

### **Kylie Thomas, TRU**

- Would like to share a successful event, TRU Explore. Met lots of people, different ages participated in the event. Well over 100 people come to connect with TRU.

### **Dom Mazzuca and Wylie Bystedt, TNG**

- Kicking off a program to develop a new business directory. Noticing that there is a lack of Indigenous representation in current directories. Actively scanning communities to get their businesses into our directory.

- A new initiative to help Indigenous individuals explore entrepreneurship – coaching them for long term success.
  - o Marnie Brenner – saw on Facebook you were collecting businesses – is it all Indigenous businesses or just the Chilcotin Nation?
    - Right now, the focus is on the T̓silhqot̓in Nation. I think we'll end up adding in more as we see the need for it.

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

- Exploring and updating housing legislation to support local government.

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

- New cervical cancer self screening kits launched at the end of January. BC Cancer launched this to improve access for people who don't have a family doctor. Can call BC Cancer kit and they'll receive the kit with instructions and an envelope to mail it back.

### **Michael Moses, City of WL**

- Attending UBCM Housing Summit – lots of work coming to bring housing policies in WL update to date to provide more complex dwellings. Providing strong tools to start densifying the housing to meet the needs of the community.
- Moose Hide Campaign Day is May 16<sup>th</sup> – looking to hold several regional events, if you'd like to be involved, please get a hold of me.
- Orange Shirt Society and Quilts for Survivors events. Quilts for Survivors are hosting weekly quilt events – hoping to exceed the 50 quilts that were provided last year.

### **Sheri Marsh, WL Hospice**

- Working on volunteer recruitment – been successful. Hosting training sessions this week. Allows us to get out in the community more and raising awareness.
- May is hospice month. May 5<sup>th</sup> – planning a Hike for Hospice event.

### **Jean Oke, Scout Island Nature House**

- Had successful events during Family Day – working with children from Marie Sharpe.
- Challenge is getting people to understand that our lake is healthy and the vegetation in the lake is cleaning the water. It is a challenge to get the information out there.
- New boardwalk is almost complete – almost all of it was completed by volunteers. Looking for people who want may be looking for volunteer hours.

### **Eric and Dereck, Boys and Girls Club**

- In May, celebrating 30-year anniversary. Open house for community members and donors.
- Looking to hire a new casual on-call child and youth worker.
- Starting soon to hire summer staff.

- Looking for volunteers to help with mountain biking club to help kids get more comfortable while mountain biking.
- New hours for Noopa during Spring Break. Opening at 1:00pm.

### **Larry Stranberg, Community Futures**

- Last week, we were invited to attend the Cariboo Chilcotin Cattleman Association – 80-90 people and guest speakers.
- Presentation at the Chamber for Elder's College.

### **Liane Nunn, Social Planning Council**

- Update on the Revive Thrive Education and Awareness Campaign – going to start planning a launch event for the video.
- Been invited to sit on a Western Canada Leadership program in a large poverty reduction strategy in 10 Canadian Communities with support from the Tamarack institute. Starting to build our own community leadership table to revisit our Thrive Strategy, will start meeting in April.

### **Shannon Thom, Work BC**

- Strating to see hiring for summer students. If you have job postings, we can post on your behalf.
- Participating in Women's' Day Event.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:54**