

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WILLIAMS LAKE & AREA COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Date: April 25, 2022 **Time:** 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)
Chair: Larry Stranberg **Minutes:** Bree Odd

Present: Larry Stranberg, Bree Odd, Carla Bullinger, Laurie Walters, Shannon Thom, Michele Bebault, Jason Ryll, Leah Selk, Silvia Seibert-Dubray, Pat Biblow, Barb Jones, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Sharan Kaur, Pat Biblow, Walt Cobb, Sherry Yonkman, Eileen Alberton, Krista Harvey, Beth Veenkamp, Jill Zirnhelt, Chris van der Mark, Bryan Daly

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'ixelc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for April 25, 2022

Motion 1 Carla Bullinger
Motion 2 Laurie Walters
Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for March 28, 2022

Motion 1 Laurie Walters
Motion 2 Shannon Thom
Carried

Lightning Round Organizational Updates: Remember you only have 2 minutes :)

Jason Ryll – Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce: New Executive Director. June 4th Golf Tournament, June 12 Chamber Social – meet staff and network. General members meeting Thursday, April 27 with guest speakers Maureen Straza - discussing accessibility & Jill Zirnhelt - discussing Divisions of Family Practice. Contact Jason at 250.392.5025 or email j.ryll@wlchamber.ca

Leah Selk – Independent Artist: Working A new initiative “Collective (Cariboo) Joy.” is a soon-to-be-launched. It is a community-based watercolour portrait project that seeks to combine experiences of joy with our natural world and the community of the Central Cariboo region. Not only has our joy been diminished over the past two years, but restrictions have prevented experiences that allow us to embrace joy as a collective, as we most often witness through live performances of the arts and community gatherings. This project will bring the community together (literally and figuratively) through a Station House Gallery exhibition in

2023. Leah is currently seeking funding, support, and public display space(s) beyond the gallery exhibition. collectivecariboojoy@gmail.com

Mayor Walt Cobb – City of Williams Lake: Observer today. Completing final stages of budget bylaws. Going to be a busy summer with construction. Congratulations Jason.

Shannon Thom – Horton Ventures (d.ba. WorkBC Centre Williams Lake): Download the new [WorkBC app](#). Customized employment options expanded eligibility for those fleeing Ukraine over the next three years. Welcoming Ukraine WorkBC Services: <https://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/WorkBC-Centres.aspx>

Barb Jones – Communities That Care (CTC), B Jones Mediation: Shared background info on CTC. “It takes a village...” planning session Gathering Our Strength, to identify opportunities to increase protective factors for our children and youth. The event will take place at Signal Point on May 11, from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm. Register [HERE](#) or contact Barb to register at 250.305.4838 or communitiesthatcare@wlspc.ca Review the CTC [Community Profile](#) Please note the RAP and SAFER rent subsidy programs are still available even though her role with application assistance has completed.

Jill Zirnhelt – Central Interior Rural Divisions of Family Practice: Supporting family practices. Opened Virtual Care Clinic to address the gaps in primary care. Expanded model to hire clinical pharmacist who will be starting in May. Bridge Care Virtual Clinic provides tools to help the public navigate the primary care system. **Question, Carla:** What can a person do if they are trying to connect to the program but are unable to do so? **Answer, Jill:** Not a specific answer for this, the team is doing the best they can. The phones, 250.296.007, 0 are answered Mon-Fri from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Voicemail was turned off due to high volumes of messages (150+), making it hard to return calls for those in need and tied up the phone system. It is best to call back if the line is busy. Mondays are hard to get through, and Tuesdays are quieter. We have 10 providers helping people navigate the physical/mental health system. **Question, Laurie:** Is there a Bridge to Care website? **Answer, Jill:** Unsure

Laurie Walters – Community Futures Planning a Successful Succession (PASS) Program: The program is very successful, there are lots of baby boomers looking to retire and sell. 56-57 local businesses expressed interest in the program. The sale of local businesses is from local and outside community members. It is my final week working with physicians, it was a nine-year run. **Question, Jason:** Is Venture Connect still taking place at Community Futures? **Answer, Laurie:** Yes

Pat Biblow – Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Williams Lake Campus: TRU will be having commencement in person on May 27 and invited the past two graduating classes to join as well. New furniture for the “Learning Commons” is arriving this week.

Beth Veenkamp – City of Williams Lake: Construction at Boitano Mall is underway. There is lots of projects around housing coming up.

Michele Bebault – Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Williams Lake Campus: Looking forward to convocation in May. There will be a blended, in-person/open learning, second year program for Human Services on campus. First year courses will be in person.

Krista Harvey – Boys and Girls Club, Williams Lake: Youth Week is May 1-7. Summer camp sign up and registration is taking place. Mountain biking program starting, Mondays, 3:30 to 8:00 for new riders & Wednesdays 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm for advanced riders. NOOPA is open from 3:30 pm – 8:00 pm Monday-Friday. The Necessity Nook is in desperate need of food, feminine hygiene, for more info contact Krista at clubmanager@bgcwilliamslake.com

Question, Walt: Facebook poster shows the 2019 date with the police challenge? Is the police challenge still taking place? **Answer, Krista:** Will correct the Facebook page, the date is August 31, the last Wednesday of the month. Yes, the challenge is still on, and have invited first responders, firefighters, and others to join.

Brianna van de Wijngaard – Central Cariboo Community Food Hub: United Way funds the food hub. We are now going into our second year. Busy with puddle produce but will be doing small projects throughout the summer, will be more involved again in October. Work on food recovery goals with direct groundwork. I will provide a main update in the fall.

12:00 pm Stop Lightning Round for Guest Speaker

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent – all members shared.

Guest Speaker(s): Bryan Daly, Associate Dean, Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Williams Lake Campus, will share a campus update presentation.

- Providing an overview of the past three years which focused on the three pillars: Admin capacity building, Infrastructure, and Connectivity to increase enrollment
- Realigned staff structure between the two campuses – Williams Lake and Kamloops
- Increased staff allotments with a focus on full-time faculty positions
- Increased leadership training for staff
- Executive team visited campus 10 times over past few years, introduced them to community

- Increased community awareness and promotion of campus programs – banners, Facebook, etc.
- Set up an early learning program to identify students in need of increased learning assistance
- Started a “pay it forward” food program for students in need
- Increased Indigenous Faculty members to support students out of the Gathering Place
- Recognized the Gathering Place was not being utilized as a learning space so developed the Learning Commons space
- Learning commons space for distance learning, GROW, courses not offered fact to face, etc.
- Closed the bookstore, increased library space, and created a new classroom
- Eliminated paid parking on campus
- Reducing carbon footprint – installed large solar field, replaced current boilers to electric boilers and hot water tanks
- Creating a new nursing simulation lab for practice, to be completed by Sept.
- Opened flexible learning classrooms to work in smaller groups
- New signage for the front of campus coming soon
- New carpentry classroom being built by students, to be done this year
- New furniture for learning commons coming
- Renovated eight classrooms, brightening space to make it feel more welcoming
- Partnered with SD 27 to host pilot dual credit program for 1st year English, looking to extend to other classes
- Provided two tuition-free classes for Welding and Construction Craft Worker followed by full tuition classes – the second had better uptake
- Working with SD 27 provided “Girls in Trades” day, for girls to explore the trades
- Partnered with City Fire Department to have Construction Class build old firetruck structure

Questions, Answers, & Comments:

- **Carla:** Wow, thank you for all your work, community engagement, openness to explore, and the learning commons.
- **Jason:** Are you open to tours? **Bryan:** Yes
- **Walt:** Can you present at the next Leaders Moving Forward meeting **Bryan:** Yes
- **Larry:** Seems people do not attend free programs as much as paid programs
- **Beth:** Daughter is attending TRU Williams Lake; she has good things to say about it

Return to Lightning Round Organizational Updates: Remember you only have 2 minutes :)

Carla Bullinger – Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Provide literacy training to adults. Large uptake in digital literacy training, especially with the challenge of navigating online systems; we still need volunteers. There is some Family Literacy funding still available if anyone has ideas for programs to offer, being offered contact CCPL. In past have used funds to partner with organizations like Pregnancy Outreach, Xat’sūll Nation, etc. for family literacy ideas. Continue to be updated on Ukraine’s situation from Beth and Dave and ready to go on

settlement work. It's important to attend the CTC meeting, lots of ideas, and collaboration opportunities with amazing local data for our community.

Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake Business Improvement Association (BIA): Had to step away

Silvia Siebert-Dubray – City of Williams Lake: Excited to have the entire well-being and community safety steering committee filled, including a new mental health coordinator. RCMP is coordinating upstream projects for 2022 and possibly 2023. Great to be able to attend the May 11 meeting with Barb and work with all the data. The situation table is still going strong with 185 situations since 2019 and 101 of those situations having people connected to valuable local services.

Sharan Kaur – Canadian Red Cross (CRC): Continue to build CRC presence in the community and learn where we might be able to integrate and support in the community.

Eileen Alberton – Women's Contact Society: CCRR Children's Festival at Boitano Park on May 28, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm connect with ccrr@womenscontact.org or call 250.392.4118 for more info or to register for a booth. Wednesdays and Thursdays there is a kids play group at Kiwanis Park. June 15th seniors can attend an Elders Abuse session to learn more about what it looks like and what they can do. May 18 Lunch, Listen, & Learn will host Rob Borsato "Check Out That Dirt." The Good Food Box is available the third Monday of each month.

Chris van der Mark – School District # 27 (SD27): Thank you, Bryan. Reworking secondary school schedules to align with TRU for dual credit classes. Lots of retirements coming and the focus will be on recruiting and retention of new staff. Last round of Pro-Ds with high-level educators to provide great training to our staff. The budget is in good shape. The modernization of tech has been good and much needed. Few more announcements coming - new daycare spaces. Nice to see students' faces. **Question, Laurie:** great space to be utilized, connecting with Williams Lake First Nation and the City of Williams Lake, any ideas to put forward to the community? **Answer, Chris:** Meaning Poplar Glade property? Request for offers is out. **Question, Bree:** When is Heavy Metal Rocks (HMR) taking place? **Answer, Chris:** this week

Bree Odd – Social Planning Council (SPC) and BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS): Please take a moment to fill out the SPC community meeting connection [survey](#). BCSS Family Support Groups take place the first Monday of each month from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Hoping to start a Strengthening Families Together Program soon and Partner Presentations in the fall

Larry Stranberg – Community Futures Williams Lake (CF): Working closely with Laurie on Planning A Successful Succession (PASS) program, lots of people want to start a business.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:38 pm Carla Bullinger