



Social Planning Council

Williams Lake and Area

Many Voices - One Table - Shared Goals



**REMINDER: See you Monday, May 29, 2023,
11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

May 29 Guest Speaker(s): Gregory Nickel, Crisis Intervention Specialist - Mobile Response Team (MRT) with Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC), Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)

Remember your updates, challenges/burning questions, and/or success for the famous *lightning round.

May

29

Next

**COMMUNITY MEETING
May 29, 2023**

Click your calendar app below to add Mays meeting

*You only have two minutes to share

to your schedule

Location: [Zoom](#)

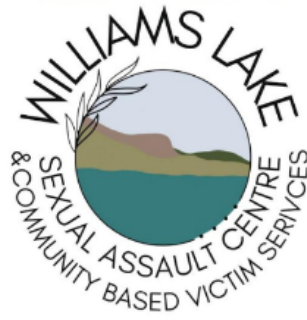


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Community Updates





Open House

May 16, 2023

**Canadian Mental Health
Association**

201-35 South Second Avenue

**Open to the public from
12:30-4pm**

*In recognition of Victims &
Survivors of Crime Week*

WL Sexual Assault Center and Community Based Victim Services
Funding Provided by Generous Private Donations and the following Agencies:





World Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day May 24, 2023

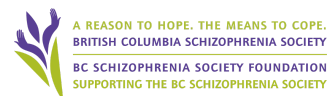
Show your support by lighting up in purple or wearing purple! Build your awareness to break the stigmas associated with schizophrenia.

What is Schizophrenia?

Schizophrenia is a devastating mental illness that touches the lives of 1 in 100; that's approximately than 51,000 British Columbians, and about 377,500 people in Canada.

Unfortunately, there are still a lot of misinformation and myths that exist about schizophrenia.

[BC Schizophrenia Society](#)



Appreciation Gathering

Virtual Event for Métis Early Learning & Child Care Professionals

May 31, 2023 | 6:30 pm PST



On May 31, 2023, at 6:30 pm PST, the Ministry of Education is hosting an evening to celebrate, honour and recognize Early Learning and Child Care professionals for their hard work and commitment to providing children and their families with cultural learning opportunities.

Register for the Appreciation Gathering [here](#).

Do you know a Métis Early Learning and Child Care professional who provides Métis cultural early years programming for children in your community? Nominate them today! All nominees will confirm their nomination and will be invited to join MNBC for a virtual event on May 31, 2023. To show our appreciation each nominee will be gifted for their dedication to Métis culturally inclusive programming, in addition, two of the nominees will be selected to receive an award for their contributions and dedication. For more information contact metisearlyyears@mNBC.ca.

Nomination forms are available [here](#).

The nomination deadline is May 7, 2023.

Resources & Training



Recently Published:

- [Blog](#): The \$10aDay Child Care Plan Is Real in BC
- [Blog](#): Together for Strength, Policy Change, and Community
- [Blog](#): New on-demand public transit service offers more flexibility to Les Collines-de-l'Outaouais travellers

Member Highlights:

- [City of Revelstoke](#) provided the [Community Housing Society](#) with \$100,000 after acquisition of a rural economic diversification ([REDIP-FIT](#)) grant – making a direct link between affordable housing and a sustainable economy, highlighting local government as partners.
- [Vibrant Community Calgary's](#) executive director discusses how poverty can be like a game of whack-a-mole.
- [Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Unit](#) sent a letter to Government of Ontario endorsing the Ontario Dietitian's call for income-based solutions to reduce food insecurity.

News from Beyond the Network:

- [Statistics Canada](#) released the 2021 Canadian Income Survey results and updated the [Dimensions of Poverty Hub](#) with 2021 data.
- [Iceland Foods](#) is offering small interest-free loans to help people buy groceries in the UK.
- [Maytree](#) updated the Social Assistance Summaries series with 2022 data, tracking the number of recipients of social assistance (welfare payments) in each province and territory.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities:

- [BC CoP](#) | Join us for a discussion on collaborative planning for improved accessibility and inclusion | **May 16** | 1:00 pm – 2 pm ET ([zoom link](#))
- [WEBINAR](#) | Planning for Sustainable and Affordable Housing During the Climate Crisis | **May 17** | 1:00 p.m.– 2:00 p.m. ET | Learn how communities address inflation, affordability, housing shortage challenges, and the potential of climate action plans to address homelessness.
- [WEBINAR](#) | Building Sustainable Collaborations: Stories of Building and Restructuring | **May 24** | 1:00 p.m.– 2:00 p.m. ET | Explore how people, resources, processes, and impact have contributed to building unique stories of sustainability. This event is taking place in English with simultaneous interpretation in [French](#).
- [WEBINAR](#) | The Art of Hope: A Healing Approach to Poverty Reduction | **June 21** | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET | Find an alternative approach to addressing

poverty by transitioning out of scarcity to create abundant societies where there is enough for all.

Other Opportunities:

We are currently seeking members who have Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Justice, and Reconciliation (EDIJR) related contributions to offer during the engagement phase of Tamarack's EDIJR audit, as well as members who would be interested in joining a community of practice for Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Tamarack community members. Learn more about these two EDIJR engagement opportunities and participate in our [EDIJR journey](#) with us!

MIRT

MOBILE RESPONSE TEAM

Frontline Psychosocial Support

Toll Free: 1.866.686.3022



EQUIP Health Care
Equipping Health & Social Services for Equity

EQUIP Health Care is a research and implementation program that involves health equity interventions implemented in a range of health care settings. The interventions are designed to enhance organizational

capacity to provide equity-oriented health care. <https://equiphealthcare.ca/>

RADIUS

RADIUS offers support to individuals, organizations, social ventures, and students through mentorship, consultancy, and training to grow capacity and the conditions for positive impact.

We are also happy to announce the launch of our new program, BUILD: [Growing Initiatives for Impact & Solidarity](#). BUILD is one part of our new [Equity-Centred Accelerator](#) portfolio, and we are piloting our first iteration from June to November 2023.



NEWSLETTER

Employment/Volunteer Opportunities



Currently none to share!

April Community Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: April 24, 2023

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)

Chair: Larry Stranberg

Minutes: Bree Odd

Present: Larry Stranberg, Bree Odd, Barb Jones, Laurie Walters, Carla Bullinger, Shannon Thom, Silvia Siebert-Dubray, Craig Glover, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Michael Moses, Stephanie Masun, Anne Burrill, Marnie Brenner, Laurel White, Brad McKinnon (Guest Speaker), Josh Smith, Heather Silvester, Madison Rushton (Guest Speaker), Hannah Diether, Beth Veenkamp, Sherry Yonkman, Krista Harvey, Wylie Wystedt, Angie

Regrets: Tammy Levesque-Holyk

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'exelc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for April 24, 2023

Motion Silvia Siebert-Dubray Seconded by Carla Bullinger Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for March 27, 2023

Motion Laurie Walters Seconded by Silvia Siebert-Dubray Carried

Member Introductions: all members shared.

**Guest Speaker(s): S/Sgt Brad McKinnon and Sgt. Josh Smith Williams Lake RCMP
S/Sgt Brad McKinnon**

- An interim replacement for Dell Byron & Darren Dodge
- Relocated from Nova Scotia, 13 years with the RCMP in three different provinces
- Learned a lot from his time in Ottawa during the terrorist attack
- Firm belief in the importance of mental health
- Experience in everything from homicides to LNG project services, and major highways incidents
- Looking forward to being here

Sgt Josh Smith

- 18 years with the RCMP, mostly in BC North
- Experience in everything from Indigenous services to trafficking, and bike patrol
- In Lynton during the forest fires

- Active in community initiatives like school wrestling and Kids, Cops, & Computers
- Provides office support 2nd to Brad

Questions, Answers, Comments

S/Sgt McKinnon, the RCMP is open for business and interested in contributing and working together in the community.

Larry, can you share info about the Violent Offenders Program pilot project? S/Sgt McKinnon, it is a strategic enforcement project, focused on a percentage of violent offenders. It is a program in collaboration with Crown Counsel and BC Sheriffs. It is about developing a strategy to hold those committing violent crimes accountable for the bad doings in the community. Having them put away, and may mean rehabilitation. Waiting for expectations from the province. There is a struggle with “catch and release” not addressing the crimes, there is a passing off to the courts, which can create greater challenges for those in custody. Crown Counsel is leading the charge.

Carla, to clarify, is RCMP looking to fill another position? S/Sgt McKinnon, we are waiting for the Senior Management replacement to come, it was previously Myron Friesen and Jeff Pelley. Together with the new hire, Brad and Josh will make up the senior team.

Marnie, will you be open to an RCMP stop & chat and is there going to be a mental health nurse going out on some calls? **S/Sgt McKinnon**, for sure interested in a stop & chat. We are looking into an integrated approach for mental health calls. Every option is at the table. There is a process in place with the crisis nurses and walks in the community with them. Looking for approaches to resolve issues peacefully, such as how the encampments at City Hall were managed. Prince George has new initiatives and we are excited to see what comes of it.

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

Heather Silvester, Canadian Mental Health Associations Cariboo Chilcotin Branch (CMHA CCB): CMHA CCB is a non-profit, operating on contract grants. CMHA CCB is hosting an open house in recognition of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week on May 16, open to the public from 12:30-4 pm. We provide many different services including Perpetrators of Violent Crime education, Counselling for youth, adults, and couples and the crisis line. No one is turned away; however, those at high risk are referred to the Mental Health and Substance Use team. Last year our crisis line provided 6,000+ interventions; 2500 hours locally; 33,000 hours province-wide; 36,000 calls and 540,000 minutes of support. The majority was done by volunteers with over 800 free additional minutes by staff.

Laurie Walters, Social Planning Council (SPC): She and Counselor Michael will attend the Summit through Tamarack Institute; the focus is on policy changes. If you haven't purchased an SPC membership we encourage you to do so. Applying for several grants, and looking for more ideas. If you have any please share them with her at laurie.walters@wlspsc.ca

Madison Rushton, CMHA CCB: New Training Coordinator with CMHA CCB, focused on building community resiliency with funding from the Red Cross. Working toward ASIST and safeTalk train the trainers to provide the workshops locally and will be looking at other workshops to build resiliency in the community.

Laurel White, CMHA CCB & BGC Williams Lake: The Community Action Team (CAT) with CMHA CCB will be providing another free community-wide training event in August, hoping to coincide with International Overdose Awareness Day.

Silvia Siebert-Dubray – City of Williams Lake: Received funding from Red Cross to increase resiliency after the fires, floods, pandemic, etc. The Wellness and Safety Committee is working toward reducing trauma, and asset mapping. The Cariboo Chilcotin Action Response Team (CCART-situation table) has supported 238 situations to date. If anyone is interested in CCART, community policing, or restorative justice connect with her.

Sherry Yonkman – Downtown Williams Lake Business Improvement Association (BIA): Developing a five-year strategic plan with input from downtown businesses. The BIA Strategic Plan Survey (10 questions, approx. 3-min to complete, link below) to determine time, focus, and funding.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/uGT70N5/DWL BIA> The Art Committee is taking applications for 10-year art projects with a \$5000 award from BIA and a \$5000 award from the City. The application's closing date is April 30. Art Walk applications are accepted until May 4, the Art Walk is happening Aug 11 - Sept 6. Amanda Fuller is organizing a Shop & Win (baskets) for Mother's Day and Father's Day, with entries completed on the spot for each purchase at participating businesses. Send community updates for the BIA newsletter to info@downtownwilliamslake.com **Larry**, appreciates Wednesday morning coffee for businesses to network. **Sherry**, thank you, they have been successful at the Apooii Kitchen, and the next one is May 10 at 8:00 am

Barb Jones, Communities That Care (CTC): Also provides family mediation and participates in Restorative Justice. Provided brief CTC and "[It takes a community...](#)" report overview. CTC Advisory Council working to reignite [Circle of Courage](#) The CTC network meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month from 1-3 pm, location changes each month. Supporting BGC in Youth Week with a challenge going out to partners to collaborate with BGC on a youth week activity. Those accepting the challenge will have their names added to a draw for a Smashing Smoothies gift. Working to create "a sense of belong" newsletter so please share your "sense of belonging" stories to communitiesthatcare@wlspc.ca

Carla Bullinger, Cariboo Partners for Literacy (CCPL): Bright Red Bookshelf: CCPL is collecting gently used children's books for our Bright Red Bookshelf program. Please drop off at #302-172 Second Ave or call 250-392-7833 to arrange drop off. **Larry**, have you connected with the Rotary Club? They often have books. **Carla**, yes, thank you, through Suzanne.

Krista Harvey, BGC Williams Lake: Youth Week is May 1-7, watch for activity updates on social media. Hiring two leadership positions for NOOPA (for 12-18 year-old youth programs), and four summer camp leaders (for 5-12-year-old summer camp kids). Bottle Drive takes place May 8 and Street Party is Aug 30. Those interested in Mountain Biking program will have to sign up online; we can provide assistance in registering for families in need. BGC Open House is June 2, **Carla**, to clarify all youth interested will have to sign up online. **Krista**, youth can drop in though they will still have to register. For liability reasons and to keep track. Sprott Kids leaders have to participate in training; there is a cost for this.

Wylie Bystedt - T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG): New to Economic Development Office with TNG, looking forward to attending meetings regularly.

Michael Moses – City of Williams Lake: Assisting in planning a 4-Day, 10-year anniversary event for Orange Shirt Day. If interested in helping with the event contact

Michael, planning meetings will happen more frequently as we get closer to the event. We are open to entries for brochures, related to every child matters, for gift bags. Organizations interested will have to print 2500 copies. There is a call out to local artists and vendors to share their arts and crafts at the festival. Orange Shirt Society is creating Orange Shirt Day scrubs; Michael can connect you with Blair if interested. **Krista is interested.** Also working on Orange Shirt Day flags. Michael is also attending the National Indigenous Day planning sessions. Indigenous Relations in WL are growing with a new position for Indigenous Relationships and Reconciliation coming. Working directly with [Women Transforming Cities Laurie](#), based on Michael's interest in learning about encampments, would like to connect after the Summit before the City writes encampment policies. **Laurie to connect with Silvia. Michael to connect with Laurel** for the upcoming Community Harm Reduction Training.

Beth Veenkamp, City of Williams Lake: Attending housing conferences, is tough for the province. There is a lack of communication related to housing in rural housing matters; missing rural acute crisis at larger meetings. There is a push for a Northern Rural-based housing summit. Infrastructure costs always. There is rezoning in WL for garden/carriage homes, based on property suitability. The City of Quesnel has pre-designed garden/carriage home plans at <https://www.quesnel.ca/building-development/accessory-dwelling-units/pre-reviewed-accessory-dwellings> Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), very few successful applications in March, will host another round for non-profits. Myth-busting - Williams Lake is **NOT** a "SMART City" Anyone spreading the word that it is, is wrong. **Larry**, how is the mall developing? **Beth** is slow and progress is being made. **Sherry**, is the CRD looking at the bylaws for garden/carriage homes? **Beth**, talks are happening at CRD to address concerns around wells and utilities. There are creative ways to overcome some of these barriers.

Marnie Brenner – Interior Health (IH): New Healthy Community Development team, is interested in being a part of the discussions with the CRD. Participating in the Active Transportation Week planning for April 27 discussion at the Gibraltar Room with Dr. Trent Smith. Doors open at 5:30 pm. There is a community connectedness grant coming from Plan H

Brianna van de Wijngaard, The Central Cariboo Community Food Hub: Provided a brief overview of Food Hub goals to get more food into the community through organizations already doing so. Working with Stephanie Bird and Robin Hunt to coordinate food literacy Pierogi Making workshop, reserved for clients, in need and is fully sponsored. Send an email to foodhub@wlspsc.ca if you have an interested client. United Way BC (UWBC) is hosting a survey for community impact and investment projects that might need volunteer support, it is not area specific. Complete the survey at https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Fb1Mtc9DG0WhW_EGvHTciY4gOFRSyPZHqaDun0pRjGdUMUk4WEtPUkZPQUwwRDdQWFJPQINJOUZOSS4u

Hannah Diether, Rural Divisions of Family Practice: A new dietician and Social Mental Health Clinician starting in May. Collaborative service planning for primary care in the community for those impacted by the closing of the Yorston Clinic and attaching patients to maternity care.

Craig Glover, Williams Lake and District Credit Union (WLDCU): Lending for real estate is increasing. Those in need of restructuring due to shutdowns, layoffs, etc. can contact WLDCU for assistance and temporary solutions. There is a chance interest rates will go up again if we don't see a dip in inflation.

Angie: NA

Bree Odd, Social Planning Council (SPC) and BC Schizophrenia Society (BCSS):

Working behind the scenes to update and revise the SPC website and planning guest speakers for May and June. Facilitating in-person Family Support Groups (FSG) starting May 4, 6-7:30 pm. LEAP Communication workshop May 26 from 9-4, location TBA. Strengthening Families Together (SFT) a six-week program specific for families and friends supporting a loved one living with a mental illness will start May 30.

Larry Stranberg, Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin (CF): Met Brenda Bailey to discuss an extension to the Planning for Succession program. Still seeing many new business plans.

Brad McKinnon, Williams Lake RCMP: We are finalizing plans for this year's Stampede and will have a strong police presence there. We are assisting the city with the homelessness challenges. In the process of meeting with stakeholders for the annual performance plan, consider how we do business and whom we do business with. Already looking at the middle of May for a coffee talk, we want people to see us people first. **Laurie**, we would like to extend the invitation to attend SPC community meetings on a regular basis, when available. **Brad**, please send the invite.

Meeting Adjourned 12:55 pm, Krista Harvey

Notable Quote

"A little progress each day
adds up to **BIG RESULTS**"

~ Satya Nani



**Social Planning
Council** Williams Lake
and Area

2023 Community Meetings

January 23

July 24

February 27

August - **summer break, no meeting**

March 27

September 25

April 24

October 23

May 29

November 27 - **AGM & Community Meeting**

June 26

December - **winter break, no meeting**

Meeting minutes can be found [HERE](#)

Join Today, Become a Social Planning Council Member!

Social Planning Council is a member-supported organization. Your membership fees are critical to supporting our work connecting, collaborating, and bringing our community together for a better quality of life for all.

For more info contact info@wlspc.ca
or find a membership form [HERE](#)



The Social Planning Council of Williams Lake and Area thanks to the City of Williams Lake for their funding support.

266 Oliver Street, Williams Lake, BC V2G 1M1

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