



# **Social Planning Council** Williams Lake and Area

*Many Voices - One Table - Shared Goals*

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**REMINDER: See you Monday, June 26, 2023,  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**June 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.

*\*You only have two minutes to share*

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

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**Find your local number:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82060235786>

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Council Member!](#)

June

26

Next

**COMMUNITY MEETING**

**July 24, 2023**

Click your calendar app  
below to add Julys meeting  
to your schedule



Powered by [AddEvent](#)

## Community Updates

**MEDIA RELEASE**

City of Williams Lake

450 Mart Street Williams Lake, BC  
V2G 1N3

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### **City to Host Forest Sector Town Hall Meetings**

The City of Williams Lake is hosting two Town Hall meetings to provide support information to mill workers, contractors and their employees experiencing impacts from decline in the forest sector.

The Town Hall will be held on Monday, June 19 at the Gibraltar Room at the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex with two sessions available to the public from 10:30 am until noon and from 5:30 pm until 7 pm.

Both sessions will be identical and are being held to ensure people who work various hours are able to attend. The session will include panel speakers from a variety of agencies including Work BC and the Ministry of Labour and Service Canada, as well as information booths where members of the public can acquire resource information and ask one-on-one questions.

The Town Hall initiative is being coordinated through a community transition response led by the City and supported by the Province's Community Transition Team. Its purpose is to connect local service agencies, Provincial ministries and resources to align and communicate on supports for the community.

The City's community transition effort is in response to the April 18, 2023 news of a permanent line reduction at Tolko's Soda Creek operation which, in a news release issued by Tolko, announced impacts to 65 workers in Williams Lake. A number of other operations in Williams Lake's forest sector have also seen short-term curtailments and downtime over the past year in response to economic conditions and fibre supply issues.

One of the supports available, which will be discussed at the Town Hall meetings, is the Bridging to Retirement Program offered by the Province. The program is open to impacted and full-time workers at least 55 years old who are B.C. forestry mill workers, forestry-dependent contractors and their employees to help them transition to retirement.

Forestry workers could be eligible for up to \$75,000 in retirement bridging funding, depending on individual factors including years of experience, age at retirement and employer contribution. Other supports at the Town Hall will include: training and retraining support, career planning support, business supports and information about the state of the local economy and forest sector.

Mayor Surinderpal Rathor said he hopes people take advantage of the Town Hall to learn more about resources and how the community's excellent organizations can help. He added the community is strong, and the forest industry is resilient.

“We have some of the most efficient forestry operations in the province and a skilled labour force,” Mayor Rathor said. “Layoffs are never easy and for workers and their families and this can be a difficult time, but there are many programs and supports available for people.”

Questions about the Town Hall can be directed to Beth Veenkamp, Manager of Economic Development, at [bveenkamp@williamslake.ca](mailto:bveenkamp@williamslake.ca).

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**Media contact:**

Beth Veenkamp, Manager of Economic Development


[bveenkamp@williamslake.ca](mailto:bveenkamp@williamslake.ca)

Phone: 250.392.8480

City Hall: 250.392.2311

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The Mobile Response Team will be in Williams Lake on June 28<sup>th</sup>

This may be an opportunity for your organization to meet or check in with them.

**Crisis Intervention Specialists**

Mobile Response Team (MRT)

Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)

Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)

**For more info contact Gregory at**

**Mobile:** 778.899.5163 | Toll Free: 1.888.686.3022

[gregory.nickel@phsa.ca](mailto:gregory.nickel@phsa.ca) | [MRT@phsa.ca](mailto:MRT@phsa.ca)



**MOBILE RESPONSE TEAM**  
Frontline Psychosocial Support

Toll-Free: 1.866.686.3022

## Resources, Training, & Other Newsletters



# Employment/Volunteer Opportunities

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## Notable Quote

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

~ Anne Frank

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# 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](mailto: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.

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266 Oliver Street, Williams Lake, BC V2G 1M1

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