

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Date: September 23, 2024

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Location: [Zoom](#)

Chair: Laurie Walters

Minutes: Bree Odd

Present: Laurie Walters, Hannah Diether, Derek Godin, Gregg Gaylord & Rebecca Jarvis (Guest Speakers), Shannon Thom, Marnie Brenner, Carla Bullinger, Bree Odd, Larry Stranberg, Sheri Marsh, Brianna van de Wigngaard, Craig Glover, Jean Oke

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'exelcencm people.

Review & Approve Agenda for July 22, 2024

Motion Shannon Thom

Seconded by Larry Stranberg

Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for June 24, 2024

Motion Carla Bullinger

Seconded by Derek Godin

Carried

Member Introductions: Shared names and the organization representing.

Guest Speaker(s): **Rebecca Jarvis** and **Gregg Gaylord** from Foundry Cariboo Chilcotin presented on the Foundry Works program

- The program provides support for youth (ages 12-24) with education, job training, and employment opportunities.
- They collaborate with local businesses and organizations to place youth in meaningful work environments.
- The program has connected with over 17 local businesses.
- Services include educational training, job placement, and wage subsidies.
- They are seeking more community partnerships to employ and support youth.
- The program provides ongoing support, including wage subsidies, work attire, and resources for employers.

Questions & Answers:

- **Carla** asked how Partners for Literacy could collaborate, highlighting literacy and numeracy support for those over 18 and children/youth tutoring programs.
 - **Action: Greg** and **Rebecca** to explore how literacy programs could support youth entering the workforce and connect with CCPL

- Suggestion for Foundry to join the Thrive Poverty Reduction Strategy's Leadership Table.
 - **Action: Bree** to follow up with Foundry
- **Brianna** asked about the type of ongoing support Foundry provides for employers and youth. **Rebecca** serves as the designated liaison and provides continuous support with no time limit. Ensuring both employers and youth have resources/guidance to succeed.
- **Carla** asked about the number of youths expected to engage with the program. **Greg** shared numbers vary, they are preparing for an increase in interest as youth return to school and seek jobs. Businesses have been receptive, making it easier to connect youth with opportunities.
- **Shannon** clarified WorkBC and Foundry Works collaborate, ensuring services are not duplicated, they complement each other. WorkBC provides front-end career guidance and decision-making, while Foundry Works offers ongoing job support.

Lightning Round

- **Derek Godin**, BGC Williams Lake:
 - Programs are running smoothly, sports programs have been particularly successful.
 - There are challenges securing stable funding.
- **Shannon Thom**, WorkBC:
 - Attending the T̓silhqot'in National Government Job Fair tomorrow 12:00 to 6:00 pm.
 - Hosting a pre-job fair drop-in session to help clients prepare resumes and interview tips tomorrow morning.
 - Next week, Parallel Forest Products will be recruiting for local jobs with a hiring event at WorkBC.
- **Brianna van de Wigngaard**, Central Cariboo Community Food Hub Project:
 - Ongoing efforts to improve food security through community engagement and partnerships.
 - Coordination with local producers and community to create a sustainable food system.
- **Marnie Brenner**, Interior Health:
 - Current initiatives focus on mental health in the community, with efforts to engage underserved groups.
 - Emphasized the importance of partnerships for population health.
- **Jean Oke**, Scout Island Nature Center, Williams Lake Field Naturalist:
 - Recent activities include educational programming and events to raise environmental awareness.
 - Invited participants to upcoming nature-related events.

- **Sheri Marsh**, Williams Lake Hospice Society:
 - Continuing efforts to support families in need of hospice care.
 - An upcoming fundraising event is planned to sustain their services.
- **Carla Bullinger**, Cariboo-Chilcotin Partners for Literacy:
 - Increased demand for adult literacy support and tutoring services for children and youth.
 - Highlighted the role of literacy in supporting employability and community engagement.
- **Larry Strandberg**, Community Futures:
 - Working on business support initiatives and sharing new grant opportunities for small businesses.
 - Encouraged spreading awareness of available resources for local entrepreneurs.
- **Craig Glover**, Williams Lake District Credit Union:
 - Ongoing support for community programs, with a focus on financial literacy and community development.
 - Highlighted the credit union's involvement in supporting non-profits and community organizations.
- **Hannah Diether**, Central Interior Rural Division of Family Practice:
 - Updates on initiatives aimed at improving rural healthcare services and support for healthcare practitioners.
 - Emphasized collaboration with community partners to address health inequities.
- **Bree Odd**, Social Planning Council:
 - Work to reignite the original Thrive Strategy which started in 2018.
 - Collaborating with Communities Ending Poverty Leadership Table and Tamarack Community on a grant application for the PG Prosperity Fund.
 - Strategy includes creating pop-up services to help vulnerable populations access support closer to their home (e.g., income tax forms, GIS, childcare support).
 - Highlighted the challenge of reducing poverty on a limited budget and encouraged visiting the website to learn about becoming a community champion.
- **Laurie Walters**, Social Planning Council & Community Futures:
 - Provided an update on the PASS Program, which supports local businesses with accessibility, sustainability, and success planning.
 - Encouraged businesses to take advantage of the program and emphasized the need for ongoing collaboration to address community challenges.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:55 pm

Motion: Carla Bullinger