

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING AGENDA

Date: October 28, 2024

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

Chair: Bree Odd

Minutes: Bree Odd

Present: Denise Boulanger, Eva Navrot, Marnie Brenner, Shannon Thom, Derek Goddin, Sheri Marsh, Kylie Thomas, Mike Desautels, Neil Bridson, Mike Franklin, Bree Odd

Regrets: Carla Bullinger, Lindsay Sidor

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 October 28, 2024

Motion Sheri Marsh Seconded by Kylie Thomas Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for September 23, 2024

Motion Derek Goddard Seconded by Shannon Thom Carried

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

Guest Speaker(s):

Eva Navrot, The BC Association of Community Response Networks (BC CRN)

- Presented on elder abuse and neglect, highlighting statistics from 2022-2023, including 2,811 reported cases in BC.
- BC CRN's programs aim to build safe and healthy communities through education, awareness, and coordination. Initiatives include:
 - "See Something, Say Something" (educational sessions on identifying and addressing abuse).
 - Spotlight on Ageism (focus on recognizing and challenging ageism).
 - Introduction to Extreme Clutter (addressing stigmatized hoarding behaviors).
- Available to host presentations and share these sessions with other organizations.

Suzanne Cochrane, Seniors Support Program Coordinator and Community Connector at the Williams Lake Seniors Activity Center

- Presented updates on the Seniors Support Program, emphasizing post-pandemic challenges like financial literacy and digital accessibility for seniors.

- Program origins were tied to the Thrive Community Poverty Reduction Plan, with funding initially from UBCM and later from community philanthropists.
 - 363 seniors accessed the program from March to September 2024.
 - The program runs two days a week, with continued support from local champions.
- Program needs volunteer support

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

Eva Navrot, The BC Association of Community Response Networks – nothing to add

Denise Boulanger, Northern Interior Communities Association (NICA)

- NICA helps societies access funding, focusing on community gaming grants.
- Shared alternative funding options for organizations that miss deadlines.

Shannon Thom, WorkBC

- Service Canada Outreach services available at the WorkBC office on Nov 19
- Support for employment insurance, old age security, other government services.

Derek Godin, BGC of Williams Lake

- Shared the success of the recent haunted house event, which saw over 500 attendees.
- Watch for upcoming December events.

Sheri Marsh, Hospice Society

- Announced preparations for the annual Memory Tree Celebration on December 1.
 - An opportunity to honor and remember loved ones during the holiday season.
 - Upcoming ornament sales at Save-On-Foods.

Kylie Thomas, Thompson Rivers University (TRU)

- Highlighted TRU's new application fee delay program, designed to reduce barriers for prospective students.
- Mentioned recent open houses and ongoing struggles to recruit qualified faculty in business, psychology, and English.

Mike Desautels and Neil Bridson, Men's Shed Williams Lake

- Men's Shed is a community-building initiative providing support for older men.
- Shared success stories, including increased engagement and tool donations.

Brianna van de Wijngaard, Central Cariboo Community Food Hub

- Announced new food literacy workshops aimed at improving accessibility and supporting vulnerable populations.

Suzanne Cochrane – Literacy Support on Behalf of CCPL

- Shared details about English language practice programs for beginner, intermediate, and advanced learners, offered free through CCPL.

Mike Franklin, Foundry and The Child Development Centre

- Foundry Works in collaboration with WorkBC, to integrate educational and employment support, for youth development.
- The CDC is partnering with CCPL on evening mentoring and tutoring for children.
- Two carpentry placements available for youth interested in participating in a carpentry initiative funded by a civil forfeiture grant.
 - The 6–8-week program includes practical carpentry skills and renovation work.
- Dr. Fedor is present at the Foundry three days a week (Tuesday through Thursday).

Discussion: Is there opportunity for the Men’s Shed to support young men through intergenerational mentorship and skill development with the following suggestions.

- Question: Derek, “Does the Men’s Shed have age restrictions and whether younger men, like those involved with Foundry, could participate? Derek suggested that older members of the Men’s Shed could act as role models for young men who may not yet have carpentry skills. Mike, “The Men’s Shed current activities are restricted to individuals 18 years and older”.
- Men’s Shed is open to exploring workshops or collaborative efforts with Foundry to involve younger participants in hands-on activities like woodworking or mentorship.
 - Activities: Hands-on projects like woodworking aim to build practical skills and foster social connections.
 - Focus: Addressing mental health and reducing isolation among men of all ages.
 - Partnership Goal: Strengthen ties with Foundry to enhance support for young men and promote holistic well-being.

Action: Derek (BGC), Mike (Foundry), and Mike and Neil (Men’s Shed) to discuss possibilities.

Bree Odd, SPC

- SPC AGM/Community Meeting on November 25, 2024.
- Membership fees due prior to AGM.
- Working to increase Community Champions for poverty reduction, become one today.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:39 pm Shannon