

November 22, 2021

Hello SPC Members and Guests,

Where did 2021 go? Holy snappers, hard to believe we are only one month from Christmas. How many people are ZOOMED out? With COVID 19 and the wildfires in 2021, I said “Hey things couldn’t get worst.” WRONG. Flooding. But on a positive note, this has been a very productive and busy year for the SPC. Highlights include:

- The final year of the Thrive Project was completed. This project was run by the SPC, but the funds and payments are through Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy since their Society has charitable status. Thank you CCPL. Over the following past years, SPC worked together in our community to design and implement a poverty reduction strategy with innovative solutions. And a big thank-you to the Vancouver Foundation (VF) for their generous donation over three years to make this a reality. And another thank-you to ICSI and to the Red Cross for their equally generous donations to this project too. Thanks to Anne Burrell for her dedication and passion for this project.
- Communities That Care (CTC) continues to be overseen by the SPC. This was Barb Jones’s second year of running CTC. Speaking of Barb, she successfully found the funds to implement the high school students survey on their physical and mental health. In fact, the survey is now completed and the fun starts of putting all this information together for use in our communities. Great work Barb.
- SPC continues to rent an office at Community Futures. Note that this office is now used by CTC, Thrive Project, Rent Bank, Food Hub and by our E.D.
- SPC would like to thank our funders for 2021 - the City of Williams Lake, Canadian Red Cross, United Way, Vancouver Foundation, and the Province of BC for their financial support over this past year.
- SPC continues to expand our network.
- On a sad note, Karen Irvine stepped down from our Board this year. Karen, thank you for all your dedication and passion for the SPC. You will be missed (note I will deny saying this in public).
- Anne Burrill continues to be our Executive Director for the SPC. Thank you, Anne, for your dedication and passion for this position.
- Bree Odd continues to be our marketing/promotion/secretary person for the SPC. Thank you, Bree, for updating our website and newsletter.
- Via the City, SPC is working on an online survey of the effects of COVID 19 in our community.
- SPC was working with our Community Futures office along with three other Community Futures (on Vancouver Island) on a Social Enterprise project called the Scale Project which is now completed.
- Guest speakers this year included:
  - Pamala Fry - TRU; George Warr - CCCDC on the Foundry Project
  - Brianna, Food Hub; Silvia - WL Community Well-being and Safety Coordinator
  - Carla Bullinger - CC Partners for Literacy
  - Barb Jones - Communities That Care, Rental Assistance Program (RAP), and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER); Stephanie Ewen Manager of the Alex Fraser Research Forest; Kristi Rintoul - Senior Manager of Community Impact with United Way
  - Judy Ventry - Min. of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Another positive note, SPC added four new Board Members – Christa Smith, Laurie Walters, Jessica Dunn, and Craig Glover. Thank you for coming aboard.
- I would like to say a big THANKS to my fellow Directors for their great work and dedication for this past year. They also include Directors Carla Bullinger and Shannon Thom.
- And thank you to all people who come to our monthly meetings via ZOOM. I do miss the face-to-face.

Season greeting and to a stress-free 2022 for all. Happy trails, Larry Stranberg, Chair