



Community Network Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 11, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Fraser Room, Maple Ridge Library

ATTENDEES:

Alana Jackson - PYCS
Bee Schroeder – Salvation Army
Brenna Ayliffe – CN Co-Chair, Fraser Health
Bronte Elphick-Miner – RMRS
Carole Chang – Fraser Health
Colene Thompson – CN Co-Chair
Darla Rasmussen - NCCABC
Dorata Michalska – Fraser Health
Dorri Mahdaviani – Fraser Health
Elaine Yamamoto – CLC / HIVE
Heather MacDonald - NCCABC
Janice Williams – CLC
Jeannie Harnett – SD 42
Jenny Earley – Family Ed
Julia Chien – Fraser Health

Kathleen Rainville – Asante Centre
Kim Dumore - STORM
Leanne Koehn – RMRS
Len Pierre – Fraser Health
Liza Morris – Maple Ridge Library
Mahshid Ghorbai – Family Ed
Marie Robson – Seniors Network
May Hasegawa – Fraser Health
Naomi Evans – The ACT Arts Centre
Robert Bientjes - RMRS
Roger Eckman - ICYMH
Sunny Schiller – CN Coordinator
Susan Foster – MCFD
Tara Malanik - Pathfinders
Veronica Wilson - FRIS

1. WELCOME

Chair Brenna Ayliffe called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and introductions were made.

2. TOONIE TUESDAY COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDRAISER: \$45.05

3. AGENDA APPROVAL – June 11, 2019 – The agenda was approved.

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – May 14, 2019 – The minutes were adopted.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Fraser River Indigenous Society – “Not Just Naloxone” Workshop Overview

Veronica Wilson shared an overview of the “Not Just Naloxone” workshop being hosted by the Fraser River Indigenous Society coming up this week. The organization previously known as the Fraser River All Nations Aboriginal Society is now the Fraser River Indigenous Society.

6. COMMUNITY NETWORK UPDATES

6.1 CN Working Table Updates

HIVE / Community Literacy Committee: Elaine Yamamoto reported another successful FreeCycle event has just been held. Organizers have some leftover clothing donations that can be provided to organizations in need. The next FreeCycle will be held in the fall. Elaine introduced new Community Adult Literacy Program Coordinator Janice Williams to the group.

Life After School Transition Committee: Leanne Koehn explained the work of the LAST Committee, which provides support to youth transitioning to adult support services. The group held their annual Transition Fair in April, which was very successful. A community BBQ is planned for the fall.

Ridge Meadows Community Children’s Table: Jenny Earley reported the previous funding for the table ended March 31. The June 19 RMCCT meeting will be Coordinator Roberta O’Briens final meeting. Jenny provided an update on grant applications made by the Family Education and Support Centre that may be able to support the ongoing work of the RMCC table.

Youth Planning Table: Jeannie Harnett shared an update from the last meeting of the Youth Planning Table, which included a discussion around how to bring a new safe house for youth to the community. Any organizations interested in becoming involved with this project should contact Brenna Ayliffe - brenna.ayliffe@fraserhealth.ca.

Social Policy Advisory Committee: Jenny Earley reported on the last SPAC meeting. As part of the SPAC work plan participants are planning workshops, and are currently considering a chronic diseases workshop and also a EDI / MDI workshop that would look at how data is collected, look at the data and analyze the data to see if gaps in support services can be identified. The CN is seeking an alternative SPAC rep to serve as backup for the existing two representatives.

6.2 CN Coordinator Update

Sunny Schiller reported on her activities during the last month, which included:

- Preparation for and participation at the May 14 CN meeting
- Sending a message to SD 42 elementary school principals and parent advisory committees explaining what the Community Chest initiative is about and inviting schools to participate in fundraising for Community Chest Week in the fall
- CN Facebook page updates
- Monthly agenda review meeting with CN Co-Chairs – 28-MAY
- Attended Seniors Network meeting – 30-MAY
- Update to the Maple Ridge Community Foundation re: Community Chest support
- Attended the Community Literacy Committee Meeting – 10-JUN
- Submitted May NEWS article on vaping for publication – 28-MAY
- Arranged and hosted a meeting of working group Coordinators, with participation from CLC, CAT, LIPS, SN – 23-MAY
- Meeting with City of Maple Ridge IT staff to discuss Pathways – 16-MAY
- Communications with Pathways staff on updates for the Community Services page
- Made two Pathways presentations to Maple Ridge Library staff – 5 & 7-JUN
- Follow up with MP Dan Ruimy’s office re: Climate Action Fund application - 27-May

7. CORRESPONDENCE – Nil

8. *** NETWORKING BREAK ***

9. PRESENTATIONS: LEARNING FROM OUR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Len Pierre is a Cultural Safety Advisor with Fraser Health and a member of the Katzie First Nation who attended to provide information about territorial acknowledgements used to open meetings and other events. Len shared some of his personal background and the work his family has done around cultural education. Len shared that acknowledgements are a historical practice within Indigenous communities and that when an acknowledgement is needed organizers should focus on their intentions in making the acknowledgement and not worry about getting the words exactly right. Len answered questions about terminology that can be used to create appropriate

acknowledgements. When choosing the wording for a territorial acknowledgement the Coast Salish can be used as a sort of default if there's uncertainty around whose territory an event is being held on. Suggested wording: "Before beginning we wish to acknowledge the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, in particular the XXXXX (if known) on whose territory we work, live and play (or stand)." Len addressed comments from the audience and also provided suggestions on deciding who should make the acknowledgement, and when to invite an elder to open an event. Territorial acknowledgements are done by event organizers. Prayers, songs, dances and welcomes to territories can only be contributed by Indigenous individuals or organizations.

Len suggested that meeting organizers check in with Indigenous participants as to who would like to make the acknowledgement. Everyone should work on being comfortable making an acknowledgement and inviting others to do it if they wish. Acting thoughtfully, respectfully and with good intentions is an important part of the process. Len shared he is preparing some reference information around honorariums and acknowledgements for use by organizations. It was explained that honorariums provided to Indigenous individuals for participating in events are intended to be an exchange of energy and an expression of gratitude.

Making territorial acknowledgements provides opportunity for mindfulness, for acknowledging ancestors and opening yourself up to new communities and lands. Part of acknowledging territory is an opportunity for individuals to ground themselves in the physical space...recognizing major waterways and natural features of the land you are on. "Unceded" is a term often used in acknowledgements and it means taken, or not given. Unceded refers to Indigenous territory that was never handed over. By speaking the truth - that these territories are unceded - event organizers are acknowledging the reality of the situation. Other terms sometimes used are occupied, or unsurrendered. Historically permission was asked of Indigenous communities before new territories were entered. As this opportunity does not really exist in our current situation, a territorial acknowledgement is a way of acknowledging that individuals are working and living on unceded territory and of recognizing the resiliency of First Nations on the territory. Territorial acknowledgements are an act of reconciliation.

Darla Rasmussen from the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC also presented to the group. Darla shared some of her experiences providing support to Indigenous youth and explained some practices used by NCCABC to allow youth to reconnect or expand on their use of cultural practices. There is a focus on living in harmony with the land, and living peacefully. Darla shared some cultural items she brought to the meeting, including a Prayer Blanket. The Prayer Blanket is a sacred item, which is worked on by different individuals. Each stitch in the blanket represents a prayer. Darla shared some of the changes that NCCABC and other Indigenous organizations have implemented to recognize the skills and knowledge Indigenous individuals have and also to acknowledge that traditional organizational methods may not be the best way to connect with qualified individuals (ie requiring written responses to questions during hiring processes). Darla shared some of her background and her personal experiences as an Indigenous member of the community.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 3:15 p.m.