



## **CHAIR SUMMARY**

The North Okanagan Community Council has had a busy year. We are in the process of recruiting new members to our council. We have been challenged by some tight timelines but we continue to keep focused on the reason we are all here - to make life easier for the people and families we serve.

## **KEY INITIATIVES**

### **BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES**

- The Council's desire to create a greater awareness of their role in the North Okanagan region led to the decision to set aside funds to create grants
- One large grant was created. The desired outcome was that families and council members would report that service projects or initiatives pursued by the NOCC would result in improved service delivery or access to the community for persons supported by CLBC.
- The successful candidate was the Arts Council of the North Okanagan. The funds were leveraged with dollars the Arts Council was able to provide. The project will provide opportunities for the project year and years to come through the change in the Art Council's organizational structure and philosophy in providing opportunities to persons with intellectual disabilities.

### **\$8,000.00 for Grants**

- The North Okanagan Community Council had also set aside funds for eight \$1,000.00 grants. Due the flat funding presently available, they have decided to put this on hold.

### **Start With Hi**

- Council felt that there was not enough lead time given to the Council to be able to participate adequately.

### **Presentations of Service Providers**

- 2 presentations were made to council
- The Service Providers in the North Okanagan brought forth their concerns around how the changes in CLBC's mandate and available resources were affecting the quality of services being provided.

- A group from the Shuswap called SMART – Sicamous Malakawa Adult Resource Training presented their challenges and concerns around finding funding to support their Employment Initiatives.

### **Self Advocate Conference**

- The North Okanagan Community Council support the Conference by providing \$500.00 to purchase vests for the self advocate conference organizers.
- The Conference was a great success with 60 self advocates in attendance from the Kootenays, Cariboo and the North and South Okanagan.
- The Mayor of Vernon attended and in his speech encouraged self advocates to approach their local mayors and city councils.

### **Community Information Meetings**

- The Council intended on hosting meetings in the fall of 2009 in Vernon, Salmon Arm and Revelstoke to invite the public to come and meet the members of the Council and ask questions.
- This was postponed when the changes occurred with CLBC. It was decided that the Council would wait until the transition of children back to MCFD was complete and we had enough information to be in a position to attempt to address concerns.

### **Communication Articles in the Paper**

- The NOCC set aside funds to contract with a journalist who will write articles for the local papers in the region. The focus of the articles is to bring awareness to the general public about the contributions and value of individuals with intellectual disabilities to our communities. These articles are slated to begin in 2010.

## **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

### **Reduction of Waitlist for Supports**

- Our region did see the reduction of parents and caregivers requiring respite support reduced from 2 years to 6 months. This continues to be a challenge.

### **Transition Planning**

- A Pilot Project in Salmon Arm was given very limited dollars to create a process which would mean that transition planning will happen for all CLBC youth leaving high school. Effective transition processes for youth leaving high school continues to be of concern to the Council.

### **Creating Personal Support Networks**

- There are still parents and their children isolated and not connected to their communities. The Council hopes that the work done through the Grant and the articles written in local papers will provide those who are isolated with information that will assist them in where to access help.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- An area of concern in this province is skill shortage. It is difficult to attract and keep youth to work in this field for a number of reasons which of course include wages. Once staff do gain experience they are drawn to other fields of work that provide higher wages. This continues to be an area of concern for the Council.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- The Council met in January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November in 2009.
- Meetings are held on Saturdays from 10am to about 3pm and are held in Vernon, Armstrong, Salmon Arm and Revelstoke.
- The Council is represented by parents of individuals with intellectual disabilities, self advocates, service providers and community members.

### **FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING for the \$22,000 council grant**

- In managing funding from CLBC, accountability requirements were established using Terms of Reference for dispersing the funds. These Terms of References became a part of the deliverables of the \$22,000 grant.
- A Committee was created out of members of the Council to read through the proposals for the grant, and with the assistance of a CLBC staff. Each proposal was compared using the criteria set out in the Procurement Policies of CLBC and the Terms of Reference.
- Collaborative reporting between the Council and the Agency managing the funds provided accountability as to how the funds were spent. The Reporting Details included: procurement and award process used, service/project description, deliverables provided – what they were and how much was provided, achieved outcomes, funding dispersed and amounts remaining.