



SURREY-DELTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

CHAIR SUMMARY

Surrey Community Council members share the stated goal to be a productive and effective council. Each council member is committed to increasing awareness of and access to services for CLBC service recipients and their families.

In our collective desire to work towards meeting and exceeding the goals and objectives in our strategic plan, council members have agreed to adopt an Appreciative Inquiry approach, focusing on “what is working”, community strengths and innovative approaches to address community needs.

Highlights from 2009:

- Council membership replenishment; formation of recruitment sub committee □
- Formulation of a recommendation to CLBC re: Planning and prioritization for those with aging parents
- Completion of PHASE III: Identification of target initiatives based on PHASE I + II Survey data
- Completion of PHASE IV: Establishment of sub-committees to lead / participate in community groups re Transportation services and opportunities for Life-Long Learning, Employment and Recreation Opportunities.

Highlights from 2010:

It has now been 13 months since our community survey was completed and action plans were formulated in response to the community feedback received. The council has used an Appreciative Inquiry approach to explore the following themes:

- i) The aging parents issue**
- ii) Local transportation concerns**
- iii) Planning for connectedness**

A new, fourth area of focus was recently introduced at the March meeting.

- iv) At risk youth with developmental disabilities**

The council will examine the rapidly growing trend of individuals with developmental disabilities becoming involved with drugs, gangs, street life, and crime. These young people are frequenting the courts; the courts in turn have no idea that these are individuals with cognitive challenges. Several individuals from the Mayor’s Office who oversee the Surrey Crime Prevention Strategy, are eager to engage in planning and discussion with the Community Council. Together with the Surrey School District, we are hoping Crown Council will assist in establishing a specialized Diversion Program for these young adults.

What has been accomplished to date:

- Aging Parents Issue
 - a) community awareness initiative (brochure development and distribution plan)
 - b) recommendation to Board of Directors re prioritization and proactive planning for
 - c) families with aging parents
 - d) endorsement of recommendation by Advisory Committee
 - e) full page newspaper article (and photo) on the benefits of good planning where parents are aging
- PossAbilities NOW Article – focused on the work of the council related to the theme of planning to ensure meaningful, connected lives (upcoming September 2010 issue)
- Article about the council: “ A Blueprint for Engagement” by Rachel Schmidt
- Amalgamation of Delta and Surrey Councils
- Establishment of Recruiting Committee with successful recruitment to complete council compliment of members
- Orientation session for new council members
- Nomination of member for Advisory Committee to CLBC Board of Directors
- Council members represent the CLBC Surrey/Delta Community Council on a variety of local and regional community based committees:
 - Surrey Board of Trade,
 - Seniors’ Transportation Forum,
 - Literacy Program (Moving Forward),
 - Crime Prevention Strategy Committee
- The council has had several guest speakers attend council meetings to present of topics relevant to the council’s work: e.g., Rachel Schmidt, CLBC; Debbie Holmes, At-risk Youth;
- Maintained CLBC website with up-to-date summaries of activity and monthly minutes
- Have completed 27 out of 35 specific action plans related to our strategic plan that was initially developed when the council was established
- Research/ Interview of CLBC staff by Council member culminating in written report and presentation to council on residential options in Surrey/Delta
- Two council members participated in concept, planning and creating of CLBC promotional video re community council
- Participation in Globe & Mail Partnership Activity

KEY INITIATIVES

BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

1. Transportation Services in the Surrey Region...

Council members continue to monitor what groups and community initiatives are underway, and to ensure community council members participate and provide the voice of individuals with developmental disabilities as concerns are heard and decisions are made at community tables. Specifically, a council member has attended the following:

- Seniors' Transportation Forum
- Translink & Ministry of Transportation stakeholders' meeting to discuss rapid transit study
- Surrey Rapid Transit Stakeholder Workshop

2. Creating meaningful connections through dedicated planning for Life-Long Learning, Employment and Recreation Opportunities...

Isolation, lack of fulfillment and loneliness were common themes in our survey results and community conversations. Also dominating the conversations was a belief that engagement in life-long learning, employment and recreation and leisure activities are key opportunities for creating meaningful connections and life-enhancing friendships and social networks. The council has worked through an extensive AI based exercise, and is exploring ways of engaging with CLBC facilitators, community members and families to rethink the role of community partners and families in planning and sustaining plans.

3. Responding to the issue of CLBC eligible citizens affected by the challenges of their aging parents as their caregivers...

The council submitted a formal recommendation to the Advisory Committee to the CLBC Board of Directors which was endorsed and is in the process of being taken forward to the Board. The Advisory also supported the council's plan of designing and printing a rack card intended for local distribution, and has offered to assist to take the rack card forward for province wide use.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We have maintained website information to provide up to date information about council action plans

Council members have each been assigned an action plan (e.g., specific research, etc.) that they will complete and report out on.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The main challenge for the council is time. Each meeting has a full agenda, with additional topics waiting for inclusion. To ensure that the council has adequate time to dialogue and plan, we are alternating between "business" meetings and "work sessions" from month to month.

We have also been unsuccessful in our attempt to recruit council members to represent Surrey and Delta's Aboriginal and Indo-Canadian populations.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Council members represent the CLBC Surrey/Delta Community Council on a variety of local and regional community based committees:

- Surrey Board of Trade,
- Seniors' Transportation Forum,
- Literacy Program (Moving Forward),
- Crime Prevention Strategy Committee
- Crisis Response Strategic Planning Forum
- Innovation Forum: Connecting To A Better Future

Council has invited the following guests to present to council:

- Rachel Schmidt, CLBC
- Tara Cleave (Surrey Parks & Recreation)
- Debbie Holmes, At Risk Youth with Developmental Disabilities, SD 36

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

NAME	COMMUNITY	MEMBERSHIP
Larry Shareski	South Surrey	Self-Advocate
Connie Hulley	South Surrey	Self-Advocate
Karen Virtue	Cloverdale	Self-Advocate
Coreen Windbiel	Cloverdale	Service Provider
Sandra Cottingham (Chairperson)	Delta	Community Member
Marie Sabine (Vice Chairperson)	White Rock	Family Member
Cheryl-Anne Hendy	Cloverdale	Service Provider

Wendy Mackintosh	Surrey	Parent
Madeleine Addison	Cloverdale	Community Member
Sheila Palmer	South Surrey/White Rock	Parent
Valerie Newton	Delta	Parent
Edwina Jeffrey	Surrey	Parent
Shirley Tan	Guildford	Parent