



## UPPER FRASER COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009

### CHAIR SUMMARY

For the past year, the Upper Fraser Community Council has struggled to identify the Council's roles and responsibilities due to changes in Community Living BC's (CLBC) expectations of councils. Several valuable Council members resigned from our Council due to the transfer of children's services from CLBC to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. It was difficult for the Council to recruit new members due to the lack of focus and mandate from CLBC. With the recent sharing of the new terms of reference, the Council is finding itself re-energized. Two new members have joined the Council in the past three months and there are two other individuals who have expressed an interest in participating.

The Council continues to meet at least nine times per year. There are currently eight members on the Council, three of who are self advocates, three of who are family and two who are service providers. The Council is interested in focusing on recruiting community members and individuals of different ethnic backgrounds.

In January 2010, Kathleen Rake resigned as chair but agreed to take on the role of vice-chair. Maggie Metcalfe, a new member to the Council, was voted in as Council chair by acclamation. The Council would like to thank Kathleen for her dedication and hard work as chair and is pleased that she has agreed to continue on the Council. Welcome Maggie! The Council would like to thank the CLBC Board for listening to the concerns of regional councils around the lack of connection between councils and the Provincial Advisory Committee and changing the membership. Kathleen Rake was voted as the Upper Fraser Council representative for the Provincial Advisory Committee.

Although the Council is currently small, the group works well together and share a common vision which is "good lives in welcoming communities".

### BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

To assist the Council in developing a 2010/2011 work plan based on the new terms of reference, the Council contracted with John Talbot to facilitate a strategic planning session in March 2010. This session reviewed what the Council learned from families and self-advocates at the various community meetings the Council hosted during 2008. The Council defined the common themes from those meetings and, by consensus, chose three areas to

focus on this coming fiscal year:

- To research and develop a theatre company in the Upper Fraser that will include individuals supported by CLBC and community members.
- To research and develop a plan to create more affordable and safe housing, borrowing knowledge and expertise from established programs from both within and outside our region and organization.
- To address the issues of transition (from child to adult) by bringing together individuals and groups for fact-finding and solution development.

The Council has divided into working groups to accomplish certain tasks within defined time frames.

Council representatives have hosted/attended a number of community events including the community crisis response planning meetings and forums, an information session for families on individualized funding, and a workshop on “supported decision making”. There is a Council representative on the Upper Fraser Ethics Committee.

#### ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Ongoing Council membership has been a challenge over the past year. Due to the large area the Upper Fraser covers (from Langley to Boston Bar and from Mission to Harrison Hot Springs), it has been difficult to get equal representation from all the various communities. When the announcement was made by the Provincial Government that all children services were to be transferred back to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, two of the members resigned, feeling that they needed to expend their energies on the change of services for their children. Other family members left, citing busy lives. Until the new terms of reference and the addition of business cards, it has been challenging for the Council to recruit new members. . The Council notes that business cards for the Council members will go a long way to add Council credibility in the community and will help in involving community partners and families.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

This has not been an area of concern for the Council. The Council is also interested in helping to host a training forum on working with families for all CLBC in the Fraser Region.

#### FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

The Council understands that financial decision making is no longer part of its terms of reference. The Council has also been informed of CLBC’s budget and priorities for this fiscal year and appreciates Jai Birdi, Quality Service Manager, for the sharing of the CLBC work plan for the Upper Fraser and the ongoing updates of that plan.

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The Council is concerned that there may a growing number of individuals without and support this fiscal. In this time of fiscal constraint, Council members are concerned that CLBC will mainly focus on budget concerns this fiscal.. The Council will continue to monitor the concerns expressed in the various communities in the Upper Fraser region in order to further develop its work plan.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Through the Council's current work plan, members will be reaching out to colleges, universities, schools, other government ministries and agencies, and community services to respond to the three areas it plans to focus on this fiscal.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

NAME	COMMUNITY	MEMBERSHIP
Jerry Laidlaw Bryce Schaufelberger Heidi Schneider	Mission Mission Langley	Self-Advocate
Maggie Metcalfe (chair) Kathleen Rake (vice chair) Sylvia Dirks	Langley Mission Abbotsford	Family Member
Cathy Bonnett Brenda Gillette	Mission Chilliwack	Service Provider