

## Annual Report 2014-2015

### Work Plan Goal #1: Recruitment of new members

- Outcome / evidence:
  - 12 Kootenay Community Council members would be optimal
  - 2 family members (East and West)
  - 2 self-advocates
  - 2 service providers or community members
- Learning:
  - The Council recruited 2 new members (one community member and one self-advocate member) this year. Also, the Council now has a self-advocate Chair and a self-advocate PAC representative. The Council invited several potential new members to attend meetings this year and discussed recruitment at a successful Council dance.
- Next Year/Future Plans:
  - The Council has focussed recruitment plans for the 2015-2016 year by developing a list of specific people that the members plan to approach about Council membership. Potential members will be invited to attend meetings and Council events. Several of these members were identified through the dance held last spring.

### Work Plan Goal #2: Develop a list of events that are already happening in the community, with the intention that Council members can become involved.

- Outcome / evidence:
  - Community Council members are involved in existing local community events to support events that are inclusive for all individuals.
- Learning:
  - The Council focussed on Cranbrook's Sam Steele days as a start to formal participation in existing community events. However, this participation did not occur. The Council was successful with creating our own event by hosting a successful dance and by initiating sponsorship of a Pain BC (non-profit organization) webinar about pain and developmental disabilities.
- Next Year/Future Plans
  - Specific community events have been identified for participation by Council in 2015-2016. The Council will be involved in the CLBC picnics in Cranbrook and Creston, will host a dance in spring, and will promote the Pain BC webinar after it

is recorded in summer. The Council has also decided to sponsor some local Special O teams.

Work Plan Goal #3: Track community development events that are happening already via CLBC staff in the region.

- Outcome / evidence:
  - Council is aware of community development events and will decide which events to actively become involved in.
- Learning:
  - Council has identified community development events in the also realizes that some areas of the region are not well-represented.
- Next Year/Future Plans:
  - Council will focus recruitment efforts on including people from areas that are not currently represented.

### **Themes or issues you would like to highlight from your year**

1. The Council is very pleased to see the positive change that has occurred following our PAC representative, Lynnetta's, feedback about increasing inclusiveness for self-advocate members attending provincial meetings.

2. The Council planned and hosted a successful dance celebrating the lives of those with diversabilities and discussing recruitment of new members to Council.

3. Council members have developed their skills through being involved with the Council. Organizational skills have been developed through following the work plan and through preparing for meetings. Members have developed confidence in public speaking skills, such as through speaking about what being on the Council means to them at the dance (approximately 120 people in attendance).

### **Challenges you faced and how they have been addressed**

1. Recruitment is an ongoing challenge, but a recruitment strategy has been developed and the Council continues to be focused and deliberate in recruitment efforts. To date, this has proven successful.

2. Recruitment challenges have also been addressed through highlighting the need for new members at the spring dance.

3. Transportation to and from meetings is often a challenge, since our geographical area is so large. The Council addresses this challenge by having telephone meetings during the winter months, and by meeting at locations that are more central to most members. However, the

Council does also have the desire to meet in some of the other communities, in order to promote representation from those communities on Council.

**Membership**

1. 5 members
2. 2 new members (1 pending)
3. 2 departed members