



### North Region Community Council Meeting

Date: March 24, 2012  
 Address: #207 1600 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
 Prince George BC V2L 3X3  
 Time: 9:30 am – 3:30pm  
 Dial In information: 1-877-353-9184  
 Conference ID: 8408132#

**Present:** David Johnston, Ryan Taylor, Terry Robertson, Ruth Stanton, Jackie Allan, Earnie Harding, Cathy Mortenson, Ann Peltier, Sharon Taylor, Kerri Fisher, Ann Lewis

**Via Conference call:** None

**Regrets:** Kris Zemplak, Pat Marshall, Bonnie Fallowfield, Eldon Carter, Barb Warkentine

AGENDA TOPICS			
TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
Acceptance of agenda and approval of last meeting's minutes	Ryan Taylor moved, moved the minutes of the February 18, 2012 meeting be accepted, David Johnston Seconded the motion.  <b>CARRIED</b>		
Additions to the Agenda	Draft Strategic Plan		
TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
<b>Managers Report</b>	Review the Community Living BC 2012/2013 Service Plan for the next meeting Discussion on the budget – what is our budget and how do we plan for next year? Tabled until we receive our budget.		
	The Client Support Information Bulletin for Feb 29, 2012 was passed out.		
	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
Community Awareness Brainstorming	<p><b>What has worked:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Living Month works.</li> <li>• Success regarding family work, but we need to stop preaching to the converted, we need to contact more people who do not know us or our work.</li> <li>• Try to encourage families to keep trying, make an effort.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every meeting you attend outside “us” let them know you are and council member and what it is about.</li> <li>• Support families to not feel guilty about asking for help.</li> <li>• CLBC staff has to do more community promotion of who we are and what we do to agencies we are not normally connected to.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>What does not work:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wanting to set up events at the last minute – we need more notice.</li> <li>• Cannot educate the community because we still need the speaking notes from the communications specialists.</li> <li>• Services that they have in the lower mainland are not available to us ie bus services in the evenings to hold meetings.</li> <li>• Getting the information out to smaller communities (Hazelton, Houston, Burns Lake).</li> <li>• Families do not have the skills to navigate the system –how can we get them the information and find someone to help them – we are still having people and communities who fall between the cracks.</li> <li>• What will the new council be able to accomplish if they are all new members.</li> <li>• Another problem is the not enough staff in the smaller communities to get out and spread the word and when they do the office is closed.</li> <li>• Government should not have separated children and adult services , we cannot wait to start the planning at age 17 – that is too late.</li> <li>• We don’t meet enough and we have a too big of a region to only meet face to face a few times a year. The committee cannot work like this effectively.</li> </ul>						
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<b>Confirm the remainder 2012 meeting dates</b>	<p><b><u>April 21<sup>st</sup></u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference call starting at 9:30</li> </ul> <p><b><u>May 13<sup>th</sup></u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FACE TO FACE Main topics: elections, feedback from the April Board/PAC, Strategic Plan, Budget, future 2012 Meeting dates.</li> </ul>						
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<b>PAC</b> <b>Terry Robertson</b>	<p>At the PAC meeting in January Terry listened to ideas from the other councils. They only have to go short distances to get to the council meetings, we away from home for days at a time. How do we support council members and communities that have only 1 council member or none at all. Some brought forth recommendation – councils need to find sustainability, they will continue to exist and the work they do is important to families and</p>						

individuals as opposed to CLBC staff. The PAC committee was to set a day aside to discuss how we go forward. But since the two meetings were put together, this may not be what they were asking for. Terry will make sure the board knows all the issues we have to stay connected. Our ability to support our self advocates is very hard over the phone. This will give us a chance to voice where we are as a council and the area we cover. Terry will report back to the council at the next meeting. Terry feels that unless we meet face to face we lose a lot of dialog and our meetings are less engaging.

**Ruth** discussed it's easier for her to retain information when we meet face to face.

**Ryan** loses a day pay when he has to come, not feasible for him, we already lost one council member due to this. Suggested he call in every 2<sup>nd</sup> month but then he loses information. It's hard to work his schedule and get the time off. Needs to know well in advance to let his work know when he will be away to attend the meetings.

Question – should we consider only having 6 meetings a year face to face and no teleconference calls?

**Cathy** confirms she prefers face to face. Sometimes phone service is not working in her area to call in.

**Earnie** – when we have our face to face meetings, the support is right here, we can see when people do not understand the information and can help.

Ann – in other area's they have many more people who can help with community events where in places like Richmond they have many more on the council.

**Terry** read a letter regarding the South Island council concerns on their Terms of Reference from Denise Turner.

**Jackie** - Sounds like other areas are having the same issues with not enough people on the council.

**What do you want Terry to take forward to the PAC meeting:**

1. Such a vast area, we cannot cover it – what is the Boards expectation?
2. We are feeling deflated, we need to say “need to enhance” representation and the availability to connect, the work has to be equitable, not doing FLUFF work but solid work – the costs should not be a problem, but getting hotels, travel etc just to read documents is not feasible.
3. Suggested 6, meetings face to face per year.
4. Additional 6 meetings in communities doing awareness events in all areas’
5. We could do more if we had more representation in more communities; a lot of areas are not represented in the north.
6. The need to have face to face meetings to generate more work
7. Afraid Health and MCFD and Housing are being heard over us at the bigger tables.
8. CYSN (transitioning youth) need to be identified much earlier regarding the transition 17.5 yrs is to late

	<p>9. Overlapping council members as we have so many leaving all at the same time, can we also pay any new comers their travel expenses while they're in "training".</p> <p>10. Wants CLBC to do a media blitz, public forums to actively recruit for council member, not only council members trying to do this – CLBC needs to make first contact.</p>						
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Strategic plan	<p>2011/2012 Strategic Plan was discussed, the work we've done and some of the successes and misses.</p> <p>Once we have the new Strategic Plan, it should be a standing agenda item to help us track with what we are doing and what still needs to be accomplished.</p>						
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<p><b><u>Membership Committee</u></b> Sharon Taylor Kris Zemlak</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Self Advocate Committee</u></b> Cathy Mortensen, Ruth Stanton, David Johnston Earnie Harding</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Community Awareness</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE REPORTS:</u></b></p> <p>The membership is in trouble, 10 new members will be needed by the summer 2013</p> <p>We need more community members, we cannot stop looking. Terry has a contact in Tumbler Ridge</p> <p>Sharon believes someone from CLBC should be connecting with new members to bring on board not the council.</p> <p>Recruitment planning - should we wait until after the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting</p> <p>All council members made a commitment to help bring new members on board. More packages were given out and a reminder the applicants nomination form and questionnaire form must be sent to Pat Marshall/Kerri Fisher, then it will forward it on to the Board for approval.</p> <hr/> <p>The self advocates met after this meeting and will report at the next regular meeting</p> <hr/> <p>Wants a 3 day retreat to do the strategic plan wants to discuss at the next</p>						

<p><u>Committee</u> Jackie Allen, Ann Peltier, Ryan Taylor</p>	meeting – allocate council funds to do this.		
	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
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<b>ROUND TABLE</b>	<p><b>Cathy Mortensen</b> – Cathy continues playing piano playing senior lunches, Sparrow’s fund raising and High Roads. She going to school taking math and is looking into taking cooking classes.</p> <p><b>David Johnston</b> – David is attending Peoples First workshops May 11-13, some courses are: Self Advocate Peer Advisory, assertiveness, World Café world is. David has chosen to give up his flight and drive in order for more people can attend. Registration and hotel bookings need to be made by May 2<sup>nd</sup>. David attended a CLBC workshop in Vancouver. Talked on the BC Self Advocate Foundation and Community Council. There is still the need to have the self advocates get reports in plain language. They also discussed changing “disability” to diversability in all CLBC documents. The reason for the change in name from disabilities to diversabilities is that “diversability” is a more positive twist on a word that can have negative implications. The word “disabilities” is associated with the past and people’s negative experiences with institutions. I am looking to change the word to “diversabilities” because these institutions are now closed and I want to focus instead on the abilities of people. People with diversabilities do not want to be a burden to society, but instead want to be contributors and participants in society. In May David working with Jessica Humphrey on the new rights of individuals booklet.</p> <p><b>Earnie Harding</b> –12 special needs people involved in the recycling project; to date wages paid out is over \$100,000. Between Christmas and New Years they had an electrical fire. Cathy’s dad got the machine going again with parts from an old machine, but they will purchase a new on at \$200,000. So far they’ve raised \$98,000. Work with Kopar Employment Agency in Smithers. Kopar pays subsidized up to 12 hours per week and they also will provide safety equipment, boots. Special needs people are put at the top of their list. It only took 3 days to process the forms to hire someone through this venue. To further enhance employment, they’ve also bought Alpine Water Bottling, but are still the middle of the business plan. Regarding the grocery store – they’ve backed off a bit but will be picking this back up in the near future – special needs people are learning lots of new skills.</p> <p><b>Jackie Allen</b> – Jackie has reviewed terms of reference and the recruitment package. Jackie thanked Kerri for joining us, and gave thanks to everyone – we struggle wanting to do more but not finding the direction to do it.</p> <p><b>Ruth Stanton</b> – Her whole life is focused on the “Follow Your Dreams” Self</p>		

Advocate conference being held in Prince George May 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. Ruth is involved in the Toastmasters workshop and is doing the opening welcome on day 2 of the event. Other workshops will be on Employment, Safety in your Community, No More Barriers, CACL, Crafts, Your Rights, Empowering the 5 Big Decisions, World Café with many different speakers.

**Ryan Taylor** – [www.Tyze.com](http://www.Tyze.com) networking where families access to see how kids are doing and for families to keep in contact. This is a safe social networking. Association is undergoing renovations at the main office; they are expanding the day programs. Woodworking program has stopped and they are using that space for lockers. 2 people trained in doing REP agreements. Ryan has been busy and was voted president of the Self Advocate Group. They alternate meeting spots, but there are now issues with holding meetings at McDonalds, they can no longer have more than 1 wheelchair access in the lounge area. The new layout does not allow more than 1 wheel chair at a table, if they wanted to hold their meetings there, they have to sit separately.

Sharon Taylor – IPAD IPODS and Board Maker conference in April 27<sup>th</sup> Action Community and Training. Sharon Taylor will send information to Ann to distribute. Sharon feels the computer application Text-Plus not recommended for social networking.

**Terry Robertson** – Giving in Action is looking for someone to join their board. Terry is holding workshops on Microboards, REP agreements and IF in Dawson Creek in April 24<sup>th</sup>, Fort St John April 25<sup>th</sup>. Terry will end this information to Ann to distribute.

Terry is going to Naramata with the Family Support Institute April 18 – 22. She is also attending the April 14<sup>th</sup> PAC and CLBC board meeting. The Family Focus group is looking for board members – their conference will be held in Langley Oct 18<sup>th</sup> on youths/individuals transitioning from school. Terry has joined the PG Therapeutic Riding Association board. Terry will be honored with the Volunteer of the Year AWARD on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Terry wants to remind us...ELECTIONS ARE COMING.

**Ann Peltier** – attended the CLBC Terrace Family Meeting February 16<sup>th</sup>, with David MacPherson and Pat Marshall. It was a good and interesting meeting but a few were dissatisfied. David heard this loud and clear. He responded he couldn't get into specifics and would follow up in another forum. Ann went to Mexico this winter instead of suffering with the -40 weather. Northwest is gearing up for an economic boom, looking forward to see what employment opportunities that will mean to our individuals.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION		
<p><b>Self Advocate Follow Your Dreams Conference</b></p>	<p>Earnie motioned we pay registration, travel, accommodations and per diem expenses for the self advocates, Cathy Mortensen, Ryan Taylor, Eldon Carter and David to come to the Prince George to attend the Follow Your Dreams Conference from May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. Sharon seconded the motion, all in favor.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p> <p>There are no flights out of Fort St John to Prince George on a Saturday, or there are no returning flights back to Fort St John on Wednesday. Ann will check with Greyhound for costs and schedules. Both David and Ryan confirmed they are willing to travel back and forth by Greyhound bus. It was discussed to change our May council meeting to the Sunday May 13, 9:30 – 4:30 instead of Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup></p>		
	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

NEXT MEETINGS
<p>April 21<sup>st</sup> – Conference Call 9:30            May 13<sup>th</sup> – Face to Face meeting in Prince George 9:30 – 3:30</p>