



Region Community Council Meeting

Date: March 15, 2014

Four Points Signature Hotel - 1790 Highway 97 South, Prince George, British Columbia

Time: 9:30 am

Present: Barb Warkentine, Eldon Carter, Ann Peltier, Sheryl Demers, Terry Robertson, Gord Robertson, Penny Soderena-Sutton, Vince Sherry, Colleen Tuson, Sharon Taylor, Ryan Taylor, Pat Marshall, Ann Lewis

Regrets: Justin Pylatuk, David Johnston,

AGENDA TOPICS		
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	
Acceptance of agenda and approval of last meeting's minutes	Vince Sherry moved the minutes of the February 22, 2014 meeting be accepted. Ann Peltier seconded the motion. All in favor. CARRIED	
Additions to the Agenda	No additions	
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	
Managers Report Pat Marshall	Our biggest news around the office is our new acting CLBC QS manager, Laura Zaporinuk out of Kelowna, and she is doing a great job. We have received initial budget allocation from HQ, not specifically for the north yet, but a good portion will be used to cover off overages. The remainder will be divided up over the region to cover ongoing annualized services. Council asked if the budget was balanced and Pat let them know Laura is working on this right now as there are a lot of 90 day contracts that need to be extended and into pay to see where they stand. A new staff member will be starting in the Terrace office on April 28 th as Bonnie is retiring.	
	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	
Chair Report Barb Warkentine	CLBC UPDATE – DAVID HURFORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ CLBC released an independent review of its home sharing service by Dr. Anne Hughson ⊙ A five year collective agreement that includes wage increases has been ratified ⊙ The PAC met in Vancouver on January 17 and 18, 2014; the CLBC Board met in North Vancouver on January 28, 2014 ⊙ CLBC and the BCGEU launched a \$100,000 Scholarship Fund February 10, 	

2014 for adults with developmental disabilities served by CLBC that provides scholarships to support personal and professional development. March 31st is the application deadline for 2014

⊗ CLBC and the Canadian Association for Supported Employment announced the first set of national best practices on January 27, 2014 for employing people with developmental disabilities in Canada.

⊗ Over the last month, CLBC presented its provincial Widening Our World (WOW) Awards to recognize people who are building inclusion for adults with developmental disabilities in BC

⊗ The CEO search is continuing

⊗ CLBC's budget which includes an annual increase was released in the legislature on February, 18, 2014. You can read details in CLBC's 2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan

2. TASK FORCE REPORT IMPLEMENTATION – BRIAN SALISBURY

⊗ Planning is underway for the annual meeting with the Board that will be held at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in Vancouver from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 7, 2014. A workshop for Council Chairs, PAC members and Community Planning and Development managers on community building is planned for Friday, June 6th from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Once the Community Council Task Force Implementation Committee and Quality and Service Committee agree on the final agenda, this will be communicated to Councils Chairs

⊗ The next PAC meeting is March 28 (evening) and 29 (full day). Councils without a Board appointed PAC representative can send a “guest” (ideally the self-advocate or family member you want appointed); please let **Brian Salisbury** know the name of the person you will send

⊗ Work continues to get Council feedback on the Handbook; the local appointment process and Terms of Reference will be taken to the Board for approval at the Board's April 9th meeting in Kamloops

3. PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHITE PAPER SUBMISSION

⊗ Chairs (or their representatives) expressed full support for the submission that the Provincial Advisory Committee is making to the government's White Paper process

Summary of Monthly Community Council Chairs Conference Call – February 27, 2014

4. COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHAIRS' ROUNDTABLE

Surrey-Delta-White Rock (Edwina Jeffrey)

⊗ Council received a presentation on *include Me!* and provided feedback on the Council Handbook at recent meetings

⊗ Members will participate in a trial run of the new Council orientation process on March 8, 2014

⊗ Council has re-established its Community Action Employment Plan Committee and is working with various partners, including Rotary, CLBC

and the City of Surry to hold a recognition night on October 7, 2014 for employers to hire people with disabilities

- ⊗ Council has updated its annual work plan

North (Barb Warkentine)

- ⊗ Council provided feedback on the Handbook and discussed their annual work plan at its February meeting
- ⊗ 6 long time members are leaving next month but Council has attracted some new members
- ⊗ Council is trying to increase self-advocate involvement in its Committee work

Richmond (Melanie Arnis)

- ⊗ Members provided feedback on the Handbook and participated in a trial run of parts of the new Council orientation at its February meeting,
- ⊗ A new Chair will lead the Council beginning next month as Ruth Shannon has served her full term
- ⊗ Housing remains a major focus for the Council

Thompson Cariboo (Carol Richards)

- ⊗ Council in planning a workshop on the **Registered Disability Savings Plan**
- ⊗ Membership is an ongoing challenge with 4 members leaving after the March meeting; finding people to represent the Cariboo area has been difficult

North Shore Sunshine Coast (Marcie Williams)

- ⊗ Council received a presentation at its last meeting on self-advocacy issues from CLBC's Self-Advocate Advisor, Jessica Humphrey and a presentation on mental health

Central and Upper Island (Brenda Stevenson)

- ⊗ A meeting to complete the annual work plan has been re-scheduled to April 6, 2014
- ⊗ Council now has 9 members but continues to actively recruit new people

NEXT CHAIRS CONFERENCE CALL WILL BE THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014 FROM 7:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
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New Members – & exiting members	<p>Introductions to new members Colleen Tuson service provider for about 30 years want to give back to the community, Gord Robertson, Penny Soderena-Sutton,</p> <p>Pat gave recognition to all the exiting members of council. We are fortunate to have met and will have ongoing relationships. Thank you all for all the work you have done.</p>
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Committee Discussion	<p>Terms of Reference – Committee selection</p> <p><u>Membership Committee</u></p> <p>Colleen Tuson, Vince Sherry</p>
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	<p>Ann Lewis will send all the supporting documentation information packages to these committee members to bring them up to speed on recruitment of and percentages of council membership.</p> <p><u>Self Advocate and Employment Committee</u> Eldon Carter, Penny Soderena-Sutton, Colleen Tuson, Sheryl Demers Sheryl is looking to bring in someone from Work BC and or Laura from Williams Lake to do her presentation on “How to get a job and keep it”</p> <p><u>Community Awareness Committee</u> Vince Sherry, Debbie Still, Penny Bringing to all the community the initiatives of what we are doing, Community living month events dates in October needs to be considered with what else is happening in the province. Mall events, Dawson Creek had a dance and banquet; Walk the Talk in Quesnel has been a yearly event. Smithers and Terrace communities have been doing lots as well.</p>						
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<u>Nominations & Voting</u> Chair Vice Chair PAC	Chair – Gord Robertson Vice Chair – Penny Soderena-Sutton PAC Rep – Sheryl Demers <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 999 873 1037">ACTION</th> <th data-bbox="873 999 1256 1037">PERSON RESPONSIBLE</th> <th data-bbox="1256 999 1503 1037">DEADLINE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1037 873 1075"></td> <td data-bbox="873 1037 1256 1075"></td> <td data-bbox="1256 1037 1503 1075"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE			
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TOPIC	DISCUSSION						
Work Plan Completion	Completed for 2012/2014 Pat discussed how we will proceed on this for the next meeting						
TOPIC	DISCUSSION						
White Paper Discussion	Innovation is exploring a diverse range of new ways to support people with disabilities to live the life they choose, as well as looking at how we design and use existing programs and services. In Fort St John we need more hiring to help access for computer learning In the Northern region there is a lot happening, but need more on creative employment opportunities. Smithers will be hit with the swing in the economy, housing and transportation and will have an effect on the self advocates. In Terrace/Kitimat/Prince Rupert, playing catch-up housing, refitted a cruise ship for accommodation, rent is very expensive. Need mixed housing not just segregation. <u>Critical housing situation</u> . Increase in violence, need to have safe housing as well. Housing transportation and things to do has not improved in the North region and cannot make standing reservations on buses, must make it the night before. Personal supports aids and device that enable people with disabilities to carry out the activities of daily living and fully participate in the life of their community.						

Prince George city says it will spend 1.5 million on sidewalk improvement, affordable accessible housing and jobs. Replacement of equipment such as wheelchairs is limited as there is such a long period to get the new wheelchair. Difficult to appeal their decisions as people are being turned down for equipment.

Within the community of Terrace new lights and voice active walk signs and beeps. Neighbors have complained and the sound was turned down in Prince George, but this is an improvement for Terrace.

Work & Contribution Employment rate for people with disabilities is 18% lower than for people without disabilities. What can BC do to hire more people with disabilities? Job interview should be more friendly, unfair practices on going for looks. Self advocates lose some of their benefits when they get a job. They lose bus passes and cannot get to work, they need to have more guidance.

Lack of education for employers, challenges for supports for self advocates looking for work. Not everyone can go to work full time, challenges for part time work. With the PWD there are different conditions for married people with disabilities. One stop shop WORK BC everyone goes there for help, but there is no special line for people with disabilities to access this environment.

Are we measuring the value of our people on whether or not they have a job? All people's value is greater than their employment. Not very diverse. A big barrier are the unions; you cannot have a support worker to go with him to learn the job.

In Terrace would like a bit more cooperation and coordination with WORK BC. Has funding for clothing and training, but no funding for support.

Trying to refer to the agency in Fort St John, each community has different issues.

Housing and accessibility in the broader built environment

What can BC do to welcome people with disabilities and what barriers are there? In new building change the residential ability code so everyone can access all buildings, add more accessible transit busses and taxis and longer hours for busses and keeping the bus stops clear in the winter time. In Terrace large busses with only one or two persons aboard other than early in the morning for school, suggest getting smaller busses to cover larger areas and longer hours. There is one taxi that can hold wheelchairs. Prince George changed routes and longer hours and it is used more. Air-porter bus is not accessible.

Social network to support people – Special Olympics participants should join regular leagues not just special leagues. Not everyone can get out on their own; some want to get out without their parents/support workers. Funding disbursement more fair, not just one group/family getting all the funds. Give grants for people with disabilities to access speech programs off of I-phones, etc. This would help them to get into their community more. One individual uses it to refill prescriptions, and the pharmacist has become more aware. Autism unit is funding these now and schools helping with training.

Asset accumulation through RDSP

	<p>Increase PWD, the rates and in Alberta for a person with a disability is approx 1300.00 per month.</p> <p>People are unaware that anyone can contribute into anyone's RDSP with the holders written permission. It is hard to get anyone to come out to these training sessions. People think it's too good to be true. Suggested to hit the trustees office and attorneys. Can a service provider, agency attend on behalf of the individual. Some families just need simple steps; it is very overwhelming for some.</p> <p><u>What would BC look like as the most progress place in Canada for people and families living with disabilities</u></p> <p>Everyone be working, maxing out their PWD per month.</p> <p>Living great lives in welcoming communities and people having the supports and ability to do what they want to do without having to fight or beg. Be a true Canadian citizen. To make a simple book for people with disabilities to know what you are entitled to and how to get it. Living above the poverty level in a safe and healthy environment and having the supports to provide. There are no rules; people know what they are entitled too.</p> <p>No need for bureaucracy, no CLBC life would be automatic - everyone would get their needs met.</p> <p>No need to advocate for every little thing level to work ourselves out of a job. It takes a long time to tear down a mountain, but we have come forward in BC. The end result would be for everyone to live and follow their dreams. People with disabilities are treated with respect they won't have to constantly fight to live their lives as well.</p> <p>Being able to get these messages out to the powers who can make a difference.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="464 1159 1503 1234"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 1159 873 1192">ACTION</th> <th data-bbox="873 1159 1256 1192">PERSON RESPONSIBLE</th> <th data-bbox="1256 1159 1503 1192">DEADLINE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1192 873 1234"></td> <td data-bbox="873 1192 1256 1234"></td> <td data-bbox="1256 1192 1503 1234"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE			
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2014/2015 Meeting Dates	<p>Next meeting dates are: April – 26th and May 24th, 2014. In April we will discuss dates for the remainder of 2014/2015 fiscal year.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="464 1352 1503 1430"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="464 1352 873 1386">ACTION</th> <th data-bbox="873 1352 1256 1386">PERSON RESPONSIBLE</th> <th data-bbox="1256 1352 1503 1386">DEADLINE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="464 1386 873 1430"></td> <td data-bbox="873 1386 1256 1430"></td> <td data-bbox="1256 1386 1503 1430"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE			
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<p><u>Round Table</u> Share your experiences on what being a council member has meant to you</p>	<p><u>Ryan</u> – Being on council has meant that he has been keeping everyone in Fort St John informed, the board and the self advocate group. The meetings have opened his eyes to what other communities are doing. Was great when the 3 councils amalgamated.</p> <p><u>Sharon</u> - for her is was bringing all the communities together when the council amalgamated, amazing ideas they could take and use. This is something that she will miss. Fabulous council – strongest of the strong and sharing the information. This is what she will miss the most. She will</p>						

remember council when she is in Disney land next month.

Colleen – Colleen is looking at expanding her business; she is also starting a campaign on f/b to eradicate the R word there. She is happy to be here and a new member of council.

Vince - Says it's nice to have the opportunity to learn from the exiting council members and happy to be part of this group. They are leaving a huge legacy and the great work they have done and he is looking forward to continuing and to try to move forward. Beside that he is going on a cruise.

Penny - She is honored to be here, had mixed feelings at first but wants us to know she is not representing the agency, she is representing herself and the self-advocates who want to be heard. She is a fighter is a strong advocate and can fight her battles with the best of them. We are all trying to do our small piece to have individuals needs met. She is hoping this is the year councils will be telling CLBC what their needs are.

Gord – He has only 11 weeks to retirement, so he is looking forward to this. Gord has listened to Terry talk about council for the last 7 years. It will be a challenge to fill the spots from the exiting council members, to get people to represent the north region in a staggered way so that 6 years from now we won't have the same issues.

Terry - She is sad to leave but change is inevitable. She is passionate about CLBC - it is still what families have to work with. Though frustrated at times this is what it is about. The challenges are where the growth is. There will be more changes with the new CEO but families need to keep sitting at the tables to voice their needs. It was frustrating when it was as a single council to get significant amount of work done in the north as we are such a large region. Amalgamating the 3 councils was a large change. We have had fun and enjoyed everyone's company. (Pat said as a whole we have done more than all other councils have done.)

Sheryl – has really big shoes to fill, have been well supported over the years, her son would not be where they are today without Terry. She is honored to be a part of this council she knows she has a lot to do, but she is up for it. Sometimes you wonder why you have a child with a disability, she knew as a young child she was a fighter for the underdog. She continues to keep focused on the good and is looking forward to the next few years. Sheryl gave thanks to CLBC staff Pat and Ann for their great support with council.

Ann P - is going to miss this group, hearing the stories about other families, their apprehensions and successes. She has personally grown in many areas because of people sitting around this table. Council has a wonderful resource, with Pat Marshall and Ann Lewis.

Eldon – It's good to be here another year. Going to be fun to get to know Vince. Eldon is enjoying things and learning new things.

Barb – This was really a great experience for her. Families with disabilities forget what that is like, how do you include people with disabilities. Thank Terry and Gord for all their work, working with all the programs. This is the first time she has been on a government committee – CLBC was worth the fight. Young people today miss the connection, they don't have the

	<p>connection with other families – they need to know this makes you stronger. 3 groups became one and now we can connect with the north and build strong relationships. They need to know if anyone calls for help you are there. Life is busy but she knows there are there. Thanks to Pat and Ann for all their help in bringing this all together. Their jobs are very important and it councils job to ensure they are not forgotten. She would really be pushing for the people with disabilities are people - you are a person and you deserve to walk down that sidewalk. It has been a great learning experience. We will go forward and continue to work with each other. Therapeutic riding will continue and their 2014 Gala is Oct 4th, we are growing and growing thank you to everyone who is a part of this..thanks for the RIDE!!</p>		
	ACTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
PAC	<p>Gord will be attending the next PAC meeting as the newly appointed PAC representative cannot. Gord will bring back his report at the meeting following.</p>		

Next meetings: at the CLBC office or Dial in

April 26, 2014 9:00 am

May 24, 2014 9:00 am