

NWCPRC

Date: 3 June 2021

Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual meeting by Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Shannon Patrick (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Christopher Koth (New Westminster Public Library), John Stark (City of New Westminster Planning Division), Elliot Rossiter (Douglas College), Lisa Paterson (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Tristan Johnson (City of New Westminster Planning Division), Murray Baker (Family Services of Greater Vancouver), Tania Ivancic (Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Betina Wheeler (New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society), Natalie Johnston (Fraser Health), Daniel Smyth (Mosaic), Ryan Teraverst (Kettle Society), Indiana Vatikiotis (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver), Rene (University of British Columbia)

Regrets:

Agenda/Meeting Notes

ITEM	TIME	PRESENTER	DECISIONS/ACTIONS/COMMENTS
1. Introductions/regrets	5 mins	John Stark/All	Everyone introduced themselves.
2. Territorial acknowledge/moment of silence (residential schools)	5 mins	Lisa Paterson	Lisa did a territorial acknowledgement in regards to local First Nations (Qayqayt First Nations and Coast Salish peoples). Lisa led a moment of silence in regards to residential schools. John mentioned the 96 unit affordable housing project (Indigenous and Swahili population serving) on 6 th St passing public hearing, as well as the memorial on City Hall steps to the residential school victims. Actions: Through the Truth and Reconciliation work being undertaken by the City of New Westminster, the City of New Westminster is working on a territorial acknowledgement.
3. Short-Term Action Plan	10 mins	John Stark	John discussed the short-term action plan and having a new poverty reduction strategy in place in 2022. John highlighted four new actions: food security efforts (implementing food security action plan), digital inclusion initiative, work with children and families and local non-profits to help mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, and advocacy to senior levels of government for paid sick leave for all workers.
4. Community Action Network Training	5 mins	John Stark	John discussed the Community Action Network and discussed their role in Arts Empowerment, as well as in other projects such as Sanctuary City. John discussed the second training program that will be happening in February and March 2022. Elliot discussed an interest in finding ways for CAN graduates to be employed in some projects at Douglas College. Actions: There will be an ethics evaluation by the City of New Westminster to determine how to expand the work of the Community Action Network to other projects and consultation. John to provide Elliot

			with contact details for CAN in regards to employment in projects at Douglas College.
5. Arts Empowerment	5 mins	Lisa Paterson/John Stark	<p>John discussed the Arts Empowerment and Social Change funding and project in relation to homelessness and poverty, including actions that people can make a difference. This mobile exhibit will help to engage the community in dialogue about a new poverty reduction strategy. There was discussion and questions about this project from many members.</p> <p>Actions: John and Tristan will work on the RFPs and review applications for getting the artist mentors and the artist coordinators in place during Summer 2021.</p>
6. Income Boosting Project	5 mins	Tristan Johnson/Lisa Paterson	<p>Tristan spoke about the free tax filing clinics. Tristan also mentioned the funding opportunity available through Social Development Partnerships Program – Children and Families – Financial Empowerment of Low-Income People” from the Federal Government. Murray mentioned that Family Services of Greater Vancouver will be applying for funding for this program in conjunction with Prosper Canada. Murray also discussed the Family Navigator service that Family Services of Greater Vancouver provides. Lisa Paterson described the EIFL (Financial Empowerment and Financial Literacy) sub-committee work to new members.</p>
7. ID Clinic	30 mins	Shannon Patrick	<p>Rene, Shannon and Ryan discussed the idea of an ID (identification) clinic, there are currently ID clinic services in Vancouver. There was a discussion of how identification relates to accessing various government programs and benefits. This conversation was a continuation of the conversation on this topic from the last Poverty Reduction Committee meeting. Rene discussed how to apply to take affidavits to help issue ID and provided a government link on this topic. There was interest among the Community Poverty Reduction Committee members in getting an ID clinic set up in New Westminister.</p> <p>Actions: Ryan and Rene to connect with agencies that are interested in providing ID clinic services in New Westminister to answer question. John will bring a report to New Westminister City Council on July 12th regarding funding for starting an ID clinic (possibly \$15,000-\$20,000) as an add-on service to other similar services within an existing position, with a possible request for proposal to certain agencies with complimentary services. This could be a 6-month pilot program. Natalie will do some research on health outcomes related to ID and will share it with committee members.</p>
8. Paid Sick Leave – Provincial Consultation	15 mins	Tristan Johnson	<p>Tristan talked about provincial government consultation regarding paid sick leave legislation.</p> <p>Actions: Once the provincial consultation information becomes available, Tristan will send out information about the consultation and a</p>

			sub-group of the Poverty Reduction Committee may meet to discuss this consultation.
9. Tamarack Conference	5 mins	Tristan Johnson/Lisa Paterson	Tristan and Lisa discussed the Tamarack Conference and having a short (less than 1 hour) conference debrief virtually at 12 pm on June 3 rd , inviting everyone to attend.
10. Other business/next meeting	5 mins	All	<p>John discussed some new developments in the City of New Westminster, including trying to get some temporary emergency response shelter beds in New Westminster, as well as trying to get some more supportive housing units developed. New Westminster City Council approved \$90,000 for homeless outreach services, with RFPs having been reviewed, and these services should be in place within two weeks from now with two new outreach workers. John also mentioned some additional Reaching Home funding that New Westminster applied for, including funding for various organizations to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. New Westminster Public Library gave an update on their programs, including finalizing a new strategic plan, which will have a large emphasis on social issues and social priorities.</p> <p>John and Tristan discussed the approach to having hybrid/in-person meetings as in-person meetings would work better for some people but are difficult to attend for people with consecutive meetings in their schedule or who would have to travel a long distance to attend.</p> <p>Actions: Next meeting will be in September 2021, Tristan will send out an agenda closer to the date of the meeting. In the next few weeks, Tristan will work with Lisa and John determine a meeting time and place in September 2021, likely in City Hall in a room with videoconferencing capabilities.</p>

Resources:

Tamarack Webinar – Making the Case for Arts-Based Engagement

<https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/library/webinar-making-case-arts-based-engagement-hiba-abdallah-christopher-pandolfi>