

# NWCPRC

**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022

**Time:** 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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**Chair:** Lisa Paterson

**Minute taker:** Tristan Johnson

**Attendees:** Betina Wheeler (New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society), Liz Hunter (New Westminster Public Library), Ghada Tallia (Mosaic), Natalie Johnston (Fraser Health), Murray Baker (Family Service of Greater Vancouver), Kent Chan - Kusalik (New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society), Indiana Vatikiotis (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver), Erin Daly (Fraser Health), Alin Arakelian (Mosaic), Ghada Tallia (Mosaic), Tania Ivancic (BC Government – Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Lisa Paterson (BC Government – Ministry of Children and Family Development), Tristan Johnson (City of New Westminster – Planning Division)

**Regrets:** John Stark (City of New Westminster – Planning Division)

## Agenda/Meeting Notes

| ITEM   | TIME    | PRESENTER   | DECISIONS/ACTIONS/COMMENTS  |
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| <b>1. Introductions/regrets/land acknowledgement</b>           | 5 mins  | Liz Hunter/All  | Liz Hunter did the land acknowledgement. Everyone introduced themselves   |
| <b>2. Project updates/discussion/Involvement opportunities</b> | 25 mins | Tristan Johnson – for CAN Network;<br>Tristan Johnson – for Arts Empowerment; | <b>Community Action Network (CAN):</b> Tristan discussed the CAN recruiting work and previous work for the project. |

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|   |         | <p>Liz Hunter/Murray Baker – Income Boosting;<br/>Tristan Johnson – ID Bank</p> | <p><b>Action:</b> Tristan will circulate more information with CAN recruiting details to the poverty reduction committee along with this month’s meeting minutes. There is a website link for the CAN Network recruiting in New Westminister: <a href="https://www.bcpovertyreduction.ca/can">https://www.bcpovertyreduction.ca/can</a></p> <p><b>Arts Empowerment Project:</b> Tristan provided an update on the Arts Empowerment project, including planning for an exhibit of the works of the participants this year (date to be determined).</p> <p><b>Income Boosting Project:</b> Murray provided an update on tax-filing clinics, with Acorn not being able to provide the tax-filing clinic services this year, although Tenth tax will be helping as well. Murray discussed tax-filing workshops that they would host, which would mostly be virtual. Indiana discussed the tax-filing clinics that Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver might host. Liz Hunter gave an update on the tax-filing clinic list that the New Westminister Public Library list, there is a draft list available on their website. Liz Hunter shared a link to the free and low-cost tax-filing clinic: <a href="https://www.nwpl.ca/discover-online-tools/additional-resource-links/#toggle-id-5">https://www.nwpl.ca/discover-online-tools/additional-resource-links/#toggle-id-5</a></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Liz will provide Tristan with the tax-filing clinic survey results. Betina will reach out to her contact at CRA and see if they could have a free tax-filing clinic for the homeless population at Holy Trinity Cathedral or some other location in New Westminister.<br/>Liz and Tristan will promote the free tax-filing clinic list in the City Page Online and the New Westminister Record in April. Tristan to review free and low cost tax-filing clinic list and provide feedback to Liz. EIFL (Financial Empowerment and Financial Literacy) sub-committee to identify gaps and needs related to tax-filing at the next EIFL meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022.</p> <p><b>ID Bank:</b> Tristan Johnson discussed the ID Bank and challenges with finding information about the New Westminister ID Bank on-line. Kent Chan – Kusalik provided information on identification services for people of diverse genders at Qmunity: <a href="https://qmunity.ca/trans-id-clinic/">https://qmunity.ca/trans-id-clinic/</a></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Tristan Johnson to put up a link and short text about ID Bank on City’s Poverty Reduction website.</p> |
| <b>3. Poverty Reduction Strategy Update</b>                     | 5 mins  | Tristan Johnson   | Tristan gave an update on the short-term action plan and the poverty reduction update. The poverty reduction update/new strategy will likely occur at the end of 2022, once the New Westminister municipal election has been held and will be informed by people with lived experience, including CAN Network members.   |
| <b>4. Tamarack and Vibrant Community webinars and resources</b> | 5 mins  | Lisa Paterson   | Lisa provided a reminder to Community Poverty Reduction members about our membership in Vibrant Communities and Tamarack Link to Vibrant Communities webinars and resources: <a href="http://www.vibrantcommunities.ca/">http://www.vibrantcommunities.ca/</a>   |
| <b>5. Other business/next meeting</b>                           | 10 mins | All   | Betina gave an update on the Community Voices project related to food security, including their members and their lived experience, including the importance of long-term systems change. Murray discussed Internet for All, including the extension of this program to more low-income  |

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|  |  |  | seniors (seniors eligible for GIS (Guaranteed Income Supplement), and some of the groups that are still excluded: link to Internet for All: <a href="https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/connecting-canada/seniors/application#I4G">https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/connecting-canada/seniors/application#I4G</a> and <a href="https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/connecting-canada/seniors/application#SM4G">https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/connecting-canada/seniors/application#SM4G</a> |
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Betina gave an update on some of the food security needs of the community based on snapshots in August 2020 and February 2022, indicating an increase in food security demand. Tristan discussed a next meeting date – the group agreed that a Thursday morning in May would work well for the next meeting.