

Present:

Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair
A. Begalka
C. Mohr
K. Thiara
M. Bains
M. Dhillon
M. Schaafsma
R. Gunderson
S. Dooley
Y. Guo

Absent:

Councillor Villeneuve, Chair
A. Keitlah
D. Jimeno
M. Shaw
W. Al-Jabiri

Staff Present:

A. Murphy, Senior Social Planner
K. Patten, Planner
C. Eagles, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The committee is requested to pass a motion adopting the minutes of November 1, 2017.

It was

Moved by K. Thiara

Seconded by Y. Guo

That the minutes of the Social Policy
Advisory Committee meeting, held November 1, 2017 be adopted as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

1. **Access Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Program**
Evelyn Huntjens, Indigenous RDSP Navigator, BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)
File: 0250-20

The delegation provided a Power-Point presentation on the support services that Access RDSP partners provide to disabled individuals and their families across British Columbia. Access RDSP is a partnership of three non-profit organizations that provides free support related to the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) throughout BC.

The following comments were made:

- Access RDSP is a partnership between three organizations: British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS), Disability Alliance BC and Plan Institute. The RDSP is a long-term savings plan that helps Canadians living with disabilities and their families to save for their futures.

- Indigenous communities in BC have a high rate of disabilities. The Mission of BCANDS is to advance the unique disability and health priorities of Indigenous persons through collaboration, consultation, and the delivery of comprehensive client services. BCANDS provides support to Indigenous peoples to access RDSPs through the Indigenous RDSP Navigator.
- Access RDSP partners provide a wide variety of services and support to increase access to the RDSPs including assistance in obtaining identification documents, applications and appeals for the Disability Tax Credit and Child Disability Benefit, assistance with filing income tax, coordinating with medical professionals and financial institutions, and coordination with external organizations relevant to the RDSP for collaboration, information sharing and referrals.
- Applicants must obtain the Disability Tax Credit before applying for an RDSP. The delegation noted that approximately 45,000 people could qualify for the Disability Tax Credit who may not already be signed up. Applicants have to have a SIN (Social Insurance Number) card to qualify for the Disability Tax Credit. Applicants are eligible to qualify for additional benefits if they have their Disability Tax Credit.
- Further benefits of the RDSP include supplemental income. No contributions are required by the RDSP beneficiary and withdrawals from the RDSP can be used however the beneficiary decides. The savings plan is meant to help people with disabilities have a stable financial future. Beneficiaries can receive up to \$90,000 in government grants and bonds over their lifetime.

The Committee thanked the delegation and asked if those who sign up for the RDSP require a financial advisor. In response, the delegation noted that representatives do ask clients who their financial institution is and assist them with obtaining appointments and advice.

2. **Connecting Community to Surrey Youth Leaving Care
Wrapping the Community around Surrey Youth Leaving Care**
Tanika Dodds, Project Manager, VIBE Youth Advisory Committee

The delegation provided a Power-Point presentation on the Connecting Community Project and the community priorities implemented by the Youth Advisory Committee.

The delegation highlighted the following:

- Youth in the BC's care system are considered adults on their 19th birthday and are no longer granted access to most of the services available to them through the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Many of the 600 to 700 youth who have aged out of BC care face their first years of adulthood with challenges such as a higher rate of homelessness and lower high school graduation rates.

- The Connecting Community Project includes phases and a series of workshops. In Phase 1, research was compiled on the challenges faced by Surrey youth leaving care and a series of workshops and events raised awareness of professionals and the public. In Phase 2, the Committee recruited 6-8 youth who have aged out of foster care to form the VIBE Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). The YAC held meetings to organize a Youth Retreat.
- The YAC organized a Youth Retreat for Surrey youth in and from care in October 2017. At the Retreat, the youth brainstormed five primary recommendations that youth aging out of care required assistance for: access to sanitary products, free extended health benefits, affordable housing, start-up money, and addiction support. There were over 50 recommendations from the Youth Retreat.
- The YAC hosted a Holiday Event for youth and young adults. The event was held on December 25, 2017 at Councillor LeFranc's residence. It included a Christmas dinner and gathering for youth and young adults. Funding was raised by the YAC for food and stockings. Many youth in care may have nowhere to go for a holiday dinner on December 25 or may not be comfortable with celebrating the holiday with their foster family. Invitations to the event were distributed over social media.
- The YAC's next step is to create working groups that will support achieving the recommendations from the Youth Retreat. There will be youth leaders in each working group and the delegation put forward invitations to members of the Committee to participate in the working groups.

In response to the delegations request for feedback and recommendations, a member noted a feminine sanitary products collection called Tampon Tuesday, organized by the United Way. Members also discussed Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC), a community-based leadership program organized through Simon Fraser University that some of the YAC may be interested in participating in.

The Committee noted the delegation could also apply for grants through Coast Capital.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Social Innovation Summit Open Discussion

The Social Innovation Summit was sold out and the majority of participants who responded to the survey said they would return to the Summit another year. Staff asked the Committee what topics, speakers or panels they would like to see in upcoming years.

In response, the Committee noted the needs of youth aging out of foster care and what special events or speaker could be put forward to engage the community.

The Committee discussed the possibility of economic zones and allowing entrepreneurs of Indigenous people or newcomers and to support social innovation. A focus on increasing momentum on social procurement in Surrey was also discussed. Councillor LeFranc suggested forming a subcommittee focused on Social Innovation. Steve Dooley and Christine Mohr volunteered to participate on this subcommittee.

2. **Update on Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee**

Aileen Murphy, Sr. Social Planner, Planning and Development

Staff highlighted the following successful initiatives:

- The Committee has been successful in securing five years of core funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. The Committee continues to organize small projects as well as developing factsheets, a website and undertaking research.
- The Indigenous child poverty rate in Surrey is 45%. A three-year funding grant of \$75,000 per year was received from the Vancouver Foundation to embark on a social innovation lab process to address Indigenous child poverty.
- The Committee will receive \$15,000 between January and March from Community Foundations of Canada to “Indigenize” the Community Leaders Igniting Change (CLIC) program.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee is being explored. SFU’s Aboriginal Reconciliation Council (ARC) has released a report entitled “Walk this Path with Us”. Many of the objectives of the ARC report overlap with priorities of the Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee.

Council recently directed staff to determine what is currently being done in departments to support implementation of the *All Our Relations Strategy*, as well as potential new initiatives. This includes the PRC 10-Year Strategic Plan. A report will be presented to Council. Once the report is finalized it will be presented to SPAC.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. SPAC / Immigrant Advisory Roundtable**

As part of the SPAC work plan, it was suggested to organize a joint roundtable with the Immigrant Advisory Group and SPAC to see how both groups could have an impact or contribute to relative issues. Yvette Guo and Mandeep Bains indicated that they are interested in working with IAR members to organize the roundtable.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****G. INFORMATION ITEMS****1. Corporate Report: Application for a UBCM Age Friendly Communities Grant**

File: 01-2017

2. Canada's National Housing Strategy

File: 4815-01

3. Revised Committee Terms of Reference

File: 0540-01

Adopted by Council: December 18, 2017

H. OTHER BUSINESS**1. 2018 SPAC Fun Schedule**

The Committee expressed support to hear a presentation by the Surrey Child Care Task Force.

It was suggested to request an update on Surrey's aging population and what kind of work is being done. This topic may already be addressed by the Seniors Advisory Committee.

2. Committee Member Updates**i) Rotary Club**

In December, the Rotary Club fundraising drive raised \$6,000 to provide blankets, jackets and gloves to provide to shelters in Surrey.

ii) **Tampon Tuesday**

United Way will facilitate the collection of feminine hygiene products from March 6 to March 20, 2018.

I. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Social Policy Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 4:45 p.m. in 2E Community Room B.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by K. Thiara


Seconded by S. Dooley

That the Social Policy Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Social Policy Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor LeFranc, Vice-Chair