

# October 2023 - Executive Director Report

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## Training:

- Jen and Marena attended a workshop on Wills and Estates
- Christine attended the United Way of BC Child & Youth Sector Strengthening Conference
  - o Keynote speaker was Monique Gray Smith, is an award winning author. She specializes in teaching children and youth about truth and reconciliation. She recently completed an adaptation of Braiding Sweetgrass for youth. Each person was given a copy to take home
  - o Enabling Youth Civic Engagement – explored best practices for engaging youth, including those facing intersecting barriers to participation in civic engagement. Group brainstormed on challenges, what's working and ideas on keep trying to engage.
  - o Processing Climate Anxiety with Children and Youth. Learned how to address key concepts related to eco-anxiety and community care in the face of inequitable climate impacts. Understanding how by befriending our eco-emotions we can embody and sustain climate leadership.

## Funding/Contracts

- We have received the contract for the rental of the Saddle Mountain Dogwood lounge. There is some wording I am not comfortable with I had originally asked to be changed and it was not. I have sent it back to them again with my request.
- The School District contract was finally sent to us. I also asked if there was an option to review the funding received for the next contract as staff wages have increased but our funding has not. They have indicated we can send a new proposed budget before February for consideration.
- Scotia Bank has reached out to partner and start the Silent Auction fundraiser in support of WCRC again. This year it will be held from **November 20 to December 1, 2023**, at the **Lumby Branch**. They will match up to \$3000 in money raised by the auction. We are still in need of donations. We are also facing the challenge of getting people to support Scotia Bank lead fundraiser as many people are angry over the recent announcement of the branch closing in September 2024.
- Nexus has received additional funding for seniors' in-home support services through the Federal Age Well at Home program. This 2-year pilot program is very similar to Better at Home, providing funding for light housekeeping and transportation services for low-income seniors (<\$30K/year in income, 55+ years of age). We are meeting to find ways they can support more Lumby and area seniors with this funding.

## Seniors

- Gail Dodding our Senior Services Assistant/Kitchen support has stepped into the role of Senior's Drop in Facilitator and will continue to also support Jen as a Senior Services Assistant. With Gail moving out of the kitchen we are now looking for another kitchen support staff.
- School's Out kids went trick or treating at the Saddle Mountain, the seniors loved seeing all the kids dressed up.
- Pumpkin Patch bus tour was a huge hit and the seniors attending were so excited to get out and do a fun activity.
- The funding we receive for the Seniors programming is to Take out meals have been slowly reduced over the last few months. Sit down meals are steady around 30, with approx. a 1/3 of those being community members and seems to be increasing.
- United Way (CBSS – leadership board) Community Based Seniors Services Leadership Board recently, working on expanding services and more long-term funding. Looking positive for long term funding, waiting

for official documentation. United Way and government are actually listening and taking steps to support the needs of seniors and our continuing work and recognizing the value in the work and keeping seniors in their homes longer.

### **Counselling:**

- We have been interviewing for the counselling position currently open, we have one candidate who would be ideal for the position but Interior Health still has the COVID vaccine policy and that is a barrier in hiring. Hoping to make a decision by the end of this week.
- The current waitlist is sitting around 30. This is a 3-4 month wait, this is dependent on level of need.

### **Programs:**

#### **School Based Outreach:**

- Charles Bloom Secondary has been very busy with the staffing changes and Tina has been given an extra hour a day to help with some of the added pressures during the transitions.

#### **School's Out**

- Payton is now on her practicum and unfortunately we have not received all the documents required for the new staff member to start yet. We are hoping next week they will be able to be at the program. In the meantime Christine and Michele have been covering at the program so participant numbers do not need to be reduced.

#### **Cherryville Kids Zone**

- Program is set to start on November 20<sup>th</sup> and will run until Spring break.

#### **0-6 Parent and Tot Groups**

- Lumby group is super busy and we have had to rent an additional Hall room to accommodate all the participants. They have also completed two of their cooking class for parents. The parents get to learn a new recipe, make the dish and take it home. We provide childcare during the cooking class so they can be uninterrupted and make sometime for themselves while learning something new.
- Cherryville Parent and Tot will also be starting their cooking class soon.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Christmas Family applications have been distributed to counselling staff. We do have some money set aside but we are anticipating a greater need again this year and are hoping there is also an increase in those able to sponsor families.
- Staff Christmas party will be at Christine's house again this year, staff voted they preferred the cozy atmosphere and being able to bring their spouses and children. We would love to extend the invitation to the Board members to join us as well. It will be on Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Elves Shelves program is coming up on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am – 3pm. All items are \$2 this year. Our Lumby 0-6 Coordinator, Kristie, is the one who organizes the event. She has been accepting donations and is always looking for more items for men. If you have any you would like to donate please bring them to the office.
- Connect for Parents and Caregivers will be running from November 13 to Jan 29, it's a nine-week program. This is being facilitated by Sharon Storms and Vanessa Thibeault. The participants will get dinner and stay for the session. Each session parents and caregivers will learn about parent-teen relationships and adolescent development. They reflect on role-plays and do exercises. They discuss new ways of responding to challenging behaviours and intense emotions. After each session, caregivers receive handouts with key points to remember.