

***Disclaimer: These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.***



**Minutes of the Community Support & Accessibility Committee Meeting**

**May 22, 2024, 10:00 AM**

**Meadows Room**

**12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2B5**

Voting Members: J. Armstrong, Fraser Valley Regional Library  
T. Camire, Community Services  
E. Crowdis, Seniors Network  
M. Perretta, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society  
Councillor G. O'Connell (Chair)  
A. Sanchez, Fraser Health  
C. Shearme, Community Network - Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows & Katzie First Nation

Regrets: Councillor M. Hayes (Co-Chair)  
D. Parr, Planner II  
M. Robson, Friends in Need Food Bank  
K. Sullivan, School District 42  
P. Ward, Director of Planning & Development

Staff: J. Kloosterboer, Emergency Program Manager

Recording Clerk: T. McCaw, Committee Clerk II

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor O'Connell acknowledged with respect and gratitude that the City of Pitt Meadows is located on the traditional, unceded territory of icy (Katzie) First Nation who were stewards of this land since time immemorial.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

2. **LATE ITEMS**

None.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There was general consent amongst the Committee to approve the May 22, 2024 Community Support & Accessibility Committee agenda.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

There was general consent amongst the Committee to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2024 Community Support & Accessibility Committee meeting as amended.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Updates from Community Outreach Agencies**

Community Outreach Agencies participated in a roundtable discussion providing a verbal update on their individual organizations.

A. Sanchez, Fraser Health, provided an update to the Committee, including communication initiatives which have been included in the minutes as **Attachment 1**, some of the other highlights included:

- Fraser Health is launching a communications campaign around age legal substances including introducing suggestions to support open discussions; and
- Staff is providing presentations at the Fraser Valley Regional Library speaking about the smoke and heat warnings in Maple Ridge.

J. Armstrong, FVRL, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- The library in Pitt Meadows is on the second floor; however, has an elevator to support accessibility needs;
- FVRL provides access to all digital materials online;
- FVRL Express is a service providing pickups for on hold items on behalf of the cardholder <https://www.fvrl.bc.ca/fvrlexpress.php>;
- Pamphlets and books are offered in multiple languages;
- All resources are offered free of charge;

- Library resources are offered in multiple formats including large font, electronic books, small font, hard copies, digital copies and audio copies; and
- The FVRL is unofficially used as a warming or cooling station in some communities where anyone is welcome.

C. Shearme, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and Katzie Community Network provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Staff is working on community events and providing support where needed;
- Will be providing support for cooling, warming and smoke support when needed which includes messaging to other agencies to distribute; and
- In partnership with the doctors Division of Family Practice, giving patients the opportunity to look at what services are available locally including the services available in Ridge Meadows.

M. Perretta, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society (RMSS), provided updates some of which have been included in the minutes as **Attachment 2**, other highlights included:

- The center has been experiencing an increase in membership from new comers in the community who are working on increasing social connections;
- Staff has been working on managing growth in the centre;
- Successful grant funding was received to support social meals for seniors in both Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows which has been taking place in the centre;
- Staff is looking to utilize the Seniors Community bus in order to take members on day trips;
- Staff is looking into further grant opportunities to support caregivers by reducing the amount of meal preparation; and
- Statistics were shared on the centres volunteer driving program which logged over 1,700 hours of volunteer driving time last year which equated to a cost savings of over \$14,000 to seniors through this service.

E. Crowdis, Seniors Network, provided an update to the Committee, some of which have been included in the minutes as **Attachment 3**, other highlights included:

- Food security and lack of affordable housing continues to be a problem for seniors;
- United Way of BC - published a seniors preparedness guide, originally created by the Seniors Network;
- BC Seniors Week - June 2nd - 8th this year offering a number of fun social events for seniors in our community;
- Full page add will be inserted into the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News to promote Seniors Week which includes a list of many local events during the week <https://www.mapleridgenews.com/community/plenty-of-fun-planned-for-bc-seniors-week-in-maple-ridge-and-pitt-meadows-7365074>; and
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15th – Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Katzie Community Response Network brings community agencies together to speak to this and provide support.

T. Camire, Community Services, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Seniors Social Prescribing Program connects seniors to community programming in an effort to keep them active and connected;
- Seniors team is holding information sessions in Pitt Meadows at the co-op and the Pitt Meadows Food Bank discussing the various services offered by the organization;
- Senior digital literacy presentations are taking place Monday – Friday <https://www.comservice.bc.ca/programs-services/senior-digital-literacy-program/>;
- Childcare Resource & Referral Program currently providing drop in sessions at South Bonson Community Centre on Tuesday's for free;
- Cythera Transition House is no longer accepting pets and has updated their policy accordingly as the trial period demonstrated the acceptance was not successful; with that, other agencies have agreed to house pets in an effort to provide support needed for people with pets; and

- Current gap experienced in the community is low income housing for seniors.

J. Kloosterboer, Emergency Program Manager, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Updates were provided on the impacts to residents who experienced housing displacements as a result of a fire apartment fire in the community;
- Discussions were held around support for residents should displacement occur as a result of a fire; Provincial funding is only available for food and lodging for 72 hours;
- Staff to provide workshops on disaster preparedness for the apartment and condominium buildings in the community upon request; and
- Grant funding received to complete an Emergency Support Services (ESS) exercise which would include considerations for people with disabilities which will likely take place in the fall.

## **5.2 Annual Committee Presentation to the Engagement & Priorities Committee [EPC]**

Councillor Gwen O'Connell requested a committee member volunteer to provide the presentation at the July 16, 2024 Engagement and Priorities Committee (EPC) meeting on behalf of the Community Support & Accessibility Committee.

- Committee members Anna Sanchez & Christina Schearme, volunteered to provide the presentation to the EPC; and
- Staff to distribute PowerPoint template and some suggestions for consideration.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

*The next **Community Support & Accessibility Committee** meeting is scheduled for **September 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM.***

**Certified as correct:**

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Tatiana McCaw, Committee Clerk II

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