



MINUTES of the Community Support Select Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via video conference.

PRESENT:

Voting Members:	Councillor O'Connell (Chair) Councillor Simpson (Vice Chair)
Non-Voting Members:	V. Kipps, Community Services M. Perretta, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society M. Robson, Friends in Need Food Bank C. Shearme, Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Katzie Community Network K. Sullivan, School District 42 H. Treleaven, Seniors Network
Regrets:	B. Morgan, Manager of the Emergency Program, City of Pitt Meadows
Recording Clerk:	T. McCaw, Committee Clerk II

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was general consensus that the Agenda for the May 26, 2021 Community Support Select Committee meeting be approved.

4. NEW BUSINESS

(1) Updates from Community Outreach Agencies

Community Outreach Agencies provided a brief verbal update of their efforts and experiences in response to COVID-19.

B. Morgan, Manager, Emergency Services was unable to attend the meeting; however, provided an update through email forming a part of the original minutes as **Attachments 1 & 2**.

K. Sullivan, from School District 42 provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- COVID-19 notices on the downtrend in SD42 schools;
- Schools being offered as vaccination sites to support distributions;
- Graduation ceremonies have been modified for the 2020-2021 school year once again including no dinner, no dance, no dry grad events, no parents;
- Summer school registration is up;
- Review of budgets to address ongoing concerns in response to COVID-19;
- Secondary schools will be moving into a semester system in the Fall to provide the opportunity to pivot towards cohorts should the need arise as a result of COVID-19;
- Currently increasing mental health first aid training of staff;
- Estimated over 350 elementary students will be transitioning back from remote learning in the fall;
- Additional funds allocated to each secondary school to help support students transitioning back from remote learning and blended schedules;
- September 2021 start of Integrated Child and Youth Teams opening to Thomas Haney, Westview and Davie Jones which are accessible to all students in SD42 ages 12-18 suffering from mental health and addiction issues; and
- Location of professional support services will be based on individual need, but can range from onsite to in home.

M. Perretta from Ridge Meadows Seniors Society provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Reopening many programs that had been on hold such as low intensity fitness classes starting next week;
- Planning for in house meals, card playing games, expanding fitness classes to higher intensity programs come September 2021;
- Subsidized meal program in response to COVID-19 on a temporary emergency basis;
- Expansion of recreation subsidy program for those who cannot afford a membership;

- Connection and Conversation program beginning again soon in Spirit Square for seniors to meet for conversations with one another;
- Christmas in July launching this year for isolated seniors in need which will provide hampers;
- In celebration of Seniors Week, June 10th, 2-3:30 p.m. at the PM Seniors Activity Centre, you can [register for outdoor entertainment](#); and
- In collaboration with South Granville Senior Centre, currently working on creating a listing of all virtual programs in the lower mainland in one easily accessible location online.

M. Robson from the Friends in Need Food Bank provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- COVID-19 has created the need for home delivery services which is anticipated to continue as an offered service;
- Discussions around supply and storage of food for the community in the event of an emergency for an immediate reaction;
- Discussion held around the need for storage containers/trailers of emergency food supplies for the community stored on city land and managed by the Food Bank;
- Concerns around the loss of COVID-19 relief funds at the end of June;
- Success stories regarding the local school breakfast and snack programs and the fundraising campaign underway to allow for continued support of this program;
- Concerns were raised around the children of the families benefiting from this program and how will they manage over the summer months;
- Discussions around the new and current supporters of the Perishable Food Recovery Program which has kept over 2 million pounds of food out of landfills since June 2019; 51% of the saved food went to charities, 10% composted, and 39% went to farmers as feed ([Farmers can click here to apply](#));
- Future plans of moving into a free shop model at the food bank;
- The [Rent Bank](#) is a homeless prevention tool for moderate and low income renters available in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge;
- Currently taking [applications](#) for volunteers; and
- Promotion of the [Grow-A-Row](#) program encouraging growing and sharing your extra bounty with the food bank.

V. Kipps from Community Services, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Update provided on the new development and construction beginning at Cornerstone Landing with the building of 94 units with tenancy aiming for October 1st, all interest can be forwarded to afordablerentalhousing@comservice.bc.ca;
- Promotion of local parenting programs and the support available for parents in need;
- Foundry has increased peer supporters as a result of COVID-19;
- Foundry Works Program is a specialized employment program for youth with mental health and substance use providing various areas of assistance for youth in the community;
- Two new seniors programs have been launched: the Community Connector Program & the Support for Frail and Elderly, working alongside referred seniors and linking them to existing services and enhancing awareness of available resources; and
- Seniors Party Bus/Supporting Seniors to Live Independently has been developed to support seniors to live independently, make new friends, and provide a new sense of purpose.

H. Treleven from the Seniors Network, provided an update to the Committee, some of the highlights included:

- Upward trend in housing market is displacing a number of renters who are now losing their housing;
- Supported by the Province of British Columbia and the Provincial Health Services Authority, BC Farmers' Markets & the Haney Farmers Market is launching a [Nutritional Coupon Program](#) which will provide food coupons to seniors, low income families and pregnant women;
- [Community Response Network](#) – coordinated response to adult abuse, neglect, and self-neglect;
- June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD);
- [Dementia Friendly Community Task Group of Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows & Katzie Seniors Network](#) will be conducting a safe, physically distanced walk for Alzheimers, distributing new pamphlets and dementia resources in our community on Saturday May 29th, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Waterfront Commons Park;
- [BC Silver Alert System](#) is a citizen led alerting system to assist in saving the lives of individuals with autism, dementia and other cognitive issues, and to share information when a senior goes missing;

- June 6th – 12th is BC Seniors Week where there will be two events in Pitt Meadows including a wandering [concert](#) moving throughout the community; and
- [Seniors Photo Contest](#) is now open which encourages the submission of a photo of any senior who has made an important impact with the winner receiving a \$150 gift card.

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

- New education scholarship through the Youth Planning Table with the 2021 recipient being C. Temple who received \$500 towards post-secondary education;
- Currently working on educating Community Network service providers on trans inclusive work;
- Hosting a free Q-munity training session on June 10th with plans on future learning opportunities on two spiritedness; and
- Discussions around volunteer appreciation and reaching out to the [One Way Club](#).

Councillor O'Connell shared a story from a resident from Vancouver Island and how their community is using the sunflower as a nonverbal indicator to let others know they are open to conversations at local coffee shops in response to the loss of connections as a result of COVID-19. Councillor O'Connell also shared that the City will not be hosting their traditional Pitt Meadows Day parade or drive-by as a result of COVID-19.

5. ROUND TABLE

Voting members and Community Outreach Agents did not engage in a formal round table discussion; rather round table discussions were had through item 5.1 of the Agenda.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

*The next meeting for the **Community Support Select Committee** is set for **September 29, 2021** at 11:00 am.*

Certified Correct:

Tatiana McCaw
Committee Clerk II