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**Table of Partners Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022 @ 9:30 am**

Via Zoom on-line meeting

**Members:** Penny Cote (Chairperson), Marcie DeWitt (Coordinator), Anna Lewis, Christine Washington, Mariah Charleson, Julia Martin

**Regrets:** Curt Smecher, Deb Haggard, Rachelle Cole, Mollie Law, Alisha Pauling, Debra Hamilton, Edward Johnson, Ellen Frood, Natasha Dumont, Sally Mole

**Guests:** Mary Catherine Williams – United Way BC (Central & Northern Vancouver Island), Lesley Wright – Literacy Alberni Society

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

The Chairperson recognized the meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

Introductions were conducted.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

The Agenda for the February 16, 2022 meeting was approved with the addition of a late item regarding letters of support.

The Minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting were approved.

1. **BUILDING PROSPERITY IN THE ACRD, POVERTY REDUCTION ACTION PLAN**

Marcie presented the Poverty Action Plan as included in the agenda package. Once the plan gets approved and adopted by the ACRD Board of Directors, it will be ready to be sent out and presented to other interested parties.

1. **ACHN REPORTS**
   1. **Coordinator Update -** Marcie DeWitt reported on activities that she was involved in since our previous meeting as outlined in the agenda package.

Highlights:

* Final touches to the Poverty Reduction Action Plan
* Working on CBYF opportunity
* CFRC meeting and support
* Island Health communications and follow-up

**b.** **Letter of Support**

* PA CAT request for letter of support (copy in agenda package), approved by the Table of Partners, Marcie to send out.
* Mariah requested the pathway for requesting a letter of support on behalf of the PA Friendship Centre, regarding the housing situation on 4th Avenue. Marcie referred to the decision-making framework as a basis for supporting initiatives.

**c. Contract Process Review**

Deferred to next meeting

1. **ACHN UPDATES**
   1. **Poverty Reduction**

* Final report highlighted in agenda item #3.
  1. **Communities Building Youth Futures**
* Initial site visit brought together 40 youth workers in the region to look at the opportunity and collective impact
* Received $20,000 to do the initial work with an additional $195,000 available for coordinators and admin staff to build a collaboration structure
* Next step would be to meet further and discuss proposals and build on what is happening
* Marcie will distribute one more time to ToP with site meeting minutes for final approval from the table to proceed

1. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chris – dealing with staffing issues over COVID. In process of hiring a new School District Superintendent.

Anna – woodstove exchange program is confirmed to be moving ahead now that all agreements have been received. Waste reduction in the Valley, to date, 600 tons of organic material has been diverted. Agriculture is gearing up. Food Hub is revising their strategic plan. Seedy Saturday at Char’s landing in March.

Mary Catherine – United Way BC – amalgamation of 4 United Way sub-areas last year into United Way BC – still Central-North Vancouver Island region. Funds raised in this region will stay in the region. Will be partner grants this year but looking for more impact-focused initiatives. It looks like child and youth mental health will be the focus this year? There will be an Indigenous grant stream and a regular grant stream as well this year. “Period Promise” campaign is happening this year in May and June. “I Volunteer” is a volunteer engagement platform that will be a new program this year.

Lesley – Literacy Alberni – Tutoring programs have continued to function through the pandemic, and we are just starting to open more 1 on 1 tutoring. This week we are welcoming classes back onto the premises. Digital literacy class is ongoing. Working with AV Pride on “You Are Welcome Here” and “Hate Has No Home Here” safe places initiative. [reportalberni.ca](https://reportalberni.ca/) is a new portal to report incidents of hate or race-based acts and request support. Bystander intervention training to give people the tools to respond. Poster and link on training (via Zoom) will be sent out with room for 80 participants.

Mariah – meeting with task force regarding 4th Avenue housing crisis. BC Housing is onboard and will provide operating funds, will be inserting washroom/shower pods. Friendship Centre is willing to do a fundraising campaign. City of Port Alberni seeking government funding. Working on BC and NTC working table to discuss Provincial issues.

Penny – Regional District is going through the annual budget process. Recent housing assessments are concerning and will be a topic at AVICC and UBCM.

Marcie – BC Transit implementation has been delayed another 4 months. Now aiming for a January 2023 implementation date – challenges with getting buses for the west coast.

1. **MEETING ADJORNED**

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

The next meeting of the Table of Partners will be held Wednesday, March 16th at 9:30 am.