****

**Table of Partners Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 15, 2020 @ 10:00 am**

Via Zoom on-line meeting

**Participants:** Penny Cote (Chairperson), Marcie DeWitt (Coordinator), Josie Osborne, Bill Collette (joined at 10:10), Julia Martin, Ellen Frood, Alisha Pauling (joined at 10:15), Anna Lewis (joined at 10:15)

**Regrets:** Lynne MacFadgen, Laurie Bird, Patti Edwards, Sandra Tate, Margaret Morrison, Susan Fox, Ester Pace, Christine Washington, Sharie Minions

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

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

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES**

The Agenda for the July 15, 2020 meeting was approved.

The Minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting were reviewed with minor changes noted.

1. **ACHN REPORTS**
   1. **Coordinator Update -** Marcie DeWitt reported on activities that she was involved in since our previous meeting including:

* Connecting with local stakeholders around the poverty reduction plan & budget
* 2 networking & conference events: Rural Heath Summit & Public Health Summer Camp
* Attending the Recovery Meetings for ACRD & Tofino
* Follow-up with the senior’s group on the West Coast

1. **ACHN UPDATES**
   1. **Poverty Reduction Budget & Plan ideas –** reviewed budget as outlined – engage more stakeholders rather than hosting events – use front-line workers to engage stakeholders as well as on-line for those who have access and print as well – Ellen has a vacant office as well as meeting spaces that she is offering if there is a need – Marcie will email Table for final approval
   2. **2019 Annual Report –** will get out to membership this week
2. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Anna Lewis – Agriculture – soft opening of Food Hub; received Class ‘D’ designation – Slaughter Safe class is full. Air Quality – no wildfires this season yet; working with Airway Legacy for Health – creating province wide survey going out in September – focus on how people get info on impact of wildfire smoke; ACRD burning bylaws - working with ACRD staff.

Alicia Pauling – Island Health moving into the next phase of recovery plan; Port Alberni doing research study to test “COVID-19 Wellness Checker” to support more vulnerable populations.

Bill Collette – priority on business community - providing weekly newsletters; several grant opportunities; visitors centre has re-opened with a new gift shop – seeing quite a bit of activity; McLean’s Mill has opened the gift shop, food services and camping.

Josie Osborne – hard to recruit staff for local businesses – looking ahead 6-12 months, is there something that should be done now to put systems in place to help save these businesses or keep their dignity if their business does fail? Busy on the Westcoast – hotels at 70-90% occupancy (compared to 20-30% in Victoria & Vancouver) – businesses that are understaffed are struggling – a lot of mental health stress. Lack of communication with indigenous communities’ creating fear and anxiety.

Ellen Frood – deemed an essential service so have had to adapt. Working to create a sexual assault response team based out of the hospital. Received extra funding from grants and an anonymous donor to assist with services.

Penny Cote – looking for support from the Vancouver Island health networks for a letter to push forward to the Health Minister at UBCM during the requested meeting with the minister. Sproat Lake is very busy. Regional District is challenged as they are only allowing 10 people in the office at once; Sproat Lake Marine Patrol did not get hired this year due to COVID concerns; ACRD staff are reluctant to take on new initiatives at this time.

Marcie Dewitt – Regional District staff are starting a new project around regional housing; Amy Anaka has been invited to the September meeting to present the Age-Friendly Plan. Dr. Hasselback has retired, his replacement is Dr. Michael Benusic – have invited him to a future meeting.

1. **MEETING ADJORNED**

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am. The next meeting of the Table of Partners will be held Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 10:00 am.