



# NORTH OKANAGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

### CO-CHAIR SUMMARY

This past year saw the first set of Council Member terms being completed in the Region. The Chair would like to acknowledge, with great appreciation, the many hours and heart felt struggle and commitment that was put in by all members. Special acknowledgement goes to those who have moved on to other commitments in life. We especially want to remember, with appreciation, the contribution that our strong and resourceful member Arnold Bennington provided before he passed away.

This past year, the North Okanagan Community Council was able to actively support a number of events that assisted in highlighting the importance of the issue of inclusion to the whole community. Events included an art show, an essay contest and a dance.

Beyond these things, the Council was also involved in furthering a better understanding of issues related to disability by supporting seminars in the area.

The Council has had a keen interest in the role of self advocates and is continuing to move forward in framing how best to support self advocates in the area. The Council is supportive of the Fall conference planned for self advocates in the region in October 2009.

The future directions that Council will be pursuing will focus on stimulating innovation and inclusion through a more direct granting process. The Council is very energized at the prospect of forging new partnerships within the community this coming year.

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

Individual members of the Council have worked hard to connect with families in their local communities. We have found this to be challenging.

The Council held meetings in the summer of 2007 that were well attended. The Council intended to repeat this process in October 2008 but has postponed these events until the plans for transition of children's services to MCFD have been completed.

The Council has carried out other activities to assist in building inclusive communities. Below is a list of successful initiatives we took this year.

Home Share Providers Meeting	March 12, 2008
Art Contest	May 2008
Essay Contest	Oct – Nov 2008
Celebrating Citizenship Salmon Arm	November 1, 2008

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The Council does struggle with its role in community as each of the members also have their own busy lives and most family members have limited energy to engage in activities outside their immediate circle of awareness. We continue to look for better ways to connect the activities of CLBC with family's busy lives.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

The Council has taken its role in accountability very seriously. We have worked at developing the skill of asking for reports on outcomes from the managers so that there is a review of directions and decisions made at the local level. This continues to be an area of growth and learning for all of us.

At the October 2008 meeting, Council passed a motion requesting that QS set aside funds in the 2009/10 budget for short term projects that address identified needs. This has occurred and Council will assume decision-making responsibilities for these moneys in the coming year.

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The Council feels it is now in a position, after 2 years of working with the managers at CLBC and listening to the community, to proactively help shape directions in the Region. The process used will involve working with CLBC staff alongside community members and service providers to encourage innovation and community initiatives.

The Council still struggles with understanding its role within CLBC and the process for influencing change. This will continue to be a focus for the council as we move forward this year.

## FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

The Council has managed its own budget and has used small amounts of funding to further initiatives that it supports within the community.

The Council has been briefed in the fiscal issues of the Region and has assisted the local Quality Services manager in developing a set of priorities for funding. The Council appreciates the fact that it has been consulted at various stages around the funding challenges in the Region and has had opportunity to provide input into the difficult decisions around priorities for funding within the Region.

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The Council does find it challenging to understand the complexity of the finances and the interplay of complex and sometimes competing needs. Simplified and clear presentations of the complex information have been very helpful.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Council has been engaged by the local service providers around concerns with their service relationship with CLBC as a group. The Council has embarked on a process of dialogue with a view to assist CLBC and the service providers to engage in a process that enhances the relationship through improved trust and communications.

The Council has a belief in partnerships. We will continue to engage the broader community in a wide variety of initiatives designed to encourage sensitivities around inclusion issues. We want to enhance the community's perception of the value of each of its member's citizenship.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

NAME	COMMUNITY	MEMBERSHIP
Patrick Allwood	Salmon Arm	Family Member
Lynne Barisoff	Revelstoke	Family Member
Kirsten Cacka	Vernon	Self-Advocate
Jo-Anne Crawford	Salmon Arm	Service Provider
Helmut Herrmann	Enderby	Family Member
Kathleen Nelson	Salmon Arm	Self-Advocate
Sue Phillips	Enderby	Community Member
Henry Sundquist	Armstrong	Service Provider
Patricia Winters	Armstrong	Family Member