Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network Interagency Meeting

Wednesday April 6th, 2022

Time: 9:00am | Location: Online Teams

# In Attendance

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Cassandra Chalifoux | Andrea Taylor | Jennifer Moar |
| Debbie Deak | Margaret Lyster | Kelly Smith |
| Caitlin Gajdostik | Chevie-lee Mitchell | Jill Manning |
| Bill Selles | Lainey Blood | Janice Randhile |
| Trish Bruised Head | Billi-J Heavy Shields | Marilyn Contois |
| Beth Moulton |  |  |
|  |  |  |

# Meeting Opening

* -Land Acknowledgement by Cassandra Chalifoux
* -Prayer by Cassandra Chalifoux

# Andrea Taylor – Women Building Futures

* They have a Power Engineer career accelerator that is running out of Edmonton and Fort Macleod. They have the equipment technician that is also running out of Edmonton and their heavy equipment operator with Syncrude out of Fort McMurray, there is a residency requirement for that.
* Their Journey Women Start program will be starting up again in the fall and our employment express pipefitter program.
* She will send out all the Fliers out after the meeting so that they can be sent out.
* Women building Futures will be down in the Lethbridge area into April 28th and 29th. Any organizations that would like them to come in and do a presentation. She is down for a graduation for one of their classes, but she would love to connect and come out and talk to your clients or the people that you're working with, or even just hear about what you have coming up.
* If there are organizations that are looking to partner with Women Building Futures as employment partners, you can certainly have discussions about that as well.
* They we will be back down again in July doing a presentation and for young girls in stem, through the Blood Tribe. So, again, It will be the 7th or the 15th that we're coming down. So, there is opportunities for them to come out and talk about our programs again. They would love to make connections. So please don't hesitate to reach out if you're interested.

# Caitlin Gajdostik-Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta

* All of their grants closed on March 15th, so everything's being deliberated hopefully getting some answers in May.
* Not a whole lot to report, just share that as we were going into the sixth wave. If anyone is facing and you like organizational issues or need something for your clients, pandemic related or anything like that she is tracking the need that's going on within the charitable sector. Please reach out to them and let them know what's going on. If there's anything that they could perhaps assist with. They'll let you guys know if any other funding opportunities come up, or if you're looking for anything else Community Foundation or otherwise, you can reach out for that as well.
* Caitlin - Community Foundation grants@cflsa.ca or 403-328-5297. Let her know if you have any questions about grants!

# Chevie-Lee Mitchell - Opokaasin

* She is the Indigenous Community Support Navigator at Opokaasin. Niisitapi literacy Camp so it's blackfoot culture and language and sports for ages, 7 to 13 years of age, the registration fee is $25. So when that's open to anybody throughout the community, okay. I'm doing time. Is right now. They are doing them until the end of may on Tuesdays and Thursdays for anybody, who identifies as indigenous.

# Marilyn Contois – Lethbridge Public Library

* For the month of April they're putting a notification out that if anybody wants to, or need to space to hang a, red dress or a banner, or any type of artwork. In memory and in honor of the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls that would be hanging it up here at the library. They're going to start hanging stuff up the last Friday in April and it'll remain up until the end of May. So for the whole month of me, it's going to be hanging up here at the library. They would like to get the theater Gallery area filled. There's some power regalia, Marilyn has some friends that are going to be bringing in their red dresses, as well as mine and we're going to hang those up in the entrance, right above the community links desk. They will be hanging maybe 15-20 feet in the air, so that you know nobody is going to be touching those items.
* They're going to have a national film board movie or documentary in the theater gallery and it's called Finding Dawn and that's a documentary on the missing and murdered indigenous women. From the downtown East Side Highway of tears BC and I believe the Saskatoon area.
* The other thing that they're doing is they're beading red dress pins at the library. All of that information is on the poster.
* On the 5th. From 11:00 till 1:00 in the theater Gallery they're having a Commemoration presentation and guest speakers as well as they'll be joined by Janice Randall, they're going to have a healing dance down there for that.
* Moving forward there will be some more information coming up in the next Happening that'll be issued for April and May they'll be in that issue that happening. You can find that online or pick up a copy in the library. One of the events will be honoring, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women May 5th, they're still not doing in person programs, so likely it will be on as on a zoom webinar.

# Debbie Deak – FASD Network

* Bo Wells has invited Debbie to come and spend some time with staff from the Kainai youth center, as well as two, other programs that are running there.
* If anybody would like to have any possible presentations for staff regarding having conversations with our partners, our youth, or kids about preventing prenatal alcohol exposure or alcohol use. She would be open to that opportunity.

# Janice Randhile- Family Information Liaison - Indigenous policy and services, community justice, and integrated services division, strategies support and integrated initiatives branch

* She is just getting back into the office, settling in and adjusting to the new back to the new normal. Janice is planning on coming down the week of the 18th. She is hoping if there is any possibility or options with anybody to do presentations she is more than willing to come in and do presentation about the work they do. Their unit does provide supports for families of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

# Jennifer Moar – Job Links Employment Specialist

* This is her first interagency meeting that she attending. Her name is Jennifer Moore and she is one of the Employment Specialist with ability employment in downtown Lethbridge. What they do is we help people with either mental health, addictions or indivisible people with barriers to find suitable employment. She is one of the Employment Specialist that works with people with disabilities.
* They help with pre employment skills, anything in regards to job search, finding and maintaining employment, workshops, engaging with employers, connecting with employers to bridge some of those gaps with employment, as well as supporting the employers and the clients in their employment. So they're able to maintain their jobs.
* They're actually going to be hosting a job fair June 1st for anyone with disabilities. The're going to have probably about 20 employers at the job fair from 10 to 4 June 1st at the Multicultural Center.

# Kelly Smith – City of Lethbridge CSC Business Unit

* Wanted to come and hopefully connect some service providers because they are hearing from community that there's a bit of a disconnect due to covid and everything that's been going on and people just sort of wanting more connections. So, she hope to pass this along the information in this meeting to people who might be interested.

# Lainey Blood – Red Crow College – student recruiter and funding advisor

* They are currently recruiting for their upcoming semester this fall 2022 so she is scheduling presentations for that as well as their adult upgrading program.
* They received some funding changes and are currently communicating that to their continuing and new students.
* They are currently building a new main campus in Stand-off that will hopefully be operational in fall of 2022 and will allow them to implement more programs and student resources.
* She is also in the planning process of an open house that will hopefully take place at the end of April or beginning of May and will go over the programs and services they offer.

# Margaret Lyster – Lethbridge Public Library

* They are offering two classes writing basics and math basics. What they do is help people a grade level or more and build foundational skills. So they do reading writing and the basics in things like digital literacy. If they don’t know how to use their phone or computer they can go there to get help.
* They also have one on one tutoring for an hour a week, which is done by volunteers. People can just going in to see them on the main floor of the library.
* They will be holding a workplace expectations workshops starting up with the first one being May 31st, 2022. They will cover what the employer is expecting when you start a position, how to be successful at work.

# Trish Bruised Head-Red Crow Community College – Addictions Counselor

* They have some programs coming up for the fall/2023. They have 20 seats available in the Educational Assistant, 16 seats in the Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work, the Indigenous Language and Cultural Diploma has 15 seats, 15 seats in the Indigenous Mental Health Diploma, 15 seats in the Agriculture Certificate, and 45 seats in the arts and science two cohort, and 20 seats for the Business Administration Program.
* They are moving into the building in July, but they are planning their grand opening for October 20th, 2022.

# Cassandra Chalifoux- NCSA

* As everyone is aware the Nikso’kowaiksi Dinner was supposed to happen on March 29th, 2022, but has been postponed to April 7th because Cassandra came down with Covid and could not complete the planning or attend.
* Doors will open at 5:30pm and dinner will be served at 6:00pm.
* There will be a meal provided as well as a care package for everyone who attends with information on services as well as a message of love.
* She sent out the poster again yesterday.
* Teams has not done the update and added a phone number yet, but hopefully for next month.

# Bill Selles – Interfaith Food Bank – Tech Issues

* Could not share updates because of technical issues.

# Billi-J Heavy Shields- Addictions Mental Health-Blood Reserve/Brocket – Tech Issues

* Could not share updates because of technical issues.

# Jill Manning – Lethbridge Public Library – Tech Issues

* Could not share updates because of technical issues.

# Beth Moulton – AHS – Tech Issues

* Could not share updates because of technical issues.

# Meeting Duration

**Start Time**: 8:58am **Adjourned**: 9:33am **Duration**: 33 Minutes

# Next Meeting

**Date**: May 4th, 2022 **Time**: 9:00am **Location**: Online Teams