Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network Interagency Meeting

Wednesday February 2nd, 2022

Time: 9:00am | Location: Online Teams

# In Attendance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cassandra Chalifoux | Debbie Deak | Lisa Despas |
| A’paana’ki Linda Weasel Head | Margaret Lyster | Hank Shade |
| Caitlin Gajdostik | Miranda Hargreaves | Treena Tallow |
| Andrea Taylor | Peetah Bastien | Janice Randhile |
| Trish Bruised Head | Hannah Nimegeers | Marilyn Contois |
| Chevie-Lee | Lindi Shade | Tasha Lennon |
| Elizabeth Hegerat  |  |  |

# Meeting Opening

* -Land Acknowledgement by Cassandra Chalifoux
* -Prayer offered by Hank Shade

# Andrea Taylor-Women Building Futures

* Andrea works with an organization called Women Building Futures located in Edmonton, they have some programs coming up in Calgary and Lethbridge.
* They help women who are facing barriers to getting Education, Training and getting into the workforce in jobs that are above living wage, they help them to overcome those barriers.
* They provide short-term Hands-On training usually tied to an employment partner at the end. They have lots of programs that are running right now across Alberta and eventually even into Saskatchewan, as well as they have one that runs in B.C. as .
* She wanted to come here today to connect with everybody find out what resources are in the community down here. they are always looking for ways to connect and collaborate.
* The big program that they’re promoting right now is a Vestas wind turbine level one technician program. It's a four-week program and at the end graduates, from this program are hired on by Vestas as a wind turbine technician. And instead of taking a one year college course at Lethbridge College. They're provided with Hands-On on the job training. That's equivalent to that one year, but they're being paid a wage while they're doing it. Vestas is really committed to bringing in women into their workforce, it's a focus and something they're strongly committed to.
* Some of their programs do not have entry requirements but some of their programs do have some entry requirements. The Vestas one is the one that right now has the highest level of requirements, and it's a GED or a grade 12, diploma. They have training across border, their main training place is in Portland, so students do have to be able to cross the border have a passport clean criminal check and they do have to have a clean abstract as well and a full class 5 license.
* Their programs require students to go through, or applicants to go through their essential skills assessments, which is about a grade nine to ten level in reading, writing, digital skills, mechanical aptitude, spatial reasoning, and listening. Those are the six assessment areas and they're very short online assessments that take 30 to 45 minutes each.
* The KidCo program that they’re running out of Calgary, entrance requirements are a GED and ability to access reliable transportation because the locations that they work out of don't often have public transit.
* Contact by Email: ataylor@womenbuildingfutures.com

# Margaret Lyster-Lethbridge Public Library-Read On

* Margaret is with Read-on literacy program with the Lethbridge Public Library. What they do is they can help people up to about a grade 9 level with reading, writing, math, helping them get ready for those essential skills. They are located at the main branch of the Lethbridge Public Library net to the Children’s Department, Email: margaret.lyster@lethlib.ca Phone: (403) 320-3133
* They could probably compliment people that might be wanting to get into the Women Building Futures programs, at least the ones with a requirement up to the end of a Grade 9.
* They have space in their math basics class right now that still have some space in and them if anyone has someone who is interested, and they can offer one-on-one tutoring, if someone just wants more private tutoring.

# Caitlin Gajdostik-Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta

* All of their grant programs are currently open for submissions. If your organizations are looking for any funding, they have our community priorities grants program, which typically funds, equipment or building renovations. The deadline for applications is March 15th. Website: <https://cflsa.ca/grants/>
* They have their Henry S Farley fund for Rural Life, which is open to anyone or any organizations outside of the city of Lethbridge that focuses more on programming and activities. That one is also open until March 15th.
* They we also have their Youth in Action grants program, which is open until February 28 and it is up to two thousand dollars for a youth for a project of whatever idea they have to better their community. They are really trying to get some applications, so if you guys know of any youth that might be interested, please share it. Email Caitlyn at: grants@cflsa.ca and she will send you the zoom link for the workshop.
* Caitlyn is hosting a grant information workshop or session next week on February 10th at 10:30am. It'll be an hour and they'll just go through their programs, the criteria, how best to answer some of the questions and the timeline for funding, If anyone is interested please email Caitlyn: grants@cflsa.ca
* They are also hiring for a position at the Community Foundation for a marketing and PR coordinator. So, if you know of anyone that might be interested, please send them Caitlyn’s way or send them to Shirley, who is her boss and is doing the hiring for the position. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out. <https://cflsa.ca/community-foundation-hiring-for-marketing-and-public-relations-coordinator/>

# Chevie Lee Mitchell-Opokaa’sin Indigenous Community Support Navigator

* Chevie is the Indigenous Community Support Worker at Opokaa’sin Early Intervention Society. What they do is help connect families, individuals and youth to the resources and supports around the city.
* There is a new system, the integrated coordinating access system that they think was started last year. It is essentially supposed to help the agencies in Lethbridge work together in a referral process, which is still taking time to develop.
* They are trying to get a tax Clinic going, that will start next month, we're just kind of in the works of getting trained. They think Chevie, Enya and Chantilly will be doing the taxes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but they will send Cassandra a poster once they are ready.
* Contact Info; Email: chevie-lee.mitchell@opokaasin.org Phone:

# Debbie Deak-South Alberta FASD Network

* Debbie Deke is with the South Alberta FASD, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum, Disorder Network, and together with her colleague Brenda Burton she coordinates the network, as well as provide opportunities for professional learning in the area of prenatal, alcohol, exposure diagnosis and assessment of FASD.
* Their funded agencies are doing their best to maintain the relationships with the clients that they're serving, however they can under the restrictions that we have.
* They have also entered into a partnership with cuppers coffee, so they are now selling their own special blend of South Alberta FASD Network pound of coffee or beans and they will continue that throughout the year.

# Lisa Despas - Service Canada

* Lisa is part of the mobile outreach program with Service Canada. They we give presentations on their various service and offerings like Canada pension, old age security, employment insurance, social insurance numbers, disability benefits. There's a number of ones that they do and we give these at no cost. They just really try to put it in easy terms to help people understand them. These presentations can be for your clients or it could be for the workers of an organization so they can have a full understanding of the program and ask any questions that they want. If anybody wanted to reach out and find out more, please feel free to do so. Email: lisa.despas@servicecanada.gc.ca Phone: (403) 465-1519.
* One of the things that they have been doing with covid as well is they've been hosting their own presentations before it was always that they would go to an organization and give a presentation. But now they do a couple of our own every month. If anybody wants to be notified of these, please let Lisa know with an email address and they can add you to their list so you'll get the invites.
* One of the newest things with Service Canada is with the disability benefit. Anybody that is receiving Canada, pension disability, they do have to declare their volunteer and or educational activities, just because if they exceed 15 hours a week for a period of four months or more. That may make it possible to look at the fact that there is some capacity to work. So let us know that because it could be to your advantage. If you're able to work somewhat, then maybe you could be earning some money. By letting them know, it doesn't mean you're going to be cut off. It's just they're going to review a person’s situation more.
* Contact Lisa if you are interested in a presentation on their benefits – CPP/OAS, CP Disability, Employment Insurance, Apprenticeship Grants, Social Insurance Numbers ect. Please forward her your contact information if you’d like to be added to their mailing list and be notified of the presentations they are hosting. Email: lisa.despas@servicecanada.gc.ca Phone: (403) 465-1519.

# Elizabeth Hegerat-Lethbridge Library

* Elizabeth is one of the managers at the Lethbridge Public Library. You already heard about from Market or your you'll be hearing about from Linda in Maryland, but they are still open, memberships are still free, they are still fine free right now and they are still doing all of their programming online.
* Link for Film Festival: <http://www.lethlib.ca/promotion/nfb-indigenous-film-festival>

# Hank Shade-Treaty 7 Housing

* Hank is the manager at Treaty7 housing, they provide subsidized or rent, geared to income housing for indigenous people in Calgary, Lethbridge, and Cardston. The bulk of their homes are in Lethbridge, they really believe in networking, best practices and sharing.
* Their tenants are low income and there's a reason they're low income, it could be social issues or other issues as to why they're low income. Like Opokaa’sin they are part of the integrated coordinated access. So it's coordinates are all the social services in the city. They are not a navigator but they've taken training there a door agency, which means we can help navigate our tenants to the services they need. Whatever Services they need mental health, any kind of social service they need.

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

* Janice Randall is the family information liaison for indigenous policy and services, community justice, and integrated services division, strategies support and integrated initiatives branch. Their unit is located in Edmonton and we provide services and supports to families of the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. They’ve been in operation for the last five years however due to covid they just haven't been able to deploy out into their respective areas. Her area of coverage is Edmonton down to Lethbridge and area.
* She is going to send their video and 2 pager to Cassandra so that she's able to forward it to the rest of you.
* They have been working in partnership with kind of Wellness, the victim services units within Southern Alberta, and started new relationships with LPS and Friendship Centre. They are really trying to collaborate and build the supports around supports for families.
* Last November they hosted and brought in a group to do some presentations on human trafficking, due to the 10 men that were arrested in September in regard to human trafficking. There was a group of them that came down to the Lethbridge John Humphrey Center and ALERT came to do the presentation for the communities. They are hoping to do some more with in Lethbridge, Kainai and Piikani, I will update people on that. If you yourself or anybody, you know, would like to attend then you'll be able to know when that's going to be happening. they're just in the process of figuring out when. This pandemic has been not very good for them being able to do that outreach stuff that we all want to do.

# A’paana’ki Linda Weasel Head-Lethbridge Public library

* Linda is from the Lethbridge Public Library. Starting on the 14th of this month there is an Indigenous film festival. The films will start at 6:00 in the evening. They're gearing it towards families and people that would be able to watch the national film board videos. There's quite a lot of indigenous films that have been made that we probably don't know about. They're taking an opportunity to showcase 6 of the films. Some of them are older, you may have already seen them, but they have a lot of worth. Film Festival link: <http://www.lethlib.ca/promotion/nfb-indigenous-film-festival>
* The second thing that's coming up is on, March, the 4th will be starting the writing group. Richard Van Camp, who is a writer from up North that was artist in Residence and they're continuing with that writing program for inviting people, to submit their fiction or poetry and then get feedback from the cohort group that they're starting. You should see a poster on that soon.
* Invited Jodie flamand tailfeathers to join us in future meetings. Will connect with Cassandra to get her added to the meetings.

# Miranda Hargreaves-Chinook Sexual Assault Center

* Miranda is from the Chinook Sexual Assault Center. They have two groups coming up. They have a Spanish Group, which is for Spanish speaking individuals, it focuses on unhealthy relationships. It's an eight-week group and it starts off February 10th. Anybody can register that has experienced sexual violence and is a Spanish-speaking individual. We also have some English groups and the men's group is coming up on March 15th. I will be sending a poster out probably later on this month to Cassandra. The men's group is an eight-week group. Talked about topics around, trauma. Shame, guilt, boundaries, healthy relationships, male pressures, and belief systems. Anyone can register for that it's completely free to register. If you have any questions email Miranda: miranda@csacleth.ca
* They’re also doing their who do you tell program out in Cardston Elementary? Their who do you tell program is an elementary based program that teaches kids about safe adults, inappropriate touching, private body parts. They are looking at connecting with other schools, if anybody has any connections to elementary schools, send them their way because they would love to get the program out to more people.
* They're also still looking for donations for their renovation campaign, for their child advocacy center renovation in their building. And that can be done through their website: <https://donate-can.keela.co/donation7>

# Peetah Bastien-Blood Tribe Communications

* Peetah works with the Blood Tribe Communications. They are working on an Artist call out, some of their billboards were damaged during the big windstorm a while ago. They're looking at repurposing them. They're going in a New Direction, so they've called out an artist. They're hoping for Entries from on and off reserve so it's open to everyone. It's all-inclusive the concept artist winner which will have their concept translated to a billboard will win two thousand dollars. They have an application for the position of transferring that concept onto the billboard, the artist will have a contract. One of the things that they also look for is, it doesn't really have to be art so it can be an essay, there's a hundred-word requirement for the essay. You can be a visionary and that concept can be translated by an artist. They will make sure to get that the poster out to Cassandra. Also on their Facebook page, Twitter and their Instagram, you can see those posters at any time. If you'd like to, you can share them with on your organization's posts.
* They're working closely with the opioid task force on the Blood Tribe. They're Distributing pamphlets anywhere between four and seven hundred pamphlets to they’re community. Those include all the information required to save someone's life, as well as the support systems that are available on and off reserve. People can find the information they need to get help in the pamphlet. They also have all the information where people can pick up naloxone kits.
* They just wrapped up last month, the persons with lived experience campaign that they had. They had individuals from the community both on and off reserve, you have lived experience and have overcome their opioid addiction, to tell that personal story and also to kind of showcase and give them, a really good acknowledgement for their courage. It was also to show the community members it is very possible for them to live a more healthy life.
* They also have been engaged a lot in distribution notices. Providing information to their community is paramount and they like to have that out as soon as possible. Some of the information they provide to their community is life saving and can help people plan their lives in a more safe way.With the new covid restrictions that they have and the enhanced safety measures, it's really important that they get information out in a timely fashion so that people can prepare rides, they can also get vaccinated, or get their booster shots if needed. They're currently awaiting some rapid test kits, they're going to have a rapid test distribution poster out they can send to Cassandra. The poster will include for all three communities pick up locations for Rapid test kits, so you can take them for work.
* They have to take our rapid tests every week to be allowed back into work, and they also follow enhanced safety measures. Currently they are working on their landing pages and web pages for all their departments. They believe they will be very useful to all the organizations involved here today to be able to go onto their website and have a nice central place for everyone to find information on those landing pages.
* They are also reintroducing the let's step it up against the opioids campaign. They're really pushing that on their social media presence and also their director Pam is working closely with their Department of Emergency Management to keep us all safe and have all the required information needed for their people to have their health check to be able to have an information resource that will provide them with all the necessary information to give them to keep them safe during these troubling times.

# Lindi Shade-University of Lethbridge Iikaisskini Indigenous Student Center

* Lindi is the manager of Iikaisskini. I'm the manager of the Iikaisskini, which is the indigenous Service Centre at the University of Lethbridge as well as the gathering center.
* They just had a huge move. They were actually out by residence in their old Iikaisskini Center. they're actually more centralized on U of L campus, which is really exciting because prior to their move they didn't have any students attend their programs or Services just because the demographics were so far from the University. N that they're closer to campus they can provide programs and services for their indigenous students. Unfortunately everything has been moved to virtual learning as of February 28th and they don’t know if it will be lifted after February 28th. A lot of their students have switched to online so that also means their staff of Iikaisskini have been working half and half so remotely in office and remotely on campus. Some of the services we have is they provide student support programs that are focused on cultural programming for indigenous students. As of now within the winter semester. they have 501 self-declared indigenous students, on campus.
* They actually had a decline in attendance and registration as of this new semester, so one of the things right now is just really working on support. One of the area's they've noticed with their indigenous students is that the issues that have been presenting have been around mental health and financial stress. Fortunately through the MasterCard foundation they do have an indigenous counselor Wilma's spear chief that is on campus. That is available for indigenous, students for counseling.
* This is the first time the University of Lethbridge has hired an indigenous counselor specific for an indigenous student population, they are also looking at hiring another .5 indigenous counselor and it has been posted. If anybody on the meeting today knows of anybody that wants to apply for this position, it is going to be working with indigenous students on campus. It is a .5 position so it does need to be somebody who is registered in counseling.
* Within Iikaisskini they are a very small department. There is Lindi as the manager and, Jodie Flamand, and Charlene Bruised Head- Mountain Horse, their two student indigenous advisors. So they really rely on collaborative relationships internally at the University of Lethbridge as well as externally.
* One of the exciting events that is coming up, is on February 28, they're having their indigenous awareness week, this is a time where the University of Lethbridge really commemorates their indigenous student community and culture. Last year they had to have their Indigenous Awareness week to all virtual. So this year they are going to be starting that on February 28th and all their activities and grounds for that week are going to be virtual. It runs from February 28 to March 4 and Jodie Flamand Tailfeathers is actually their coordinator that's working on this event, she's working really hard on getting this event up and going, if anybody on the meeting today would like more information once they get everything in terms of all of their events for that week finalized they can send it out to this group. It's going to be open to all of the community they think that they did put it on the communications. What they are doing is they're trying to promote more of the community to partake in their events for that.
* Another thing just to be mindful of is a lot of their events, for example, they have three elders in residence on campus they try to really utilize them the best way they can. How do they go about that? What they're talking about is a lot of their events have been halted due to covid, but they have been doing Elder sessions and their three Elders in residence are quite tech-savvy, so they can they actually do Teams, Zoom, and they do lots of events online.
* Right now moving forward, is really working around ensuring that their students are set up for success. They're Building Pathways for their students so that they can complete the semester online and hopefully, after the 28th, they can really start to move towards in person again, because one of the things they’ve noticed was their students were so excited to be on campus, now going back to online has been quite difficult for them. They're just trying to be creative and Innovative on how they can really work on retaining their indigenous student population.
* For Indigenous Awareness Week February 28 to March 4, Jodie Flamand Tailfeathers is their contact person for that event. Email: Jodie.flamand@uleth.ca
* They have a Iikaisskini Facebook website that anyone can join. If anyone in the meeting today wants to advertise anything they can email Lindi or you can email Jodie and they usually advertise external programs and services. They do have an indigenous listserv, it's called the Eagles Nest list serve, so they often get requests for people to advertise an event or any kind of external communication that they really like to get that out to their students.

# Treena Tallow-AHS

* They're having another vaccine clinic February 18th at the mall. They'll send out a poster to Cassandra to distribute, if you can share that with your clients, also, just remember it's flu season right now so if they want to they can get their flu shot or they could get their boosters and any of the vaccinations. She noticed on the Blood Tribe page for people that are newly vaccinated getting their first second there's prizes of a thousand dollars.
* They’re working on a memorial walk event on the 18th and it's to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and girls men as well will be included. As a way to respect those who have been lost they're asking if anybody has family members they would like to be honored to send them a picture of your loved one and they will include them in the event. You can send those to: treena@ahs.ca and they will be happy to do that.

# Trish Bruised Head-Red Crow Community College

* Trish works at Red Crow Community College. Their Second semester has begun this is their first week into the second semester, they go until June and their programs are pretty much full right now. They are taking registrations and applications for September fall already, if you know anybody that would like to attend, have them call Red Crow Community College either the satellite campus or the main campus
* Regarding their new building, they are scheduled to move hopefully in July.
* They are having a youth conference again, the dates for those are February 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th. If the information is not already on their website, it will be by the end of this week for the youth conference. If you have any youth looking to join, please have them visit their website. The conference is free.

# Cassandra Chalifoux- NCSA

* They are looking at doing an event and are hoping for it to take place on Wednesday March 26th. Their fiscal year ends on the 31st of March, so they would like to do a nice big event, that may run into some problems because they're constantly changing the rules and regulations when it comes to covid. But one thing that they would like to have from everybody is If you have a pamphlet that has the information of the services that you offer within Lethbridge, they would appreciate if you could send that to Cassandra because regardless of the event, they are going to provide an information package as well as some other supplies for the event.
* They are looking at doing a care package that has information for Important services and where to find them, when to find them so that it makes it a little bit easier for people to get help when they need it. They want to put a package together, that shows where people can find food, shelter, clothing, medical help ect. Just so it's in a nice small package and not, here you need this pamphlet. It's here is this pack of information in with your free stuff, maybe you'll find something in that you can use.
* They are running through some different things and some approvals through the company and then they will go through it at the beginning of March in detail will go through the event and let you know what's going on.
* Right now, they’re looking at some indigenous caterers to provide some indigenous food for the event. They’re probably going to look at a dinner as it's one of the easiest things to plan in a short period of time. They've only got this month and most of next month. The care packages looking at doing and putting together care packages with that information in it, just make something short and sweet, even if you make something up in word, and it's just got your services and the people to get in contact with to take advantage of those services that's pretty much what they’re looking at and then they hope to have a way more in-depth update for our meeting at the beginning of March.
* You may be seeing a quite a few emails from me throughout the month. While they start to line everything up for the event.
* Still has not received an update on the SISN website. Has inquired, but received no response from IT. She will update everyone when she gets information. For now please keep sending anything events, employment ect. That you would like shared to Cassandra and she will get it posted.
* Please send Cassandra any information that you want shared as well as any resources that you think will be beneficial to our community.
* If you know of anyone who wants to join these meetings, please send Cassandra an email with the persons email address and she will send them an invite for the next one.
* Cassandra will be starting up 4 committees. Please let her know if you are interested in heading any of them.

# Meeting Addition due to technical issues- Tasha Lennon- Bouvry Exports

* Bouvry Exports is seeking to hire people for our C-shift from 9:30am – 8pm, four days a week 10 hours a day with Fridays off. Role (Industrial Butcher) we prefer an individual that is comfortable learning how to utilize a knife to eventually specialize in specialty cuts for our four species we work with including, Cattle, Bison, Elk, Horse. 77% of our production is Cattle. As well I am seeking to connect with Blood Tribe Recreation to possibly work together in utilizing the thunder chief Express to transport employees from Blood Tribe, Brocket, Lethbridge.

# Meeting Duration

**Start Time**: 9:00am **Adjourned**: 10:13am **Duration**: 1 Hour 13 Minutes

# Next Meeting

**Date**: March 2nd, 2022 **Time**: 9:00am **Location**: Online Teams