Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network Interagency Meeting

Wednesday January 5th, 2022

Time: 9:00am | Location: Online Teams

# In Attendance

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| Cassandra Chalifoux | Debbie Deak | Lisa Despas |
| A’paana’ki Linda Weasel Head | Echo Nowak | Hank Shade |
| Caitlin Gajdostik | Sue Oguchi | Billi-J Heavy Shields |
| Angelo Remo | Madeline Gormley | Janice Randhile |
| Trish Bruised Head | Sara Townsend | Marilyn Contois |
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# Meeting Opening by Cassandra Chalifoux

* -Notice of Meeting Recording
* -Land Acknowledgement
* -Prayer offered by Cassandra

# Caitlin Gajdostik-Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta

* Grants Coordinator at the Community Foundation so if your agency or anyone you know are looking for grants, she is your gal.
* They are still running the initiative with Nikko Yuko Japanese gardens with the winter light festival. They are offering complimentary admission for AHS workers. They get 2 complimentary tickets to the winter lights festival. It is unfortunately closed today, but should be open the rest of the month. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/nikkayuko/photos/4785467191473950>
* They don’t have any grants open right now, they wrapped up their fall grants just before Christmas, Caitlin went out in the community and delivered lots. Including grants to the Piikani food bank and the Kainai food bank.
* Whether you or someone you know are looking for Capital projects funding or Program funding, Caitlin will help you by guiding you to the right source for funding as well as helping you fill out the application.
* The next deadline for all their grants programs will be March 15th, 2022 and they will be opening in the next few weeks.
* Youth in action grants program will be launching next week for anyone 25 and under that has an idea to make their community better, they can qualify for a $2000 grant from the community foundation. The deadline for that is February 28th, 2022.

# Debbie Deak-South Alberta FASD Network

* This year the network partnered with angel tree initiative Lethbridge family services and were able to raise enough money this year to support 73 of their families both non-indigenous and indigenous. Collaboratively with angel tree their families received $100 gift card for groceries. They were able to get those a No Frills so they could be used at Superstore or No Frills so they could be served west side, south side, or north side. All of their children received gift bundles, Debbie volunteered to help with those and she just can’t say enough good things about LFS for what they do in making Christmas so special for children that may not otherwise receive the wonderful gifts and surprises that they do. All of the families also received a gingerbread house kit so that they could possibly do that together as a family.
* Firestore partnered with them in a rounding up initiative and were able to donate a considerable amount to the network through their rounding up campaign.
* 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/Angelo Remo - Service Canada

* There is a Canada Lockdown worker benefit. A worker who is eligible and who applies for this could get $300 a week. Link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/worker-lockdown-benefit.html>
* It is for anyone who is or was under a temporary local lockdown between October 24th, 2021 and May 7th, 2022. It is only designed for people under a government lockdown order. So applicants must live in the area of the lockdown.
* They are holding a presentation on Canada pension and old Age Security on Tuesday January 11th, 2022 at 10:00am and January 17th, 2022 at 2:00pm.
* New this year, Every year the rate for employment insurance insurable earnings increases so the maximum amount that someone can get for EI also changes. The new amount for EI this year is $638 per week which is increased from $595 in 2021.
* The employment insurance and old age security rates will change as well. Here is the link to the rate chart: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/pensions/pension/statistics/2022-quarterly-january-march.html>

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

* They used to be under the victims Services branch but there was a re-organization and they are now under the Indigenous Policy and Services.
* They help to support the families of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. They have been working since 2017.
* Janice’s area of coverage is Edmonton down to Lethbridge and area.
* The provide a whole bunch of services to the families in light of what they are going through. Janice will send information for the services they provide as well as a link to their video. to Cassandra so it can be distributed.

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

* Yesterday was the first ever urban skirt day.
* Indigenous Film Festival is planned for February 14th to the 17th. Information can be found in the Happening newsletter.
* There will be three films on February 14th, 2022
* There will be a Documentary on February 15th called “Forgotten Warriors”
* There will be a short film about adoption on February 16th
* There will be a documentary on February 17th called “Red skins, tircksters and puppy stew” a hilarious notion of the look at the stoic Indian and shines a light on the over looked area of indigenous humor and the healing power of laughter.
* They will send out a poster.
* They just had Richard Van Camp as their writer in residence and now will be starting a writing group at the end of January which she will send Cassandra the details for the writing group.

# Madeline Gormley-Lethbridge Public Library

* Wednesdays in January from 2pm to 3pm they are doing vaccination outreach clinics for first, second or booster shots.
* Madeline is leaving the Lethbridge public library and moving to Edmonton to take a position at the Edmonton public library. Her position will be posted and she will send out the listing to Cassandra to be distributed as well as posted on the LISN site.

# Marilyn Contois-Lethbridge Public Library-Indigenous Services Library Technician

* She is currently working on Indigenous Learning Circle pop up programming for the month of January like they did for December. She will send out the information to share.
* In December the did some crafts, they are still not doing in person so they did some craft kits, elk hide pouch making and beaded earrings. They did the beading class over zoom and uploaded a video to YouTube for the elk hide pouch kits.
* The January pop up will feature ribbon skirts in honor of Nation Ribbon Skirt Awareness Day that was on January 4th, 2022.
* Banf Film Festival film festival at the Yates theater on the 14th. Information is on the website: [www.lethlib.ca](http://www.lethlib.ca)

# Sara Townsend-Alberta Labor and Immigration-Indigenous Partnership Coordinator

* Writes training to employment programs for indigenous organizations both on and off reserve.
* The latest program that they funded was the Kainai Transition Centre Society to run the first medical responder program which started December 6th, 2021.
* They still have funding available so if you are an organization that does training to employment services or is interested in providing those services they do have funding available right now so you can chat with her later.

# Trish Bruised Head-Red Crow Community College

* There upgrading programs will be starting third week of January for the second semester. If you know anyone who would like to attend have them apply right away. They can apply online at [www.redcrowcollege.com](http://www.redcrowcollege.com).
* Just gearing down to get their new building up and running. Planning on having an open house in September with the dates to be determined later.
* Always looking for new students and possibly looking for new workers to fill the new building.

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

* If you know anybody looking for addictions counseling, recovery worker, help with AISH applications, set of cultural support, housing, or employment.
* She is on the Blood Reserve Tuesday for walk-ins, Wednesdays in Laverne for walk-in, and Brockett on January 13th.
* Also works right now for the sweet grass youth alliance collecting winter gear for people on the streets. If you know of anybody or are willing to donate they are looking for hand warmers and stuff. They have a lot of people come in off the streets in active use and they are not dressed very well and a lot of them are not eating very well. They try to look out for donations of high protein foods and stuff they can offer them. They are not using shelters so they just go to the clinic and then back to wherever they are using.
* Wanted to mention that Jason Eagle Speaker helps indigenous people with writing. If you know anyone who needs it they can get ahold of him on Facebook.

# Sue Oguchi-Lethbridge Public Library-Read-on

* Read-on is busy with their classes starting in February. This is the link to the classes: <http://www.lethlib.ca/sites/default/files/Read%20On%20-%20Winter%202022_0.pdf> . They will be offering 7 classes including writing, math, workplace expectations conversation type of class.
* Wants to remind people that they have a lot of tutors that are amazing at working one on one with people who want to get back into their learning pathways and they are happy to meet with new students.
* Also wanted to remind people that they have a lot of resources including low level readers, but that they also have a lot of teaching resources as well.
* If any of your organizations are hosting training, the library has a ton of resources available for the public to borrow to help with their training initiatives.

# Cassandra Chalifoux- NCSA

* 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.
* Cassandra’s father-in-law was able to secure 2 white tail hides for her during his end of the year hunt.
* 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.
* It was also mention in the chat by Echo that the shelter is in need of help to do the laundry. It costs them about $100 a day to take the blankets and stuff to the laundromat. The cost is not their concern, it is the man power because that are washing everything after each use.

# Meeting Duration

**Start Time**: 9:00am **Adjourned**: 9:44am **Duration**: 44 Minutes

# Next Meeting

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