



Facilitators: Muhi Bakini & Sumaiyyah Adam

Meeting Minutes: Sumaiyyah Adam

Present: Muhi Bakini, Sumaiyyah Adam, Robyn Garland, Manpreet Grewal, Beatrice Silver, Matthew Brown, Alicia Gill, Kanta Naik, Sabine Mendez, Jessica Levesque, Sherry Wang, Adrian Bontuyan

- 1. Land Acknowledgement (Sumaiyyah)**
- 2. Guest Speaker:** Sabine Mendez from Community and Collaboration Specialist with the City of Abbotsford
 - a. Short presentation about Advancing Equitable Community Services & Supports (Abbotsford ACCESS)
 - i. A network of local service providers and an initiative of the City of Abbotsford
 - ii. Builds on collaborative work already taking place in the city.
 - iii. Goals are to increase information dissemination and to identify areas where we can work together with NGO's, government, health care providers, educational institutions, law enforcement and businesses
 - iv. Uses the **Constellation Model of Collaborative Governance**
 - v. ACCESS has a information-sharing "Thursday Mail out" showcasing new programs program updates, grants, or funding opportunities upcoming events, workshops to share with other service providers and their clients
 - vi. There are different working groups you can join, **Food Equity & Distribution WG, Shelter & Outreach WG, Seniors Resources & Supports WG, and Cultural Connections WG**
 - vii. Really about the people at the table, people working together, and knowing who to go to when building these relationships in the WG.
 - b. Questions and Answers
 - i. How does Abbotsford connect with First Nations People?
 1. Shared concerns experienced in First Nations groups (people living in strained circumstances, social issues etc),
 - ii. Are there funding opportunities for off reserve First Nations People?
 1. There is funding coming into Canada for Immigration work, therefore how can we work collaboratively with our MP's to talk about how to support First Nations group with their services they can provide community members with – helping fund their programs to support Immigration work – expanding Indigenous practices
 - iii. How can ACCESS support, multilanguage communities, and how can international students voices also heard in these WG's?
- 3. Chambers of Commers Introduction to the Group (Jessica Levesque)**
 - a. Involved in ACCESS - looking at the task force for homelessness WG



Abbotsford Local Immigration Partnership

- b. Building connections for the business community
 - c. A lot of businesses may not have the capacity to donate money, but they may be able to provide direct services instead
 - d. Chambers helped with the Disaster Relief Fund, to help those effected by the flood.
 - e. Established a Not-for-profit committee, creating dialogue to integrate businesses with not-for-profit work.
 - f. Benefits to chamber members, Offers discounts to small entrepreneurial communities,
 - i. Helping employees who may need to give their staff health benefits.
 - ii. Opportunity to help with employee retention & to access health benefits.
 - iii. Also helping with Networking and advertising
 - g. **New Program Launching:**
 - i. Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs
 - ii. Up and coming in the community and looking for an opportunity and don't know where to start – conduit for folks who need support and want to give back.
 - h. **Events** – Lunch and Learns, Agri bus tour, Chamber travel tour going to different continents each year, member, and stakeholder round tables.
 - i. Have conversations about the Chamber is doing, and what are the issues business communities are facing.
- #### 4. Check Ins
- a. Fraser Health had a meeting with virtual care connections, and in Abbotsford it is about a year long wait time to get a Family doctor
 - i. There is a virtual health recourses that people can use to phone in
 - b. Article from the Fraser Valley Current – highlighting lack of housing in Abbotsford, shows it in relation to Mission, and Chiliwack.
 - c. The Affordable Homes waitlist has about 400 households waiting now – things to keep in mind, the stress families are experiencing.
 - d. **Example:** Helping a Cancer patient who does not speak English – tried to contact different cities to try and get her support
 - i. If you are a Cancer patient, you are fast tracked but it even the fast track is difficult
 - ii. There has been a number of Ukrainian families and new refugees who need a family doctor attachment – primary urgent care units may be able to pick it up but it is very difficult still
 - e. The School District – when refugees came in the past there was a central hub to connect them with services – however this time around refugees were located in different cities
 - i. The School District has really helped with Bus routes and trying to support them in coming to school and making sure children are getting to school.
 - f. Are there coordinators helping Refugees coming to Abbotsford?
 - i. There are different sponsorship opportunities and coordinating efforts to help refugees access resources and support.
 - ii. Federal Government is a donor to settlement services.
 - iii. Future opportunities to bridge First Nations People with existing services also.



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- g. Resource Sharing Event –
 - i. Great example of how different stakeholders and partners can come together and collaborate on different opportunities.
 - ii. How can newcomer's leverage their time access the services provided to them
 - iii. Partners brought resources in response to their needs identified in the temporary Advisory tables.
 - iv. Also would not be possible without the Interpreters who explained the information and continue to be that voice
 - v. Important to note, the wide skills and knowledge newcomers/refuges/displaced persons/international students coming with – extreme capital
 - vi. 80% of Immigration population live in Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and also Abbotsford – will delve into this once we identify more statistics.
- h. Future plans to Visit St Mary's Former Residential School
 - i. In the planning stages and are looking for consultation from our Indigenous Liaison

New Business

1. Financial Literacy Training