

Diversity Committee
Minutes of Meeting March 4th, 2009
Family & Children's Services Multi-Use Boardroom

In attendance: Anne McCoy (Chair), Anne Renaud (Vice-Chair), Lauren McCoy (Secretary), Heather Campbell, Diane Ross, Christine Denby, Tammy Ryll, Lincoln Dunn, Sharon Tibbs, Sandra Whalen, Grace Silander, Linda Plumridge, Mary-Catherine Kelly, Jim Cumming, William Perrault, Mary-Jane Allen, Gord Armstrong (via teleconference from Rainy River)

Regrets: Ashlee Grimard, Bob Mainville, Donna Kroocmo, Jack McMaster, Kathy Egan, Laura Horton, Lori Maki, Margaret Sedgewick, Nancy Daley-Fulton, Sheila McMahon, Tyrel Bruyere, Vik Nowak, Wayne Woods, Wendy Brunetta, Al McManaman, Julie Herr, Sharol Bilodeau, Christie Gushulak.

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m.

1.1 Welcome to New Partners

All committee members present introduced themselves, with a special welcome to Sandra Whalen, representing the Rainy River Future Development Corp. (RRFDC) and Bill Perrault, representing Seven Generations.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – February, 2009 Meeting

Minutes were reviewed by all in attendance. One correction to be made regarding the correct spelling of Freeda Carmody's name.

Motion made of Approve amended minutes by Mary-Catherine Kelly
Seconded by Grace Silander
Approved by all

3.0 Approval of Agenda – March, 2009 Meeting

Agenda was reviewed by all in attendance.

Motion made to accept Agenda by Linda Plumridge
Motion Seconded by Mary Catherine Kelly
Approved by all

4.0 Mission Statement

Mission statement was reviewed aloud by Grace Silander

5.0 Update to Municipality Seminars

Several invitations have been received from local Municipalities in response to our request to give presentations.

5.1 Completed Presentations

Anne McCoy gave the presentation to the chiefs of local First Nations: Manitou Rapids, Lac La Croix, Northwest Bay, Couchiching, Seine River, and Red Gut Bay on February 23rd, 2009. Tammy Ryll and Lincoln Dunn have received positive feedback from participants and there has been endorsement of our work and Tammy & Lincoln's participation representing the Chiefs Secretariat. Comments coming from participants include the encouragement of communication amongst members of the local communities.

5.2 Requests for Presentations

Several Invitations have been received to make presentations to Municipalities and various committees. A request was made by several members of the committee to view the presentation being made, as not all members have viewed the power point. Heather Campbell had included the PowerPoint presentation as an attachment of the e-mail containing the February 2009 meeting minutes for each members reference.

5.3 Sub-Committee for presentations

Anne McCoy requested volunteers to assist her in delivering the presentations to the following committees and/or municipalities.

Northwest Catholic School Board
Town of Atikokan
Township of LaVallee
Alberton
Emo
Rainy River
Chapple

The following members volunteered to form a sub-committee to assist Anne in delivering the presentations: Anne McCoy, Christine Denby, Linda Plumridge, Heather Cambell, Grace Silander, Anne Rinaud, Jim Cumming. Anne will convene members to further acquaint themselves with the presentation, decide individual responsibilities and make adjustments as necessary to the presentation.

6.0 Website

Linda Plumridge reported the website www.celebratingdiversity.ca is currently up and running. Anne McCoy has revised the presentation to include the website address. A suggestion was made to have the ability of adding local community diversity-based events to the website, as well as a link to the Respect campaign from Confederation College. Linda also mentioned that pictures that showcase unity within the community may e-mailed to her at lplumridge@fortfrances.com to be added to the website.

As well, the PowerPoint presentation itself, as well as completed community presentations, additional partners represented on the committee, workshops offered by the RRFDC were all suggestions made to add to the content of the website.

7.0 Committee Norms

7.1 Update regarding the Committee Norms

Mary-Jane Allen reported that she only received 7 responses regarding the vote on committee Norms. There were only 7 out of 25 possible choices that received more than one vote, but upon review by the committee, there are several choices that are similar, and the list will be condensed by Mary-Jane. Lauren McCoy will distribute the list to committee members via e-mail once she receives the revised list from Mary-Jane.

7.2 Brainstorming

Due to time constraints, this was put off to a future meeting

7.3 Educational Opportunities

Anne McCoy has brought up the idea of bringing in a guest speaker or another type of motivation to renew our enthusiasm for promoting Diversity. Several suggestions were made, including sensitivity training, as well as a performer or motivational speaker. No formal plans were made at this time, will be discussed further at a future date.

8.0 Miscellaneous

Heather Campbell reports that the Respect campaign is currently being revised for release in the local high schools, with future plans for further revision geared towards the elementary schools.

Sandra Whalen reports that the RRFDC has videoconferencing and boardroom facilities that can be accessed for learning opportunities.

9.0 Next Meeting – April 1st, 2009. 12:00 p.m. EST Family and Children's Services Multi-Purpose Boardroom/Videoconferencing to be made available for Rainy River and Atikokan committee members.

