

Diversity Committee Minutes – May 6th, 2009

Present: Anne Renaud, Sandra Whalen, Linda Plumridge, Kathy Mueller, Vik Nowak, Jim Cumming, Paul Pirie, Shannon King, Nancy Daley, Christina Hahkala, Lincoln Dunn, Grace Silander, Heather Campbell, Sharon Tibbs, Anne McCoy

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Welcome to Right Relations member, Paul Pirie.

Right Relations is a social/networking group focused on improving relationships between groups. Its membership has cross-cultural representation. There are 100 members on the mailing list. Paul indicated that this group is willing to assist the Diversity Committee. Since January 21st, Paul has been contracted to run NCDS Roundtable Project, “The Gathering.” This event was the first in the district with all 10 bands and the Métis Association speaking to the issue of child poverty and what to do as a community to address this issue. With approximately 15 regularly attending members, the group meets every 6 weeks to look at the top 15 identified barriers and what solutions can be implemented. The Right Relations group is diverse, having members of aboriginal, non-aboriginal, Métis status.

Language Hurts presentation to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of April Meeting – moved by Anne R, and seconded by Grace S.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

4.0 Mission Statement - "Working together to create communities that celebrate diversity by actively practicing and promoting dignity, respect and inclusiveness."

5.0 Committee Norms - Tabled until next meeting

6.0 Diversity Committee Continual Education

6.1 Update from Anne Renaud re: Jim Lees Workshop

The workshop is scheduled for June 19th at Confederation College. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., there will be an introduction and determination of each participant’s colour spectrum as well as team building activities. During this time period, the similarities and differences between colours will be established. From 1 to 3 p.m., committee members will be in mixed colour groupings. The training will end at 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Approximately 25 to 30 people can take part in the training. Participants are to confirm their attendance with Anne Renaud by June 12th. Heather will provide a letter outlining the agenda and the focus for the day for those who require some information to share with employers in order to participate.

7.0 Presentation by Anne McCoy - "Building Assets"

Anne shared information on a presentation that she recently viewed regarding building assets within youth in communities. As a committee we can intentionally build assets by providing supports, opportunities, and training for community members. Anne will look into sharing the information, including the questionnaire about assets.

9.0 Other – Miscellaneous

Grace shared the work of the Safety Coalition on building awareness on Elder Abuse.

Heather and Christina shared the idea of updating the community contact resource booklet. Heather is to contact Becky Holden from the NWHU who is also involved in compiling information on community resource contacts.

10.0 Next Meeting – June 3rd, 2009 at 12 p.m. in the FACS Boardroom. Lunch will be provided.

11.0 Adjourn at 1:03 p.m.