

# NWCPRC

**Date:** Thursday, April 15, 2021

**Time:** 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

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**Attendees:** John Stark (City of New Westminster), Tristan Johnson (City of New Westminster), Lisa Paterson (BC Government Ministry of Child and Family Development), Indiana Vatikiotis (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver), Shannon Patrick (BC Government Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Jennifer Lee (Union Gospel Mission), Elliot Rossiter (Douglas College), Sandra Mora (Quest Food Exchange), Betina Wheeler (New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society), Tania Ivancic (BC Government Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction), Murray Baker (Family Services of Greater Vancouver)

**Regrets:** Christopher Koth (New Westminster Public Library), Patricia Steiner (Family Services of Greater Vancouver)

## Agenda/Meeting Notes

ITEM	TIME	PRESENTER	DECISIONS/ACTIONS/COMMENTS
1. Introductions/regrets	5 mins	John Stark/All	Everyone introduced themselves.
2. Community Action Network (CAN)	5 mins	John Stark	<p>John provided some background on CAN, how it started and its purpose. John provided information on the next steps for the 8 program graduates and how to get them involved in city processes and consultation. New Westminster City Council has endorsed a plan for how to engage the CAN graduates in city processes and consultation, including how CAN graduates can be subject matter experts in consultation processes working with city staff. There is a plan to create a leadership training for next year for new CAN members with help from existing CAN graduates. There are also plans to create learning circles with CAN graduates to provide insight into various city issues such as homelessness. CAN graduates will also train city staff on how to engage people with lived experience of poverty, homelessness and other challenges.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Tristan to share the council report on the CAN Network with Community Poverty Reduction Committee members.</p>

<b>3. Arts Empowerment Project</b>	5 mins	John Stark	<p>John provided some background on the Arts Empowerment project, which received funding from the Provincial Government, as well as current plans for this project to move forward (it was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic). Tristan and John are working on the request for proposal to bring in an arts coordinator and artist mentors to assist with this project. This project should launch in Summer 2021, with the exhibits of work hopefully coinciding with the Homelessness Action Week and World Food Day in October 2021. There will be a partnership with Douglas College to assist people with the technology involved. The information gathered through this project will be used to help develop a new Poverty Reduction Strategy for New Westminster.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Tristan and John to send out request for proposals to bring in an arts coordinator and an artist mentor in May 2021, with a project launch in Summer 2021.</p>
<b>4. Income Boosting Project</b>	5 mins	Lisa Paterson/ Tristan Johnson	<p>Tristan provided background about this project, its relationship to the provincial government grant that we received, the list of low-cost and free taxfiling clinics that the New Westminster Public Library produced (and were advertised through the City Page Online and the New Westminster Record), as well as the work of Family Services of Greater Vancouver's Financial Navigator.</p>
<b>5. ID Bank</b>	30 mins	Shannon Patrick	<p>Shannon discussed the idea of an ID bank, as well as where ID banks are already operating in Metro Vancouver, and how an ID bank works. Shannon also discussed how to set up an ID bank in New Westminster and staffing and other considerations, as well as barriers to getting ID. A lack of ID is especially a challenge for people experiencing homelessness. Questions were asked to Shannon, including statistics on how many people (percentage of people) in BC do not have ID – according to Tania, there are 500 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction clients who have id requests in process with another 1,700 Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction clients waiting to have id requests processed.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Shannon to contact UBC Law Department to present at a Community Poverty Reduction Committee lunch and learn on the ID Bank and also at a meeting of the At-Risk and Vulnerable Population/Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Task Force (Tristan to connect Shannon with Anur Mehdic at the City of New Westminster regarding a presentation at the Task Force). John and Tristan to look into Reaching Home Funding for an ID Bank.</p>
<b>6. 2021-2022 Short-term action plan</b>	15 mins	Lisa Paterson	<p>We received feedback from members on the 2021-2022 short-term action plan and will integrate that information into our short-term action plan. There have been some additions to the Short-Term Action Plan since it was last updated in January 2021, including Elliot's potential future project on public conversations on economic insecurity and possible connections with the Community Action Network program. Discussion ensued including the need to include referencing the Food Security Action Plan, which will be added to the updates short-term action plan. Lisa has developed a project outline with New Westminster Family Place to support work with children and families to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.</p>

			<p><b>Actions:</b> John to connect Viveca Ellis (BC Poverty Reduction Coalition) with Elliot regarding involvement of CAN graduates in Elliot's public conversations on economic insecurity project. John to incorporate ID Bank idea into the 2021-2022 short-term action plan.</p>
<b>7. Tamarack Conference</b>	5 mins	Lisa Paterson	<p>Lisa spoke about the Tamarack Conference – End of Poverty Summit (May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>) – Lisa, Murray Indiana, Tristan and Elliot will attend the conference. Tristan spoke about his session where he will be a panellist on the living wage at the Tamarack Conference.</p>
<b>8. Strengthening Communities Grant</b>	5 mins	John Stark	<p>John described the Strengthening Communities Grant application that the City of New Westminster is making to assist non-profit organizations in New Westminster regarding assisting unsheltered homeless people, including which organizations may receive funding.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> John to send out the council report on the Strengthening Communities application to the New Westminster Community Poverty Reduction Committee members.</p>
<b>9. Other business/next meeting</b>	10 mins	John Stark/All	<p>Betina mentioned Burnaby Public Library's mobile COVID-19 vaccine registration team to help people in different community service locations register for vaccine appointments. In New Westminster, Betina will be attending the St.Aidan's Food Hub on the next two Saturdays (April 17<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>) to help people register for COVID-19 vaccines appointments. John updated the committee members on the new health care contact centre at the Lower Mainland Purpose Society, in relation to drug toxicity death prevention. John also mentioned the New Westminster Hospice Society doing advanced care planning for people experiencing homelessness. John also mentioned the Urban Indigenous Away from Home training program at the Spirit of the Children Society.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Betina to follow up with Christopher at the New Westminster Public Library to find out if the New Westminster Public Library is working on anything similar to what is being done with the Burnaby Public Library.</p>