

Chair report up to & including Wednesday May 1/19

This report is presented to keep the Board apprised of my activities as Chair over the past few weeks. If there are any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, or bring them up during the Board receipt of this document.

- On April 15/19 I took part in a Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT) conference call, as the CRD representative on this Board. The NMPT concentrates on providing financial assistance to medical & nursing students in the North, in the hope that those trained in the North, will stay and practice in the North. There are also funds provided to encourage students to consider enrolling in a medical or nursing program in the North. The main discussion centered around the Disbursement recommendations for 2019/20. The CRD contributes \$30,000.00 per annum to this function, and the NMPT Board decided to continue funding in the following areas:
- **Rural Medical Grants** which allow medical students to partake in shadowing programs in their early training, Continuing to fund Remote annual Clinical experiences for medical students as well as Nurse practitioners, Supporting 3rd year medical students who commit to a full year in an integrated clerkship in Terrace or Fort St. John, Continuing to support 4th year medical students in course electives in northern/rural communities outside of Prince George, and finally in this category, continue to develop the UNBC Pathways to Medicine Program which will support northern & rural pre-medicine undergraduate program to encourage & strengthen their application to medical school.
- **Undergraduate Rural Nursing Grants** will continue to provide additional awards to rural undergraduate Nursing students, and to provide travel support for students of the rural Nurse Certificate program who may not be otherwise funded through a health authority.
- **Graduate Rural Nursing Grants** – this will continue support for Family nurse Practitioner (FNP) students who pursue northern & rural clinical placements outside of Northern Health's (NH) region when not enough positions are available. Funding will also continue for the FNP award that is available to FNP students who accept a nursing position with NH and the NCLGA region.
- **Community Engagement.** Funding will continue for the highly successful Healthcare travelling roadshow, which exposes mainly Grade 11 students to

a hands on session with a wide variety of healthcare students. Funding will also continue for a half time administrative position to support engagement between UNBC and NMPT communities.

- **NMPT Operations** – this continued funding will allow costs for various NMPT meetings such as the one that occurs annually at the NCLGA convention. Any unspent funding for existing initiatives will continue to be redirected by the NMPT disbursement sub-committee. Any such reallocation would be reported to the NMPT Directors for information.
- **In summary** the total disbursement for 2019/20 is \$359,100.00, the total available is \$325,000.00 for a shortfall of \$34,100.00, with a recommendation to use \$50,000.00 of unspent funds from the 2018/19 allocation to fund the anticipated shortfall.
- The second conference call with the UBCM Fire & Flood advisory committee was held on April 16, with ADM Dave Peterson on the call in his new roll as ADM for EMBC. The conversation continued on improving working relationships with First Nations around evacuation orders & alerts. The Provincial Govt is working on an interim recovery document, as reworking the way the Province responds to these mammoth natural disasters is a lengthy legislative process to update the current legislation. We also had an update regarding the expected weather patterns, along with information that the overall snow pack was at 79% of normal this winter, and although the rivers were high early due to the early melt, extensive flooding was not expected this year from the snow melt, but could occur from heavy prolonged rain. The group that sits on this committee also agreed to an inperson meeting before UBCM in September, which will include representatives from FLNROD & BCWFS.
- On April 17/19 it was my privilege to attend the official announcement from Premier Horgan and Minister Dix regarding the expansion of the GR Baker ER & ICU. Shovels are expected to be in the ground by fall, with an estimated cost of \$31M. Since then we have all heard that the proposed reconfiguration of CMH has moved on to Treasury, and I was able to give a

plug for its success during my conversation with both the Premier & Minister, as I know CCRHD Chair Simpson would have done the same.

- On April 23/19 I attended the West Fraser AGM in Quesnel along with Directors Bachmeier & Sjostrom. It was a stark realization of the tough times the lumber industry is currently experiencing, with not a lot of improvement on the horizon.
- Following that meeting I headed up to Prince George for the NDIT Board supper with guests from 3 bio-economy areas, which led to an interesting conversation around the dinner table. CEO McKay started inviting guests to the pre-Board supper, and it has provided some thoughtful discussion over the past year. On Wednesday April 24, the NDIT Board bid farewell to Directors Hoffman and Wesley, as their Govt. appointee terms are up, and the NDP Govt. have decided not to renew their appointments. CEO McKay will be offering some replacement names to the Govt. to replace these outgoing Directors. The Board had a presentation from Val Litwin, President & CEO of the BC Chambers, with the hope of working together with NDIT to continue to promote and encourage business and diversity in the north. The Auditors presented their annual findings, with issues identified. After a shaky last quarter financially, with earning on investments down considerably, the Trust has rebounded nicely in the first quarter of 2019. Following the regular Board meeting, the AGM was held, and it was my honour to be acclaimed as the Chair of NDIT for the upcoming year.
- On Friday April 26 I was 'arrested' in Save-On foods in 100 mile as part of the Jail & Bail fundraiser for the Safe Grad committee of Peter Skene Ogden school. I had the 'pleasure?' of serving some of my time with Mayor Campsall, and together we raised around \$1000, with the grand total from the day of arrests being \$6000 +.
- The regular meeting of the Barkerville Board of directors was held in 100 Mile House on Saturday April 27, and along with Mayor Campsall, Directors

Richmond & Forseth and myself we enjoyed a networking lunch along with Director Massier who is a member of the Barkerville Board.

- On April 30, CAO MacLean and I had a phone conversation with Minister Robinson and her staff, over several issues of concern including the verbiage of the NStQ addition to Treaty lands, the plan from the Office of the fire Commissioner to make Regional Districts responsible for inspections & investigations under the Fire Services Act, how to facilitate a regional Broadband service when we were under the impression that we would provide the capital funding through a service, not own the service and finally issues surrounding the expectation by the Province to take over items like Labour Market Studies, FireSmart and fuel management on Crown land and Recreational tenures.

- On May 1st I was able to take part in the annual business walk in 100 Mile House, along with several other volunteers including Mayor Campsall and 2 of his Councillors. It was an interesting morning, as I visited businesses I had never had any contact with. Overall most businesses reported that their business was growing, and the biggest challenge identified was a lack of housing and staff retention. My day wrapped up with an informal meeting with the 2 ladies spearheading the new Cariboo Aquatic Society. These ladies make the energizer bunny look old and tired, it is refreshing to see how dedicated they are to do everything in their power to improve recreation in the S. Cariboo.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo A. Wagner