

**Vibrant Revelstoke – Affordability for All**  
**Minutes of the Leadership Roundtable (LRT) Meeting**  
Held on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, commencing at 8:30 am  
Via Zoom Meetings

PRESENT:

Name	Role/Action Team
Mayor Gary Sulz	Chair
Stephanie Melnyk	Co-Chair, Income & Employment
Alison Homer	Manager of Western Cities, Tamarack, CRP
Jill Zacharias	'Backbone' support & logistics, Communication Measurement, Shelter, Transit & Transportation
Melissa Hemphill	Food Insecurity
Lisa Cyr	Communications, Listening, Measurement
Jamie Hobgood	Listening
Tracy Spannier	Early Childhood Development & Child Care
Connie Brothers	Transit & Transportation
Adrian Giacca	Shelter
Koreen Morrone	Education & Literacy
Lucie Bergeron	Member at large, ORL
Sara Sansom	Member at large, Business

**1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

Chair Gary Sulz called the meeting to order with an acknowledgement of traditional territories at 8:35 am - roundtable format for today's meeting, given the pandemic and resulting societal changes.

**2. General updates**

*Jill* – Has been checking in with the social sector to assess community needs; contacted by BC Housing which is mandated to provide temporary housing in hotel/motel units for women's shelter overflow, homeless, and front line health care workers who are unable to isolate at home, connected them with key reps in these areas. Both RCMP and Women's Shelter confirm no additional reports of domestic violence to date. Updating revelstokelife.ca website regularly with adapted service delivery and relevant information. Concerned that many more people will be entering poverty.

*Lisa* – Women's Shelter working with BC Housing to secure hotel units on standby if needed; put together a team of volunteers & created system for grocery, mail & food bank deliveries, Hospice phone tree for isolated residents; referral system in place for emotional support – open to anyone who might need the service, no just seniors. Will ensure messaging is same.

*Jamie* – Listening team met yesterday – a good meeting despite short notice; next steps – Michelle is keen to take advantage of the situation to collect affordability stories with so many experiencing affordability issues now. Wants to put a flyer in PO boxes, but might be cost prohibitive. Figuring out ways to get the word out.

*Nicole* – Spending time on different social platforms, exploring placespeak (free) – opportunity



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for healthy conversation. Challenging when there is only partial participation, but now that everyone is digitalized, better opportunity. Has been attending RAA meetings – will be interesting to see the impact on tourism and approach going forward. Province of Alberta looking to close BC /Alberta border trying to keep people home.

*Tracy* – Most Early Years programs shut down March 13 – no opportunity to get families together at all. Child Care Society / Resource and Referral has been working hard over past couple of weeks providing support for child care centres that have closed as well as those who've stayed open. Child Care services reserved for Tier One and Tier Two essential service workers. Lots of pressure in particular for school-aged care. Some spaces in the community still for children under 5. Lots of rules and regulations on how to operate in this time. Cleaning, keeping numbers low, etc. Seems to be working well – took a lot of meetings and communication to get things rolling. Anyone who needs child care is encouraged to reach out via email [revccrr@live.ca](mailto:revccrr@live.ca). Trying to support families with information, resources, activity ideas, online contact to ensure people aren't isolated. Partnering with CBAL to do weekly 'Mother Goose' via zoom – 26 families participated in the first one. Still a need for connection.

*Koreen* – Complete shift of programming, coming up with ways to do that – Mother Goose went well.

*Melissa* – Food security is a very high priority. More & more people becoming food insecure. Combining food recovery and food bank program in the back alley of Community Connections. Lots of great protocols in place. Still getting recovered food. Normally have 20 to 40 people on food recovery days, now 90 to 100. Anybody can come any day between 11 am & 12 noon. While registration protocols have been relaxed, still trying to track who is coming and (importantly) who is NOT coming. Extra money for food banks just starting to roll in. Local donations have been generous. Looking to create a poster with cues on how to identify if you are food insecure. Breakfast program can't run in schools, so working with School District to explore alternatives. Teachers are connecting with families and identify who is vulnerable. LFI channeling extra money to do gardening programs online so they don't miss out on Little Sprouts. Farmer's market – essential service – looking forward to figure this out – need to get everything online so pre-order & pick up. Important to keep it going. Connecting with farmers & chefs & food retailers – connecting with supply chains / still coming but getting shorted. LFI had to cancel school programming. But still community garden, education, etc. – huge interest in growing local food – trying to support and stimulate that. Downtown garden – open to public. Lots of new faces. Looking to create a community farm to produce significant quantities of food.

- Gary – Laurie D. person to speak with. Public works infrastructure is very different from City of Victoria. At this point the Food Bank has enough food so far. E.g. trying to buy more dairy and protein-based food. Is food part of City EOC plan?
- Adrian – noted he has plethora of permaculture resources and can help out

*Adrian* – Have not had a Shelter meeting. Will try and connect with BC housing re: results of initial engagement process.



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*Stephanie* – income and employment action team hasn't met; victim services scaled down, plus criminal court has been canceled.

*Lucie* – trying to promote online resources and seeing good uptake of this service; Auxiliary staff, pages all laid off. People still getting library cards online, figuring out technology. Online story times (via Facebook live) have been great with good participation. Plan at the library where we want to create an outdoor patio space with place for small permaculture project (Adrian volunteered to help out). Noted loss of free, indoor public space that has wifi.

*Connie* – BC Transit has implemented some changes to the current transit system based on things identified a couple of years ago. They have developed a survey of people who would use the bus and was looking for assistance to go out to specific target groups. Then it got stalled. We were going to help push it out. Would like to reach out to Ingrid to at least talk about how to push it out – opportunity. Jill noted that both transit & handydart are currently free.

*Sara* – actively questioning career choices – trying to stay positive. Business community needs to survive. Emotional stress on everyone is way above what was expected. Very important to support each other. Right now, all held captive by Provincial Health Officer – trying to plan moving forward is difficult. Know lots of business people who are falling between the cracks. CBT & Community Futures / Chamber / helping people to apply for supports. Chamber is hosting regular updates. Glad to be in Revelstoke. Thank you to Gary - great leadership style. Industry groups also trying to meet that need (helping people access supports).

- Kimberly Rees from Min. of SD & PR able to help individuals accessing supports as well as Erin at Community Connections
- Revelstokelife.ca

*Alison* – Anytime we need to set up a platform, happy to help; can keep income & empl. Action team apprised on basic income conversation.

*Gary* – noted no new COVID cases in Revy, but hospital staff have been practicing for more; noted that all related resolutions put forward were supported at UBCM – food security & basic income – general tone very positive in response from gov't. Providing a Mayoral video message once/week + written component – please send anything that you want to push out and he will include it. Trying to keep community calm. Communicating with physicians. Big focus on last week was not to neglect our own health. Doctors encouraging people to still get blood work, attend MD appointments, can have babies here etc. People have been a little fearful to go to the doctor, but it's a safe place. Lots of pressure to give out stats, but IH not sharing.

- Lisa – concerned with capacity of news sources
- Stigma - CC trying to get positive messaging out there – if you come to the food bank, maybe your friends will come too – may be an opportunity to vastly de-stigmatize poverty. Note that food bank/ food recovery needs money right now, not food donations. Maybe hook in de-stigmatization messaging with positive stories listening team.
- Jill noted that both schools & Community Connections – working on getting people online; Telus free internet – for people who are already part of the program.



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3. **Next Meeting Date** – THURSDAY May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in Macpherson.
4. **Adjournment** – 10:05 am

