

**Collective Impact – Vibrant Revelstoke – Affordability for All
Community Aspiration Workshop**

Monday Feb 3, 2020 - 10:00 am – 1 pm
Macpherson Room, Revelstoke Community Centre

Attendees: David Cooke, Lisa Cyr, Jill Zacharias, Nico Leenders, Laura Berarducci, Koreen Morrone, Sheena Bell, Tracy Spannier, Adrian Giacca, Melissa Hemphill, Connie Brothers, Nicole Cherlet, Michelle Cole, Sara Sansom, Stephanie Melnyk, Angie McLeod, Noelle Bovon, Mary Kline, Alison Homer (facilitator)

10-10:25am Share responses from Pre-Work

Key words inputted into polleverywhere.com to generate word cloud in response to the question 'What words are coming up in Action Team discussions?'

10:25-10:30am Welcome and Introductions

10:30-10:50am Unsettling Ourselves – presented by Sheena Bell

Sheena spoke about the need to both be comfortable and uncomfortable when doing work on behalf of others. She presented the idea that when we don't have what we need, then affordability becomes a commodity. Social injustice is an unequal distribution of resources. She challenged us to construct a valuable aspiration that will benefit the 'other' before it benefits the 'self'. She asked us to consider who is benefiting when we examine a process or system and wonders "on whose backs" are many marketing claims being built. General discussion followed.

10:40-11am Reflections on ideas presented so far

The marketing sign at Mackenzie Village was discussed. The tag line "Come for the adventure, stay for the community" begs us to ask who is selling our community and at what cost. It was observed that, unless we are of Sinixt descent, we all came for the adventure. The idea of decolonization was discussed specifically around examining systems that are in place and who they benefit. It was stated that we are not doing things to others, we are doing them to ourselves as we are all connected.

11-11:15 Word Cloud reveal and discussion

We looked at the existing word cloud then were asked to re-input one word that resonated for us. Top answers (shown in larger font) were: ***inclusion, belonging, sustainable, connection, community and barriers***. Other interesting answers were: ***NIMBYism, overwhelming, safety and equal***

11:15-12:15pm Identifying Themes & Discussion

Using chart paper on the walls, overarching themes were identified then grouped with words from the word cloud. In the subsequent discussion a number of themes emerged, including:

Belonging – What makes us feel at home? Why don't we feel at home? The setup of 'us' and 'them'. What measure is used for 'local' (# years lived here, being born here, not skiing, not connected)?

Human Constructs – The idea that time, money and poverty are all made up systems was identified. It was observed that affordability is not a scarcity issue but rather a distribution issue.



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Spectrum – Between ‘Have’ (implies safety & privilege) and ‘Need’ (implies struggle & vulnerability) – the work lies in between – all about inclusion, connection, culture, accessibility, trust.

Culture – Safety, visibility, belonging, education (e.g. including Indigenous & multicultural), humanity/acceptance, non-judgemental approaches, access to outdoor lifestyle and connection to community, sense of belonging, sense of community, trust, inclusion, sharing, neighbours, home, balance...vs. being divided, NIMBYism

Made in Revelstoke Solutions – We discussed how we like to be different and unique. Maybe we just have a difficult teenager syndrome and we could actually replicate success from other communities.

Fear – Fear will always create obstacles. It is always present. It often stems from (perceived) threats.

Responsibility – Justice, representation, accountability, privilege, awareness, NIMBYism, discomfort (uncomfortable), contribution

Inclusion – Connection, belonging, accessible, barriers, trust, representation, opportunity, gentrification, sharing, support, communication

12:15-1pm

Discussion of phrases around change

Answers to the question ‘What would you like to see change?’ were phrased as potential Community Aspirations. They included:

- We live in abundance – it can be shared / Shared Abundance
- Build trust to lead to inclusion and connection
- Practice kindness
- A place to belong, to thrive and actively engage in civic life
- A place where everyone has enough (Calgary poverty reduction efforts use “Enough for all”) – most *****
- Integrated affordability
- Thriving vs. surviving
- You belong here (Sotheby’s tagline from first year of RMR)
- A community where all children thrive
- A society that works for everybody across generations
- Take (ask for) what you need, give what you can and always be grateful
- Everyone is a local
- A place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive
- We can support each other

Other concepts that arose from this exercise were that everyone can contribute to something bigger, that sharing is key and the question: What is the Revelstoke dream? (as opposed to the American Dream). Also important was the consult of sustainability and limits to growth /consumption.



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1-1:15pm Closing comments

At the end of the discussion, we did a round table for everyone to highlight something from the workshop. Many people mentioned that 'Enough for all' and 'You belong here' were simple statements that can be broadly applied as we would hope for a Community Aspiration. There are also concerns with these statements since they would need defining, they could be used in a negative way, the word 'enough' is loaded (since the tone of modern consumerism is that we can never have "enough") and the word belong can exclude people (depending on who is using it). There was the observation that all words can have a dark side and therefore language is very important. There is the possibility that landing on a Community Aspiration might be artificial and backfire on us.

Important takeaways/ concepts:

- Promoting access / decreasing barriers to
- Centering on where vulnerability exists and how we can support – from children to seniors
- Enough for all; you belong here (subtext / definition – what is enough? You belong here is individualistic)
- Fear will always create obstacles
- Phrases that make us think
- Statement needs to reflect abundance and inclusion
- Take only what you need
- How do we frame responsibility?
- There is support & will in the community – turn it into something tangible

It was decided for each participant to take away their top statements to test and challenge at the various Action Team tables (and in their work and personal lives). We will discuss the idea of a Community Aspiration further at the next LRT.

