

Chair Report: SPAN AGM 2013

SPAN was co-chaired this past year by Cheryl Dowden and me (Phyllis Nash). We were able to employ a coordinator for 5 hours per week over the entire year. Katie Tabor filled this role until June 2013 and Kate Knot has continued to fill this role. We were fortunate to be able to operate out of Nelson CARES who provided some office space and support to the coordinators. Nelson CARES also managed our financial resources. The result has been the continued development of a credible social planning council in Nelson.

Accomplishments Nov. 2012 – Nov. 2013:

- Regular meetings of a small but committed core of SPAN members
- Continued commitment to a project that investigates Poverty Reduction that resulted in receiving a small Community initiatives grant to begin to create a poverty reduction strategy for Nelson.
- Received an extension of a small grant (for a capacity building) from CBT that enable the continued employment of a Coordinator for 5 hours per week and hired Kate Knot for this position
- Received a Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC Grant to enable a workshop on poverty reduction in Nelson with the goal of engaging the larger community in commitment to poverty reduction..
- Carried out a successful Reverse Candidates forum in partnership with Nelson Library on May 2, 2013 prior to the Provincial Election.
- Katie Tabor continued to represent SPAN on the Land Use Advisory Committee of the City of Nelson
- Working on a BC Lottery Grant Application to extend the coordination of the Social Sector in Nelson.
- Increased the membership of SPAN
- Met with City Council Committee of the Whole
- Carried out Ideas to Action project that included a survey of 150 local community members and work with local media
- Carried out research on living wage and poverty issues in Nelson

Challenges for the coming year

- Adequate leadership and participation to continue the important work of SPAN
- Finding the resources to maintain and expand the Coordinator position
- Completing a Social Development Plan for Nelson
- Gaining community support for poverty reduction
- Continuing to develop our relationship with the Municipal Government
- Updating strategic plan

I wish to express my appreciation for the support and significant contributions to SPAN of Cheryl Dowden, Co-chair; Rona Park, CBT; Jenny Robinson, Nelson CARES; Lynn Adams, Health Coop; Robin Cherbo, City Council; Bob Adams; City Council, Chris Ingles, Treasurer and Katie Tabor and Kate Nott; Coordinators SPAN.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Co-chairs

Phyllis Nash