



2016 Annual General Meeting October 3, 2016

CHAIR'S REPORT

It seems a bit unusual to be holding two AGM's in one calendar year; however, SPAN is working to now align its annual general meetings with its fiscal year-end of March 31st. From here forward, it is our intention to hold AGM's within six months of our fiscal year-end.

Since our last AGM was held on January 7, 2016 this report will cover SPAN's activities and accomplishments from January 7 to September 30, 2016:

- ❖ Early in the year SPAN began thinking about the need to update its Strategic Plan (last one was completed in June 2011). SPAN members continued to have discussions around finding an appropriate, meaningful, and sustainable role for itself within the community. SPAN has long imagined a closer relationship with local government in its pursuit of nurturing community health and well-being, on all levels. Community social planning councils around the province and country, like SPAN, often play the role of monitoring community well-being. These discussions led to the idea of planning a Community Forum along with our 2016 AGM as a way of soliciting input from a broad sectoral stakeholder group as to how, as a community, we might best go about monitoring our community's health and well-being. It was decided to invite Mayor Lisa Helps from Victoria to speak to our community about the successful innovative strategies her government is undertaking to engage all sectors of their community in dialogue and planning and in ensuring that a 'well-being' lens is placed over all municipal decisions. SPAN will take all the learnings and community input into its upcoming strategic planning session.
- ❖ SPAN has continued to pursue funding opportunities to conduct a Volunteer Hub feasibility study. We were successful in getting a grant from Osprey Foundation for \$3,900 and we hope to find additional funds to augment this and get this work underway.
- ❖ The SPAN Board approved working in partnership with the City of Nelson to sponsor a Plan H grant to hire a consultant to assist the Downtown Nelson Street Culture Collaborative with implementation of its various initiatives. This work will take place through to December 31, 2016.
- ❖ The "Nelson at its Best" poverty reduction project which was initiated by SPAN in late 2014 continues to work on its Year Two objectives. Under the expert focus and support of its project manager, Val Warmington, the project has now completed a significant review of local demographics and trends related to poverty. We have learned that 19% (nearly 1 in 5) people in Nelson live at or below the poverty line. That statistic, along with others, led the Steering Committee to identify and focus on areas of most need – in particular child poverty, youth transitioning to adulthood and how prepared they are, and sustainable livelihoods and employment pressures. Many exciting strategies are being planned to tackle poverty from these perspectives in our community. From other successful poverty projects across the country, we learned about the value of having those with lived experience of poverty speaking publicly

about their experience. You will be seeing and hearing more about this impactful approach in the coming year. And finally, "Nelson at its Best" is focusing on its own sustainability, as this work is a multi-year endeavour. We plan to work with the City of Nelson, and others, to explore how the work of "Nelson at its Best" can potentially be incorporated into the city's overall economic development work, as poverty reduction sits neatly on that same continuum in all healthy communities. SPAN is very pleased with the developments to date of the "Nelson at its Best" project.

As Chair, I have continued to enjoy our members' very rich discussions about promising/best practices that center around community health and well-being. Aside from the specific activities noted above, every month SPAN members share information and stories about the multitude of initiatives and events taking place in our community that focus on improving the lives of all who live here in small and large ways. It is a remarkable community that way! We invite more of you to join us in this community building effort.

While the limited capacity and resources of SPAN continue to be its perennial challenge, we are committed to continuing to collaborate with local government and other sectors of our community to ensure that this community's social, health, economic, educational and environmental well-being is continually being improved.

And finally, I wish to thank the members of the SPAN Board for their dedication to community social planning and to the broader membership for continuing to support the work of SPAN. I look forward to the year ahead!

Respectfully submitted,
Rona Park
Board Chair