



Origins and History of SPAN

January 2006 to April 2010

In late 2005, Nelson Committee on Homelessness (NCOH) began to promote the concept of a Social Planning Council for Nelson. The concern was that NCOH was beginning to take on some of the functions of a Social Planning Council and that broader community participation was imperative to address the social environment of Nelson.

Date	Activities
JANUARY 2006	<p>A meeting of approximately 50 people was held to attend an event facilitated by Michelle Mungall titled <u><i>Social Planning 101</i></u>. There were a number of outcomes to this meeting including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of the value of a Social Planning Council to Nelson • A list of strategies for moving forward • Identification of next steps • Identification of a sub-committee to carry out these next steps <p>First meeting of the sub-committee was held January 27th. Abra Brynne and Mike Stolte, CEIL, offered to complete a Community Matrix in part to determine the readiness of Nelson for a Social Planning Council. The questionnaire was completed by participants at the March 3rd meeting. It was also agreed to meet monthly, arrange a SPARC BC workshop, a commitment to two community meetings per year and a commitment to develop terms of reference. The Matrix was presented in May of 2006.</p>
SEPTEMBER 2006	<p>A community workshop <u><i>Social Planning 101 - the Sequel</i></u> was facilitated by Fiona Glass. A lunch for 60 participants was funded by the Credit Union. Four themes were identified to focus the work of the Social Planning Council. Affordable Housing, Child-Care, Access to Health Care and Food Security/Poverty were seen as the priorities, and small groups identified strategies to support the work of local services in the community.</p>
NOVEMBER 2006	<p>The Sub-committee held a workshop <u><i>Shared Insight, Shared Action: Strengthening Partnerships for Social Planning</i></u> funded by Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC. Participation was lower than expected with 22 community participants and 10 federal government employees. It was facilitated by a representative, Scott Graham, from SPARC BC.</p> <p>Later in November the sub-committee met and made the following decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To name the group The Social Planning Advisory Network of Nelson or SPAN • To hold a logo contest • Follow SPARC BC recommendation to carry out stage 2 in their <u><i>Guidebook for Social Planning</i></u>. This includes development of a policy document, draft a constitution and bylaws, develop an organizational structure, develop a protocol for meetings, a communication strategy and seek appropriate funding sources.

Date	Activities
DECEMBER 2006	The name was changed to Social Planning Action Network.
JANUARY 2007	Draft Constitution, By-laws and Terms of Reference were circulated. It was at this point that SPAN began to struggle with its identity and direction. It was also confirmed that SPAN would receive the UBCM grant to carry out a Community Mapping Project.
FEBRUARY 2007	SPAN hosted a Child Care Funding Cuts Forum at the Hume Hotel. It was well-attended with over 150 participants. Both the mayor and the MLA participated with 10 other presenters. Began work with GOGA (Get Out and Get Active) to promote a community event that included bringing Silkin Lauman to the community to promote the Power of Play. SPAN was a presence rather than a leader on this project. The project happened in May 2008. SPAN logo was adopted.
JUNE 2007 – NOVEMBER 2007	Community Mapping Project carried out by Derek Murphy (some of the activities were extended into January 2008).
OCTOBER 2007	Community Workshop <i>Social Needs in Nelson and Area: Taking Strategic Action</i> facilitated by Derek Murphy. 60 people in attendance representing community, city government and regional government. Outcomes included background for the Community Mapping Project and a clear schism between those who wanted SPAN to take action and those who saw SPAN as a planning organism. Six strategic gaps on social issues were identified: lack of strategic thinking, lack of services in satellite communities, lack of family supports including childcare, lack of affordable housing, capacity to move beyond core emergency services for vulnerable individuals, and services for the fragile elderly.
NOVEMBER 2007	Phyllis Nash presented a critique and recommendations to Dave Wahn for change to Nelson's Official Plan. There were changes made as a result of this presentation. Derek Murphy completed his report, <i>Nelson Community Mapping and Social Needs Analysis Project</i> .
JANUARY 2008	Community meeting to identify next steps in social planning facilitated by Derek Murphy. A discussion paper <i>Status of Affordable Housing Initiatives in Nelson and Area</i> presented by Derek Murphy to the City Council.
MAY 2008	Michelle Mungall prepared a paper <i>Defining SPAN: Translating Credibility into Commitment</i> was the basis of further discussion about where SPAN needed to go.
SEPTEMBER 2008	Michelle Mungall coordinated with Nicola Harwood (representing the Arts and Culture sector) to sponsor a day long workshop BOOM. It was a forum bringing together the Arts community, Selkirk College and community activists to explore growth and development in Nelson.
OCTOBER 2008	Co-sponsored Municipalities Votes discussion forum with SPARC BC leading up to municipal elections. Focus was on key social issues.

Date	Activities
NOVEMBER 2008	SPAN sponsored a community discussion on <i>Affordable housing for Nelson and Area</i> lead by Deb Kozak and Derek Murphy which led to development of Regional Housing Partnership Strategy Committee.
JANUARY 2009	A review of the meaning of community development in the context of collaboration of all community sectors including economic development, arts and culture, recreation, health, education, public safety, faith, social, environment, and local government.
APRIL 2009	Decision was made to formally register as a non-profit society under name of Nelson Social Planning Action Network Society. Work plan was developed that included the following goals: secure funding for a coordinator, encourage multi-sectoral membership, prepare a report card on work done since inception of SPAN, prepare a social strategic plan, celebrate the incorporation with an event, develop a SPAN newsletter.
JULY 2009	Nelson SPAN Society officially incorporated as a non-profit society.
JANUARY 2010	Work began on developing a Board of Directors and seeking of funding for coordination to carry out the work plan.
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2010	Secured funding from CBT to begin first year of community engagement and mobilization around social issues impacting the community.
APRIL 2010	You are here! Thanks for participating.

