

## **Chair Report 2019**

**In our first year under the new name, *Nelson at its Best***, the organization's identity is recognized more in community, especially around how the activities we conduct are contributing towards that common-ground outcome of making Nelson the best community it can be.

**The following is a list of our activities and accomplishments for 2019.**

**Public Engagement** With the help of CIP funds, we conducted some key events:

- Candi-dating' and Election Forum Oct 2018 kicked off our year just after our last AGM. It was very dynamic, well-attended and effective.
- Reverse election forum ...successful 75+
  - effective innovations + lessons learned set us up for next on (Prov. 2021?)
  - development of the first annual Council-Dating event (Nov. 21 NPL)
  - 'The Public' film / panel with NPL ...120 attended
  - Community survey project is now being reframed as a larger Vital Signs community tool development—something that could be significant and useful for Nelson

### **Emerging Issues**

- Our main initiative were the multi-sectoral Climate crisis round tables held in May and September. We had over 60 people attending from ore than a dozen sectors of community life.
  - now working with these participants and City Climate Change Cordinator to move from round table talk to citizen action collective. Next meeting is Nov. 13.
- Year ahead: Identify **other emerging issue(s)** to help community explore / focus on

### **Ongoing Initiatives**

- End Poverty Initiative '**Voices for Change**' pilot projects were highly successful, both in terms of what was accomplished and what was learned: **Financial Literacy / Youth Skills Builder, Community Cafes, and Community Services Navigator**
- Handed over **Benefits Incubator** pilot to KCDS, which we determined to be a more suitable home to ensure success working with the business community
- EPI Steering Committee meeting in early December to begin discussing whether and/or how to continue some of these piloted initiatives with community partners
- Volunteer Hub
  - Business plan developed, some project partners identified and signed up
  - But with RDF funding interruption, we cannot yet proceed with completing partnership acquisition phase, nor with preparing to conduct the pilot. Currently exploring other potential sources for pilot.

**Funding**

- Stephen Fearing fundraising concert \$1,500
- CIP funds (City, Area F) \$7,500

**Strategic Directions**

- Establishing 2019—22 strategic directions and plan ...finalize November and officially adopt at December meeting
- Moved to working group approach to activities and projects
- Will continue approach of keeping our ear to the ground to identify key emerging issues that we could help explore

**Promotion**

- Website convergence ...old SPAN and End Poverty Initiative
- Social media via facebook (...moving toward overall media strategy development)
- T-shirts + postcards produced

In closing, I wish to recognize and warmly thank all the other Board members—Cheryl, Marjie, Phyllis, and Rona; the staff who worked on *Voices for Change*—Carina, Kelsey, Laura and Anna; and all those who have contributed ‘at the table’.