



## 2024 Annual General Meeting

October 21

### Chair's Report 2024

This year saw continued delivery of concrete results for the Together Nelson poverty reduction strategy and slow but steady work towards encouraging a Social Development Coordinator role within the City of Nelson. The year also saw us continuing to consider our role as an organization, towards which we have recently made some significant progress.

#### **A summary list of our activities and accomplishments Nov 2023 - Oct 2024**

- *Together Nelson* (a 4-Year Action Strategy to End Poverty in Nelson and Area 2022-2026, led by a Leadership Table):
  - Wrapped up its second annual project implementation in May 2024, with Nelson Community Food Centre as the primary backbone organization. This project focused on economic inclusion via the facilitation of tax return completion for households with income up to \$70,000 pa.
  - In January 2024, the *Together Nelson* Leadership Table was approved to become a member of Tamarack Institute's "Western Canada Leads" five-year project to create population level change in poverty rates. Ten small Western Canada communities are involved in the project. Representatives from each community have been meeting for bi-weekly coaching sessions designed to help build our capacity through education/tools and learning from other communities' successes.
  - In August, *Together Nelson* was successful in receiving a \$30,000 grant over two years from Vancouver Foundation's Community Prosperity Fund (via Osprey Foundation). This grant is to reinforce the foundation of *Together Nelson's* poverty reduction work and to build capacity for taking on broader community level change that will address growing poverty rates and other social determinants of health that impact health and well-being of residents.
  - And finally, in June 2024, *Together Nelson's* Leadership Table Chair changed from Rona Park to the co-leadership of Katie McEwen and Alison

MacDonald. This is an exciting and promising change for the future of our work together!

- Research on, and advocacy for, a Social Development Coordinator role within the City of Nelson. Two briefing papers were produced, including research of roles with comparable goals in comparable cities in British Columbia and Alberta, and presented to the City of Nelson Mayor and Council including a meeting with the General Manager of Community Planning, Climate and Infrastructure.
- Continued participation with the BC Living Wage initiative.
- Continued participation in the Nelson Housing Committee.

## **The Year Ahead**

- Nelson at its Best's nine-member group officially integrated with *Together Nelson's* 13-member Leadership Table in September 2024, as it became clear that the goals of the future work of the *Together Nelson* leadership table were similar to those of Nelson at its Best. The increased membership, perspectives, and energy will strengthen our ability to effect the community social development change, including poverty reduction, that we are working towards.
- Continued advocacy for a "Social Development Coordinator" role within the City.
- Continued participation in the BC Living Wage initiative and Nelson Housing Committee.
- Commissioning of a new Community Health and Well-Being Survey?

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt **thanks to:**

- The relatively small group who make it all happen at this table and with the various working groups that do the project work, which now include ...  
... all the members of the *Together Nelson* Leadership Table.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Ryan, Board Co-Chair.