Lethbridge Indigenous Sharing Network Interagency Meeting

Wednesday October 5th, 2022

Time: 9:00am | Location: Online Teams

# In Attendance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cassandra Chalifoux | Kell Reay | Connie Wyatt |
| Jordan White | Kerby Elfring | Raymond Ivanus |
| Caitlin Gajdostik | Janine Jackson | Kelly Smith |
| Denille Tizzard | Miranda Hargreaves | Lisa Despas |
| Tenaya Benson | Lisa Despas | Margaret Lyster |
| Billie-J Heavy Shields | Marilyn Contois | Shawn Daye Finley |
| Jennifer Moar | Trish Bruised Head | Amber Stevens |

# Meeting Opening

* -Land Acknowledgement by Cassandra Chalifoux
* -Prayer by Cassandra Chalifoux

# Caitlin Gajdostik-CFLSA- Grants Coordinator

* Caitlin works at the Community Foundation of Lethbridge in Southwestern Alberta. She is the grants coordinator.
* So we have two grants programs that are open. Our Community priorities grants program that typically deals with equipment and capital purchases, and our role life grant program, which deals with sort of programming projects and events in the rural community.
* Their grant programs are open for applications and will close on October 17th at 4:00pm. You can read more and apply through their website: <https://cflsa.ca/grants/>
* If any of you guys have projects or your organizations have projects or you have needs to run your programs that you don't have right now, please reach out to Caitlin, she would be happy to talk to you about where you might be able to access some funding for what you need to do your job.
* If you have any questions or want to talk about your projects that may need funding, please reach out to Caitlin by calling (403) 328-5297 or via email at [grants@cflsa.ca](mailto:grants@cflsa.ca)

# Denille Tizzard- Harbor House- Program Manager

* Denille works for the YWCA as the Program Manager for Harbor House and Harbor House support Services. Her team lead Amber Stevens attended the meeting with her.
* The shelter is at capacity. Theye're actually over numbers, so they're actually having families set up in the living room currently. They're definitely seeing an increase in numbers of women seeking bed space in their shelter.
* Coming up the third week of October is also their week without violence. Um, so they're going be very loud in the community, so you'll definitely see some stuff popping up. They're connected with a lot of agencies right now to do some activism for the week without violence. If anyone's interested in that, please send Denille an email and she can get over a list of activities and plans that they have in the community.

# Billie-J Heavy Shields- Sweetgrass Youth Alliance-

* Bear Woman (Billie-J) works for Sweetgrass Youth Alliance, they just got started back up again as they finally received their funding to carry them over until March of next year. They also got extended to Cardston providing some outreach for the vulnerable population there.
* They provide a lot of harm reduction and they've been going out with AWARE three times a month to start. They’re helping with harm reduction and just like whatever they can come with that. It’s kind of a learning curve for them because it's a new area. They’re finding mostly, non grade alcohol here, so there are little children as well walking around the town with their parents that are not in very good condition. Right now it's trying to figure out what other avenues we can go to. It's part of their plan to make sure the kids are okay and calling the proper authorities, but it's just that's the kind of thing they're finding here in Cardston.
* They're collecting more winter stuff right now as well, as they get a lot of their clothing donated. So, she is putting it out there in case anyone has anything they would like to donate. If you know of anybody in Cardston that needs a little extra help or a point in the right direction for resources, that's kind of what they’re doing out there.
* They also have their pow wow club back and you can look for updates in their facebook group: Sweetgrass Youth Alliance. They also have updates on there as well.
* Email: [beejae1@icloud.com](mailto:beejae1@icloud.com)

# Lisa Despas-Service Canada- Mobile Outreach

* Lisa is from Service Canada. Today she is feeling under the weather but wanted to introduce her ne coworkers Connie Wyatt and Raymond Ivanus.
* Lisa Despas – [lisa.despas@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:lisa.despas@servicecanada.gc.ca)
* General Delivery - [ESDC.WT.SMLC-COLS.WT.EDSC@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:ESDC.WT.SMLC-COLS.WT.EDSC@servicecanada.gc.ca)

# Connie Wyatt- Service Canada Citizen Services Specialist

* Connie works for Service Canada as the Citizen Services Specialist in Lethbridge.
* Her role, which is the same as Lisa and Ray, is that of Community Liaison and Outreach Services.  They'll go out to different organizations in person or virtually and present information on government benefits services. They want to ensure all Canadians are receiving all of benefits to which they are entitled to.  They come out to any organization or give a virtual presentation on various benefits or services, ie:  social insurance numbers, how to protect your SIN, pensions, employment insurance, apprenticeship grants, youth, Elders; there are more than 80 different programs and services that Service Canada has to offer.  I would be happy to assist.  If you are in Southern AB, Lethbridge and/or surrounding areas, feel free to reach out to me as I’d be happy to help.  Again, want to ensure every Canadian is receiving all the benefits that they are eligible and entitled to receive.
* Connie will send out some information to Cassandra for her to circulate.
* Connie Wyatt – [connie.wyatt@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:connie.wyatt@servicecanada.gc.ca)

# Raymond Ivanus- Service Canada Outreach

* Ray is relatively new in the role he is acting in for the moment. His area does include the East Kootenays.
* He has already reached out to several First Nation bands and we will be having discussions probably not this week, but starting next week. His approach in the beginning is to just humbly listen and to see what the needs are and how they can assist.
* Ray Ivanus - [raymond.ivanus@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:raymond.ivanus@servicecanada.gc.ca)

# Janine Jackson- Family Centre

* Janine is the indigenous program coordinator for Family Center.
* Right now, they only have two programs going on. One of them is Their traditional parenting program or family program. It's an 11-week program, exclusively for indigenous families. They just started last week, so they will probably be closing registrations this week, but they do have room for two more families. If anyone knows any indigenous families that could benefit from the program please contact Janine. They have two Blackfoot elders who come in and do most of the facilitation, you get free supper every night, and free childcare. The children actually go and do their own programming with childcare workers. It's a pretty awesome program. Um, learning a lot about Blackfoot ways of life, ways of knowing, traditional aspects, relationship building.
* The other program that they have going on right now is a youth cooking program. That one is currently full because we do it at Interfaith Food Bank kitchen, but they're limited to only six kiddos because their kitchen is pretty small. It's a nine-week program every Thursday from 4:15pm to 6:15pm. The kiddos learn some kitchen skills adding in from a indigenous view some things like, some recipes. They cook enough food to take home to their families. So it's a pretty awesome program. It's a brand new one. They just started it this time around and it seems pretty successful.
* They're going to be having more programs moving forward. Right now, the age limit for the youth cooking program is 11 to 15, but I'm looking at younger kiddos, maybe even older kiddos or adults. So if you know any kiddos, even adults, youth who are interested in cooking, once again indigenous youth, children, and adults, please give Janine an email and let her know because that will help her build a new program for January or February.

# Jennifer Moar- Ability Employment- Employment Specialist

* Jennifer works for Ability Employment as an Employment Specialist. So she helps with pre-employment skills and finding and maintaining their employment. She connects the clients with the employer and then once they do have employment then she kind of works as a support and a mediator for the clients as well as the employer.
* So, um, just so one, the clients can maintain their employment and then the employer can also, um, see how we can support them, um, as an agency.
* What they do is help people who have barriers find a suitable inclusive employment. they help people who have a mental health and addiction issues or just a physical or a mental health barrier, as well as working with people with disabilities.
* They have a few things going on right now. October is Dean months, so they're doing a lot of different presentations with the Chamber this month. Just to speak a bit about supported employment and what that looks like and how they can be actively involved in that.
* Then they also have some mini job fair coming up on Friday with an employer. That's going to be hosted at their South Depot and its just a mini job fair that they're putting on for the employer. People can call in and register or believe go online or even on Facebook and check out all the information. Everything is there under the Ability Employment page.
* They also have ongoing intakes for anyone who feels that they need support with finding employment or building their pre-employment skills with their Employment Employer Engagement Partnership program. They’re doing an employer spotlight with the Chamber just to recognize employers who actually do have inclusive employment and what that looks like for the clients.
* If there's anyone that feels that they know anyone that can benefit from their services, they're welcome to come down to their office or give them a call and they'd be happy to share more information.

# Kelly Reay- New West Theatre- Artistic Director

* Kelly is the Artistic Director for New West Theatre. They are a local professional theater organization here in Lethbridge. They've been operating for over 30 years in the community and over the past couple years they've really tried to expand their lens in terms of the kind of services they can offer to the community and to expand the lens of the groups they serve and also the kind of stories they tell on stage.
* They have a few interesting things coming up. One thing that's happening right now is that Katie Joe Rabbit has organized a weekly storyteller circle, essentially that's a weekly meeting every Wednesday sometimes it's online, sometimes it's in person, it's free to attend for anyone who's interested. People gather and express and learn the craft of storytelling, every week is a different sort of focus and a different kind of prompt. They all start with a writing prompt and then see where the discussion goes from there. They also work with different guests who come into the group, for example, last week they had Jeff Gordon, who is a Blackfoot novelist here in Lethbridge. This week in person at the Stern Dale Bennett Theater, Sandra Lamo is coming into to give some conversation about physical storytelling. Sandra, for anyone who may not know is an artist of many talents including dancing. She's coming in to talk about how you can use physicality to tell a story. They're kind of making the mold as they go along. Katie Joe has some really grand ideas and wonderful ideas to try and create something unique that can kind of serve a wide breadth of folks who are interested in storytelling and for folks who are brand new to the idea of storytelling or, or writing, or to folks who are experienced and are seasoned. It's really about sharing ideas with each other, learning how to express yourself and develop your voice as a storyteller. That happens every week on Wednesdays, it's posted on our social media pages, on Facebook, and at New West Theater.
* This year they've kind of initiated a new program, they do a number of theatrical productions a year, typically three, four, sometimes five productions. Each production they do a preview night which is typically the night before the official opening. This year they are working with the community to give away tickets to those preview performances to groups and individuals who may not other wise have the ability or the access to attend theater, marginalized groups, folks who may just not have been exposed to theater as an art form, as an entertainment form, and folks, who face financial barriers to going to the theater.
* Community night is next Wednesday, if any of the, any of the members here have people in their circles or in their work spheres who might benefit from coming to see live theater, please get in touch with Katie Joe Rabbit. They have 150 tickets to give out to people who might be interested. The show they have going on next week starts officially starts on Thursday with a preview on Wednesday. It's called Barock. It is a show written by Tony Playwright a second-generation Ukrainian playwright that unpacks or starts to unpack the what's happening in Ukraine from a contemporary lens from what's happening right now to going back to a historical lens based on the playwright's family history in the region in addition to firsthand accounts and interviews from people who live in the region. It's really a wonderful piece of storytelling where they use theatrical storytelling in addition to music, traditional Ukrainian folk music to try and give a human quality to the show and to explore a human impact of what's happening in Ukraine, both now and historically.
* They have another show coming up in December where we will again have around a hundred and fifty tickets to distribute to community members who might be interested in attending, as well as they also have, coming up in February a play called Honor Beat, it's written by an indigenous playwright, Tara be who is kind of making waves in Canada right now as kind of a hot playwright in the country. She's being produced across, across the country. She's was born in Lethbridge and has family roots in Lethbridge.
* They haven't quite formalized this yet, so they'll probably have a more significant update at the next meeting, but they're developing a mentorship program for young indigenous artists. Specifically on this one they'll be looking for indigenous artists who are interested in set design, lighting design, costume design, and stage direction. Their intention is to bring on people who are interested in, in maybe exploring a career in theater or the performing arts who want to come on board to this production and be mentored by established professionals in these different areas of bringing together a theatrical production.
* [outreach@newwesttheater.com](mailto:outreach@newwesttheater.com)

# Kelly Smith- City of Lethbridge

* Kelly is from the city of Lethbridge. She is attending these meetings so that she can gather activities and events going on in the community to disperse amongst the contracts that they manage, because she is part of the contract team. One of her roles is to do site visits with service providers and spend time with frontline workers.

# Margaret Lyster- Chinook Reginal Library Read-On-Via Email

* Margaret is from Read On Adult Literacy and Learning at the Lethbridge Public Library. They offer learning opportunities to help adults improve skills for work and daily life.
* In addition to classes, Read On can also provide adults with one-on-one tutoring up to about a Grade Ten or CLB Level 7, with reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and basic math. Student and volunteer tutor pairs meet at a time that fits their schedules.
* Registration for one-on-one tutoring is always open and requires the learner to take an assessment. There’s a one-time fee of $30, but this may be reduced or waived if there is financial hardship.
* Read On also offers digital skills support for people who struggle with technology. Interested adults can register by calling them at 403-320-4701 or dropping by their office at the Main Branch of Lethbridge Public Library.
* They also offer a great selection of high interest-low level books for struggling readers and a variety of workbooks for people who want to study on their own. Library memberships are free and anyone can borrow our resources.
* For more information, registration and updates, visit our website at [www.lethlib.ca/readon](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.lethlib.ca%2Freadon&data=05%7C01%7Ccassandra-chalifoux%40ncsa.ca%7C5d9cfaa2866540a657e008da91d6e323%7Cce254aa915c345a2a15c98778c47583c%7C1%7C0%7C637982649368820594%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=e3fjyxN8Kx4c4KbSSy161HShDBLKe66ZiU%2FUZw6f3ZQ%3D&reserved=0).  
  To connect with them, please email: [readonclasses@lethlib.ca](mailto:readonclasses@lethlib.ca), or call 403-320-4701.

# Shawn Daye Finley- Lethbridge Sport Council- Program and Event Coordinator

* Shawn works with Lethbridge Sport Council as the Program and Event Coordinator.
* If anybody has any sport related events, traditional games, or anything like that going on, they'd love to collaborate or take part in it. Uh, we regularly run events for sports that are obviously inclusive and accessible to everybody. When more of those come out, which they are applying for grants to get some more out, he'll be able to announce them here in this group.
* [Shawn@lethbridgesportcouncil.ca](mailto:Shawn@lethbridgesportcouncil.ca) if anyone would like to collaborate in any sport or traditional game events in the coming months.

# Tenaya Benson- Lethbridge Public Library Assistant

* Tenaya works with the Lethbridge Public Library as on of the new Indigenous services assistants. She is attending the meeting today with Marilyn Contois.
* [tenaya.benson@lethlib.ca](mailto:tenaya.benson@lethlib.ca)

# Marilyn Contois- Lethbridge Public Library

* Marilyn is the indigenous library technician here at Lethbridge Public Library.
* Marilyn is still working on uploading the stories to Voices of the Land. They had about 15 stories that they did from May till the end of August, and they're still in process of getting consent forms and editing the stories to upload them on Voices of the Land. There's a few of them uploaded on there already, and it was a partnership with Voices of the Land.
* They received funding from the government of Canada Canadian Heritage Fund to put on their Round Dance as a capstone event for Our Stories Matter and it went really awesome. It was really nice to see everybody enjoying the music, dancing and being able to gather together again, especially after Covid. To be honest it was their first round dance since Covid happened, and it was really awesome, the singers and music. Hopefully they’ll get to do it again next year. Marilyn would like to extend a welcome to anybody that wishes to partner with them on that event. It might grow bigger and Marilyn thinks it might be good to have it on a different, there's so much stuff happening up in Calgary that day as well, so maybe starting the week off with the round dance or something like that. Even if they had a different venue or something, they had around 150 people in attendance and the fire code for the theater gallery is around a little over 200.
* For the rest of October and November they have an Art Hive there on Monday night in the north wing of the main branch from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Last Monday we were blessed to be joined by traveling artist Brenda Mercer, they made medicine hide pouches. They also had an elder join them and they got to sing some beautiful songs as well. Every Art Hive is different. Last month they were able to do a workshop in partnership with Casa, and they made orange T-shirt pins and earrings out of clay. Every time they have an Art Hive sometimes it's planned out and sometimes it just ends up being different than intended and that that's the whole intention of it. They welcome anybody that wants to come and learn how, if you wanna learn how to make moccasins, ribbon skirts, pow wow regalia, Marilyn is able to help teach people cutting out their moccasins and walking them through the process of making them, making ribbon skirts and pow wow regalia. They had a lot of parents join them in helping their tiny cots, or their little ones make pow wow regalia, they welcome that. In that they would just continue to come to the program and, and get the, the guidance and the help in, in doing so
* For the rest of October, they still have the virtual reality headset in the North Wing by the computer service desk, should anybody want to view it. What it is, it's called, This is Not a Ceremony, and the film director for that is Trump Gunny. That was calling Van Loon, he came, he was one of their indigenous speakers for the word on the Street festival this last month. If anybody's interested in watching a trailer of it, you could watch it on the National Film Board website and kind of get a glimpse of what this film is about. It was really amazing how he put it together and it's literally 360. You don't need to sign up for it, it's free. Just come to the computer service desk and ask to view it. As long as it's at least an hour before closing. It is a 20-minute film and it's very impactful, words can not express how amazing it is. Also reach out to them if you have any further questions.
* <https://www.nfb.ca/interactive/notaceremony/>
* [marilyn.contois@lethlib.ca](mailto:marilyn.contois@lethlib.ca)

# Trish Bruised Head- Red Crow Community College

* Trish works with Red Crow Community College as the program services manager, post-secondary student services.
* They've started their fall semester, they've had a huge amount of students return to school as well as new students applying for the fall 2022 semester. They are currently taking registration for January enrollment. If you have anybody wanting to attend now would be the time to start applying for January, more than likely the funding would go through foundational learning assistance program.
* They are in their new building as of now, they still have a few minor construction details to take care of that they're working on. They have our grand opening set for October the 20th. Invites have been sent out, however with Red Crow and the tribes still following Federal covid measures the grand opening is possibly by invitation only and they're allowing two or four members from each department and entity. Maru McClean will be sending out invites to those individuals or departments who will be invited and attending.
* They've got a lot going on right now and just trying to get everything finalized with the new building, so not much to report on this month. For those of you who do not know the former director, Henry Big Throat has now retired, and I've taken on his role as programs student services manager, and we do have other counselors in place, Jennifer Scott, Barry Shade, and they do have a student working with them for the month, for the fall semester, as well as their admin assistant. If you would like to reach any one of us, you can do so at the new campus. Our phone numbers are still the same, (403) 737-2400.

# Miranda Hargreaves-Chinook Sexual Assault Centre

* Miranda works with the Chinook Sexual Assault Centre as the Sexual Assault System Navigation & Education Specialist.
* October is child abuse prevention month. Throughout the month IHop will proudly be supporting child and youth advocacy centers across Alberta in honor of child abuse prevention month. If you make a donation any time this month to their Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, you can go into IHop on October 24 and receive a free short stack of pancakes and also a coupon valid for your next visit.
* On October 24 they are asking people to join us by wearing blue in solidarity of kids experiencing abuse. #GoBlueAlberta
* All month please follow their social media to get information on child abuse: what is it, how to recognize it, the impact it has, ect.
* City hall will be lit up blue on the evening of October 24 as well.

# Jordan White- 5th on 5th Youth Services- indigenous Cultural Employment Instructor

* Jordan works with 5th on 5th Youth Services as the Indigenous Cultural Employment Instructor. They help youth ages 15-30 find employment or receive certificates they need to gain employment. They are gaining intakes right now for the ICET program which runs for 11 weeks.
* Jordan is from North Western Ontario, she comes from Couchiching First Nation and identifies as Ojibway. Her family and her recently moved to Lethbridge in August.
* Right now, she is looking for resources as the ones she has available to her are outdated and people have moved positions. If anyone is available to help with a presentation about the services you provide or about reconciliation and cultural resources would be amazing!

# Cassandra Chalifoux- NCSA- Community Engagement Partnerships Coordinator

* Cassandra is with Native Counseling Services of Alberta as the Community Engagement Partnerships Coordinator. They Help people with court related things that they do not need a lawyer for. For example, filing court documents. They also have a free commissioner of oaths service. They have a Family Court Worker(Currently looking to hire for), a Traffic Court Worker, a Criminal Court Worker, and a Peacemaker.
* Just wanted to remind everyone if they cannot attend a meeting to just decline it and they will still receive the next invite. She understands that everyone is not always available. You will still receive the monthly meeting minutes, weekly communications and postings for the events going on. Meetings take place the first Wednesday of every month.
* The purpose of the network is to cast a large net connecting as many organizations as possible so that we can assist the indigenous community with our programs and services. Even though we are Indigenous focused we do not exclude anyone that needs our help.
* The Supporting Indigenous Sharing Network website was supposed to be launching on September 12th, but has been delayed for unknown reasons.
* Please send Cassandra a copy of the logo you would like to be posted with your organization on the website, your main contact, as well as a write up about your organization.
* All postings put onto the website will be attached to the organization that they came from and then will be attached to one of the focus groups of the network. Some of the focus groups are Events, Job Opportunities, Health & Wellness, Social Justice & Reconciliation, just to name a few.
* Resources such as booklets can be attached as well. For example, the TRC Calls to action is attached as a resource.
* Cassandra is getting a food truck going to help support the organizations in this network with their events. She is bringing it home on the 22nd and will be getting it up and running as soon as possible.
* There have been no updates on the Bowman building at this time. She has reached out and received no response to her inquiry, she will reach out again.
* If you are new to the group, please send a write up about what you do an who you serve as well as any information you wish to have sent out to the network. Welcome to the group.

# Meeting Duration

**Start Time**: 8:56am **Adjourned**: 10:04am **Duration**: 1 Hour 8 Minutes

# Next Meeting

**Date**: November 2nd, 2022 **Time**: 9:00am **Location**: Online Teams