



Celebrating diversity-Sept 1, 2010
Fort Frances Library Technology Centre
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In attendance: Trudy McCormick, Sharon Tibbs, Diane Ross, Heather Campbell, AnneMcCoy, Tammy Ryll, Lincoln Dunn, Tammy Noble, Anne Renaud, Linda Plumridge . Regrets: Gord Armstrong, Jennifer Greenhalgh, Katie Eselink, Mary Catherine Kelly, Jim Cumming.

1. Call to Order at 12:10 Trudy (chair)
2. Approval of Minutes : July 27 Heather/ Lincoln
3. Approval of Agenda – Anne M./ Anne R.
4. Mission Statement: “Working together to create communities that celebrate diversity by actively practicing and promoting dignity, respect and inclusiveness.

Goal /Sub-Committee

5. UNESCO Sub-Committee Presentation: the subcommittee was tasked at our July meeting with finding more information on UNESCO/CCMARD. Jennifer Beach, who worked with the Legal Clinic as a summer student, prepared a in depth report, contacting member communities, and asking specific questions, that were suggested by the committee at the July meeting. A synopsis of the report was provided to those in attendance. The complete report is available at www.celebratingdiversity.ca. Click on the member log in on the right hand side of the page. Name – celebrate, password -2010. This brings you to a member page which has the responses, summary as well as appendixes.

Jennifer’s observations said that the communities had very few negatives. The cost to communities was very little, except for Toronto and Edmonton. People said the costs were what they chose to make them.

She has suggested funding opportunities.

Representatives from Saskatchewan talked about changing the name so that they can include First Nations in the sign up. (First Nations are not municipalities)

It is measurable.

They liked the networking, and it folded into what they were currently doing. People commented that it was not about enforcement, it was about awareness. They enjoyed and appreciated the contacts with other municipalities it created.

Sharon commented on the Municipal aspect - human resource at the Town of Fort Frances is currently following the suggested guidelines already, the fact that Unesco sends out toolkit would be a plus to communities. Municipalities already have to report to a lot of places. We will need to know if we have to report what we are doing, and what kind of reporting is involved. What is the stumbling block, which has stopped more communities from signing up, after the initial request, was sent to Canadian municipalities?

Within the answers Jennifer received it was mentioned that a brief, 1 or 2 page update needed to be sent to Unesco

CCMARD – We would prefer to have diversity handled within the community not by human resources, but rather have it go into general policies, etc. To be informative rather than enforcement.

Rebecca Johnson city councillor from Thunder Bay has offered to come and speak with us regarding Thunder Bay's experiences and steps in signing the Unesco document.

Being part of CCMARD(Canadian Communities against Racial Discrimination) would help Market our Community to professionals

6. Next Steps

- a. Confirm Rebecca Johnson to attend the Diversity Committee November meeting, Trudy
- b. Arrange to be on RRDMA agenda for January, -Linda
- c. funding possibilities, (sub-committee to work on this), Heather to spearhead
- d. plan the presentation for RRDMA, Lincoln
- e. Contact Unesco and approach them to see if we can video conference with someone. Lincoln

7. Adjourn – 12:50 p.m.

8. Next meeting is October 6th, Fort Frances Library Technology Centre.

November 3rd, Fort Frances Library, Guest speaker Rebecca Johnson (proposed)

The Fort Frances Library Technology Centre has been booked for the 1st Monday of every month through June 2011. , Heather will arrange for food.