

# INTER-CITY FORUM ON SOCIAL POLICY

October 25, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Delta Airport Hotel, Calgary, Alberta

## In Attendance

<input type="checkbox"/> Jacquie Hansen	St. Albert	<input type="checkbox"/> Chantal McKenzie	Spruce Grove
<input type="checkbox"/> Dylan Bressey	Grande Prairie	<input type="checkbox"/> Tina Petrow	Airdrie
<input type="checkbox"/> Krista Balsom	RMWB	<input type="checkbox"/> Jenny Kain	Edmonton
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence Lee	Red Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Lamola	Airdrie
<input type="checkbox"/> Tricia Hercina	Red Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Tyler Gandam	Wetaskiwin
<input type="checkbox"/> Judy Smith	Edmonton	<input type="checkbox"/> Dianne Wyntjes	Red Deer
<input type="checkbox"/> Bev Esslinger	Edmonton	<input type="checkbox"/> Danielle Fermin	Chestermere
<input type="checkbox"/> Karla Cote	Calgary	<input type="checkbox"/> Bree Claude	Strathcona County
<input type="checkbox"/> Angela Sutherland	Grande Prairie	<input type="checkbox"/> Michelle Jehn	Strathcona County*
<input type="checkbox"/> John Stewart	Beaumont	<input type="checkbox"/> Leah Prestayko	Medicine Hat*
<input type="checkbox"/> Kim Schmidt	Cold Lake*	<input type="checkbox"/> Catriona Gunn-Graham	St. Albert
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay Aragon	Airdrie	<input type="checkbox"/> Colleen Burton-Ochocki	FCSSAA
<input type="checkbox"/> Menna Kebede	Calgary	<input type="checkbox"/> Jyoti Gondek	Calgary
<input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Lancaster	Lloydminster	<input type="checkbox"/> Mel Foat	Chestermere
<input type="checkbox"/> Glenn Barnes	Cold Lake	<input type="checkbox"/> Crista Carmichael	GoA*
<input type="checkbox"/> Amy Ralph	Medicine Hat*		

\*denotes telephone attendance

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	<b><u>Meeting Called to Order</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At 9:30 am the Vice Chair, Councillor Jacquie Hansen called the meeting to order.</li> </ul>	
2.	<b><u>Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Review of June 14, 2019 Minutes</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minutes were accepted as presented</li> <li>The Agenda was accepted as presented</li> </ul>	

3.	<p><b><u>Election of Chair and Co-Chair</u></b></p> <p>Names were put forward and committee members voted by secret ballot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision - Tina Petrow nominated for position of Vice-Chair.</li> <li>• Decision - Jacquie Hansen elected as Chair.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b><u>Updates</u></b></p> <p><b><u>FCSSAA</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion recently has focused on budget and potential cutbacks. Advocacy toolkit was used extensively and really assisted in advocacy efforts.</li> <li>• AUMA and FCSSAA Boards met to strengthen partnership and have a coordinated voice on social issues in the province.</li> <li>• Major focus on annual conference scheduled for November 27 - 29th. Minister Sawhney will be speaking at the conference. 15 MLAs have also confirmed attendance.</li> <li>• Chair thanked everyone for their advocacy efforts.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>FCM</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FCM has been very focused on the election. Four key platforms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ public transit;</li> <li>○ rural internet cap;</li> <li>○ core infrastructure funding;</li> <li>○ climate change and national housing strategy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Meeting in Ottawa for lobby days at the end of November.</li> <li>• Opportunity to meet a number of parliamentarians related to each of the platform areas.</li> <li>• Housing affordability will be a key focus of the advocacy as well as public transit.</li> <li>• Advocating for more federal funding to flow directly through to municipalities.</li> <li>• Annual conference June 4-7 in Toronto.</li> <li>• October 20-22 Sustainability conference in St John's; format includes both administrative stream and elected officials stream.</li> <li>• Discussion on gap in western representation at federal government level and that this may be an opportunity for increased communication through FCM and other entities.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner and sector groups are entities that are well positioned to take this messaging forward.</li> <li>• Discussion of real challenges for cities given provincial budget reductions.</li> </ul> <p><u>AUMA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through AUMA there is an opportunity to advance a focus on national unity.</li> <li>• AUMA has been working on a provincial budget response and how they will advocate on behalf of municipalities.</li> <li>• Provincial budget may have been intended to be a gauge. Need to ensure clear identification of concerns to proactively address further reductions.</li> <li>• AUMA can lobby and advocate on behalf of members.</li> <li>• Working on MSI funding and a deal for municipalities as early as possible. As well, police funding, cannabis tax revenue sharing.</li> <li>• Spring leaders caucus (March 25-26, 2020) and summer, June 2, 3, 9 and 10 tentative (summer caucus date likely to change to end of May or first part of June). They will be travelling around the province as they did last year as this was really well received and more people were able to attend.</li> <li>• Thanks to all of the representatives that have taken on roles with AUMA, FCM and FCSSAA and recognition of the additional work this requires.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b><u>Budget Debrief</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair acknowledged the significance of events this week with both the federal election results and the provincial budget.</li> <li>• Suggestion: To invite federal leaders and MLAs to meetings of ICFSP to discuss issues given absence of federal MP's.</li> <li>• Disappointed with the lack of information on community safety funding.</li> <li>• Good that library funding was sustained.</li> <li>• Disappointed on lack of Charter respect for big cities; see this as a message on communications and relationship with municipalities.</li> <li>• Appreciated perspective on advancing message of unity federally; messaging should be to work together as Canadian municipalities.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern with reductions in budget for housing management bodies.</li> <li>• Concerned about impact on affordable housing units.</li> <li>• Net reduction of AISH funding.</li> <li>• MSI a sizable reduction; this is a significant concern.</li> <li>• Impact of Grants in lieu and as a result many cities will have to look at various fee increases to recover money.</li> <li>• Recognition that cities support a lot of social issues and social organizations and as cities face more difficult fiscal realities.</li> <li>• For Calgary region to succeed, need to consider sharing economic costs if we are looking at shared social policy approaches.</li> <li>• Need to look at how to generate revenue in a successful way as an economic region.</li> <li>• Airdrie highlighted that they are working on economic modelling</li> <li>• Cut to Indigenous Ministry in 2020; concerning given focus on standing together with Indigenous community.</li> <li>• Question about investment in mental health and opioids and what that looks like and implications for cities.</li> <li>• FCSS: glad there was no reduction, but a flatline budget is a reduction over a 4-year period so will need to talk about this.</li> <li>• Minister clearly identified a need to demonstrate a more efficiency, results based approach.</li> <li>• City of Edmonton: 5 areas of concern identified, including affordable housing.</li> <li>• Chestermere has concerns with affordable housing for seniors.</li> <li>• Interest in smaller cities partnering with larger municipalities to address some of these concerns.</li> <li>• Acknowledgement of the downward pressure on municipalities not to raise taxes and costs.</li> <li>• FCM policy resolutions tie into some of these gaps and needs; if a letter is written can tie back into policy resolutions and data to back it up.</li> <li>• Fort McMurray is aligning gaps being identified with some of the policy directions of FCM. This could be an approach others could take</li> <li>• Suggestion that there be some alignment between advocacy efforts and priorities and to respond in a more holistic coordinated way as opposed to a silo response.</li> </ul>	<p>Invite MP's and MLAs to the ICFSP to help them understand social policy needs of cities in the province</p> <p>Identify MP's that may be receptive and those that could be invited</p> <p>Create a holistic story including</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the opportunity in a leaner budget? Eg. if less money, more flexibility in what we do with the money, less red tape, etc.</li> <li>• Positives: increased commitment to human trafficking and police and crisis teams which have had a positive impact on cities.</li> </ul>	the range of issues and align these with FCM policy directions as possible
6.	<p><b><u>Confirm Questions for Minister of Community and Social Services</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FCSS funding and outcomes based results; what does this mean? Indexing the formula to inflation, a flatline budget is a reduction over time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need for FCSS to be more outcomes focused as this is already in place.</li> <li>○ Can she elaborate on what her vision is.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As looking at being innovative and more responsive to local priorities, how can cities more clearly connect with her office to discuss more flexibility; best way to access Ministry when there are problems?</li> <li>• Housing and homelessness; youth shelter/housing how do ministries work together? Youth consistently lost between the two ministries responsible. Have there been any conversations about how to best ensure youth taken care of?</li> <li>• How will budget impact overall social infrastructure?</li> <li>• \$100 reduction to reduce red tape; curious about comment about shelter space in smaller urban areas?</li> <li>• Will Clare's Law shift family violence prevention initiatives in any way?</li> <li>• Will the process for determining funding priorities follow a similar process as other municipal grants; will it be determined by population or by urgency?</li> <li>• De-indexing will be a large issue. Without indexing, what would be the flags that the impacts of this will be reassessed?</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach to housing is in her portfolio; why is there not a performance metric behind this?</li> <li>• How the ministries will work together; this can have major impacts on municipalities. Can she talk about how ministries will be working together?</li> <li>• What does “be more outcomes focused” mean?</li> <li>• If there is a different matrix being used to determine success of the program, be transparent about it; what is it?</li> <li>• Are they going to flatline FCSS and the impact of this over time?</li> </ul> <p>Supporting civil society and plan to support municipalities in this. Asking questions about a changing relationship between provincial government and civil society organizations, and potential about taking municipalities out of this role. If this is raised, need to include the additional investment that municipalities make: 20% or more. Many cities have heard this, that provinces could directly fund but have also heard that the province has indicated cities can continue to fund the 20% and opportunity cities have right now is role as convenor using a systems approach.</p> <p>Government has asked 7 cities to draft a provincial housing framework and to present this to them for consideration to inform how system integration can benefit.</p> <p>This is the benefit of municipal involvement: cities can integrate and bring people together in a systems approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of FCSS is much broader than provision of funding, convening, understanding community needs, analysis and social planning.</li> <li>• Challenge of potential for dividing municipalities, based on some being more successful than others and utilizing the money more effectively; this could be divisive. This is reflected in their lean on the outcomes.</li> <li>• It is complex and it responds to local autonomy and diversity of Alberta. Addressing local needs/local priority setting is what makes FCSS unique.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry also has a policy arm; are there key policy positions we would like to highlight?</li> <li>Red Deer optimizes the administration costs of FCSS through a regional administrative model with Red Deer acting as the backbone organization.</li> <li>What is the \$40,000,000 going towards to address the opioid crisis?</li> <li>Key question: Would the Minister also like to hear what we have to say no to?</li> </ul>	
7.	<b><u>Social Summit - From Awareness to Action - Dec 9 &amp; 10, 2019</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayor of Grand Prairie submitted a grant request to support a proposed Intermunicipal Opioid Response Project. One time money, 18 month project.</li> <li>Grand Prairie is working on connecting with the other cities. Intention is to build on efforts already underway.</li> <li><a href="#">Social Summit Information Sheet</a></li> <li><a href="#">Social Summit presentation</a></li> </ul>	
8.	<b><u>Update on Opioid Project</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Grande Prairie applied for intermunicipal opioid grant. They received the grant and are working through finalizing the contract with Urban Matters.</li> </ul>	
9.	<b><u>Response to the Opioid Crisis</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Deer has SCS review visit the city. Full house. Initially heard a lot of linkage to crime, safety and homelessness. Following break more moving discussion about the impacts. Example of an oilfield worker that was able to access treatment and the lifesaving benefit of this. Lots of heartfelt discussion</li> <li>Council also met with members of review panel along with police. Agency providing services in Red Deer also met with the review panel.</li> <li>Red Deer has been pretty hard hit by the crisis. Concern with de-sensitization with what is occurring on the street.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Looking at how the city is responding with bylaw, needle debris, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question: Is there a plan for Red Deer to have wrap around services?</li> <li>• Airdrie: Council invited to naloxone awareness session - Opioid Awareness &amp; Community Based Naloxone Program.</li> <li>• City of Edmonton: Synopsis of the Edmonton model and the outcomes.</li> <li>• The Review panel meetings and the town halls.</li> <li>• Lloydminster: updated stats, in 2018 RCMP attended 17 opioid related overdoses, this year to date attended 29 opioid related overdoses. Hearing anecdotally from community agencies about the positive impact that Naloxone kits are having. Health authority working hard to get these out to the community. Health authority also launching a harm reduction vending machine where clients who are accessing needles, etc. can access other services.</li> <li>• Grande Prairie: downtown business association provided support for a downtown shelter and the business community has been very supportive of some of the social concerns. Grande Prairie looking at needle debris and what can be done to address this issue. Some concern with people in hotels and others that are injecting in isolation; considering how to address the issue beyond those that are street involved.</li> <li>• Mental Health and Addiction Strategy: \$25,000,000 over 5 years. To date, have allocated \$4,000,000 and \$3,000,000 of this is aimed at prevention. Allocated \$1,000,000 to respond to social concerns around the SCS: activating local park, increasing security, etc. Future funding allocations will be aligned to the new strategy.</li> <li>• Seeing some slight decreases in number of opioid-related deaths this Quarter. Looking similar for Q2. Needle debris is also an issue. Working with a non-profit partner to relieve some of the work that was previously done by the Fire Department.</li> <li>• Education element: need for more education from Alberta Health Services. Many people don't realize the dangers of opioids and the impact on overall health. Government needs to put money forward to educate young people.</li> <li>• Medicine Hat: waiting to hear the results of provincial review. Consultation very well attended. Very divisive issue.</li> </ul>	
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	Common acknowledgement of need for additional resources and funding for mental health and addiction.	
10.	<p><b><u>Minister of Community and Social Services, The Honorable Rajan Sawhney</u></b></p> <p><u>Photographs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Photo 0</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Photo 1</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Photo 2</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Photo 3</a></li> </ul> <p><u>Presentation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledged the collection of individuals in the room, honour of opportunity to sit down and discuss social policy topics outlined.</li> <li>• Really good at listening; collective wisdom here will inform any policy changes being considered in the Ministry.</li> <li>• Budget introduced yesterday and extremely proud of the budget released. Reflects recognition of need to take care of most vulnerable.</li> <li>• Ministry of C&amp;SS got an increase. This reflects Albertans' value of looking out for less disadvantaged.</li> <li>• FCSS budget maintained. Premier also very supportive of FCSS. This is a program that touches every municipality and is preventative - hard to quantify real impact of social programs but will find a way to assign value to the impact of these programs.</li> <li>• This is a new portfolio for the Minister. Very grateful that this is the Ministry she is responsible for.</li> </ul> <p><u>Questions</u></p> <p>Housing and Homelessness - Tina</p> <p>Family Violence Prevention - Karen</p> <p>FCSS funding, and what does outcomes based results mean -Mena</p> <p>Collaboration between Ministries - Dianna</p> <p>Opioid Issue - Tricia</p> <p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>Proud of cities innovating. Social issues growing and government and philanthropic funds are reduced. Working hard on shared</p>	

	<p>solutions and to ensure no duplication and to consider business' role in this. How do you see the Government of Alberta moving forward in their relationship with civil society organizations and how do you see this in relation to municipal roles?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  Civil society encompasses everyone outside the government with a primary focus on non-profits. Flushing out the mandate of civil society. Putting together a Premiers Charity Council that will advise and provide input on what this should look like.  Mutual interaction is very important so that the government can hear from civil society organizations.  Chair of Children's Services policy committee that discusses how they (Children's Services, Health, Seniors and Housing, Justice and Solicitor General) understand the cumulative impacts of our work. Invites feedback to identify any challenges or gaps.</p> <p><b>Question:</b>  Municipalities often look at collaboration amongst ourselves and FCM and AUMA, think about various ministries and social needs; can you elaborate on how the ministries can work better together to address gaps e.g. youth homelessness?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  Government needs input from organizations such as Inter-City Forum on Social Policy and others to identify gaps</p> <p><b>Question:</b>  Expectations regarding regionalization of services?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b>  Always an expectation for innovation and finding efficiencies, always a desire to use taxpayer dollars wisely  Red tape reduction initiative is province-wide and hope that will also identify efficiencies  No other details on regionalization at this point</p> <p><b>Question:</b>  There are a lot of requests for FCSS, and can't meet all demands; would the Minister be interested in information on what FCSS programs say no to?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b></p>	
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	<p>Yes</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Focus on what the community has been able to do by coming together to address community issues and concerns. In the absence of additional government, resources need to look to the community. Reduction to funding for housing management bodies?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Will take this question back.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> As municipalities are facing the opioid crisis, interplay between this and your Ministry are clear. Do you have any insights on the review? Any involvement? As we know that other services are often needing to respond to issues while this is outstanding.</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Acknowledgement of interconnections, impact on community, individuals and families. Don't have any specific update but working closely with Minister Luan and recognize the need for a systems approach. Need to understand how these issues cascade between sectors. Tasked CBOs that deal with homelessness to put together a provincial response that takes into account the opioid addictions and mental health issues, etc. Keen eye on the review and outcomes and how these will be tied between ministries to ensure a holistic response.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> In teleconference identified need for more efficiency and more reporting on outcomes: what is meant by this?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> I would like to be informed by municipalities about what is working well and what is not working well. How else would we know? This is probably something to discuss with FCSSAA. Will ask FCSSAA to look at best practices regarding reporting and outcomes in a way that does not add more red tape. Needs to be a framework in place to establish this. Will have a more fulsome answer but it will require a deeper discussion. CoE has offered to assist with updating the handbook which includes outcomes.</p> <p><b>Question:</b></p>	
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	<p>Would you like to use this group and expertise here to help you create the measurement tool for outcome evaluation?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Would definitely want the participation of this group as we formulate what those tools are going to look like.</p> <p>Group invited the Minister to utilize this group/ask this group questions</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Family Violence question</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Have maintained \$51,000,000 for women's shelters - very pleased to have maintained this funding. Also increased funding for some sexual assault services. Clare's Law: significant piece of policy that government hopes will bring down rates of domestic violence. Doubled funding for ITRAC; very important as it also speaks to reducing rates of domestic violence. No other legislative items on their agenda on this at present, but will be continuing to look at this. St. Albert is responding to support for pets; all funded through civil society. Awareness of regional approach to administering funding such as Red Deer model. Would be a good model to inform other regions. Minister noted how unique each municipality is; but also that the government is looking at economies of scale. Minister will look more closely at the model. Minister invited any municipality to ask for government support if looking at improvements. Opioids are a problem but better education is required. For example, Chestermere church group wanted to give back to the community, looked at how they could welcome people to the community. Like to see FCSS work more with faith communities/clergy on the ground. They can contribute to addressing issues but they need to be educated.</p> <p>Response: Agree that local communities need to be educated on what FCSS does.</p> <p><b>Question:</b></p>	
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	<p>Moving up to budget there was discussion around the role that municipalities play in FCSS and that they may just add red tape. There is an additional role that municipalities play: back bone, convening, etc. eg. systems approach convened a broad group to create a community framework. This offers an additional lens to put on the role of municipalities.</p> <p><b>Answer:</b></p> <p>This role is not invisible to me; I know the organizing role that municipalities play. Level of expertise, leadership and knowledge of local communities that the Government of Alberta does not have.</p> <p>Is there going to be further discussion on ways we can collaborate together as this is an issue across the province; recognize this is an area that you are passionate about.</p>	
11.	<p><b><u>Provincial Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledged the Minister's visit.</li> <li>• Focus on Red Tape reduction and harnessing the power of civil societies.</li> <li>• Civil Society; Ministry is establishing the Premier's Council.</li> <li>• Crista is supporting the Minister next week at meeting presenting the package on establishing the Premier's Council. Includes information on where government can focus some attention and address complex social issues; focus will be on the social sector.</li> <li>• Also looking at establishing a fund for civil society and the charities council will be seen to advise on this. Earmarked for \$20,000,000 over the course of the government mandate. Focus of fund and delivery yet to be determined.</li> <li>• Government's suggestion to partner with civil society where they can do work more efficiently and effectively. Government already has good relationship in a number of key areas e.g shelters, homelessness, sexual assault centres, contracted service providers, etc.</li> <li>• Looking at how to shift to multi-year grant agreements. Also looking at how to better streamline reporting, to maintain accountability but simplify.</li> <li>• Civil society is a new term for government; have not yet nailed down a definition.</li> <li>• Comment: Premier's Charity Council may be confusing if it is limited to charities; there are many that do not have a</li> </ul>	<p>Crista will send info to Jenny to include in the minutes  <a href="#">Definition can be found here</a></p>

	<p>charitable number so this may be confusing. Premier will have the last say in the name of the Council. It is charity; in broadest definition not specific to the nature of the organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spruce Grove: \$20,000,000 fund has not yet been earmarked. Funding for homelessness outside of the seven cities and approaches moving towards a housing first model - any opportunity to support rural communities in this effort.</li> <li>• Response - know rural homelessness is an issue of concern and some work is being focused on this.</li> <li>• Comment regarding multi-year funding - acknowledge this is very positive. Question about flexibility - convening multiple grants with multiple cycles so multi-year commitment is great but also ask for flexibility on how this is administered.</li> <li>• Premier's Charity Council will be advising on social issues, but nature of the fund has not yet been established. Part of where government wanted to go was more about how to best support civil society to be innovative and to collaborate and partner. Fund to support and grow capacity in civil society.</li> <li>• Updates on Alberta.ca</li> <li>• Suggestion to go to Chambers of Commerce and ask them for feedback related to establishing the council</li> </ul>	
12.	<p><b><u>Next Steps</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we want to compile what FCSS requests we say no to?</li> <li>• Decision: Suggestion to revise to what the issues related to social well being and what barriers they are facing; broader than FCSS not limited to FCSS.</li> <li>• Discuss this as a group next meeting. Each representative to consider this and bring this back to next meeting for discussion and decision on action.</li> </ul>	<p>Launching off point for this committee to understand the needs of our communities and to be able to provide this information</p>
13.	<p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 31, 2020; in Edmonton.</li> <li>• Confirmed date will be emailed out.</li> <li>• Set a meeting: Jacquie, Brittany, Catriona, Bev, Heather and Jenny to meet for lunch to discuss the transition within next few weeks</li> </ul>	<p>Heather to circulate to see how many are available.</p>

	<p><b><u>Meeting Adjourned</u></b></p> <p>3:30 p.m. the Vice-Chair, Councillor Jacquie Hansen adjourned the meeting.</p>	
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