

## Community Social Development Committee TERMS OF REFERENCE

Revised April 2009

**Mandate:** This is a committee of the City Council of Revelstoke. It is comprised of community social sector professionals, business representatives, community members and City councilors. It will contribute to achieving the Community Vision (below) by supporting all citizens through a responsible and caring social system. It reports to Council through the Community Development Department with the Community Development Director providing staff support to ensure the Work Plan established by the Committee is achieved.

The term 'community members' refers to the citizens of the City of Revelstoke and those residing in immediate vicinity.

### *Community Vision Statement*

*Revelstoke will be a leader in achieving a sustainable community by balancing environmental, social and economic values within a local, regional and global context.*

*Building on its rich heritage and natural beauty this historic mountain community will pursue quality and excellence. Revelstoke is seen as vibrant, healthy, clean, hospitable, resilient and forward thinking. It will be committed to exercising its rights with respect to decisions affecting the North Columbia Mountain region.*

*Community priorities include: opportunities for youth; economic growth and stability; environmental citizenship; personal safety and security; a responsible and caring social support system; a first-class education system and local access to life-long learning; spiritual and cultural values, and diverse forms of recreation.*

*All residents and visitors shall have access to the opportunities afforded by this community.*

1994

### **Philosophy**

We believe that:

1. Social planning and understanding of the social needs of community members needs to become a Revelstoke priority.
2. The City of Revelstoke and community members have the desire to deliver effective supports and services to its citizens.
3. The provincial and federal governments and other funders need to receive input on how services are delivered and how they ought to be delivered in Revelstoke.
4. Collaboration and coordination of services will benefit the community and service providers.
5. We believe the most effective collaboration occurs in the context of positive, trusting relationships. Relationship-building, therefore, is an important activity within and of the committee. We adhere to the principle of open and honest communication, and to the degree possible, inclusion of those affected in the process.

6. All people have the right to be treated with dignity, including, clients, community members, colleagues, fellow committee members, representatives of organizations, institutions and government. We believe that honoring individual and group diversity promotes respect and dignity.
7. We believe that this community's strengths and needs are best known and addressed by people and organizations rooted in the community. Individual strengths and knowledge provide a foundation for growth and increasing capacity.

### **Accountability**

Being accountable requires that we:

- a) Develop and implement a Work Plan that guides our work through an inclusive process to access the best possible information about the assets and priorities of our community
- b) Operate from, and make decisions based upon best practices and community based research.
- c) Exercise cost-effective strategies and action plans to optimize benefit from public funds and private contributions.
- d) Evaluate our work in terms of measurable outcomes, research-based best practices and cost-effectiveness and continuously improve our work based on the learning from these evaluations.
- e) Communicate lessons learned and successes to the community at large.
- f) Maintain accurate records of our work and finances.

### **Objectives**

*To facilitate proactive planning for positive social change by:*

1. Facilitating communication and collaboration amongst community organizations to support them to work together on community social challenges and opportunities;
2. Supporting action on high priority projects identified in the Community Development Action Plan;
3. Identifying new social challenges and opportunities in the community and identify ways to meet these challenges and access these opportunities;
4. Providing the City of Revelstoke with information and recommendations on community social challenges and priorities;
5. Communicating social issues and information within the community and externally; and
6. Maintaining and updating the social aspects of the Community Development Action Plan.

These objectives could be achieved through, but not limited to, the following activities:

- Raising awareness and understanding about social challenges and successes in Revelstoke within the municipal government and broadly in the community
- Enhancing knowledge about the roles and programs of service providers within the social sector and broadly in the community
- Generating discussion to identify causes of social issues
- Using asset-based community development approaches to create solutions
- Providing and promoting opportunities for co-ordination of services to decrease competition,

overlap and gaps in services

- Acting as an advisory body to which the City may refer questions, reports, and requests for support related to social topics
- Advising the City on actions the municipality could take to address social issues, including advice to City staff working on social issues
- Annually reviewing and updating the social aspects of the Community Development Action Plan, including identifying priorities, and provide input on other aspects of the Plan
- Sharing information about funding opportunities and approaches to access funding for the community
- Providing educational opportunities for community members, social service clients and service providers to increase skills, knowledge and awareness on various aspects of social planning