

Fort Vermilion and Area Seniors and Elders Lodge Board 1788

Chairman's Annual Report 2017

Dearest Lodge Board and Membership:

It is with great humility that I pen me second Annual Chairman's Report. It has been an active and successful year as the Board has undertaken many steps in taking our 10-year story to all three levels of government as we attempt to find our champions who will say 'I will'. Also, our directors and members have been busy with volunteer fund raising, providing governance direction at our Board meetings and individual advocacy of our dream wherever life may find them. All this work and sweat ...**"to create a culturally inclusive Designated Supportive Living Facility in Fort Vermilion by 2020."**

Accomplishments/Progress

1. The Fort Vermilion River Road Trading Post ('Trading Post') one of our partners began raising funds in 2014 through the operation of a thrift store.
2. April 2016 a grass roots community meeting was held with over 60 people attending from the region and the FVASELB1788 ('the Board') was created. The community member's vision is to incorporate indigenous healing standards as well as other local cultures in a way that contributes to all levels of health (spiritual, physical, emotional and mental).
3. Throughout 2016 the Board completed their first strategic plan with the Ministry of Culture & Tourism, completed its own full set of Registered Member approved Bylaws and attended several funding/awareness events.
4. The Board has structured itself with 9 Directors from the region and 4 appointed Directors 1 from each of the North Peace Tribal Council Nations (Dene Tha' First Nation, Tallcree Tribal Government, Beaver First Nation and Little Red River Cree Nation).
5. To date both the Board and the Trading Post have raised well over \$100,000 by way of thrift store sales, community fund raising and personal donations.
6. Land in the Hamlet of Fort Vermilion has been donated. 3.0 acres by a private citizen, 5.0 acres by Alberta Health Services and an open invitation to the appropriate land needed by the Tallcree Tribal Government's adjacent reserve.
7. February 27, 2017 received a Letter of Support from the Boreal Housing Foundation with the authority to review and use the data within the Mackenzie Region Housing Needs Assessment Report 2014 ('MRHNA 2014 Report').
8. April 2017 FVASELB1788 decide to increase its capacity though engaging with Innovisions & Associates in analysing the MRHNA 2014 Report.
9. June 2017 the Board and Innovisions & Associates complete a 'Refresh' of the MRHNA 2014 Report.
10. FVASELB1788 decides to work closely with Innovisions and Associates and initiated a Strategic Pathfinding and Planning initiative.
11. Feasibility & Needs Assessment Committee (Kevin Smith, Sara Schmidt & Jeff Anderson) created in June 2017 to work through the summer on Strategic Pathfinding and Planning initiative.
12. Letter campaign to the Premier, Ministers, MLA's, MP's and AHS North 1 Health Zone proposing a presentation regarding a Culturally Inclusive DSL Facility in Fort Vermilion by 2020.
13. Business Cards created by Jeff Anderson and distributed. Public Relations Committee working on a professional brochure.

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14. The FVASELB1788 volunteer board in 2017 has made a total of 14 presentations to potential partners/champions including the North Peace Tribal Council, government agencies, housing management agencies and organizations since January 2017 (12 of these presentations since June 2017).
15. During the presentation with the North Peace Tribal Council chiefs the Board discussed roles and/or commitments. The chiefs were in support and wanted to keep the ball rolling and invited the Board to it's 2017 Annual General Assembly.
16. August 22, 2017 completed the 12-month *draft* FVASELB1788 Action Plan.
17. The Board with Innovisions and Associates have underway – are looking for new models, public private partners/partnerships and collaborative leaders that will further strengthen our ability to make the DSL facility a reality and provide more local care for our aging seniors and elders.
18. August 25, 2017 the Mackenzie County sends a letter to the Boreal Housing Foundation asking: "That the Boreal Housing Foundation be requested to support the Fort Vermilion Seniors and Elders Lodge Board with support to move a lodge forward in Fort Vermilion."
19. September 6, 2017 received a letter from Minister Lori Sigurdson inviting the Board to meet and listen to the Board's concerns and vision.
20. September 28, 2017 received a letter from Minister Hoffman, AB Health supporting the need for continuing care that is culturally sensitive and meets the needs of Alberta's diverse population.
21. October 5, 2017 the Board is invited to a joint meeting with Minister Sigurdson, Seniors & Housing, Richard Feehan, Indigenous Relations, Deputy Premier/Minister of Health Sarah Hofmann & MLA Debbie Jabbour.
22. October 18/19 Grand Chief Meneen, Jeff Anderson, Reagh Burgess (BDLS) and Natalie Gibson give 3 presentations to key high ranking Federal staff and their departments including: Employment and Social Development Canada, Health Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.
23. October 26, 2017 the Board meets with Natalie and reviews the draft 12-month Action Plan (with communication plan imbedded) and adopts the document.
24. November 1, 2017 Major updates and improvements to the website fortvermilionlodgeboard.ca
25. November 20, 2017 Started working with Culture & Tourism staff in securing funding through their Community Initiatives Program.
26. November 21, 2017, we are currently organizing a Task Force to meet in mid-December 2017 and shall include Chief Meneen, our Board, our new Federal Partners and Provincial partners. The main Goal is to develop a Business Case.

Activities (Fund Raising) in the Community:

- Volunteered to help with BBQ and serving at Senior's Annual BBQ-Potluck in Fort Vermilion.
- Volunteered with RRTPB at First Town Foods sponsored Annual BBQ to raise funds for the Lodge.
- Organized and Volunteered at the 2017 Fort Vermilion Rodeo breakfast.
- Organized and Volunteered and donated the ice cream shack at the Annual Ag Fair in Fort Vermilion.
- Organized and Volunteered at the 'Wop-May' renaming event at Fort Vermilion's long-time-running Airport.
- Organized and Volunteered at the Annual Fort Vermilion Get to Know You Night.

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At these activities/events/donations given at event we raised **\$10,250.00** towards the creation of our lodge. Additionally, your Board spent **137 hours** completing this work.

As with last year on behalf of your Lodge Board I want to thank all of you for your support over the years that have made the dream of building a home for our loved one step closer to reality. It is not going to be easy moving forward, it never is when trying to bring medical care to our area; however, the best way I can share my heart with you and encourage you to 'take heart' and continue to persevere is to quote a great leader of our time:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles; or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly...who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." – Teddy Roosevelt

Kind regards,

JEFF ANDERSON

J. Anderson
Chairman – FVASELB1788