

Fort Vermilion and Area Seniors and Elders Lodge Board 1788
Chairman's
Annual Report 2019

Dearest Membership:

It is with great humility that I pen my fourth Annual Chairman's Report at our fifth AGM. It has been an active and successful year as the Board has undertaken many steps in continuing to take our now old story to all three levels of government and have finalized a proposal with four (4) champions who are keen in helping our community **"realize a culturally inclusive Designated Supportive Living Facility in Fort Vermilion by 2020."**

Accomplishments & Progress Since 2018 AGM:

- **8 Regular Board meetings**
 - 46 Motions Made
 - 1133 minutes of Actual Meeting Time
 - 100's of coordination emails/ phone calls and several blocks of paper, printer ink and pencils...
- **1 Special Board meeting**
 - Met with Mike McMann, Superintendent – Fort Vermilion School Division #52 to discuss looking at the St. Mary's School Structure as a starting point for a DSL facility as his administration is moving through a school amalgamation exercise. Thus, potentially leaving the St Mary's School vacant and available for re-purpose; school structure and land is owned by the Holy Family Catholic School Division. Meeting was graciously attended by Cameron Cardinal, Councilor for Ward 7 – Mackenzie County who encouraged the Board and Mr. McMann to facilitate a community grass roots meeting.
- **3 Partner Meetings with ONPA Architects, Western Health Planning Associates, Alberta Rural Development Network & Crystal-Clear Consulting**
 - The outcome of these meetings is a final proposal submitted and approved by the Board for these four professional agencies in completing a Northern Metrics Needs Assessment, Senior Housing Project Strategy, facility programming, Business Case and project costing and capital grant funding.
- **4 Partner Meetings with LRRCN, TCFN & Board Researcher Supporting the Board's Work**
- **In April we welcomed Theresa Shelton who has joined the Board from Little Red River Cree Nation as an Appointed Director.**
 - The addition of Theresa to the team has been a blessing bringing with her a solid background in economic development, indigenous business and professional wisdom when dealing with capital projects.
- **On April 8, 2019 the Board held a joint community meeting with Mike McMann, Superintendent – Fort Vermilion School Division #52.**
 - Evening was a hosted supper facilitated by the Hilltop Youth program with 140 people in attendance. Mr. McMann and I facilitated an open forum information session regarding the amalgamation of the two schools in Fort Vermilion. The amalgamation would potentially open the door for the Board to navigate the St. Mary's school as a viable option in being converted to a Designated Assisted Living facility.

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- **Received grant funding support from Mackenzie County**
 - Web Site Phase 2 Development & Updates project
 - Office Supplies (brochures, business cards, note pads, letter head, paper & printer ink)

The Board and our website contractor are approximately 30% completed the Website Phase 2 and have completed 90% of the office supplies piece. As such, the Board prepared a comprehensive progress report for the County in early November outlining where we are at remaining transparent and accountable in our business practices.

- **The Board continues to pursue charity status with the CRA**
 - After being denied on our first attempt the Board were provided three different options as to how to continue to move forward with this important work. As such, we decided to work on a second application completely brand-new application.
- **Fund Raising Events:**
 - FV Grass Roots Community Meeting (FVASELB1788 & FVSD#52)
 - Seniors Week supper & BBQ
 - Mackenzie County Agricultural Fair

I am proud of the work that has been accomplished this year. This phase of a project is arguably the most difficult for it's taking a vision of the people through a planning and development process in such a way that when the shovel eventually hits the dirt you know that you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it will be built, built right and by the right people. This season we are in absolutely requires patience and endurance, and the Board members I have the privilege to chair...are doing just that.

In my last annual report, I asked you, as our caring & devoted community members, to please remain vigilant and dedicated to our old story taking heart in the knowledge that your elected Board is doing the right thing at the right time with the right people. I believe that you have remained vigilant and on behalf of Marilyn, Noreen, Bill, Kevin, Raymond, Eric, Jed, Keith and Theresa and myself we thank you for continuing to stand & fight for our most vulnerable as this community completes the work laid out in front of us to build them a home.

Sincerely,



Jeff Anderson, Chairman
FVASELB1788