



ABORIGINAL LIFE IN VANCOUVER ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Call to Order 6:05 pm

Introduction of Members and Current Directors

Agenda: Motion: To adopt the Agenda as Presented. Moved -Kwakwee, Baker; Second- Alan Williams; Carried

Minutes of last AGM: Motion: To adopt the Minutes of the last AGM November 24, 2014. Moved- Carole Brown; Second- Kwakwee Baker; Carried

Annual Report Executive Director:

Discussion: Need for Provincial organization in BC representing Urban and off reserve aboriginal and metis people. Announcement regarding formation of the North West Indigenous Council and the recent visit of national Chief of Congress of Aboriginal People. ALIVE website is being updated- and Facebook has over 1600 followers.

Motion: to accept the Annual Report as presented. Moved- Bill Lightbown; Second- Alan Williams; Carried

Annual Financial Statement: Motion: To accept the Financial Statements for the April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015 Year as presented. Moved –Carole Brown; Second-Devon Webster; Carried

Election of Officers: The following were nominated:

Ernie Crey
Bill Lightbown
Penny Kerrigan
Kwakwee Baker
Colleen Johnson
Alan Williams
Keith Cameron
Joleen Williams

Motion: To accept the slate as presented. Moved- John Jardine, Second-Devon Webster; Carried.

Motion: To declare the slate elected by acclamation: Moved -Sherrie Gladstone; Second- Jessica Savoy; Carried.

7:25 pm Motion: To Adjourn the 2015 AGM-M–Colleen Johnson, S-Alan Williams; Carried



ALIVE AGM 2015

Annual Report

Summary

Over the past year, we have witnessed many successes and challenges moving forward. We are now moving into our 6th year and are pleased to report that the collective impact place based approach is beginning to take root in several communities here in Vancouver. We enjoy the support of many provincial organizations like the BC Representative of Children and Youth, BC Government Employees Union, BC First Nations Leadership Council and the First Nations Health Council. Although we a very small staff at ALIVE we have many volunteers and partner agencies that work together to create safe, inclusive, reflective and engaging communities here in Vancouver.

2014-2015 Highlights

Reconciliation in Action

Reconciliation in Action is a place-based collective impact approach to building more inclusive communities and closing the gap between urban Aboriginal people and others. It means moving beyond words to make reconciliation a reality at the neighbourhood level. RIA began as an initiative of Our Place and ALIVE (Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement) Society in Strathcona and has now expanded to other Vancouver neighbourhoods through partnerships with local community centres and resident-led groups.

RIA Ray-Cam

On June 19th OUR PLACE and ALIVE hosted the second annual Reconciliation in Action: *Where Change Happens* Community Gathering and Celebration at Ray-Cam Community Centre. This event brought together diverse groups including local residents, politicians, BIAs, service agencies and civil society groups to celebrate local aspirations and share the successes that have been achieved so far. The event showcased the "Our Place Village", a *prenatal to elders care* continuum of services and supports. The panel consisted of key community leaders including Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, BC's Representative for Children and Youth; Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Chair of the First Nations Health Council; Cheryl Casimer, First Nations Summit Task Group; and



Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, BC's Children and Youth Rep speaks at RIA 2015



Youth envisioning their community at RIA 2014

City Councilor, Andrea Reimer, all supporters of the place-based approach.

RIA Britannia

A Grandview- Woodlands Reconciliation in Action was launched at Britannia on September 29th with the successful 'Drive the Change' community event. *Drive the Change* was well-attended and received great feedback from the community. **RIA: Drive the Change** was not only an event but an introduction to ignite the community's interest in finding ways forward to address challenges and create positive and meaningful change in Grandview-Woodland. The Britannia board is expected to pass motions to host **RIA: Drive the Change** again next year and support the involvement of staff and community partners in place-based collective impact work. They will also work to create training/development opportunities, and have made a commitment to better engaging families and vulnerable youth in planning and decisions. A coordinator will likely be hired to facilitate the work.

RIA Hastings

Up next is RIA Hastings-Sunrise, scheduled for February 25th at Hastings Community Centre!

OUR PLACE

Our Place is a community based collaboration of residents and organizations working together to create an Inner City community where children and families can thrive. It includes Ray-Cam, ALIVE, the Inner City Safety Society, and the Network of Inner City Community Services Society as key partners. These groups meet weekly at Ray-Cam to plan and report out on partnership work.

Youth Matters

In September 2012, Vancouver media carried reports of a narrowly averted suicide pact by 24 young people -- mostly Aboriginal and 13-15 years old -- from Vancouver's Strathcona and Grandview-Woodlands neighbourhoods.

Local groups, including ALIVE demanded action, calling the first *Youth Matters* meeting – a forum led by Our Place and attended by community and institutional representatives seeking comprehensive, long-term solutions.. Despite attempts to follow up on the identified issues, the community has yet to see a response and large numbers of youths remain in crisis or at risk.

In the wake of the report from the RCY this May ("Paige's Story"), the community once again came together to ensure action and accountability. Senior staff people from all relevant organizations were invited to the fourth **Youth Matters** forum on September 29th in the morning prior to Reconciliation in Action: Drive the Change. The forum saw over 85 participants from various agencies coming together to begin developing comprehensive strategies that support vulnerable children and youth in our community.

Those in attendance were invited to join Action Teams to become part of an Integrated Community Accountability Network-made up of civil society and resident based organizations who plan accountability and report out forums to ensure citizens and community know what is happening and have input. The first action team meeting took place on November 19th and a larger forum will be taking place in February to report out on progress.





Pidgin owner Brandon Grossuti and Scott Clark. Pidgin restaurant raised \$7000 for the Graduations Strategy along with TELUS during DineOut Vancouver!

Graduation Strategy

ALIVE is a key partner in the Inner City Graduation Strategy, a comprehensive approach to ensuring inner-city children graduate from high school equipped to lead productive happy lives in the community. From ensuring good access to pre-natal care for moms, opportunities for early learning in community childcare and pre-school settings, mentoring and tutoring throughout school, Graduation Strategy partners work to ensure success for children and families. Key Partners are the local community centres, school based staff, nurse practitioners, and organizations like the Homework Club and Pathways that are dedicated to assisting students. The Graduation Strategy establishes a holistic approach, working with parents to establish a culture of success in the inner-city.

Graduation Strategy Official Launch

On March 4, 2015, a public celebration took place at Ray-Cam Community Centre, marking the formal kick-off of the Graduation Strategy. The event enabled key partners to meet the community and the general public, answer questions, and build overall community momentum to create a neighbourhood where children can thrive.

RISE

R.I.S.E (Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment) evolved out of ALIVE's Gen 7 Aboriginal Youth Role Model Program, and is currently delivered in 5 local Community Centres as a partnership between ALIVE, the Vancouver Parks Board and the MoreSports YELL Program.



"ShapeShifter" Indigenous Fashion Show at the VPL

Organized by RISE leader, Joleen Milton (pictured

better reflect the desires and needs of Aboriginal children and families and other non-participating groups. Through RISE they gain valuable experience working in mainstream employment setting, receive relevant training based on their areas of focus, and union wages that support their continuing education. The 5 Parks Board community centres

Leaders are selected based on their demonstrated community leadership, background in arts/culture/recreation and experience working with youth. RISE leaders are employed as Parks Board staff and run different types of programs and events in the community, including arts & culture, recreation/sports, and youth leadership. They work with staff to do outreach, engagement and consultation in the centre catchment area to create opportunities that



RISE leader James Nabira, in accepting Congress of Aboriginal Peoples National Youth Achievement Award from National Chief Dwight Dorey.



currently participating in the RISE Program are: Ray-Cam, Britannia, Mount Pleasant, Hastings and Strathcona

Elders Connect

Elders Connect is a new partnership formed by ALIVE and NICCSS that aims to engage Seniors in the Strathcona, DTES and Grandview-Woodlands neighbourhoods. It currently includes representatives from the VPL, Ray-Cam, and Britannia Community Centre who are all interested in working together to identify and address barriers to participation, particularly seeking to engage Aboriginal seniors.

An elder's advisory team is being developed and will work with RISE leaders to engage other seniors in dialogues around what they want to see in their community, and how programs could better support their needs and priorities. RISE leaders and student volunteers will be working on mapping local assets and conducting demographic research. Information will be shared among partners to determine which seniors are not engaged and which seniors are accessing the resources of each organization. Programs, training and services will be developed/adapted to respond to the information generated.

Inner City Connect

ALIVE has helped spearhead a digital strategy in the Inner city as a founding member of *Inner City Connect*, a community-driven, place-based collective that advocates for, and takes action to increase, access to technological tools for inner-city, low-income residents. In June, the city of Vancouver approved a proposal submitted by Inner City Connect to implement two coordinated pilot projects to provide free WiFi and low- or no-cost hardware to local students and their families, and to members of the public from Victory Square to Clark Drive.

Pilot One: Graduation Strategy

For children and youth to succeed in achieving 21st century educational standards, they must have access to 21st Century learning tools. Over 50% school age children in Strathcona are unable to access online learning in their homes.

This pilot project will bring needed equipment and connections to the homes of low-income learners and their families, providing the tools necessary to support school success and their ability to compete

Students will qualify through their participation in the Graduation Strategy and will be provided with hardware/software and training as appropriate and available.

Pilot Two: Hasting Corridor

- Will create free WiFi access along the East Hastings corridor between Victory Square and Gore Avenue.

-Led by the DTES Street Market

-Targeting the needs of people living, or homeless, in the Downtown Eastside

The future goal is to expand the offering to more family participants in the Graduation Strategy, other isolated area residents such as seniors, and across a wider geographic area in the inner city.

