

What's in a name?

Several things were decided at the last meeting, we had a very good turnout considering it was a summer month.

Interior Health again was not present at the meeting, regrets were sent, about their busy schedules.

Three things of interest were decided, see the minutes for the details.

1. We are forming a nonprofit society.
 - a. We are very grateful to the Community Resources Society for providing a home for this group to flourish, with their support, we were able to hold some funds for small needs, have accounting completed, and provide tax receipts where appropriate.
 - b. We are in need of funds to move forward with more of this executives plans for supporting the ongoing efforts of sustainable and consistent healthcare for our communities. We want to be able to apply for grants etc. to find funds, and nonprofit status is a step we need to take to do this.
2. We are opening a bank account to prepare to be self-sufficient.
 - a. CRS has been very helpful in holding our funds and providing signed cheques etc. for us, we know they have lots to do for their own group and volunteer activities. This is another step needed to follow through on item 1(b).
3. We are formally joining the BC Rural Health Network.
 - a. This group was started by Ed Staples and a few people from Princeton, it is the next step in their journey to have provincial support for the needs of rural health care.
 - b. They have created a nonprofit society.

- c. They have some good provincial contacts for education and support for Community Health Centers which can / should have self-governance.
- d. It is worth our while to work with them, share our stores and hear others all in the hopes of becoming a voice for healthcare in our communities.

What IS in a name?

Since our meeting in July, we have embarked on a journey to prepare the necessary paperwork to become a nonprofit society under the recently changed rules of our Province. We expected some challenges, and so we secured the help of Vivian Edwards, who has had recent experience completing these documents for some other organizations under the new rules, we are especially thankful for her perseverance helping us.

First – we needed to choose a name, we discussed this briefly at our meeting because Vivian had done some preliminary work and told us we needed the following:

1. “Require distinctive, non-descriptive first word or prefix eg person’s name, initials, geographic location etc.”
2. We needed to include Society, Foundation or Association
3. A Constitution and by-laws.

Seems pretty straight forward – right?

NO

We ran into a stumbling block with #1.

We tried

- Ashcroft and District Healthcare Society
- Healthcare and Wellness Coalition Society
- Ashcroft and District Wellness and Healthcare Society
- Ashcroft and District Hospital Coalition Society
- Ashcroft Community Health Centre Society

You get the idea

They made some suggestions

- Ashcroft/Cache Creek Wellness Coalition Society
- Ashcroft Valley Wellness Coalition Society
- Ashcroft Community Support + Wellness Coalition Society

We wanted the word Healthcare, but could not have it.

We have to consult with another society about the chosen name to see if they have any concerns about using:

Community Health Center Society of Ashcroft and Area

Because it might be too close to their name.

We hope it is okay.



Ashcroft Health Service Area Planning Table

This is the name of the group that has been formed by The Division of Family Practice (a physician's organization), Interior Health and the community.

At this last meeting there was a much smaller representation from municipal elected Mayors and council, some First Nations communities, and me. Also some people from the Patient Voices Network, who are chosen by Division of Family Practice.

The rest of the table was Interior Health and Division of Family Practice.

There was to be a formal written notice to share with people about the meeting, but it has not been done, and likely won't be.

I can say that there was little opportunity to share the challenges of living with our current lack of emergency services.

Little opportunity to suggest options for consideration to solve the current shortages of nurses, and physicians. Different models of service delivery etc.

We hope the next meeting gets more attendance from those elected to represent the communities to ensure we have a voice in what the future of healthcare looks like in our service area.

A second meeting was held with Jackie Tegart, Fraser Nicola MLA. We discussed strategies to gain attention and have those who make decisions acknowledge the work we are doing.

The first step is to have our group hold a seat at the table as the community group that we are rather than as invitees from the Village of Ashcroft, we very much appreciate that support, but feel we have earned the right to be at the table representing the people who signed our petition and gave us their support.



**NO RESPONSE
FROM ADRIAN DIX
OR SUSAN BROWN
AFTER RECEIVING
OUR PETITIONS.**