



Community Conversation Notes - November 2024

**Individual names do not appear in the notes for privacy*

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT

- 1. Community Outreach Services – Adults:** Concern around how much folks are going to pay as of Dec 1. Folks have anxiety about what they will incur financially in another month. Folks housed through Air BnB were ok but are now bubbling up and needing support again. Red Cross is doing appointments but are back-logged quite a bit for an appointment. Lots of people seeking assistance with rec passes. Gym started charging as of Oct. 15 so people needed financial help to continue those activities.
OPPORTUNITY: COS is partnering with Recovery Alberta to put on several support sessions over the next few weeks/months. Big Gear Giveaway for winter gear Nov 23-24.
- 2. Community Outreach Services – Elementary Age Kids and Families:** Hockey families are doing a lot of extra travel due to the closed arena. They are asking for gas cards. There is a lot of anxiousness around the cost of housing in 2-weeks. Laundry costs are an unexpected extra cost of living in a hotel. COS is expecting a high volume of Santas Anonymous requests. Carla did several kids sharing circles in the schools and a theme that emerged is waiting in traffic to evacuate with a lot of red lights.
- 3. Red Cross:** There are opportunities for funding to support programming. CRC is offering personalized recovery supports. They can help navigating the demolition/rebuild and insurance processes. They are working with small businesses and non-profits with supports to keep them afloat. There is a holiday grant available as well for programming that connects community around the holidays.
- 4. Settlement Services:** Financial instability continues and there is concern about winter and the colder, darker weather. Groceries, rent and financial support needs continue to be high. Still a lot of movement and people leaving Jasper. There is also a lot of anxiety about things that are uncertain. Folks would prefer bad news vs. no news. **Action:** Settlement is putting on a session on Nov 27 on tenants insurance. Under 18: Jorge shared that kids are asking for more activities – fun recreational activities they can sign up for.
OPPORTUNITY: A learn to skate program would be very helpful. There also continue to be needs around winter clothing.
- 5. Pine Grove Resident – Jennifer Ottaway – Evergreens** has relocated lots of seniors. Jennifer has just relocated outside of her home. Pine Grove residents were generally supported in a hotel in Hinton but also ready to move on. Some are in Edson others have moved on to be with family.
- 6. Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre, Caylee LaBranche –** Great informative space to learn about what's going on and how JRCC can support. Also doing a needs assessment strategy post-fire.
- 7. Community Outreach Services, Social Prescribing – Kacie.** It's been a struggle trying to figure out what seniors would like for programming. Prime Time Programming is moving ahead in partnership with various entities to do sessions on wellness, counselling etc. Paint afternoon coming too. Yoga might be something we try again. Not Falling For You – volunteer, peer lead fall prevention program coming to Jasper. Drive Happiness has one volunteer completely registered, 2



8. more in the works and 3 clients using this service. **OPPORTUNITY**: There is a gap in in-home supports including light housekeeping. There is the need but the cost is very expensive. The need is also for respite to a spouse who is caregiving.
9. **Alpine Summit Seniors' Lodge**: Hosted seniors dinner and governor general for a tea party. East Coast concert on Nov 18. Pete coming on 28, Museum on Nov 15. JPL lunch date Dec 3. Pluck and holler boys – free concert evening kicking off Christmas season coming in Dec. Got the seniors bus up and running again. There is one trip to Hinton planned Nov 14, going forward 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. All shopping trips open to any Jasperite. Generator: obtained permit to do the work outside to install a generator. Anticipated completion in December.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. **Service Canada out of Grande Prairie** – spent 3 weeks in Jasper Every Thursday from 10-3 pm. Senior scams are taking shape: coming in as a text – important notice from Service Canada, problem with recent tax assessment lead to issue with CPP etc. *Forward info on seniors'. GOC will never text, email or ask you to click on a link. This scam involves aggressive language. Recommendation: use a secret word to verify. Session on scam awareness and SIN

FIRE RELIEF

1. **The Canadian Red Cross**: The Canadian Red Cross is offering personalized recovery support to help households impacted by the 2024 Alberta Wildfires. There is also support available to organizations and businesses.
2. **Mike Minard: Alberta Government Jasper Recovery Task Force**: Central connection point to connect with all areas of government and working with MOJ and Parks on priorities. Briefing to make sure that cabinet committee can make decisions where needed. Working with interim housing and recovery and demolition efforts. Rebuild section coming in the Spring. Working with Red Cross on GOA matching dollars. Feel free to reach out to Mike or anyone on the team: Michael.minard@gov.ab.ca. Operating out of the JRCC.
3. **Recovery Outreach**: Two Recovery Outreach Workers have been filled and folks are working out of Community Outreach Services to work with individuals and families one-on-one in Jasper.

EDUCATION, LANGUAGE & EARLY LEARNING

1. **Ecole Desrochers**: The school is back up and running – some parents are very stressed and overwhelmed. Teachers are seeing that tension trickle down into the mindsets of the students. They are wondering about psycho-social supports for students and teachers in recovery. **Action**: Ecole will connect with Recovery Alberta about this opportunity.
2. **L'Association Canadienne Française de Jasper (ACFA)**: They are back in the building. The Annual General Meeting is next week and they are looking for French language resources on recovery and coping with wildfire.



3. **BEST Program:** Both BEST Program Coordinators are learning what kids and teens are looking for. They are working closely with COS. They are working on a dungeons and dragons program as well as yoga/movement in the schools through Ashley VanTighem, the new BEST Coach for Elementary age. They are seeing increased stress with the fast-approaching holiday season.
4. **Wildflowers Childcare and the Out of School Care Program:** Daycare use levels are nearly back up to normal levels. While the program lost some families post-fire as they are displaced, other families started using the program. They are seeing a need for urgent or emergent childcare. They also shared the name of a great book to help kids understand a little pine cone's experience through a forest fire. It's called 'Pinecone'
5. **Roots and Wings Pre-School:** There are 26 children in the program. They are seeing high parent anxiety. The outdoor gear need is also high. Some folks are not feeling welcome in community spaces. There is now a Rainbow Club at the Ecole Jasper Elementary School.
6. **Jasper Employment and Education Centre:** Victoria – seeing a lot of uncertainty and layoffs going on. People are kind of stuck...waiting for business to reopen but not sure if it will. Some stress about the number of hours people are getting. Full time is now about 20-25 hours per week. Longer term Jasperites are now engaging in JEEC services where they weren't typically a higher user group previously. Open Work Permit sessions continue. Last one Nov 20 because all applications need to be in by Nov 30. Lot of populations moving out of town. CACE Credential Recognition program and English classes continue. **OPPORTUNITY:** Support for employers, business owners and general economic recovery.

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

1. **Jasper Seniors' Society:** JSS has secured a 4 year lease for the lounge. Partnered with Alpine Summit for Fall Dinner at Alpine. Alpine wants to do more things together. Seniors' memberships are free this year – trying to encourage membership and participation without barrier.
2. **Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives:** **OPPORTUNITY:** The museum does have a basement meeting room that could be used by seniors and other groups for gatherings etc. It is accessible and has a kitchen. Coffee Hours will resume again on Fridays.
3. **Jasper Library** – all programming has started back up except for 'From the stacks' which they lost the folks who read the books for this program. Slowly coming back into community. There are less seniors in community right now. They were very displaced and having a hard time getting a foot-hold here in town. Paulette has an idea to collect stories and document things for records (Nov 15 meeting about stories). Info evening at Library mid-november. How to preserve things you found in your house that was full of soot etc. Technology classes for seniors. Seniors need help with Excel. Generational gap with seniors from an age where you don't talk about your hard times. Some seniors' sentiment is around dwelling on their own situation. **OPPORTUNITY:** Support for seniors with technology, navigating tricky systems when it comes to insurance, debris removal etc.
4. **Jackie from the Habitat for the Arts:** Running programs for the next five weeks. Art Classes are starting next week.
5. **Friends of Jasper National Park:** The organization is back up and running – planning ahead for winter. The flat pack program will continue as will their site line certification course. They are looking at doing a needs assessment to better understand what kinds of programs would best suit needs.



6. **Jasper Community Team Society:** Santas Anonymous is starting again – expecting a very busy year. Working with Red Cross to fund the program. The JCTS also continues to provide relief funding to Community Outreach Services for distribution to individuals and families in Jasper.
7. **Jasper Food Bank:** The Food Bank has to relocate after the fire destroyed their equipment and space in the Anglican Church. They are now operating out of the Legion and they are offering a pick-up night on Thu from 5:30-6:30 PM. This space is temporary and they are looking at securing a long-term space.
8. **Jasper Municipal Library:** The Library is back up and running – resuming their Tween STEAM program for 9-12 year olds after school on Tuesdays.
9. **Options HIV West Yellowhead:** Hannah Fitzgerald and Amy Olsen from Options HIV West Yellowhead office in Hinton. Deeply rooted in Jasper since 1988. Raised an opportunity to raise awareness of HIV Options in Hinton – particularly anyone at-risk of harm due to substance use. **Action:** Working on a drug education session with Community Outreach Services.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. **Major Project Updates:** Updates on the Activity Centre Renovation, Skate Park and more can be [found on our website under Major Projects](#).
2. **Community Dinners** – Getting ready for another busy season starting in January.
3. **Grant Funded Program** – Build Capacity of non-newcomers to help address newcomer needs. Newcomer's Guide to Disaster Recovery. Employer Toolkit to supporting staff and updating the Community Guide so that it is accurate post fire. Meeting with employers come spring to bring resources to them.
- 4.
5. **Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator** – Support organizations and businesses in the community to have more inclusive initiatives and to address emerging needs. In Jasper, there isn't anyone who isn't involved in supporting newcomers. Awareness of resources and supports in the community. Dec 5, World Tree Lighting. **Action:** Community Development is working with Red Cross, Salvation Army and a local Chef to enhance this event this year with a light meal, transportation from Hinton and soft support at the event.



INDIVIDUALS

1. **Bianka Kelly:** Joined as a parent of young children and stressed that there is not much to do with young children in Jasper. The loss of Parent Link programming is a gap. Suggested programs from other communities like the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library or the Hinton Busy Boxes program. **OPPORTUNITY:** Lisa will follow up with Bianka about connecting her with the CED Fund and also about brainstorming about Recreational programming for this age group.
2. **Community Development:** Community & Economic Development Fund is open to individuals, businesses or non-profits to apply for up to \$2,500 to support any creative ideas that boost community or economic development. Sign up on our website until November 20.
3. **Linda MacLaren:** United Church Minister. Church was destroyed and many members have lost their homes. It's nice to be back in community. **Action:** United and Anglican Churches are organizing a fun holiday festive tea and sing along.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

1. **Councilor Waxer:** Municipal Council – very busy meeting every week in regular meeting to try and have decision making go quicker. Every week on Council there's a JRCC update/report. Also working hard on Rebuild with Beth Sanders – transitioning to land use and planning falling to MOJ vs. Parks. Looking at bylaw changes that help with relief and recovery. Snow shoveling, RV Parking. Delayed opening of facilities is stressful but everyone working hard to get them open. Letters from 3 local young families asking for more programming for young families. **Action:** Community Development is working with Red Cross to launch more programming asap.



Municipal Council

- ✓ [Highlights from each Council meeting are summarized on our website.](#)
- ✓ [You can also watch every Council meeting on YouTube.](#)

What do you think?

- ✓ [Engage Jasper – Jasper's brand-new online engagement portal. It's a place to share your ideas and provide feedback.](#)
- ✓ [Municipal public engagement opportunities](#)
- ✓ [Give feedback, contact council or report an issue.](#)
- ✓ [You can also contact council by emailing them.](#)

Promote your program or event:

- ✓ [Check the Community Calendar to find out what's going on in Jasper.](#)
- ✓ [Add your program or event to the calendar.](#)

Share your passion:

- ✓ [Fill out this form](#) and we will contact you to discuss your idea!

All things Community Conversations:

- ✓ [Community Conversations schedule and information](#)
- ✓ [Join Community Conversations](#)
- ✓ [Municipal Community Conversations policy.](#)

Do you have neighbours or colleagues who are new to Jasper?

- ✓ The [New to Jasper page of the website](#) has helpful information for them.

Contact:

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