

Services to Seniors Coalition – North Shore

Co-Chairs

- Trish Alsop, *North Shore Neighbourhood House, and John Braithwaite Community Centre*
- Margaret Coates, *Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society*

About the Coalition

The **Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society** is the host agency for the Services to Seniors Coalition – North Shore. The Coalition has been operating since 1992 and is the planning table for issues facing seniors and services to seniors on the North Shore. The 50+ participating organizations and individuals represent a wide spectrum of service providers. We come together as the Coalition to network, plan services and supports strategically, and set priorities and target resources for collaborative action.

Contact the Coalition

C/o Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society
1733 Lions Gate Lane
North Vancouver
Tel: 604 988-7115 ex 4001
Email: lions_view@telus.net
www.lionsviewseniorsplanning.com

Notes

Tuesday, January
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
By Zoom

1. **Welcome: by Trish Alsop (2 minutes)**
2. **Land Acknowledgement (1 minute)**
3. **Introductions (5 minutes)**
4. **Presentation – introductions** Zahra from Vantage Point will be presenting on the 2023 State of BC's Non-Profit Sector Report. This annual report surveys hundreds of non-profits across the province to identify key opportunities and challenges facing local non-profits, and to advocate for the sector. Zahra will also talk about a feasibility study carried out by Vantage Point on the potential for a provincial network for non-profits. The two relevant reports can be found on Vantage Point's website: Safety Net report: <https://thevantagepoint.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Safety-Net-2023-State-of-BCs-Non-Profit-Sector.pdf> Stronger Together report: <https://thevantagepoint.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-Vantage-Point-Feasibility-Study-Report.pdf>

Vantage point's staff and contact information;

Présenter : Zahra Esmail – zesmail@thevantagepoint.ca

Janessa Ellis – Jellis@thevantagepoint.ca

Prairie Chiu- pchiu@thevantagepoint.ca

Presentation Section 1 – The Safety Net – survey analysis

The Safety Net measures:

- Revenues
- Expenses
- Human Resources
- Programs and Services
- Operations
- Governance

Temperature Check on how everyone is feeling.

- People are feeling fearful, overwhelmed, and underfunded. There is also the feeling of optimism and of being in recovery.
- All funding sources are decreasing, except from government sources and individual donations.
- The shared challenges are staffing and funding.
- Organizations are feeling overwhelmed, tired, busy, and uncertain.
- 50% reported and increase in staff recruitment and retention spending.
- Overall, Expenses and service demand has increased.
- Rural communities are seeing revenues from foundations and individual donations decreasing.
- 44% reported an increase in staff absences and the use of sick time.
- 61% reported and increase in wages and salaries.
- 29% reported increased benefits.

The Safety Net 3 Key Themes found that NP felt:

1. Overwhelmed – doing more with less
2. HR concerns loom – staffing seems unsustainable with budgets being top of mind
3. Stabilizing is occurring but for how long?

Discussion Questions:

Are there any surprises or points that resinate in the collected data from survey?

In what ways do you see nonprofits as the safety net for your community? How can this be strengthened.

Coalition feedback:

Thought there would be more information. Found the data and stats to be useful for the grant application process. Observation about how stable everything really is because the number of participants are increasing.

Information about staffing wages and costs (benefit pkg) is important to keep pace to attract excellent candidates to the sector.

Volunteerism is an important asset to sector. Capacity building is important.

The Disability Alliance has had a positive experience working with Vantage Point. Pam's observations about volunteerism is that age of volunteers is getting older. The DA project work involves increased number of volunteers for specific project work.

Presentation Section 2 – Stronger Together

Almost 90% of those surveyed agreed " The nonprofit sector in BC would benefit from the establishment of a formalized network, which encompasses all sub-sectors and regions in BC."

The benefits of creating a Provincial nonprofit network:

- Provide easily accessible resources and best practices.
- Advocate on behalf of nonprofits.
- Be a voice to government on behalf of nonprofits.
- Convene and connect nonprofits.

Collaboration is a wonderful thing. Ways that nonprofits could participate in a potential network are: surveys (information and data collection), increased awareness to other nonprofits organizations and support with boards and committees

For anyone interested in staying up to date around building a network, and contribute when interested, you can sign-up here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5073787>

5. Community Updates-

- **Annwen Loverin – Silver Harbour**

- **Summary of the New Horizons Pan Canadian Grant – Vulnerable North Shore Seniors: Connected, Engaged and Resilient**

- Nov 2023, 7 North Shore Organizations involved.
 - There will be opportunities for group proposals to receive up to \$5,000,000 to be utilized over a 3-year period.
 - There are 7 streams that address gaps in services to seniors.
 - Navigation
 - Food Security
 - Well-being and belonging
 - Climate Change Adaptation and Emergency Resilience
 - Volunteerism
 - Mobility and Transportation
 - Housing.
 - Silver Harbour will be the backbone of the project.
 - Spring 2024 , information on who will be invited to apply for the 2nd round of applications will be available.
 - The North Shore application is solid and has potential for success due to collaborative nature of the application.

- **Beverly Pitman – United Way**

- United Way call for Healthy Aging Grants opens Feb 5th with the deadline being March 8.
 - This opportunity will offer successful applicants up to \$25,000.
 - For more information: contact beverlypitman@uwbc.ca

- **Erikka Brandson – North Van District Planner**

- Community grants process has only received 4 applications so far. They hope for 25+ applications.

- **Ellen Claque – Parkgate Community Services**

- A new childcare centre will be opening soon in the Lynnmore Community Centre.

- **Zheni Gazdova – Parkgate Seniors Programs**

- The Seniors Centre is offering an information presentation series to the seniors commencing January 31st.

- **Robin Rivers – Family Services of the North Shore** – Robin was absent but sent a report.

- Free Grief Support programs – 8 wk program
 - Caregiver support programs, online, are available.

- Support phone calls, friendly visits and walking companionship for isolated seniors.
- Family Services delivery of prepared meals (from Silver Harbour and food bank) available to low-income families and seniors.
- Counselling services are available on a slide scale based on income - \$20-125
- To access any of these services Contact Robin at rivers@familyservices.bc.ca or call 604-988-5281 ext. 233.

6. Next Meeting: February 20, 2024 – SFU presentation on Factbook on Aging, and presentation from CMHC on new community Mental Health program - North Shore Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT)

7. March 19, 2024, “In- Person Meeting”, will be held at the new Family Services Hub at Capilano Mall, 943 Marine Dr. NVan, entrance on the 2nd floor parking lot (upstairs in the Old Sears Building)

Mark your calendar- Lunch will be provided!

8. Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society acknowledges and honours that we live and work on the unceded territories of the Coastal Salish people, including the St'at'imc, S? wxwú7mesh (Squamish), x?m??k??y??m (Musqueam) and s?!?ilw?ta?? (Tseil-Waututh).