

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
June 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Mena Westhaver (Chair), Pamela Carroll, James Hesser, Kristen Kay (via Teams), Colin Newell (via Teams), Peter Quinn
Regrets: Mark Leiren-Young, Isak Serhan, Nathan Papps
Guests: Jacquelin Green, Executive Director, Saanich Neighbourhood Place
Staff: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services (via Teams); Karen Ramsay Cline, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Manager; Colton Whittaker, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by C. Newell and Seconded by P. Carroll: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee held May 28, 2025, be adopted as circulated"

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell, Kay

OPPOSED: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIRS REMARKS

The Chair welcomed committee members, and the following was noted:

- The recent Uptown Multicultural Festival was a success.
- The committees previous motion related to childcare was sent to strategic planning by Council.
- The number of home-based childcare services is decreasing due to rising home prices.
- There is an increasing number of people requiring childcare.

SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE

The Executive Director from Saanich Neighbourhood Place gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Approximately 18,000 visits occur annually across the three Saanich Neighbourhood Place locations for programs and services.
- The organization employs 50 staff with slightly more than half working in childcare and the remainder in family services and food service programming.
- All programs include a food component.
- The annual budget is \$2 million, \$1 million is dedicated for childcare services while the other \$1 million is allocated to programs, operating costs, and mortgage.
- Saanich Neighbourhood Place leases its operating space from the District of Saanich.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides funding and collaborates with Saanich Neighbourhood Place to support family well-being.
- Providing supportive services contributes to prevention and helps avoid long term issues.
- Individuals with housing still face barriers, particularly related to food access.
- Co-location at the recreation centre is effective as it's a neutral setting where people can feel comfortable.
- Program delivery involves significant operating costs.

- Saanich has provided a \$30,000 community grant to Saanich Neighbourhood Place.
- Saanich Neighbourhood Place operates a community fridge that is available 24/7. Save-On-Foods donates bakery items twice a week and produce is supplied through partnerships with the Mustard Seed and local farmers.
- Relocating the fridge to a more accessible location is limited by electricity requirements.
- There is a need for an additional Saanich Neighbourhood Place site on the other side of Saanich, along with funding for operational costs.

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

The Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Manager gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- There are notable inequities that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- The Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Manager role involves building stronger relationships between Council and Indigenous groups and integrating reconciliation efforts across the organization.
- Other jurisdictions offer valuable models and insights for developing a reconciliation framework for the District.
- The Victoria Native Friendship Centre is a key connection for supporting the urban Indigenous population.
- Strengthening relationships with organizations that serve Métis communities will improve services.
- Various tools, including surveys, are available to capture the voices of urban Indigenous peoples.
- There could be future opportunities to collaborate with UVic around Indigenous relations and reconciliation, particularly with the growth of related curriculum.
- Understanding the perspectives of Indigenous partners and working toward a shared vision is essential.
- Saanich Council and senior staff recently meet with WSANEC Leadership Council to listen and learn.
- The District is committed to creating inclusive environments where all individuals feel welcome.
- Many District staff have participated in Indigenous training.
- The Committee would appreciate another presentation from the Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Manager in the fall.

The Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Manager left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by P. Quinn and Seconded by J. Hesser: "That the meeting be adjourned."

RESULT: Carried 6 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Carroll, Hesser, Quinn, Westhaver, Newell, Kay

OPPOSED: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK

DRAFT