

The Community Consultation July 2014 – Results

Discussion Topics

- 1. Employment & Economic Development**
- 2. Education & Training**
- 3. Justice & Health**
- 4. Housing**

1. Employment & Economic Development

- * Need more options for employment for both the private & public sector
- * Assistance & information on accessing the current employment/training options available
- * The following areas need increased/special supports & services
 - Single parents
 - Low income families
 - The disabled youth and adults
 - People relocating to the City
- * More accommodations need to be made to assist Aboriginal People employed or seeking employment
- * Strive for an agreement between the City of Brandon and the Aboriginal Organizations, much like Thompson and Edmonton have i.e. work together to develop a mission statement to adhere to
- * Work with the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce & the Brandon Chamber of Commerce to encourage Aboriginal People to become business owners
- * Consider the development of a place like Thunderbird House in Winnipeg
- * Reach out to other community leaders to gain their support i.e. outside of those organizations represented on BUAPC
- * Review the stats of self-declared Aboriginal people employed by the City of Brandon and what roles they are in (if available)
- * Co-partner with the educational institutions on an apprenticeship program
- * Obtain further details on the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation's apprenticeship program to determine if the City & BUAPC could partner with them

2. Education & Training

- * Focus on Youth Empowerment i.e. role models & inspirational speakers
- * Entrepreneurial Opportunities for youth and adults
- * Development of the Youth Development Project (with the support of the City)
- * Brandon School Division has seen an increase in the number of high school graduates with the Neelin Off Campus and other support initiatives

3. Justice & Health

- * Justice is a major concern for Aboriginal People and there is a definite need for a more trusting relationship between Aboriginal People and the justice system
- * The current court justice system isn't working and has a large number of Aboriginal People (young & old) in various capacities of legal difficulties i.e. lawyer costs, lack of legal support, inability to fully understand the legal language and financial difficulty
- * Work with the Regional Health Authority so as to ensure Aboriginal families attending the hospital do not feel unwelcome (a more accessible environment)
- * Take a proactive approach to create a database of needs and issues of Aboriginal People and the relevant programs available to them i.e. the RHA's Diabetes Awareness Program)
- * Involvement in recreation is an issue for all generations of Aboriginal Peoples' due to limited income to participate in activities and/or extra-curricular activities for children, gym memberships etc. for adults
- * Need to consider partnerships with existing organizations such as the YMCA, BU Healthy Living Centre and Brandon School Division facilities to significantly reduce the costs for activities for healthy living
- * Need specialized support programs to assist high school and post-secondary students to address the loneliness, isolation, racism, addictions, and negative peer pressure such as bullying and gang recruitment

4. Housing

- * Lack of sufficient housing continues to be a problem for Aboriginal People
- * Many landlords in this City will not rent to Aboriginal People
- * Homelessness among the Aboriginal population is increasing and affecting all ages
- * Restrictive rental guidelines prohibit the inclusion of children in many apartment complexes

- * Young families, seniors and single parents cannot afford the high rental costs in this City
- * There is an urgent need for more permanent shelters in this City for the homeless, youth and elderly as well as those leaving abusive relationships

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Develop a database of statistics on the Aboriginal Peoples of Brandon i.e. work, education etc.
- Research funding programs for Aboriginal Peoples that have been successful, both Provincially & Federally
- Develop partnerships with relevant organizations to promote the advancement of successful, long-term initiatives
- Develop a multi-disciplinary network of professionals to work collaboratively and proactively with BUAPC in finalizing the Strategic Plan
- Develop a network of Aboriginal Role Models to promote and showcase their positive achievements and community involvement
- Work with existing Aboriginal Support/Service Organizations to explore the potential development of a “One Stop Resource Centre” for Brandon, similar to Thunderbird House in Winnipeg
- Encourage the Aboriginal Community leadership group in Brandon to work together identify the needs and address Aboriginal issues in a more coordinated capacity
- Work with Brandon University & Assiniboine Community College to encourage post-secondary students to volunteer in the community, including becoming members of BUAPC
- More research needs to be done to make the Aboriginal Community aware of Aboriginal-specific successful businesses, initiatives, projects and programs currently available
- Seek more community input from additional Forums each with a specific topic i.e. Employment, Housing, Education & Health