

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting & 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Theme:** Meeting the  
Challenge of Change

### **Business arising from the Minutes**



### Opening ceremony

- Received many favourable comments on the opening ceremony (i.e.: Prayer by Reverend Francie Keats, welcome speeches by the President and Mayor of MBE, and messages received from Premier Phillippe Couillard, Commissioner Graham Fraser, Sam Hamad, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity, Russ Kueber, and the Founding President, Denis Murray.

### Business Meeting

- The business meeting was constructive, as the participants were very eager to participate. The auditor (PCA Services Cooperatifs Inc.) has a mandate of two years remaining. It was noted to add the Commission Scolaire du littoral to include separately their contribution in future auditor reports, as they are a major supporter of all the initiatives of the Coasters Association.
- The 2014-2015 annual report, and the 2015-2016 follow-up to the annual report will cover all business arising in the Annual General Meeting minutes of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. There are many presenters at this year's AGM and you will be provided with an update on their activities and events.

### Keynote Speaker - David Johnston,

- Mr. Johnston, representative of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, gave an outstanding presentation regarding OCOL, including topics on seniors, community engagement, youth retention, followed by a discussion on matters of immigration, employment, high costs of transportation, seniors verses youth and the importance of the presence of the native community.

- Continue to receive support from OCOL and pleased to have them present again this year at the QCGN site in Montreal, and to the visit of Mr. Johnston in June, 2016.
- *Reminder* – the Commissioner of Official Languages, Graham Fraser, visited the LNS in 2007, and the publication of a very significant report “Vitality Study of Official Language Minority-language Communities”. His support to the LNS and the minority language communities across the Province will be forever treasured.



### Results of the Workshops

The following underlines a summary of the results:

#### *Health & Social Services*

- The work carried out by the QCGN on Bill 10 was remarkable. The QCGN, on our behalf, can take on political lobbying, public mobilization and communications and links with influential citizens.
- Bilingual institutions maintained and enhanced; however, need representation on CISSS/CIUSSS board of directors.
- A LNS Advisory Committee will be established to support the CISSS board of directors.
- The CHSSS’s focus on community development is very important, and they have close ties with local networks.
- The Jewish Community political lobbying approach has proved to be very beneficial.
- Special arrangements were made for Jeffery Hale/Saint Bridget’s, a director and an advisory committee were put in place for institutions formerly designated as anglophone.
- Maintained the Lower North Shore Coalition for Health and Exchange Network.
- Hiring of two local employees at the CISSSBCN, plus a Physiotherapist and an Occupational therapist, there has been major changes to the health system.
- Entered into a new agreement with Health Canada for Anglophone minority communities.
- NPI and McGill funding continued for another two years (2016-2018).

#### *Social Development (Seniors, Poverty & Social Inclusion)*

- Tour of the coast for the MADA file, age-friendly policy.
- Local Table for Seniors developed an action plan, and received funds to implement a Volunteer Structure on the LNS for seniors.
- Representation on the Regional Table for Seniors, Ghislaine Nadeau Monger.
- Issues for the seniors are lodging, transportation, etc...
- Community kitchens project implemented in all municipalities (9 communities) across

the LNS.

- Books on Wheels project – Delivering Food for the Mind, approved by Service Canada, through the New Horizons program implemented through the LNS senior day centers.

#### *Education & Youth*

- McGill University funding approved for three (3) years to provide bursaries to the LNS students to further their education in the medical field with the hope of returning to work on the LNS.
- Through CSL adult education, there will be a possibility of partnering with a college and university off coast to obtain a degree on the LNS.
- A drop in student attendance and financing for teachers on the territory of the LNS is a concern.
- Research Facility to hire students to work in the field of science, the students have been very helpful in the research and development sector of setting-up the LNS Research Facility.
- University of Rimouski started a project with CSL to provide local professional training.
- Eco-systemic approach training and model being implemented on the LNS.
- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Secondary V on the LNS by CSL, celebrated in June, 2015.
- Continue to implement the Youth Skills program on the LNS, Internship program, and summer placement jobs for our youth, created a total of 27 youth jobs in 2015/2016.
- A need to develop local capacity and the benefits of working together.

#### *Economic Development & Employability:*

- Outstanding presentation by CEDEC regarding Community Economic Development and Entrepreneurial Development and Labour Force Development – the PowerPoint shared.
- Membership is available to the residents of the LNS by Co-op Voyages CoSte.
- Improvements need to be made to Route Blanche - it is not just a trail, it is a road, access to the LNS, and to the communities.
- The CSL will look at the possibility of offering vocational studies for tourism.
- A new strategic plan developed by ATR.
- Lack of expertise on the territory in technology, marketing, science, etc...
- Funded by Arclay Natural Technologies in the development of a LNS Research Chair/Facility.
- The LNS has a high level of employment, need to create jobs, provide the necessary training.
- The MRC will receive a development fund to support the implementation of economic development/social economy initiatives.
- Budget cuts to the Local Development Center, which will affect the LNS communities.

#### *Community Development & Leadership:*

- Youth interns funded by YMCA to support the efforts of the Coasters Association, LNSCH, Uni-Aide Foundation and Dr. Camille Marcoux Foundation.

- Funded by Uni-Aide Foundation, Dr. Camille Marcoux Foundation and McGill University to support the positions of the Social Economy Development Agent, Coordinator and Animator.
- The Coasters Association (staff) receive coaching services offered by YES continues.
- Vision 20/20 consultations, lead by the CLD, completed across the coast.

#### Wrap-up by Master of Ceremonies

- The excellent summary by Hugh Maynard of the overall AGM and positive words (including Allen Richards comments) were appreciated last year and we are very pleased to have them both back again this year. However, the following quotes recorded were quite impressive & very touching:
  - ✚ *We're all minorities on the Lower North Shore*
  - ✚ *Make lemonade with lemons – Bill 10*
  - ✚ *Advocacy costs – but it also pays*
  - ✚ *Passion for seniors*
  - ✚ *We are very blessed in some ways*
  - ✚ *Can you move the needle – of change*
  - ✚ *I'm pleased to announce we're hiring a local girl*
  - ✚ *!00% find local work – McGill scholarships*
  - ✚ *Good sense of results from partnerships*
  - ✚ *Can't say kids don't want to come back, if we haven't asked them*
  - ✚ *You may seem alone, but you're not*
  - ✚ *Wow – you can move when that stuff takes place “Partnerships”*
  - ✚ *Computers are the new literacy*
  - ✚ *Capitalizing on the opportunity of change*

#### Closing ceremony

- The acknowledgements, words of thanks and closing remarks were well-appreciated by the participants present, in-person or by video-conference, at the 2015 AGM.

« *United for a Better Future* »

**Cornella Maurice**

*March 19, 2016*

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