

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on September 7, 2010 commencing at 3:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor James Atebe  
Councillor Terry Gidda  
Councillor Paul Horn  
Councillor Danny Plecas  
Councillor Mike Scudder  
Councillor Jenny Stevens  
Councillor Heather Stewart

Staff Members Present: Glen Robertson, chief administrative officer  
Kirsten Hargreaves, manager of social development  
Carmelle Jullion, executive assistant

Also in attendance: Georgina Mitchell, Fraser House addictions councillor  
Dylan Winter, student & Challenge Day participant

## **1. NEW BUSINESS**

SC2010/013

### **Challenge Day Program**

The manager of social development provided council with a report dated June 21, 2010 summarizing the purpose, origin, and benefits of the Challenge Day program held in Mission on April 27, 2010. She stated that due to the overwhelming positive feedback from the students and adult volunteers who participated in the program, it is her desire that the program be offered again in 2011. She stated that the 2010 event was attended by 100 students from 3 high schools in Mission, and that in 2011 she would like to see 3 consecutive Challenge Days which would allow 100 students from each high school to participate. She stated that the cost of this California based program is \$3,500 per day plus airfare and travel expenses for the program facilitators.

A video was played showing how the program works and the powerful impact it has on the students and adult volunteers who participate. The manager of social development stated that youth in Mission are faced with many peer related pressures and that Challenge Day successfully addresses many of these pressures including cliques, gossip, rumors, negative judgments, harassment, isolation, intolerance, racism, sexism, violence, homophobia, hopelessness, and apathy. She stated that Challenge Day is an incredibly powerful and emotional day for all individuals involved and acts as a catalyst for creating positive change in both school and community environments.

Georgina Mitchell stated that Fraser House is very supportive of the program, noting that the participants learn valuable life lessons about sharing, connecting, and how compassion can lead to positive and permanent changes in their lives and relationships with others. She stated that Fraser House has committed to funding a one day Challenge Day program in early to mid February, 2011, and requested council's support and assistance in funding the other two days. The manager of

social development added that she is also seeking partnership funding from the Ministry of Children and Families; as well as in kind contributions from the School District, Parks, Recreation, and Culture, Youth Unlimited, RCMP, and Mission Restorative Resolutions.

Dylan Winter, a student participant in the April, 2010 Challenge Day, shared his experience and indicated that the personal growth he and other participants realized from the program has made a profound difference in his life.

Council expressed its appreciation for the program and acknowledged the significant impact that programs such as Challenge Day can provide to the community. Council noted that although funding the program through the municipal budget may be difficult; there may be opportunities through the District's grant program if Fraser House is willing to champion the 3 day program. Council also encouraged the manager of social development to approach groups such as Parent Advisory Committees and other youth and community organizations to provide financial assistance.

In closing, the mayor thanked the manager of social development, Fraser House, and the 40 Developmental Assets Working Group for bringing the program to Mission and expressed his appreciation to Georgina Mitchell and Dylan Winter for attending today's meeting and sharing their experiences and thoughts about the program. He also stated that if possible, he would like to see a 'made in Mission Challenge Day program' to allow greater participation and long term financial sustainability.

## 2. ADJOURNMENT

SC2010/014

Moved by Councillor Scudder, seconded by Councillor Gidda, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

  
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JAMES ATEBE  
MAYOR

  
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KELLY RIDLEY  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION