

Economic Resiliency Task Force
Tumbler Ridge COVID-19 Resident & Business Survey Results
Summary of ERTF Survey Review Meetings #2
June 17 & 18, 2020

ERTF Member Feedback & Suggestions:

- Seniors & youth buddy program could be expanded to any person who would want to volunteer their time to help out or just spend with a senior. In the past there was a program where seniors went into the school and helped in Home Ec. class and the meals were given to the seniors.
- Financial planning workshop for residents is a good idea. John is looking into the arrangements with Colette Bruneau from IG Wealth Management. The Chamber brought in Michael Kurjata from SKK Chartered Professional Accountants, previously and it was very successful. John has reached out to him to.
- There has been a noticeable increase of visitors to the area using back-country and crown land (ORVs). Many from Alberta. How do we draw these visitors into town to spend money? Suggestion of a partnership between TR's ATV and an Alberta club.
- Discussion about positive and consistent messaging. The Chamber's "Tumbler Ridge Has Heart" campaign on Facebook is going well – community members leave a positive comment about the featured business for a chance to win a gift card to that business. At the end of the campaign the comments will be made into a framed collage for the business. There is a total of \$5000 of gift cards to be given out.
- Suggestion to install outdoor suggestion boxes for the DTR.
- Magnet suggestions: add more mental health resources, add churches. Meikle Wind logo has been added as they have offered to support the project financially. (Complete)
- Good Food Box program, Ronke would like to hire someone to help sort and distribute the boxes. Their funding from the United Way was reduced from \$4000 down to \$1000. Jerrilyn will assist in looking for grant funding. David offered Meikle Wind's assistance in funding as well. The program supplies seniors and vulnerable people a Good Food Box for free.
- Ronke will be receiving 60 food hampers every two weeks and her regular food bank list is only around 30 families, so she will be looking to get a list of vulnerable people who can use this food. Suggestions of how to find these vulnerable people: PAC (schools), TR Cares, library, Forever Young, Health Centre, Social Workers.
- Discussion around Covid testing in TR – anyone that goes to the clinic with respiratory symptoms will be tested.
- Labor Market Partnerships (LMP). This would be 100% paid for by the Province. The only requirement is that it focuses on the unemployed population. A consultant would be hired to review 2016 workforce report and update, focusing on whichever areas are decided upon (entrepreneurship, retraining, downtown revitalization etc.) John is going to work on a plan/scope for the project.
- Discussion about the idea of stimulus funding (federal, provincial, local) to provide grant money for residents to re-side their house in a fire-resistant material (Hardie Plank for example). This would create employment opportunities while helping home owners

improve their houses. Suggestion that this model could also be used to improve energy efficiency in homes.

- Connectivity: reiteration of the importance of high speed internet to TR. This issue encompasses almost all the issues discussed, from mental health (people needing to see counselors online), to getting seniors connected, to students being homeschooled.
- Suggestion regarding using the TRSS facilities (shop, cooking class) after hours for adult classes. Possible business partnership opportunities (build picnic tables and donate some back to the community for example).
- Newsletter: suggestion to publish this in the newspaper rather than print flyers. This would support a local business and people tend to not throw out the newspaper like they do with stand-alone flyers.
- Suggestion to create signs for downtown explaining how the mining and wind industries work together (it takes steel making coal to make a wind turbine).

Next Meetings: June 24 & 25, 2020.

Action Items coming from this meeting:

- ALL: Expand on details for the implementation of Seniors & Youth Buddy Program & **identify lead champion**;
- John: follow-up with financial advisors to set-up workshops (potentially) in the fall;
- ALL: Identify strategies to draw-in ORV'ers. Summer & winter packages? **Identify lead Champion**
- ALL: Expand on the outdoor suggestion box idea;
- John: Follow-up with David Durrant from Meikle re sponsoring fridge magnets;
- John: prepare and present report for Council to approve printing and distribution of magnets (July 13 meeting);
- David & Ronke: to connect re Pattern sponsorship of Good Food Box;
- Jerrilyn and Ronke to connect re grants for Food Bank;
- John: to move forward with LMP project;
- ALL: Consider the value of exploring stimulus funding options for homes - for future discussion;
- Sherri-Lynn: consider for future discussion, the potential of utilizing TRSS workshops for adult training and after hours business incubator-type opportunities;
- Keith: Discuss newsletter options with DTR;