

FNIG Bella Bella Meeting Minutes July 25, 2013

Attendance:

Sarah Dupont (Chair)
Rachel Yaroshuk (Secretary)

Ann Doyle
Christine Wallace
Gordon Yusko
Jenna Walsh
Kim Lawson
Lisa Nathan
Maryann Kempthorne

Introduction

There are a number of knowledge organisations in Bella Bella which offer a variety of functions within the community, including;

- the Bella Bella Community School Library focusing on children's material
- the Heiltsuk Cultural Education Centre focusing on history, territory, laws, knowledge, and cultural traditions of the Heiltsuk people
- the Heiltsuk College NITEP Field College focusing on academics and records
- the Thistalalh Memorial Library (aka the Bella Bella Library) focusing on materials for the general public

On July 12, 2013, a fire destroyed a shared building space which housed many community services, including the Thistalalh Memorial Library. This library is a community-led library, with no formal, scheduled funding from governments.

How does FNIG envision supporting Bella Bella?

With a dialogue between FNIG and Bella Bella contacts to ensure support is received where and when necessary.

Brainstorming things we may offer:

- communication
 - draft a letter of support to be circulated throughout BCLA
 - students may write something for the BCLA Browser & SLAIS Newsletter
 - Twitter feed
 - social media facilitating storytelling/storysharing between Bella Bella and Vancouver
- temporary assistance
 - promote VIRL services
 - bookmobiles
- liaison role
 - putting a call out for someone to organize efforts in Vancouver
 - maybe sending someone to Bella Bella to better connect with the community
 - Christine has connections to get a free Helijet flight up there.

- cataloguing
 - SLAIS remote cataloging of materials. (Caroline Haythornthwaite, SLAIS Director is eager to help.)
 - fundraising for a cataloguing system
 - training community members for sustainable access of cataloguing records
- fundraising
 - grant writing support
 - booksale fundraising
- book drives
 - sourcing a warehouse for sorting of materials before shipping items to Bella Bella. (Marpole Joy Kogawa might have a space for “warehouse” style sorting.)
 - establishing more elaborate selection criteria
 - weeding/sorting the collection prior to shipment
 - recycling miss-matched material either via
 - relocation of materials to other First Nations Libraries or communities recovering from disaster
 - sale (where proceeds go to Bella Bella)
 - recycling
 - arranging free shipping of materials. (Helijet may offer shipping. We need to see what is already arranged. Also, there may be an existing arrangement with BC Ferries for shipping materials to Bella Bella)

For more information visit: <http://bellabellalibrary.com/>