



# Spectrum Solutions

## Notes from Meeting

January 12, 2011

Present: Bill Reid, Laurie Timmermans, Andrew Jarrett, Moira MacLeod, Nola-Hedstrom Beblow, Penny Tees, Wendy Twible.

Regrets: Maxine Ruzicka, Ben Eaton, Todd Kettner, Carrie Fitzsimmons, Jennifer Terwood, Teri Ferworn, Denise Pappin, Myriam Spencer, Roger Luscombe, Carey Lehman

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Spectrum Committee Chair: Laurie indicated that she would like to have someone on the steering committee take over as chair as she has done the work for several years and has other commitments. Nola volunteered to be the chair. The group thanked Laurie for her years of service, support, and dedication to the Spectrum project.
3. Parent Workshop in February: we are planning on offering a session which has Transitions as a focus. The session would be valuable for parents of students with special needs transitioning from one system to another such as school to community or community to school. Bill will be organizing the session.
4. Report on the Conference on Autism: Bill reported that the conference was a great success with 70 delegates in attendance from throughout the region and including the Okanagan and Revelstoke. Front-line workers took advantage of the opportunity to gain valuable training. A number of parents attended the sessions and commented on how meaningful the workshops were for them. The support by POPARD and Michelle Pozin was a big part of the success. The conference also was a financial success.
5. Conference suggestions for October 2011 following the success of the conference on autism. The suggested focus is support for those working with older Children and Youth with Special Needs and related transitions with possible sessions on helping parents be their own best advocates, accessing financial supports, dealing with Aspergers Syndrome at work and in college. The conference would be in Castlegar, Trail, or Rossland.
6. Directory of Services: there is no update on this action plan at this time

7. Follow up on the Think Tank meeting day: the group reviewed the action plan.
8. Advocacy Letters and response. One of the goals from the 2010 Think Tank was advocacy for CYSN. A submission was made to the government's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services and acknowledged in the report. Letters were also sent to the Ministries of Health, Education, and Children and Family Development.
9. Update on Spectrum Contact List: the list is up to 257 contacts including service providers, parents and supporters
10. Announcements