

**ELK VALLEY RESOURCE  
COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST ADVISORY INITIATIVE  
PARTNERS MEETING**

Q3 September 10, 2024

9:00am—12:30pm

Sparwood Seniors Drop-In Centre

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## 9:00am – Opening Remarks – Anita Palmer – Steering Committee Chair

- Land Acknowledgement
- Our Mission
- Agenda Brief for the day
- Safety/Health Share: Focus on food share program in the Elk Valley. Reducing waste while supplementing the local food banks. This particular day, the delivery was fresh apples, from the Bear Aware group, this group will pick fruit bearing trees to help support and minimize human/wildlife interactions.
- Introductions

## 9:30am – Cultural Safety & Humility – Jared Basil – Cultural Framework Educator

*“None of us, is as smart as all of us”*

**Introduction:** What is your cultural background or ethnic background, family history, or whatever you’re comfortable sharing.

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Cultural Safety & Humility is mindfulness and awareness that peoples of all races, religions and backgrounds have value, beliefs, and perspectives equal to our own and exercising the ability to stay humble while creating a safe space for all to uniquely express themselves free of judgement.

**How is Cultural Safety helpful:**

- Creating safer spaces for individuals to express themselves
- Allows people to feel more accepted, equating to happier communities
- Teaches mindfulness to those around us
- Unifies individuals, services, and communities
- Fosters healthy environments for growth

**Cultural Humility:** is a life-long process of self-reflection and self-critique. It is foundational to achieving a culturally safe environment. How we show up, is critically important in every aspect of life. A lot of this work starts with self.

**Showing up:**

- Open minded
- Ready to listen, ready to learn, ready to share
- How we show up is important in every aspect of life

**Rights and Responsibilities:** As a group we all have the responsibility to show up and be mindful of our collective responsibilities.

- Examination of the Ktunaxa Nation Social Sector Framework.

**Trauma Informed:** Trauma does not define who we are as Indigenous People, it is not about guilt, blame, anger, or shame. Trauma is colorblind, affecting everybody, and fosters compassion; understanding.

**Colonial Impacts on Indigenous People:** It is important to recognize this is part of our history.

- Colonial Timeline of Important Events (1876 – 2000)
- Truth Commission is formed in 2000

**Group Discussion & Takeaways**

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## 10:45am – EVR in Review – Nich Godri

### Separation:

- Nov 13, 2023 – Teck announces sale of Steel-making Coal business unit
- July 4, 2024 – Federal Government approves transaction
- July 11, 2024 - Legal Day one.

Commitments in R&D – EVR will continue to operate in Canada. EVR will continue to maintain significant employment levels in Canada with no net reduction in the number of employees in the business. EVR will increase capital expenditures in Canada. EVR will increase research and development activities in Canada to at least \$150 million over three years.

Commitments in Community and Environment – EVR will increase R&D. EVR will have a goal to become Nature Positive business by conserving or rehabilitating at least 3 Ha for every 1 Ha disturbed. EVR will develop and implement a climate transition strategy. EVR will honour the existing agreements between EVR and Indigenous Nations and will work with local Indigenous Nations to identify opportunities to increase participation in benefits from the activities of EVR.

Commitments in Community Investment – EVR will increase its contributions to Canadian sponsorship, community, and charitable programs. EVR will participate as a major funding partner with up to \$15 million CDN for the proposed renal/oncology addition to the East Kootenay Regional Hospital in Cranbrook.

\* Question on long range community investment plans (Evgeni)

\* Question about expansion (Nich answered with FRX info)

\* Question about reopening Coal Mountain for mining (Dan answered – this property is in care and maintenance)

Feedback Review Q1/Q2: Total feedback inquiries: 59.

\*Might be worth reminding the contractors about our community expectations (Nich/Kristina)

\*When will we start keeping mine vehicles on the mine? (Shelley Wedderburn/Nich)

House Washing Program: 472 houses washed in Sparwood and Elkford. New booking system is active, [www.evhwp.com](http://www.evhwp.com). A survey was also sent out this year to collect community sentiment around dust. A total of 126 submissions were received.

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Community Investment & Partnership: WONKA movie this weekend.

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11:30am – EDI Discussion – Kristina Wakeford

## 11:45am – Steering Committee Updates

Evgeni - Communications Manager, Elk River Alliance (Environmental Steering Committee Member)

- Shore line clean up at the Elk River (September 22, 10am-2pm Fernie – Boat launch and Sparwood – Elk River Trail entrance, Elkford – across from the Esso/by the bridge)
- Restoration Efforts continue at 3 properties and will be looking for volunteers to collect cottonwood live steaks (October 2024 – see newsletter [elkriveralliance.ca](http://elkriveralliance.ca)).
- Can collection fundraiser

Tom – Elk Valley ATV Club (note name change) and Fernie Bylaw

- Ongoing meetings based on trail closures (due to wildfires)
- First and Second reading to new bylaws – these would allow access to atv and snowmobiles on designated routes.
- Working on application for access with MOTI
- Tom became a certified ATV instructor in July – looking to hold ATV safety courses for families.
- Jamboree and Annual General meeting in 2 weeks
- Trans Canada Energy has finished in upper flat head
- Fernie Bylaw – a property in Fernie was worried about an apple tree on an adjacent property – because these are secondary homes the area had a ton of apples. This continues to be an issue during this season.
- Fernie Bylaw – continue to have people living in vehicles overnight, new bylaw prevents people from overnighing in the City of Fernie. People are still overnighing on crown land.
- Fernie Bylaw – organics bins will be active in Fernie in the coming weeks.

Nancy-Jo – Interior Health

- Fernie trying to put in primary care units in the back of the hospital. Renovations have just begun. These services should help take some of the wait out of the emergency room
- Sparwood's new x-ray is operational, and renovations are complete!
- Elk valley – new community RT – Pulmonary Function Test will now be run out of Sparwood.

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- Traveling Maternity Clinic running 1-day a week – traveling clinic of 4 - see pregnant or new mothers who don't have an affiliated doctor.
- Elkford – construction of the old emergency area begins. IN a service phase 2 proposition – writing to support the District of Elkford in their plans for a new health care clinic.
- Allowing for more doctor hours in Sparwood.

**Shelley – Michel Creek Residents**

- Great feedback about the house washing program results.
- Reminder about crosswalk on Michel Creek Road, the signage doesn't give much warning so please be diligent.
- Huge increase in heavy truck traffic. In one day counted 46 separate units on the road.
- This is a zoned residential road – Mayor Wilks looking into signage on the road.

**Rose**

- Seniors AED unit arrived, but the storage container wasn't included.
- Seniors in the CNP were able to open their centre during the hot days, due to the blinds that were provided by EVR, Community Investment.
- Note to submit requests to the Elk Valley

**Creighton**

- EVR branding has become more visual.
- Hired 764 (Q1/Q2), 552 external, 129 students, 361 Haul truck/Labourers, 112 staff roles
- Still have 71 vacancies
- Housing remains to be one of the biggest hurdles in filling roles

\*Would there be interest in a 'youth' program, that allows for untrained people to shadow senior experts. College of the Rockies has a mining apprenticeship program, individuals can apply at the mines, while working directly for College of the Rockies. (MAPP Students)

**Anita and Tim**

- Environmental Water Monitoring – 4 week program will be starting October 2024. Enrollment has begun on this program. The focus is on water monitoring training, as well as 6 other credentials wrapped up within the larger credential. This program is also eligible for a government grant (The Future Skills Grant) that would cover nearly all the costs of this program.
- MAPP – continues to run through the college.
- Haul Truck operation program continues to be offered as a micro-credential.



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12:30pm – Networking Lunch

### Committee Nominations

Tim Schoahs has accepted the nomination for the Steering Committee position: Education.

Outstanding Positions: Aboriginal, Other, 2SLGBTQ+, BIPOC, Families, Arts & Culture

### Attendance:

Jared Basil, Cultural Framework Instructor

Evgeni Matveev, Communications Manager, Elk River Alliance (Environmental Steering Committee Member)

Dave Baines, President of Elkford Snow Mobile Federation/Member of BC Snow Mobile Federation

Tom Kramer, President of Elk Valley ATV Club

Dan Charest, President of Sparwood Trails Alliance

Nancy-Jo O'Neil, Interior Health (Steering Committee Member)

Nicole Latka – Sparwood Chamber

Shelley Wedderburn, Michel Creek Residence (Steering Committee Member)

Rosa Maria Rocha, Senior Community Representative (Steering Committee Member)

Creighton Globber, Superintendent HR, Elkview Operations, EVR

Corrine, Destination Fernie (Tourism) (Steering Committee Member)

Tim Schoahs, College of the Rockies

Anita Palmer, Fernie Campus Manager (Steering Committee President)

Kristina Wakeford, Coordinator, EVR

Nich Godri, Coordinator, EVR (Steering Committee Member, COIAI Coordinator)

Michael Boronowski, City of Fernie \*Online

Colin Standish, President of Elkford Trails Alliance \*Online