

4-H Council of Alberta
RR 1 Site 7 Box 1 Westrose AB TOC 2V0



Phone: (780) 682-2648 Toll Free 1-877-682-2244
Email: council@4hab.com www.4h.ab.ca

4-H COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UPDATE
Summer 2014

If you would like more information on any of the following information or would like to become a regular subscriber to the 4-H Council of Alberta Updates please contact us. See above for office contact information and below for director contact information.

Consultations

Consultations were held in four locations across the province in June of 2014. Since that time there have been letters, comments, and discussions about the information presented. The majority of this regularly scheduled council meeting involved discussion on the consultations. The few letters that were sent directly to Council were discussed; directors had the opportunity to present questions that were out in their regions, as well as personal questions for clarification. Please see below a letter sent to all Regional Council Chairs for further communication.

Letter to Regional Council Chairs

On Saturday, July 26, 2014, Council held their regularly scheduled meeting. We discussed the governance proposal and the feedback we have received since the public consultation sessions in June. While we discussed the feedback that we have received, this was not a decision making meeting on this topic and no votes were held regarding the future organization and operation of the 4-H program.

Council understands and appreciates that you need much more information and clarity regarding the governance proposal than it was possible to provide at the sessions held in June. Council is fully prepared to provide this information to you.

To address the need to make more information available and provide clarification, a full day facilitated session will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday September 13, 2014 at the Falun Community Hall, near the Alberta 4-H Centre. Each region will be asked to have 4 Regional Council Executive attend the session hosted by Council. All Council Directors will be in attendance. Foundation will also have a representative in attendance. An invitation has been sent to Alberta Agriculture. As well, a facilitator will be in attendance to keep us on track and manage the session. More details will be provided well in advance of the meeting date.

During this session Council intends to fully disclose the background leading up to the proposal to change how 4-H is managed and operated in Alberta and discuss the proposal itself. We will provide all the information we have and answer your questions. You will be heard, Council will listen. Nothing has been or will be decided without your input.

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Council is a group of volunteers who have been elected into a position of trust by the regions. We are attempting to address a difficult situation that has been evolving for quite some time through this process for the betterment of the 4-H program in Alberta.

In closing, there are a few key points we wish to make:

All three Partners agreed that the status quo was not a viable way to manage and operate the 4-H program in the years ahead. All three Partners agreed that a member services organization was the preferred option.

We assure you that Council wants ongoing Government of Alberta involvement and support for the 4-H program as we move forward.

We feel it is important to empower the grassroots of 4-H who have a passion for the program.

Be assured that each and every Council member is here for the betterment of the program. We want to ensure that members and leaders have a great place to grow.

Some of you have expressed concern about the “secrecy” surrounding the governance proposal. The proposal was kept confidential as we were respecting the Minister who was presented a proposal, and when that happens, it stays confidential until the Minister says otherwise. Our first opportunity to talk publicly about the proposal was during the June consultation sessions. Unfortunately, these sessions were not designed to adequately discuss the proposed changes to how the 4-H program would be managed and operated.

Some letters are being circulated purporting to state facts and research; however no one is asking Council about any of this. If you have questions or are seeking clarification please contact us. We are grateful for your thoughtful suggestions and willingness to consider change and move forward.

We are here for the members and volunteers.

On behalf of the 4-H Council of Alberta
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Pittman'.

Andy Pittman
President

c.c. All Council Directors
Shirley McClellan, Chair, 4-H Foundation of Alberta

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Leader Screening

We want YOUR help to achieve our goal!

Over the past year, the 4-H Council of Alberta has screened more leaders than were previously screened in a 4-H year. With your help, we want to continue to increase the number of screened leaders involved in our 4-H Alberta program.

Leader Screening is a crucial part of keeping our youth safe and providing them a place to learn and grow. By becoming a 4-H volunteer Leader, you are becoming part of a group of individuals who have collaborated almost 100 years to help create an effective program that leads to bright futures of our Alberta youth. Our continued success depends on valued and passionate volunteers.

If you are elected by your club as a leader (in any capacity) please ensure your screening is up to date and/or complete. You will need your username and password and a few minutes of your time to complete the process. Step by step screening instructions will be emailed to you upon registration. A learning tutorial can be found on www.4h.ab.ca.

Need more help? The 4-H Council of Alberta encourages leaders to call in order to be walked through the online process, check your status, and get clarification and assistance. We have strived to make this process easier for you to complete and we appreciate any feedback or concerns that you wish to offer.

Deadline Reminder: December 15, 2014 is the deadline to complete the online application, have references submitted and send in a criminal record check.

We look forward to your call! We can do it!! Let's be the lead in youth organizations with our screening processes!

Criminal Record Checks

If you reside in the Fort Saskatchewan or Spruce Grove area you will require an originally signed Criminal Record Check letter, we will be happy to supply this to you upon request. Contact our office with your name, address, club, district and phone number.

For future reference there will be changes coming to the criminal record check process in the next two years time. As we receive confirmed details we will pass them on.

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NEW – Each region will be asked to provide one name to become that region’s Leader Screening Liaison. The role of this individual is to assist in communicating regional questions or concerns to Council about Leader Screening, assist in educating the importance of leader screening in their region and also learning more about methods on how to complete the screening for 4-H Leaders. Please send this liaison’s name and contact information to susann.stone@4hab.com as soon as possible.

Cleaver Kids

4-H Council of Alberta manages Cleavers Kids. Continue to direct questions and concerns about Cleaver Kids to our office. A leader guide and Cleaver Kid cards were developed over the past year and have been used by many with a positive response. As Cleaver Kids grow watch for more great things. The Cleaver Kid fee remains \$20 for the 2014-2015 club year, and leaders and Cleaver Kids can be registered online.

NEW – November 28-30, 2014 at the Alberta 4-H Centre there will be training opportunity for Cleaver Kid Leaders, General Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Potential Cleaver Kid Leaders. The Cleaver Kids Leader Training will be a fun and educational weekend to learn about everything Cleaver Kids. Spread the word, watch for registration details or call our office to get more information.

Council Financial Documents

The 2013 audited financial statement and notes were reviewed, discussed and approved as presented by Grant Thornton. Council yearly financial statement can be found in the 4-H Alberta Annual report. For questions or clarification please contact our office or our Council Treasurer. The 2014-2015 budget was discussed and accepted. The 2012-2013 Annual report is available on www.4h.ab.ca.

Reports

Region, committee, Branch, and Foundation reports were given and discussed, and actionable items were reviewed.

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Risk Management

A portion of the 4-H Council of Alberta fee is allocated to insurance. Insurance covers members, leaders, and volunteers (documented) in the 4-H program. Continue to report any minor or major incident that occurs at a 4-H activity and document participants and volunteers that attend the event. If you require a proof of insurance contact us for assistance.

We are approaching a new club year and encourage you to review 4-H policies and ensure that risk is minimized by having all your leaders screened, volunteers documented and planned event plans.

Club conflict is a reality that we unfortunately have to deal with from time to time. As an organization we want a safe place for youth to grow and learn with minimum risk. If you require assistance, do not hesitate to call your specialist or council rep.

Golden Clover Award

Nominations are now open for the Golden Clover Award 2015. Nominate an individual or group of members, leaders, or 4-H supporters for the Golden Clover Award to be presented at Leaders Conference 2015. There are great stories out there of unique opportunities, innovative ideas or extraordinary mentors, so please nominate them today! The application form can be found on www.4h.ab.ca or by contacting Council. Past nominations can also be resubmitted, and successful candidates will be notified in early December.

4-H Canada

4-H Canada newsletters were circulated prior to the meeting and can be found at www.4-h-canada.ca. 4-H Canada has established a National Branding Task force team to review the current 4-H brand and branding guidelines, with representation from across Canada. Watch for more information to be released in 2015.

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Contact 4-H Council of Alberta:

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