

**Meeting Notes**  
**Members Involvement Group**  
**Tuesday - May 16, 2023**

**Attendees:** Christine Butt (MRC), Sebastien Carrier (CDROL), Blair Richardson, Irene Richardson, Monique Lalonde, Linda Vanderlee, Ilse Turnsen, Ellie Wilkinson, Peter Gilles, Arleen Prost, Lenny Prost, Peter Hale, Karen Bays, Judi Webb

**Welcome and Introductions and Discussion Guidelines**

Everyone introduced themselves; we welcomed our two guests; and Monique reviewed our group's discussion guidelines.

**CDROL Presentation and Discussion**

Sebastien Carrier, of the Cooperative de developpement regional (CDR) - Outaouais Laurentides, (CDROL) was introduced and welcomed to the group by Ellie Wilkinson. Sebastien explained that CDROL is an organization which supports the development and operation of cooperatives. He noted that we are a registered cooperative in the Province of Quebec and available for their support and resources and assistance to help cooperatives make their best decisions.

In his presentation he pointed out that:

The CDR is itself a cooperative. That cooperatives support social economies, are democratic organizations, and there are many ways he and his organization could work with us. These include: business plans, policy models, financial planning, board member training, member training, compliance with By-Laws and provincial Charter. Services are free for us.

We noted that one of our group's objectives is to develop an informed and active membership and we were planning a Members Information/Education Session. It was agreed that he and his colleagues would assist us in planning and conducting that session. (Notes from the first meeting of our planning group had been shared with CDROL staff and our group prior to tonight's meeting.)

We set the next planning meeting for that session and Sebastien, and perhaps others, would be joining us.

Monday, May 29th  
4:00 at the Centre

CDROL Contacts:

Sebastien Carrier, Conseiller au developpement  
scarrier@cdrol.coop

Ignacio Zarate, Conseiller au developpement

izarate@cdrol.coop

General number: (819) 643-2884

## **MRC Local and Cultural Initiatives/Interests with Future of the CWLP**

Peter Hale introduced Christine Butt, Conseillere en developement local et culturel, for the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, who explained her role with the MRC and her past and present involvement with CWLP.

Her major focus is the culture, leisure, and social initiatives within the 6 municipalities by supporting the municipalities, organization and their projects. If a community has a new idea, she can help make connections, identify sources of resources and help an initiative succeed.

Her board is the mayors of the 6 municipalities and she can make proposal recommendations to the mayors. She can also help determine if a proposal fits with land use designations and can work with organizations with funding direction.

Past activities with the municipality and CWLP concerned possible ways to make the Centre financially sustainable, funding for several activities (like the puppet show and storytelling workshop), and an attempt for a larger grant from the province.

It was noted the MLP recreation plan has expired and the municipality currently grants groups funds to carry out activities. These grants are not tied to an overall unified recreation plan and stable funding. Other municipalities have a different approach to recreation services where the municipality assumes a more hands on approach and provides services directly for its citizens.

Christine noted that there is strong support for the cultural sector in our area. Our Member of the Quebec Assembly is now Minister of Culture for Quebec and there are opportunities for "big bucks."

Christine's contact:

Christine Butt, MRC  
cbutt@mrcdescollines.com  
819 661-0788

## **Updates and Information**

**Circles:** Irene, sole member of the Financial Stability Circle, reported that she is still waiting for the budget information she requested from the Board. Lenny, chair of the HR Circle, said they had not met since our last meeting but hope to meet with Vicki in the next few weeks to continue work with Board and staff. Peter Hale said the Governance Circle had not met but three members of the group meet with CDROL, Christine, and Peter Gilles to prepare for tonight's meeting. Linda, Chair of the Communications and Transparency Circle,

said that some of their group were dealing with some health issues and they hoped to move forward on a couple of their initiatives soon.

**Board:** Peter Gilles had to leave mid-meeting but left with news that requests for budget information will be shared soon but needed to go through the Board first. Judi, our Board rep, noted that the Board had received a couple of resignations and would be meeting the following week. She also said there were no firm plans yet to move forward on the Special Meeting to consult with the broad membership.

**Members Information/Education Meeting:** Ilse noted that the planning group had met and meeting notes had been shared with everyone via email. We are glad that CDROL staff would be available to help us with planning and conducting the session. Our next planning meeting will be Monday, May 29th at the Centre at 4:00.

### **Closing**

Arleen helped close the meeting and asked us to make a wish for the Centre. We placed it in our hand and rose to let it go into the universe.

*Next meeting in June to be determined. Will be set once we know when the Members Information/Education Session and if a Future of the Centre meeting(s) are being held. Meanwhile, please feel free to gather in your Circles and work on your group's objectives and extend invites to interest folks (both already involved in the MINGle group and beyond). KB*