



January 15, 2010

Dear MUTN Liaisons, Coordinators, Committee Members:

Happy New Year! We have now completed Measuring Up The North Phase I thanks to all of your hard work. Tremendous changes have occurred across all of your communities including changes in buildings, spaces, outdoor recreation, infrastructure, residential areas, policies, practices and in attitudes. As I recently prepared the MUTN Phase I final report, I was so impressed by all that was accomplished in only two short years due to your work. I want to personally thank all of you for making MUTN such a great success. The main thing you have done is you have created more livable communities for your own residents and visitors where more can participate. However, as we all know, there is still a great deal to be done!

I have really enjoyed working with all of you. I can't tell you how many times I had tears in my eyes just listening to your enthusiasm and your accomplishments. I have told many people that this position has been my most favourite one of my career. I feel like I have gained so many dear friends through this experience.

As you may know, MUTN Phase I was a time limited project and my contract has come to an end. At this time we do not have funding neither for either Kory Heyland, Project Assistant nor for my position as Project Director. However, the good news is that we expect MUTN to continue through your continued work as well as from the support of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA).

As we move forward into Phase II, the NCLGA will take the lead for MUTN. Over the next few months, the NCLGA will conduct strategic planning to develop goals and strategies and seek funding for Phase II. In the meantime, MUTN Phase II is operating under a lean budget and the NCLGA is continuing to serve as the "umbrella" coordinating body for MUTN. It will also provide the following MUTN activities:

- Maintenance of the MUTN website and forum
- They will highlight a story from one of the MUTN communities each month in the NCLGA newsletter
- Continuation of the monthly Liaison phone calls at least until March 2010
- Develop MUTN Awards to be presented at the NCLGA Annual Conference

- Showcase MUTN successes at the NCLGA Annual Conference
- They will gather NCLGA Member concerns to develop annual resolutions

I would like to thank all of you that contributed to the **MUTN Community Profiles**. Kory will send all of you a copy of these great pieces. For those of you that contributed one, please feel free to use it for your own publicity. You will find all of them posted on the MUTN website under "Participating Communities". We are pleased to announce that our **Final Report for MUTN Phase I** will soon be available on the MUTN website. As well, the Official Community Planning Tool, "**Developing Age-Friendly, Disability-Friendly Official Community Plans: Guidelines for Local Governments**", will soon be available on the UBCM and MUTN websites.

Kory will send out a schedule and arrangements for the next few Monthly Liaison Calls that we have set up until March. She has also developed a schedule for your articles for the NCLGA monthly newsletter. We still have a few spots open so either send her a note or contact Karen Marshall, Executive Assistant at the NCLGA to send in your article (kmarshall@nclga.ca).

At this time I would like to acknowledge Kory Heyland for all of her fine work on the project. Kory's last day will be January 15, 2010. I would also like to acknowledge the other MUTN Core Team members: Pat Harris (BCPA) and Maxine Koppe (NCLGA) for their incredible dedication to MUTN. I have greatly appreciated working with Karen Marshall (NCLGA) as well as all of the MUTN Steering Committee members. It has been a pleasure working with such a great team.

I have also enjoyed meeting with all of your Mayors, Directors and other elected officials. They have all been so supportive of MUTN and of the work that all of you have been doing. The work could not have happened without them. Please pass on my kind regards to them for me.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK THAT HAS BEGUN. Here is what I suggest at a minimum:

- Ensure that your MUTN Committee continues and is endorsed by your Board / Council
- Ensure that age-friendly, disability-friendly principles are incorporated into your Official Community Plans (use the new OCP tool that we developed (UBCM & MUTN websites)
- Continue to attend the Monthly Liaison Phone Calls to keep motivated
- Continue to answer our on-line surveys of your progress
- Contribute your achievements to the NCLGA monthly newsletter
- Keep abreast of funding opportunities for your projects
- Keep abreast of MUTN updates on the MUTN website
- Continue to host MUTN Day : end of May or early June
- Make a presentation at the NCLGA AGM & Convention
- Resolutions will assist everyone: send your ideas to NCLGA
- Continue to track your achievements
- Celebrate your achievements
- Promote visitable housing and make a policy change
- Have your Council adopt the CSA Accessibility of the Built Environment Standard for all of your public spaces
- Promote accessible and inclusive business practices
- Let the NCLGA know about your accomplishments as well as the issues that you are facing
- Periodically assess yourself using the **Livable-Inclusive-UD Communities Report Card**© developed by L.Ringaert, April 2009 (see MUTN Website)

Because this Initiative is so dear to my heart, I will continue to be available on a limited basis to assist NCLGA in the transition. I plan to be available for the Liaison Calls over the next few months, and I do want to make myself available to you as well on a limited basis. Please feel free to contact me at laurie@dslsdesignconsulting.com . You will also be able to reach me through the NCLGA office.

Your main contact now will be the NCLGA office. Please feel free to contact Maxine Koppe, Executive Director (mkoppe@nclga.ca) or Karen Marshall, Executive Assistant (kmarshall@nclga.ca) or by phone at 250-564-6585.

In closing, I would like to say that I have truly enjoyed working with all of you and I know that you will continue the great work that you have begun. The greatest accomplishment of MUTN will be the continued progress in the communities. I look forward to connecting with you over the next few months but want to wish you all the best for success in MUTN Phase II.

With Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurie Ringaert', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Laurie

Laurie Ringaert
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