

Village of Longview

Family and Community Support Services



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FCSS Coordinator
Village of Longview

I have just been newly appointed as the FCSS Program Coordinator for the Village of Longview. I am very happy to be serving the community in this role and wanted to take a moment to introduce myself.

Community is and always will be an important part of who I am and for me, it's always about the people that live here. We arrived in Longview in 2003, after my spouse was posted to Calgary with the Canadian Armed Forces. The picturesque beauty and welcome have kept us knowing we belong. I have had the privilege of watching our family be raised up by a community who invested in our children, neighbours who became Grandmates and friendships that last through time. When I am out of community, I tell people with pride...I'm from Longview Alberta!

I am just going to take a moment to explain FCSS funding dollars. FCSS is a provincial program that focuses on prevention programs. The Province of Alberta commits 80% of that funding and the Village of Longview itself commits 20% in a formal agreement. I like to think of this money as our social wellness dollars. FCSS is unique to Alberta and is a way for communities to look inside, see where residents are doing well and where we can always do better. It amounts to just shy of \$13,000 annually for Longview.

Coupled with the coordinator position, which is directly overseen by the CAO, the most important part of FCSS is the local Advisory Board. Funding grant applications from local community groups are submitted with a deadline of April 30. The application along with amounts requested are reviewed by the advisory board and then the funds are committed based on their decision. Next, the recommendation of the Advisory Board goes to Village Council and they approve the final decision. If you have ever had an interest in being part of the community in a way that has tremendous impact, being part of the Advisory Board may look like a good fit in the future. Council is reviewing the bylaw to FCSS. As it stands, a member of the Advisory Board is appointed for 3 years.

While Longview has traditionally granted all FCSS dollars to service clubs in the past, we may look at a new way forward. FCSS in most communities runs some of its own programming with the direction of the Advisory Board. This is new to the village and will take some time. An example of a community initiative funded through FCSS dollars is the Community Christmas dinner with the intent to provide a function that prevents social isolation. We are looking at a tax program for low-income residents and seniors, possibly a Family Day event and helping with some community building strategies. Just to be clear, local service clubs are critical to any community and funding will still be allocated based on grant requests and budget.

My aim is to make FCSS and its funding a transparent process that is valued and makes a difference. If you have a great idea that might lift people up, let's talk!!

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