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PRESS RELEASE

Thompson-Nicola Regional Library Now Offering Community Support

Kamloops, BC – February 2, 2023 – The Thompson-Nicola Regional Library (TNRL) is proud to offer a new service to reduce barriers to social services and help patrons access and navigate community resources.

The TNRL has hired Karlie Ferland as a Community Support Worker Intern to provide supportive listening and advocacy, and to assist patrons struggling with substance use, mental health, housing, employment and more. As part of this role, Ferland helps patrons navigate the agencies in their community and provides referrals.

Appointments are available in-person at the Kamloops Libraries, by phone, or online. Sessions can be booked online, by clicking here, or by contacting the library.

The Community Support Worker will also be running a free drop-in program called <u>Coffee and Conversations</u>, alternating between the Kamloops & North Kamloops Libraries. The Coffee and Conversations program is a safe space where people can connect with each other and learn about resources available in the community. This program will take place from 10:30 am – 12 pm on February 18 & 25 and March 18 & 25, 2023.

"I am so happy to be able to help library patrons one-on-one and through group conversations in our Coffee and Conversations program," said Ferland. "Whether it's navigating application processes and paperwork for income or disability assistance, or just offering a listening ear, I am honoured to support our vulnerable patrons."

Ferland has been serving as the TNRL's Community Support Worker Intern since the Fall of 2022. Ferland is scheduled to be in this position until March 31, 2023, through a program funded by the Government of Canada.

For more information on this program, please visit: <u>tnrl.ca/community-support</u>.

Media Contacts:

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MUNICIPALITIES: Ashcroft | Barriere | Cache Creek | Chase | Clearwater | Clinton

Kamloops | Logan Lake | Lytton | Merritt | Sun Peaks

ELECTORAL AREAS: "A" "B" "E" "I" "J" "L" "M" "N" "O" "P"



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