CAREFREE SOCIETY

CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 2024

Christos Vardacostas



Carefree Service

C

- Acknowledgements
- History, Context
- Transportation Health & Social Service Non-Profit Sectors
- Accessible BC Act, Proclamations, Practices



Purposes:

- Support in principle
- Ideas, partnership
- Financial support

Carefree Service

Huble Homestead Prince George 0 West Lake Cottonwood... Ginters... Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park... CN Centre... Theatre thwest... CAREFREE SOCIETY

Carefree Service

Accessible & Inclusive Transportation

Embedding people in the process

- In and around Prince George service:
 - On-demand.
 - Destinations based on demand.
 - No duplication: after hours, peak hours, no certain pick up time.
 - Potential for scheduling specific destinations (vs. on-demand).
 - Scheduled group events.
 - People-first approach
 - Specialized service & supports

Regional:

- Ancient Forest / Chun T'oh Whudujut Park (Scheduled)
- Barkerville (Scheduled)
- Alternative regional destinations.

Data & Rationale

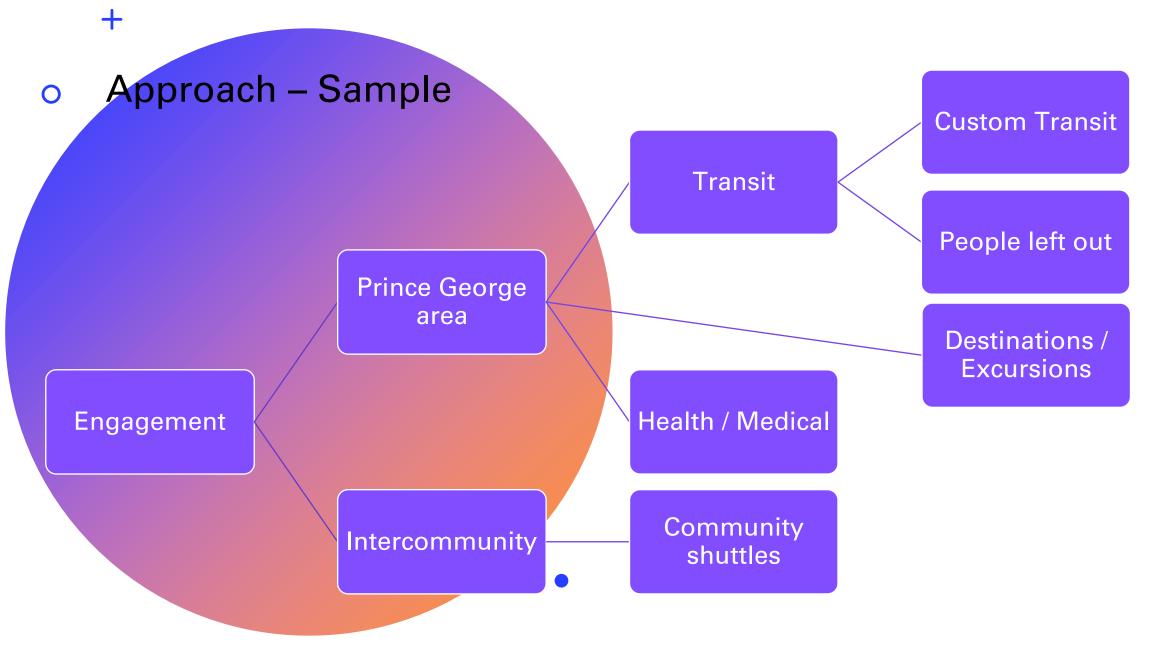
- Prince George & area: 20k to 25k of population includes people with abilities & mobility challenges.
 - Room for serving gaps.
 - People isolated from or ineligible for specialized services.
 - Destinations with uncertain pickup times.
- Periphery: Portion of 13k population.
 - Expressed need, wanting to access services.
- Needs: Ability, affordability, location, destinations

Benefits of the Carefree Service

- Access to nature... benefits
- Reduce isolation
- Social inclusion
- Reduce anxiety and depression
- Reduce confusion
- Reduce stigma

Accessible BC Act as a framework for best practice...

- Identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility
- Implement a universal design approach...
 - Embed people in the process.
- Easier to adapt and respond (with capacity) at community level



Additional Remarks

- Planning advancing
- Organization set up to deliver
- Ongoing Community Outreach:
 - Gathering input on all aspects of service,
 - Identifying riders...
- Develop, deliver and improve services:
 - Partner arrangements
 - Support program
 - Training
 - Keep removing barriers through:
 - Capacity
 - Ways on learning & putting into practice
- Separate accountabilities by jurisdiction while making services seamless.



