

It's been quite a year! Somehow, we are both further through the pandemic than I expected and yet still immersed in it. This is a time for all of us to look beyond ourselves, to make our local and extended communities better and to continue to help and support each other.

Last year I outlined the physical and organizational changes that Ann and her staff put in place to protect the children, their families, and the staff. I'm pleased to note that all that effort has really paid off and continues to serve you and your children well.

Ann has displayed enormous strength and leadership by knowing what needed to be done, meeting and often exceeding the provincial rules, opening the Centre's doors when many were concerned with closing their doors, and in ensuring the safety of the children and families of Bowen Island.

Our story continues to be one of leadership, courage, rigorous planning, and careful implementation. Thank you, Ann.

But of course Ann does not work alone. She leads, follows, laughs, and cries with:

Andrea Bastin
Jasmine Cairo
Siobhan Catchlove
Sienna de Vries
Indigo Grant
Isabelle Headley
Mia Isto
Sherri Lalonde
Toni Leverett
Noemie Mackay
Brynn Matthews
Tracy McLachlan
Sarah Jane Milroy
Christine Montgomery
Qurban Naismith
Tricia Orco
Jessie Perry
Julie Romanowski
Chelsey Rowe
Caroline Schrapff
Natalie Schuler
Ann Silberman
Melina Toliusis
Johanne Verville
Sarah Whinny
Joanna Wing

Thank you to each one of you. And my HUGE apologies if I have missed any names.

Having said all of that, there are a few more things that you need to know about the coming year at BCC.

- We think that we continue to be in good shape financially. I say think because we really do not know what COVID will throw at us next, and what the future holds for financial support from our governments; support which has been quite astonishing through the pandemic.
- Our ever-expanding After School Club is still bursting at the seams, and we continue to work with BICS, SD45, the Muni, and anyone else who may be able to help us to realize our dream of a dedicated ASC facility. Watch for more news!
- The Baby House is still beyond capacity. We have a huge waiting list and are exploring options for expansion and more space. And the coming COVID baby boom is looming on the horizon! We have the beginning of a plan and are working with our partners to refine that into something we may share with you soon.
- Ann's team continues to excel at securing grants. An excellent example of this work is the \$62,000 capital project grant from BC Gaming which provides for building improvements for COVID safety.
- Our Board is in great shape! This small group is by far the most cohesive and effective that I have ever worked with, and with your approval will be growing this year. Thank you to each one of you. I look forward to our meetings!
- But change is inevitable. We are granting freedom to our amazing Secretary/Policy Monarch Ali, who has served for so very long and so very well. We are also losing Angelica who has been diligently crunching numbers with Leila and rolling with all the financial punches that COVID has brought.
- Change is also good! With your approval, we will be joined by Bertine Stelzer and Maureen Whitney who bring a tremendous amount of aptitude and experience. Thank you both!

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience. Thank you for letting us into your families and trusting us with your children. Thank you for everything that you do for the Children's Centre and our community.

And thank you for listening to all of that!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

David McCullum
Board Chair