



Bowen Children's Centre

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Board Chair 2023 AGM Letter

Thank you all for joining us for what promises to be the first of two AGMs this year. For statutory reasons tonight is actually last year's (slightly late) AGM, and in the Spring we plan to have the current year's meeting to reflect our changed accounting year end to synchronize with the provincial government. We're doing our best and appreciate your understanding as we continue to adjust to a \$10 a day prototype world.

I am honoured to be asked to give a report on the past year. It was delightful that BCC could ease the COVID lockdown restrictions, and that families were able to return to the Centre and the classrooms. Lockdown was of course an unprecedented curveball, but we could not be more grateful for and proud of the care and effort that Ann, Sarah, and the entire BCC staff provided to the families of our community.

Another change has been the restarting of face-to-face Parent Info nights and the in person Financial Education workshops. Both are better in person, and I know that everyone who joined in benefitted greatly.

Speaking of benefits: the entire Centre has been made better by our families being able to come and perform their volunteer tasks. Your experience and efforts make a huge difference in so many areas.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out the many milestones that BCC experienced in the past year.

- The absolute game changer was when we became a \$10/day prototype site. As everyone with children in the Early Childhood streams knows, this program is revolutionary, and BCC was chosen to work with the Ministry to determine (in part) how the program will roll out province wide. It's a HUGE recognition of the many years of hard work done by Ann to maximize BCC's relationship with the Ministry.
- Speaking of the Ministry, I should point out that Childcare has moved to the new Ministry of Education and Childcare. That is a reflection of the shift in government policy and priorities and has helped our transition through the prototype process.
- Another significant change is that BCC hired an HR Director to ease the load on our ED, and who has been able to recruit three new out of country employees and five local employees to ensure that we are again fully staffed.
- Our bookkeeper Leila Swann became our Financial Manager which also reduced the ED's workload and brought a higher profile to our organization. Leila and Ann also hired a new accounting firm as we are now required to produce annual audited financial statements for the membership and the Ministry.
- And finally I want to inform you of another benefit of the easing of lockdown: our Admin and Management staff have now been able to return to their original jobs. Doing what they do best,

and this reflecting the shift from urgent/emergency mode to a more stable, predictable mode with eyes focussed on the day to day operations as well as on the future changes required to continue to support Bowen's children and families.

All in all, your Society is in very good shape. We have big plans, and are focussed continuing to provide the best care and education for our community's children.

Thank you for your kind attention.

David McCullum
Board Chair

We respectfully acknowledge the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səl'il'wəta? (Tsleil-Waututh), and all Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast, on whose traditional and occupied territories we live and work.