

Bowen Island Children's Centre AGM

Board Chair Report

November 20, 2025

To the Staff and Members of the Bowen Island Children's Centre

As I step into my second year as Board Chair, I am struck by how much has evolved in such a short time. We have yet again experienced a shift in the size and complexity of this important community organization. With growth in space, staffing, and expanded programming, there is so much that BCC can offer to this community. The changes we have navigated together over the past year have reminded us of our commitment: to support families and the BCC staff to provide a safe, loving, and engaging environment where children, families and educators can thrive and belong.

Program & Space Development

2025 marks the year when BCC was able to finally open the doors to our brand new Saplings room. This new addition to BCC provides an additional space for 12 full-time Infant/Toddlers which at 4 days/week translates into 16 more spaces that we were able to offer to Bowen Island families. This beautiful space opened in April 2025, and was made possible with dedicated funding support from the Provincial Government. A heartfelt thank you to our leadership team for bringing in the necessary funding and organizing the renovation of the downstairs space, all while keeping all other programs running. A big thank you to all the parents, contractors, big and small volunteers, and staff members that were involved in bringing the new Saplings room to the finish line. It takes a community and we are beyond thrilled to be offering this new space to our Bowen Island families.

Organizational Growth

A new space brings new needs for staffing. BCC is growing steadily, now employing between 33-36 staff at a time, including two dedicated subs that have been supporting BCC to keep its programs open, when the next round of viruses hit the classrooms. This is more than double the amount of staff that BCC had a few years ago and we are excited about the caliber of skills and care that BCC's staff offer. BCC's leadership team has been advocating tirelessly with the Province to recognize the high ratio of licensed and educated staff at BCC and to keep our funding model under the original \$10/day program for more flexibility on staffing expenses that recognize the high caliber of care at BCC.

Community Partnerships & Engagement

BCC staff and Board members sit on many community committees, and on community organization boards to embed and connect BCC's work with the rest of Bowen Island.

This year, we experienced a shift in our community presence with the beginning of the amalgamation of the Community School Association (CSA). BCC has been a member of the Association for many years to support BCC's connection with the Bowen Island Community School. We look forward to rebuilding and strengthening our community connections with BICs and the new systems in place to continue our important community work in the years ahead. Luckily, we have two board members on the BCC Board

who started their terms with the Bowen Island Community School's Parent Advisory Committee, a helpful connection that will contribute to strengthening our relationships with BICs.

We proudly partnered with the Bowen Literacy Group and the Bowen Island Literacy Task Force to support Indigenous-focused programming during the 2025 Literacy Week. BCC's Family Place hosted an Indigenous Day event where families learned to make bannock and were invited to engage with storytelling and Indigenous culture.

The Early Childhood (EC) Table was highly active this year, offering a valuable platform for all organizations on Bowen Island serving children from pre-natal to Grade 12 to align on community priorities. We are excited that local Kindergarten teachers have expressed interest in joining the table to further strengthen collaboration.

Fundraising & Community Support

Our Festival of Trees fundraiser for fiscal 2024/2025 was the most successful to date, thanks to the generosity and creativity of our community. The support received helps sustain vital family-centered programming.

Leadership Updates

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Tracy for her many years of dedicated service to Family Place. Her impact has been instrumental, and we wish her the very best in her next chapter.

We are delighted to welcome Cam Stephens as our new Daddy & Me Coordinator. As a new father with deep community roots — including through his mother, long-time Kindergarten teacher Heather Stephens — Cam brings both passion, personal connection and great musical talent to the role.

Looking Forward

Looking ahead, the Board is committed to maintaining a clear focus on our strategic plan and the objectives and capacity that will guide BCC's continued success. Prioritizing organizational sustainability, strong staffing, accessible programming, and meaningful community connection will ensure that families on Bowen Island continue to receive the support they deserve. We are grateful for the dedication of our staff and the trust of our families and partners as we carry this work forward.

I would like to thank the BCC staff and my fellow board members for the hard work and dedication that they have put into this last year. Thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

Bertine Stelzer

Board Chair