November 4, 2026

Board Chair Report

Bowen Children's Centre Society Annual General Meeting 2026

Another busy and rewarding year has passed at the Bowen Children's Centre. From supporting more children and families than ever before to navigating important organizational changes, BCC has continued to demonstrate the strength, resilience, and community spirit that make it such a special organization.

This was yet another year of growth and progress for BCC. We continued to expand our team and now employ more than 40 staff members delivering four full-time childcare programs, operating the After School Club at Bowen Island Community School, and supporting families through Family Place programming. Managing an organization of this size brings both opportunities and responsibilities, particularly in a community where recruiting qualified childcare professionals remains challenging. Despite these realities, our programs have remained strong, our teams have continued to thrive, and most importantly, the children in our care have flourished.

One of the most important developments for BCC this year was the renewal of our $10-a-day ChildCareBC contract, first earlier in the year and again just prior to the recent provincial election. This funding provides essential stability for our operations and helps ensure affordable childcare remains available to Bowen Island families. We remain hopeful that BCC's advocacy efforts, undertaken in partnership with the broader $10-a-Day Child Care Advocacy Group, will continue to highlight the importance of this program to the new provincial government. Looking ahead, BCC and the Board will continue working collaboratively with other childcare providers, the Municipality of Bowen Island, and our local MLAs to advocate for accessible and affordable childcare for all families.

This year also brought significant leadership transitions, creating exciting opportunities for growth throughout the organization.

We were delighted to welcome **Melanie McCready** in April as the new Family Place Manager. Family Place has been thriving under Melanie's leadership, and she has quickly become a valued member of the BCC leadership team. We are grateful for her dedication,

energy, and commitment to supporting Bowen Island families, and it has been wonderful to see so many families engaging with Family Place programming over the past several months.

Undoubtedly, the most significant transition this year was within BCC's senior leadership team. After many years of extraordinary service as Executive Director, **Ann Silberman** began the next chapter of her gradual retirement journey by stepping down from the Executive Director role and moving into a newly created position as Director of Partnerships and Development.

Ann's contributions to BCC and the Bowen community are immeasurable. In her new role, she continues to leverage decades of relationship-building and childcare expertise to strengthen community connections, advance advocacy initiatives, support organizational sustainability, and mentor BCC's current leadership team. Her deep understanding of the Reggio Emilia philosophy and her commitment to quality childcare remain invaluable assets to the organization. This temporary role will guide Ann toward her well-earned retirement in September 2027, and there will be many opportunities in the coming year for families, staff, and community members to participate in celebrations and legacy projects recognizing her tremendous impact.

Following this transition, **Sarah Winny** stepped into the Interim Executive Director role and has done an exceptional job leading the organization through a period of change. Sarah's steady leadership ensured a smooth start to the school year while maintaining the high quality of care and programming that families have come to expect from BCC. The Board recently launched the search for a permanent Executive Director and looks forward to establishing long-term leadership for the organization before the end of this calendar year.

Another important milestone this year was the implementation of Brightwheel as BCC's new communication and administration platform. While transitions of this scale are never without challenges, the benefits are already becoming clear. We are grateful to parents for their patience and understanding throughout the implementation process as staff worked diligently to address issues and improve the experience for families.

While these are some of the most visible accomplishments of the year, they represent only a fraction of the work taking place behind the scenes. From fundraising initiatives such as the Festival of Trees, to beautification and maintenance projects around our facilities, to grant applications, professional development planning, advocacy efforts, and community partnerships, there is an incredible amount of effort invested in supporting BCC's mission. It is truly remarkable how much is accomplished alongside our core purpose of providing exceptional childcare and family support services to Bowen Island families.

To all of our parents and caregivers, thank you for your continued trust and volunteering support. Your children are at the heart of everything we do. They bring joy, curiosity, and inspiration into our centres every day, and they remind us why this work matters so deeply.

To the staff of BCC and Family Place, thank you. This has been another year marked by change, growth, and adaptation. The positivity, professionalism, and genuine care that shine through in your daily work are a testament to the strong culture that exists within this organization. Your commitment to children, families, and one another is greatly appreciated, and you should be proud of the difference you make every day.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow Board members. Serving as Board Chair has been an incredibly rewarding experience, made possible by the dedication, wisdom, and generosity of this talented group of volunteers. Thank you for your commitment, your support, and for always stepping forward when needed. I could not have done this role without you.

As I prepare to step away from the position of Board Chair, I do so with great confidence in the future of the Bowen Children's Centre Society. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated staff, leadership, and fellow board members. The organization is strong, its mission remains as important as ever, and the passion and dedication of everyone involved continue to make BCC a truly special place for children and families.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Bertine Stelzer

Board Chair
Bowen Island Children's Centre