



Parent Support Services Society of BC



# 2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

November 2011



**Parent Support Services Society of BC**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 09, 2011**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Constituency Office Raj Chouhan, MLA**  
**5234 Rumble Street**  
**Burnaby, BC**  
**V5J 2B6**

**Agenda**

1. 5:30 pm Call to Order
  - Adoption of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held September 11, 2010
  - President's Report
  - Treasurer's Report and Approval of Financial Statements
  - Appointment of Auditor
  - Executive Director's Report
  - Program Reports
  - Nominating Committee Report and Election of Directors
  - AGM Adjournment
2. 6:00 – 6:30 pm Wrap up



## **VISION**

A world where all children and their families are nurtured, valued and safe.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To protect the safety and wellbeing of children and promote the health of families by providing support, education, advocacy, research, and resources to those in a parenting role

## **VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

To realize our vision and mission we create opportunities for parents and grandparents that foster independence and personal responsibility, and by creating cost-effective and comprehensive community based services in cooperation with public and private partners. Our staff is dedicated to providing these services with respect, compassion, and accountability, and to championing the Canadian Charter of Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We support families and their rights in this way because we value inclusion, social justice, and collaboration. And we believe that, when we work together and learn from each other, these values can transform conflict into understanding; that understanding can transform hurt-filled households into healthy homes; and that healthy families can transform unjust societies into strong communities. That is why, at PSS, our goal is to build healthy communities, one family at a time.

# **Nominations Committee Report 2011**

The following members are continuing the **second** year of their 2 year term (2010-2012):

- Joan Brett
- Glen Schmidt

The following Directors are nominated to **begin a new 2-year term** (2011-2013):

- Rob Kaufman
- Kamy Zargarpour
- Cyrus Sy
- Pam Warner
- Jayne Blemings

## **PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY OF BC (PSS)**

### **MINUTES OF the September 11, 2010**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held at Constituency Office Raj Chouhan, MLA  
5234 Rumble Street, Burnaby, BC V5J 2B6

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Cheryl MacDonald, Ali Ajdari, Joan Brett, Mika Fryling, Rob Kaufman

**BOARD MEMBER REGRETS:** Marianne Drew-Pennington, Glen Schmidt, Richard Wang, Kamy Zargarpour

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Bella Cenezero, Shannon Gormley, Dahne Harding, Sandi Halvorson, Don Lin, Cyrus Sy, Debra Whitman, Carol Ross, Mary Tecson

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 pm by President Cheryl MacDonald. She thanked everyone for coming and for contributing to the Society.

#### **2. Adoption of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held October 3, 2009**

Moved by Rob Kaufman, to adopt the 2009 PSS AGM minutes; seconded by Sandi Halvorson; passed unanimously.

#### **3. President's Report**

The President reported that the Society had come through a year of uncertainty, particularly due to changes in funding availability. Ms. MacDonald stressed that PSS has a strong foundation and that the past year saw positive growth in provincial recognition. She commended Executive Director Carol Ross for her hard work and expressed the wish that PSS could secure improved staffing levels so that the Executive Director was freed to better utilize her skills and expertise.

Ms. MacDonald welcomed new board members Ali Ajdari and Mika Fryling. She explained that PSS needed to find new ways to market and promote itself, and to secure diversified funding. She encouraged everyone to thank the volunteers with whom they came in contact. "Without their assistance the Society would not be in existence".

#### **4. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Audited Statements**

Treasurer Rob Kaufman reported that the financial outlook was quite similar to that of the previous year, and acknowledged that PSS had not been as successful with the receipt of project grants this year. He noted the importance of having a financial cushion and that the Society's cushion was currently

adequate. He anticipated that the financial outlook for the coming year would look similar, though likely with slightly less revenue.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the audited financial statements as distributed.

**MOVED:** By Rob Kaufman, seconded by Ali Ajdari; passed unanimously.

## **5. Appointment of Auditor**

**MOTION:** To appoint Calvin Tompkins from Tompkins, Wozny, Miller & Company as auditor for the 2010 -2011 fiscal year.

**MOVED:** By Rob Kaufman, seconded by Cheryl MacDonald; passed unanimously.

## **6. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Carol Ross reported that the last year and a half had proven to be a particularly difficult time in which to secure grant funding. She advised that many other organizations had experienced the same difficulty. She expressed hope that the outlook would be more positive moving forward.

Ms. Ross noted that it had been a difficult year for PSS' Prince George location in particular, largely due to staffing changes. She said that PSS needed to continue to work and connect with fellow social service providers, advocates, politicians and government officials. She expressed appreciation for the positive work done with Minister and staff of the Ministry for Children and Family Development. Ms. Ross concluded by thanking PSS staff and volunteers. Written report submitted.

## **7. Program Reports**

Written reports were submitted for all regions.

Sandi Halvorson, Program Coordinator for Central and North Island reported on her work with parenting circles, and grandparents raising grandchildren. She spoke of 2 new projects for the new fiscal year thanks to United Way funding and the Seniors Foundation in Duncan. She described a trend towards increased circle attendance when special topics and guest speakers were featured.

Debra Whitman, Program Coordinator for Victoria Region, reported on the successful move of the Victoria office; the positive impact of small projects for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and negative impact of the loss of traditional United Way funding. She described creative activities to reach out to underserved communities and families.

Dahne Harding, Program Coordinator for Prince George Region reported on the work carried out to increase volunteer participation and circles for her region. She described the unique challenges faced by PSS in Prince George due to the number and diversity of parenting programs available and the

struggling economy. She suggested that PSS could continue to play a valuable role in circle and parenting resource referrals.

Bella Cenezero, Program Director for the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Coastal and Interior regions reported that the economic crisis had actually served to strengthen the collaboration between different partner organizations. She explained how the end of funding for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Coordinator project resulted in additional work for her position. She said that the involvement of practicum and summer students continued to be helpful. She also reported on new circles in her region and the revision of the circle program evaluation tool.

Discussion followed on possible directions for the Society in the coming year and the value of building on our unique skills and knowledge. Priorities included: a focus on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; child welfare and family advocacy; education on internet safety for children. It was suggested that having an in-house advocate and educator would be ideal.

It also was suggested that the Society strike a Marketing/Promotion Committee to help to raise the profile of PSS and expand funding potential. There also was agreement to form a Training/Education Committee

#### **8. Nominating Committee Report and Election of Directors**

The following members are continuing the second year of their 2-year term (2009-2011): Marianne Drew-Pennington, Rob Kaufman, and Kamy Zargarpour.

**MOTION:** That the following current Directors be nominated to begin a new 2-year term (2010-2012): Joan Brett, Cheryl MacDonald, Glen Schmidt, Richard Wang, Ali Ajdari, and Mika Fryling and that new members Cyrus Sy and Don Lin be appointed to begin a 2-year term (2010-2012).

**MOVED:** By Rob Kaufman, and the nominations were accepted unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by President Cheryl MacDonald at 2 pm.

## **2010 – 2011 Board of Directors and Staff**

### **Current Board Members:**

Cheryl MacDonald	Rob Kaufman	Marianne Drew-Pennington
Kamy Zargarpour	Glen Schmidt	Cyrus Sy
Pam Warner	Joan L. Brett	Jayne Blemings

### **Board Members who resigned between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011:**

Shamim Shivji	Shahin Jones	Natasha Del Bianco
Mika Fryling	Ali Ajdari	Don Lin
Richard Wang		

### **Staff:**

Carol Ross	Executive Director
Grace Chen	Financial Administrator
Viktor Panfilenok	Office Administrator
Bella Cenezero	Program Director; Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Interior
Debra Whitman	Program Coordinator, Victoria
Cindy L'Hirondelle	P/T Administrative Assistant, Victoria
Dahne Harding	Program Coordinator, Prince George
Jessica Turner	Program Coordinator, Prince George
Sandi Halvorson	Program Coordinator, Mid-Island

### **Special Projects & Contracts:**

Shannon Gormley	Child Protection Advocacy Research Coordinator
Jessica Burch	Summer Student, Burnaby
John Manthorpe	Summer Student, Victoria



**PARENTS SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY OF B.C.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 9, 2011**

**OUR WORLD**

We have experienced another year of change with some uncertainty around funding and lots of opportunity to look at our role in the communities that we serve, and our long term sustainability. In answer to that, we are here, we are stronger than in the past, and are now looking at how to take forward what we know and can accomplish in our circles, advocacy programs, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren initiatives. The rest of the year ahead will be important as we continue to build strong relationships, and develop a strategic plan that makes sense, is workable by all stakeholders, and will yield results. As we leave our 36<sup>th</sup> year, it is important to celebrate the many successes and new opportunities that have presented themselves, and move forward with cautious optimism and much hope for many more years of serving the families of British Columbia.

**OUR PEOPLE**

Once again, our Executive Director has done an excellent job of handling the responsibility of our day-to-day operations, preparation of funding proposals, and most of all for continuing to cultivate those important relationships that keep us at “top of mind” in the community. The Provincial Office continues to support the work in our various regions and there will be continued efforts to create efficiencies and run our business in a fully transparent manner to be able to attract funding opportunities and strong community partnerships.

Our staff in every area of the Province, have made huge contributions through their work with and for families, volunteers, co-workers, and their network of community partners.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your many contributions over the past year. Thanks to our staff, volunteers, agency partners, funders, and those who support PSS through donations. Without all of you, we would not have reached the many milestones we accomplished, and you are all important to the future of our organization. **THANK YOU!**

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

We welcomed Cyrus Cy as a new member of the board this past fiscal year, and his engagement and enthusiasm for the work we do has gone beyond our expectations.

## **BOARD CHANGES**

One of our long time board members Shamin Shivji, an extremely active member, who also acted as our legal counsel when we needed advice, resigned but remains a strong supporter, resource and friend. Due to family commitments, Richard Wang was also unable to remain on the board.

We gained, and then lost some board members after short tenure, namely Shahin Jones, Natasha Del Bianco, Don Lin, Mika Fryling, and Ali Ajdari. Unfortunately, circumstances made their time with us shorter than expected.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions, and continued support of PSS after serving as board members.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

We completed some additional items on our 2007 strategic plan and will create a new 5 year plan in 2011:

### Governance

- ❖ Board Orientation process is consistent
- ❖ Reconfirmation of Vision, Mission and Values
- ❖ Ongoing successful recruitment of board members (2 new)

### Administration

- ❖ Budgets and reporting are finalized and all accounting is now in house
- ❖ Financial management is solid and core income maintained
- ❖ Increased use of volunteers in the office for admin support
- ❖ Website has been updated regularly; Facebook initiated; new website is planned

### Human Resources

- ❖ Jessica Turner is our newest team member in Prince George and we welcome Nadia Sangster in Victoria
- ❖ Staffing otherwise remains stable.

### Program Delivery

- ❖ All contracts have been fulfilled at a high performance level

- ❖ The work for and with grandparents raising grandchildren continued to grow and we remain committed to supporting these unique families
- ❖ Staff have made significant efforts to respond to emerging needs for families and to build on past projects

## **IN CLOSING**

We continue to work in what are still uncertain times in the not for profit sector, and are looking forward to a full review of our current plans to assess where we can be of most benefit and how we can continue our work with volunteers, parents, and our many Grandparents who are raising a “second” family, their grandchildren, in order to provide love, security and keep families together.

It is with regret that I have resigned from the board, but will stay “close at hand” in the event that I can be of service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their consistent support throughout the years and it is unfortunate that my current schedule does not allow me to provide the kind of time and attention required to be effective in a board role. I will continue to support and act as a resource in any way that I can. A very special thank you to Carol for her consistent efforts to take the organization where it needs to go; and for being a true “partner” in every way.

Cheryl MacDonald  
President, Board of Directors

# **PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING November 9, 2011**

## **Executive Director's Report**

For the fiscal year April 1 2010 to March 31, 2011

Respectfully submitted by Carol Ross

### **OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR**

The past fiscal year was busy as we focused on updating our policies, training materials and resources on top of the fulltime commitment to creating and maintaining parenting services in the continuing climate of fiscal restraint. It was a year of searching for funding and creative solutions in each of our regions to do the work where great and growing need was identified. I continue to be amazed and humbled by all that is accomplished by our small cohort of paid staff and our huge cohort (thank goodness) of unpaid workers: our volunteers.

The themes for the year could be about financial maintenance, heavy workloads and heightened visibility. There were some funding crises especially when we were informed we would no longer receive our long term core funding from the United Way of Victoria, then again when our traditional Gaming funds were cut by 50% (later restored). Thanks to our hard working and dedicated paid and unpaid staff, we can be proud of what was accomplished in difficult times.

We began the work of exploring Facebook and a new website and produced a new rack card (with thanks to Cindy L'Hirondelle). We watched visits to the website grow as did calls for support, information and referral. The bright, colourful rack card proved to be an excellent tool in boosting visibility.

### **PROGRAM and ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

- We saw Co-ordinator changes in both Prince George and Victoria saying farewell to Dahne Harding and Deb Whitman and welcome to Jessica Turner and Nadia Sangster (this fiscal year).
- We hired 2 summer students and hosted 4 student practicum placements
- We were pleased to present the **Bill McFarland Award** to long time social worker, child protection and women's advocate Marsha Early from the West Kootenay region.
- We again coordinated a visit to the Legislature for a group of grandparents raising grandchildren (GRG).
- We hosted successful grandparents raising grandchildren picnics in 3 regions and received confirmation of federal funding to host a conference (Grand Gathering) for GRG in the Spring of 2011.
- We organized meetings and communication between GRG representatives and policy staff of MCFD that led to increased awareness by government of the inequities and struggles faced by grandparent led families.

- We completed an exciting 3 year research project into Child Protection Advocacy funded by the United Way of the Lower Mainland that culminated in a Deliberative Forum on Child Protection Advocacy Best Practice (with funding from the Office of The Representative for Children and Youth). It brought together wide representation by parents, grandparents, advocates, social workers, lawyers, policy makers and academics. The work to finalize and promote a Best Practice model continues.
- We completed 14 very popular GRG Legal Seminars and presentation in various locations across the Province.
- During the year there was a total of 35 Support Circles across the province delivered in six different languages (Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, Farsi and English), facilitated by 65 volunteers supported by volunteer child minders and Steering Committee members
- We held Initial Volunteer Facilitator Training sessions in Vancouver, Victoria, Duncan and Prince George and trained a total of 47 participants. 15 volunteers attended additional training in the Lower Mainland
- We produced and distributed 3 provincial newsletters; 22 Grandparent newsletters on Vancouver Island and monthly editions of The Village (Parenting Resource and Service Directory) for the Prince George region.
- Kaycee Jane, author of Frog or Prince: The Smart Girls Guide to Boyfriends, donated her time and expertise for 2 lively public presentations based on her research.
- We widely disseminated copies of the popular Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: A Legal Guide and distributed hundreds of the companion legal resource pamphlet.

## **RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION**

Parent Support Services Society is 37 years old and continues to thrive due to the participation and commitment of our staff, volunteers, funders, donors and the extensive network of community partners. Parents and grandparents tell us clearly and constantly how important our work is in supporting them and their families.

Our core staff is equivalent to 6 full time positions for the entire province. We could not possibly accomplish what we do without the skilled and extensive contributions of our volunteers. You will see the majority listed in our report and we know that behind the scenes there are many others who contribute yet remain humbly invisible. Our volunteers facilitate groups, sit on the Board of Directors and Steering Committees, advise us on projects and provide child care. They provide administrative support, consultation, translation, promotion, tech support, research, editing, layout, design and so much more. They scrounge for donations and shop for our picnics and Circles, find free meeting space and publicity. Well over 9000 volunteer hours were recorded again this year and we know thousands more hours have not been tracked.

We could not exist without our funders, donors and community partners. We want to recognize the continued support of the Ministry for Children and Family Development, the BC Gaming Policy Branch and the United Ways of Fraser Valley, Lower Mainland, and Prince George for funding our core programs. Our continued success also relies on the generosity of sister organizations that host our Support Circles and training sessions across the province, our faithful individual and corporate donors and our society members.

## **CONCLUSION**

Poverty remains a key obstacle to family well being in BC as is the limited access to essential preventative services and resources. We hear from parents and grandparents regularly about their struggles with the court system, finding medical and other services, with inequities and injustice, finding safe affordable child care; securing respite and counselling and in resolving family problems. We are proud of the role we play in building skills and resiliency in families, communities and the social service sector. We know our peer based support group model works well and we know families need so much more.

In the current year we are expanding our work in individual and systemic advocacy and concentrating on strengthening our capacity to support parents and grandparents across British Columbia.

Thank you to Board members who are leaving, staying or just beginning and thank you to the PSS team of Bella Cenezero, Sandi Halvorson, Jessica Turner, Nadia Sangster, Grace Chen, Viktor Panfilenok, Malcolm Read and Annie Lavack. It is an honour to work with each and every one of you.

**PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING November 9, 2011**

**Program Director Report for  
the Lower Mainland / Coastal / Fraser Valley and Interior Regions  
For the fiscal year April 1 2010 to March 31, 2011**

Submitted by Bella Cenezero, Program Director

Over the past year, our dedicated facilitators, steering committees, volunteers, partner agencies have worked with me to sustain existing programs and develop new service initiatives.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Two new Circles for Mandarin and English speaking parents were developed in Burnaby and Vancouver with the support of two new partner organizations CCM Centre and Killarney Park MB Church.

A *Grand Gathering* for grandparents raising grandchildren (GRGs) was planned with the support of representatives from 411 Senior Services Centre, Boys and Girls Club of Delta /Richmond, BC Council for Families and Langley Child Development Centre plus the help of many volunteers. The conference was held in May 2011 and had over 65 participants.

14 workshops were delivered in the Filipino, Spanish and Chinese communities and for the volunteers of ISS and SUCCESS to respond to the priority needs of immigrant serving organizations and Circle members for parent education.

Coordinated a Legal Seminar for GRGs in collaboration with Abbotsford Community Services. The seminar provided opportunity for GRGs to learn about their legal rights and responsibilities in raising grandchildren 24/7.

Three trainings were provided to Circle facilitators, steering committees and staff members of other organizations. These trainings prepare new facilitators in starting a Circle, enhance the work of long-term volunteers in running their Circles, and develop collaborations with community agencies.

Conducted numerous community consultation meetings; delivered parenting and life skills workshops; participated in community fairs; and delivered presentations to colleges, civic groups and community agencies wanting to start a Circle or learn more about PSS. Connected with colleges to explore practicum placements and potential for volunteer recruitment. Participated in three inter-agency committees in Vancouver, Tri-Cities and Burnaby on issues and initiatives relevant to children, youth and families.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers, community partners, funders and donors for your invaluable contributions to continue the work that we do in supporting families in the Lower Mainland, Coastal, Fraser Valley and Interior regions.

I also would like to honour Aprille Everett who passed away in February of this year. Aprille was our dedicated volunteer for over 17 years as a caring and resourceful facilitator of Richmond Day Parent Support Circle. She had touched so many people's lives and will be sorely missed by all of us.

**PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING November 9, 2011**

**Central Vancouver Island Program Coordinator Report**

For the fiscal year April 1 2010 to March 31, 2011

Submitted by Sandi Halvorson

The 2010-2011 was an extremely busy year here on Central Vancouver Island. Effort was invested in support the existing support circles; the Parent Support Circle in Parksville and the GRG Circles in Port Alberni and Duncan and then newly formed GRG circle in Nanaimo. A GRG circle was also started in Parksville later in 2011. The GRG groups in particular enjoyed a variety of guest speakers from local agencies as well as a few workshops. Some of the topics included; understanding and coping with ADHD, talking with kids about their sexuality, how to encourage children, setting healthy boundaries and insights in addiction issues. Each of the 4 GRG circles has a short newsletter that participants receive 9 to 10 times a year.

In May 2010 I had the opportunity of join grandparents from Vancouver Island and the lower mainland along with other PSS to visit the legislature to hear about the newly implemented Extend Family Program.

As our work with grandparents raising grandchildren continues one of the things that comes up time again is how appreciated opportunities to interact as families are; during this fiscal year the Port Alberni GRG Circle held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual picnic in June, the Duncan GRG circle held its first picnic in July and the Nanaimo GRG circle held a potluck supper in August.

A highlight for me each year is to have the opportunity to co-facilitate the Initial Training weekends for new volunteers, there were two initial trainings; the first in Victoria April and the second in Duncan in November.

Looking ahead to the 2011-12 fiscal year, I am looking forward to increasing the volunteer participation in my region. I am also looking forward to continuing to build on some of the family activities, such as the picnics and hope to encourage the GRG groups to interact with each other in some of these events. I am looking forward to planning a regional workshop on Vancouver Island for our volunteers and the opportunity to work with our new program coordinator in the Victoria office.



# **PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING November 9, 2011**

## **Victoria Program Coordinator Report**

For the fiscal year April 1 2010 to March 31, 2011

Submitted by Nadia Sangster

*[NOTE: All the activities described in this report took place while Debra Whitman was still the Victoria Program Coordinator. Debra's last day with PSS was March 31, 2011.]*

### Parent Support Circles

- **Gordon Head Support Circle.** During the school year, met once per week with 2 facilitators. Group met occasionally over the summer in a park or a coffee shop, but not on a regular schedule. In September, weekly meeting schedule resumed.
- **Single Parents Support Circle.** Met bi-weekly at the PSS Victoria office, with child minding on site.
- **Multicultural Support Circle.** Met every Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at George Jay Elementary School; PSS paid for on-site child minder. Have discussed moving location to Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS); 2 new volunteers from that agency have been trained.
- **Military Family Support Circle.** Met weekly on Monday mornings at Esquimalt United Church, with on-site child minding. Decision made to expand group to include non-military families in Esquimalt, as community is very integrated with the naval base and there was general difficulty attracting members from military families alone. has not resumed due to continued difficulty attracting members.

### Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Support Circles

- **Salt Spring Island GRG Circle.** Has 2 facilitators available on call.
- **Victoria GRG Circle.** Meets bi-weekly at the Victoria office, with 3 facilitators and on-site child minding.

### GRG Special Events & Programs

- **May 17: Visit to the Victoria Legislature.** GRGs had lunch with the Minister for Children and Family Development and other Liberal MLAs; were introduced to the sitting house before Question Period, met with NDP representatives and met with the Liberal MLA for Courtney/Comox.
- **June 15, 16: Legal Seminars.** The first Seminar was held in Langford in the evening, and was attended by 5 grandchildren and 12 grandparents. The second Seminar was held in Victoria during the day and was attended by 2 grandchildren and 24 adults. The workshops were delivered by Executive Director Carol Ross and lawyer Forrest Nelson

- **Aug 12: GRG Summer Picnic.** Held at Beacon Hill Park, with 13 grandparents, and 17 grandchildren attending.
- **Aug 25: Daytrip to Galiano Island.** Planned in collaboration with the Galiano Island Conservancy. An educational program was run by Conservancy staff for 22 participants.
- **Sept 20: Good Grief Workshop: Living and Learning through Grief and Loss.**
- **Oct 18: Financial Advice and Wills Workshop.** Very successful, with a lawyer and a financial consultant donating their time and expertise.
- **Jan 30: The Grinch Party.** 20 people arrived to enjoy presents, crafts, music, lots of food, and entertainment. Volunteers helped plan the event.

### Funding

- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Reducing the Isolation.** A grant of \$1100 was received from the City of Victoria, for 2 two-hour events, a summer picnic, and a Christmas party. The events successfully carried out were:
  - the Summer Picnic at Beacon Hill Park,
  - the Good Grief Workshop,
  - the Financial Planning and Wills Workshop, and
  - the Grinch Christmas Party.
- **Sara Spencer Foundation.** A grant of \$1500 was received in January and was used to pay for five GRG events:
  - the Victoria Legislature visit (child minding; parking),
  - an IMAX visit, and
  - the two Legal Seminars (child minding; snacks).
  - Aug 25 trip to Galiano Island.
- **Applications pending at the end of the fiscal year:**
  - Service Canada—seeking funding for a summer student;
  - Capital Regional District Arts Development Service—seeking a \$1000 grant for art therapy;
  - United Way of Greater Victoria—seeking a \$30 000 grant focused on advocacy for GRGs.

# **PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING November 9, 2011**

## **Prince George Program Coordinator Report** For the fiscal year April 1 2010 to March 31, 2011 Submitted by Jessica Turner

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Buddy up for Breast Feeding partnership with Northern Health Association got off the ground
- PSS – PG continued to engage with the United Way through the Council of Partners and participation in the “Seeing is Believing Tour” (Oct 2010)
- Transition from United Way office space to home based office
- Increased Circles and maintained Steering Committee meetings
- Received grant from city of Prince George to deliver a GRG speakers series

### **TRAINING**

- Initial Training PG Spring 2011: organized and recruited 8 participants (3 from Quensel) for Parent Support Services Facilitator Training April 15, 16, 17 facilitated by Bella Cenezero and Dahne Harding. PSS received 7 new memberships and 7 new facilitators.
- STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) classes were facilitated by our faithful volunteer Ruby Siemens in October 2010 and in March 2011.
- Organized and attended Buddy Up for Breastfeeding training sessions. Total of 6 participants trained.
- Organized and promoted Active Parenting Training for April 8<sup>th</sup> and the PSS coordinator attended the training for free.

### **PROMOTION 2010/2011**

- Early Years Health Fair (500 attendees)
- Temple Grandin event (900 attendees)
- Canada Day Event in Fort George Park –promotion booth (traditionally 5000-7000 attendees)
- Attended and helped with several promotional events: Health Fair at the College of New Caledonia, Duchess Park Parent Night, Early Years Fair, Welcome Wagon Baby event
- Created an information/display board about language development and literacy skills for parents (used it at promotion events).
- Did presentations throughout the community on PSS and our services.
- Set up a Parent Support Services Display board in the Adult Education wing of the John McGinnis Alternate School Centre

### **PSC/GRG 2011 and continuing into 2012**

- 7 circles running this year: Northern Family Health Society Parent Support Circle (PSC), Duchess Park Senior Secondary PSC, UNBC Community Care CentrePSC, UNBC Women's Centre PSC, Kikino Grandparents Raising Grandchildren circle and Kikino Aboriginal PSC and Beverley Elementary PSC.

### **PARTNERSHIPS 2011 ongoing**

- Northern Health, Northern Family Health Society, Kikino Metis Child and Family Services, University Northern British Columbia, Success by 6 and School district 57.
- Perinatal Liaison Committee, Parenting subcommittee, Success by 6 Council of Partners Committee.

### **UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS (2011/2012)**

- Plans for Initial Facilitator Training in Fall 2011 or January 2012 with Jessica and Dahne
- STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) classes Fall 2011
- Organized and promoted a private Active Parenting Training in September 2011 for Kikino Staff and we have plans to run active parenting classes soon.
- New circles coming in 2011/2012 are Quesnel Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, UNBC community care center parent support circle and there is interest from Doig River First Nations for a parent support circle (near Fort St John).
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren speaker's series will commence in November and in early December. Three speakers will present on stress and self-care, effective communication with teens and what to know about MCFD/legal issues/custody.
- Actively engaged in applying for funds from Success by 6 for a parenting workshop series, funds for educational resources as well as funds for facilitator training in smaller northern communities such as Vanderhoof or Quesnel.
- Actively recruiting new steering members.
- Plan to organize a steering committee meeting for October/November.

We extend our gratitude to all our volunteers in  
British Columbia who contributed to our  
programs in 2010 - 2011

## Office Administration

Vicky	Corpuz	Rick	Marsh	Regan	Ross
Hillary	Gallinger	Rusan	Petrossyan	Phyllis	States
Iuliana	Gavrilita	Greg	Pilon	Aaron	Thalmann
Cindy	L'Hirondelle	Phyo	Pine	Conrad	Turner
Claudius	Lo	Brodie	Poutney	Debra	Whitman
John	Manthorpe	Carol	Ross		

## Support Group Facilitators

Erin	Andelini	Srah	Grimm	Marisol	Nacho-Vargas
Chuck	Anderson	Joyce	Gunn	Marie	Naylor
Lisa	Argue	Sandi	Halvorson	Teresa	Nelson
Aurora	Bach-Napoles	Nasim	Hamed	Tammy	Parlee
Kelly	Bumby	Gloria	Harding	Shelley	Perry
Angelica	Cabrera	Dahne	Harding	Eva	Pesanova
Ghislaine	Caron	Linda	He	Sue	Radcliffe
Bella	Cenezero	Shona	Jackson	Robert	Rennie
Blair	Chang	Shahin	Jones	Gabriela	Reynoso
Joanne	Chen	Loreen	Keefe	Nicole	Robinson
May	Cheng	Avis	Lam	Antonina	Salivon
Juanita	Currie	Deanna	Leippi	Alma	Saplala
Sharrie	Dahl	Grace	Leung	Myrna	Siedenberg
Corazon	Domingo	John	Manthorpe	Ruby	Siemens
Carla	Downey	Rick	Marsh	Jane	Stark
Duze	Edebego	Ruth	Martens	Barbara	Steeves
Hazel	Edurese	Karen	McKeown	Joanne	Tazelaar
April	Everett	Allan	McLeod	Diane	Thompson
Maria	Fernandez	Cynthia	Mejia	Leslie	Volk
Sarah	Fernets	Andrea	Menichetti	Carrie	Wright-
Joan	Forbes	Molly	Mo		Donaldson
Aniuska	Francesena	Laurie	Moniz	Xiao	Xue
Jan	Fulla	Maria	Morales	Roland	Zuprick
Jenna	Girard	Helena			

## Steering Committee Members

Resochita	Arma	Pat	Formento	Essaine	Mo
Wendy	Bareham	Gina	Hortelano	Bessie	Pilon
Lisa	Bautista	Garham	Jamin	Doris	Rank
Jackie	Bridge	Tracey	Kikals	Edgardo	Remigio
Ana Maria	Caday	Lydia	Lin	Mayvelyn	Remigio
Joanne	Chen	Amy	Lui	Beth	Rivera
Karen	Custodio	Maria	MacDonald	Crisanta	Sampang
Greg	Davis	Rommel	Manikan	Fred	Sebastian
Jim	Farley	John	Manthorpe		

## GRG Summer Picnics in each region

Many volunteers helped make summer picnics a success for grandparents and the children they are raising.

## Child-minders

Yvonne	Begum	Kelly	Nancy
Angelique	Coleen	Lorna	Vanessa
Augusta	Dinah	Lucille	

## Professional Consultants

Chuck	Anderson	Kaycee	Jane	Carol	Ross
Jane	Arnott	Amelia	McComber	Glen	Schmidt
Michael	Bradshaw	Carol	McEown	Shamim	Shivji
Shannon	Gormley	Stephanie	Morgan	Deborah	Thomas
Dahne	Harding	Forrest	Nelson	Andrea	Vollans
Pearl	Hunt	Sarah	Nykolaishen	Alison	Ward
Max	Innes	Penny	Parry	Tracey	Young
	Jacobson-	Brenda	Rose		
Michael	Weston				

## Advocacy Deliberative Forum

Carol	McEwon	Linda	Korbin	Afsoun	Afsahi
Bella	Cenezero	Carol	Ross	Pooja	Jerath
Darryl	Persello	Debra	Whitman	Alfred	Moore
Michael	MacKenzie	Sean	Gray	Sandi	Halvorson

# **Parent Support Circles Locations in 2010 - 2011**

**Support Circles include Parent Support Circles and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Circles and Circles for Parents of Teens. Support groups are offered in Mandarin, Farsi, Cantonese, Filipino, Spanish and English. Circles are open to all those in a parenting role, free, provide child care and transportation subsidies, do not require membership, and are facilitated by 2 or more trained volunteers facilitators. Circles are held on different days and at various times.**

## **Vancouver / Coastal Region**

Gibsons                      Richmond (2)                      Vancouver (7)

## **Fraser Region**

Burnaby (2)                      Coquitlam                      Langley (2)                      Port Moody  
Surrey                      Delta                      Ladner (2)

## **Interior Region**

Nelson

## **Victoria Region**

Salt Spring Island                      Victoria (5)

## **Central Vancouver Island Region**

Duncan                      Parksville                      Port Alberni                      Nanaimo

## **North Region**

Prince George (7)

# Parent Support Services Society of BC APPRECIATES THE FUNDING SUPPORT OF:



THE BC  
ADOPTION &  
PERMANENCY  
TRUST FUND

CITY OF VICTORIA

**Galiano Conservancy Association**

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BC

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS INITIATIVES



UNITED WAY OF THE FRASER VALLEY  
UNITED WAY OF THE LOWER MAINLAND  
UNITED WAY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA  
UNITED WAY OF GREATER VICTORIA  
UNITED WAY OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL VANCOUVER ISLAND



**MARIN  
INVESTMENTS  
LIMITED**



**Cowichan Seniors  
Community Foundation**



*And the many other local businesses in each of our locations who regularly  
donate coffee, snacks, food, prizes and more*