



Parent Support Services Society of BC

Newsletter

Fall-Winter 2018, Vol 39 #2

Whatever the time of the year—whatever calendar you follow, everyone likes to get invited to be with friends and family to celebrate.



Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Diwali, Nowruz, Kwanzaa, 'Eid, the Potlatch or other occasions, bringing family and friends together makes those days extra special. People like to be included, to share food and to socialize. As we enter the rush of one of the holiday seasons, one of the most busy and stressful times of year, why not think about inviting someone new or alone to your table?

There is nothing like sharing one's traditions to get to know new people!

Connecting people is much like the way our parenting circles operate. Circle members tell us that they love to share a small bit of food or drink, sit down and relax and get to know others as they share their trials and tribulations of being a parent or caregiver. They tell us the family they create through circles has helped them to break isolation and become more resilient to all of life's stresses whether it is during the holiday or just day to day.

Building connections is how we build a resilient community.

As our community becomes more fragmented and the divide between the haves and have nots grows, let us think about the isolated families and individuals that would love to be connected to a family.

I also want take this time to express my deepest gratitude to all the generous volunteers who catalyze these connections by facilitating groups, our board members who help us open doors, and our members and callers who remind us why we are here. Thank you for being part of our family at PSS and thank you for coming to our table.

Happy Holidays, Joy, Peace and a more equitable community for 2019!

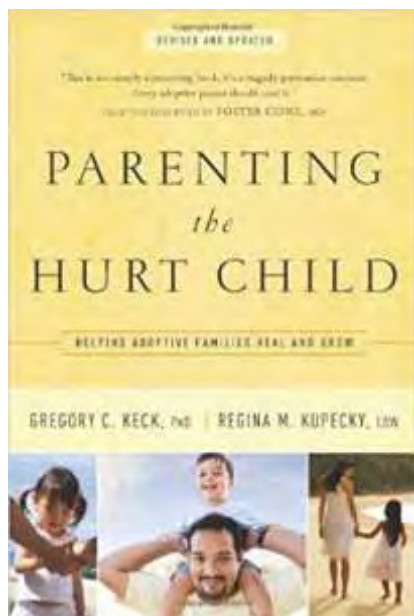
Much gratitude!

Carol Madsen, Executive Director

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Important news re: New Childcare Benefits—see page 7



Book Review

Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow by Gregory Keck & Regina Kupecky

Do you ever wonder what is going on? Are you raising a child that has come from a difficult background? A child that has been hurt? Are you sensing issues but can't quite articulate them? Were things going good and now they are not? A must read for any long term Kinship care placements - this book gives the caregiver valuable perspective about their parenting role, it informs caregivers and It goes beyond self-regulation, and relationship building skills. It gives you a blue print for how to navigate during trying times in order to maintain your stability and resolve.

Review by:

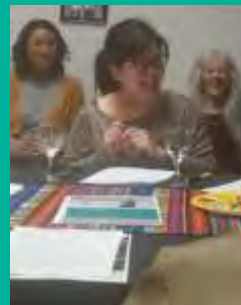
Someone who has been a Kinship Caregiver since 1999

Parent Support Services Society Annual General Meeting October 1st, 2018

PSS held our Annual General Meeting on October 1st, 2018. Members from across BC joined the meeting via teleconference.

Special guests were lifetime member— Carol McFarland, and our 2018 McFarland Award winner, Adrienne Montani.

Check out page 10 for information on how to join Parent Support Services Society





Message to Parent Support Services Society from the new Representative for Children and Youth — Jennifer Charlesworth



Hello everyone,

I am delighted and honoured to have the opportunity to introduce myself as B.C.'s new Representative for Children and Youth. I was officially appointed on Oct. 1, 2018 and, in my

short time on the job, have had the chance to set priorities, release my first report and, at the time of this writing, am preparing for a second report release in the coming weeks.

I believe deeply in the importance of advocacy for children and youth that both enhances public awareness and compels positive action towards child and youth well-being. Like you, I want to see children and youth thrive, and this position will, I hope, allow me to assist in making that collective goal a reality.

One of my top priorities is to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare system. Given that they comprise more than 60 per cent of children and youth in care, our first goal at RCY is to recommend ways to reduce that number, and to improve services to Indigenous children and families who come in contact with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) or Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs). At the same time, we are consciously striving to ensure that our organization is culturally safe for Indigenous staff and the Indigenous children, youth and families we serve.

Another key priority is improving services for children and youth with mental health or substance use issues. With that in mind, I recently released my first report, "Time to Listen: Youth Voices on Substance Use", which strongly featured youth perspectives. In the report, I call on government to take bold action in providing services and supports to youth

with substance use issues, including harm reduction. You can read the full report here: <https://rcybc.ca/timetolisten>.

A third priority area for me is to advocate for ways to support youth to age into healthy adulthood. Youth have clearly told us that they need more support for this transition. We are interested in collaborating with government and stakeholders to ensure that youth receive the support they need as they become adults. The status quo is simply unacceptable.

And finally, our Office is working collaboratively with MCFD on a review of the quality of care plans to support the right of every child and youth in government care to planning that is up to date and appropriate. We will also be working with DAAs on our approach to the review of both care planning and cultural planning for Indigenous children and youth.

In the coming weeks, we will be releasing an investigative report on a young person with disabilities, so watch for that.

I look forward to engaging and collaborative relationships with all stakeholders to ensure the best outcomes for children and youth. If you have suggestions or feedback, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Office: www.rcybc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Charlesworth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jennifer Charlesworth

Representative for Children and Youth



2018 Bill McFarland Award— Adrienne Montani

Parent Support Services Society of BC is proud to announce that Adrienne Montani, is the 2018 recipient of

the prestigious Bill McFarland Award for the Excellence in the Advancement of Child Welfare.

Adrienne Montani, is best known for her work with the First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition. She has been with First Call since 2000 and became the Provincial Coordinator in 2005. Prior to working with First Call, Adrienne served as the Child and Youth Advocate for the City of Vancouver, and as Chairperson of the Vancouver School Board for three of her six years as an elected school trustee. Some of her earlier leadership positions included serving as the executive director of Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society and of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland.

During Adrienne's tenure as Provincial Coordinator, First Call has become the leading voice advocating for the children and youth of BC. One piece of their work, the Child Poverty Report Card, explores the impact of large numbers of children and their families living in poverty. The annual report card contains the latest statistics on child and family poverty in British Columbia. Every year this report card includes a list of recommendations that would make a real difference to the size and depth of BC's child and family poverty problem.

"Adrienne has dedicated her life to promoting the rights of children and youth, and advancing their welfare", states Carol Madsen, Parent Support

Services Executive Director. She adds, "Adrienne and First call have played an important role in the development of legislation that will improve the welfare of children in BC including the Federal Canada Child Benefit and the Childcare BC program."

This award is named after Bill McFarland. Bill was an advocate for children throughout his life and social work career. His achievements include: founder of the Alberta Foster Parents Association, the National Federation of Youth in Care Networks, and Parent Support Services Society of BC. In addition he was a member of the Berger Commission, a consultant to the Gove Inquiry, and a recognized expert on the Young Offenders Act. Bill was appreciated by all who worked with him for his integrity, compassion and tireless efforts toward the care and welfare of all children.



Adrienne Montani (Right) with PSS Board Member Dr. Randall Gillis. In lower left is a photo of the late Bill McFarland

Introducing Maxine Machan—



Our new Program Coordinator in the Victoria area.

Maxine joined PSS in September 2018. Maxine’s focus is on partnering with others to form parent support circles throughout the region.

Maxine has lived in the Victoria area her entire life. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in advocacy, community relationship building, group facilitation, and adult education.

She has a diverse background as an administrator in academia, business and non-profit environments. She has also worked as a legal administrator/paralegal and many years in event coordination.

Her education includes a Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Management, and a Provincial Instructor in Adult Education Diploma.

Maxine’s previous work experience includes time at Royal Roads University, Henley and Walden, Dawn Watt Law-Corp, the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria, VGA Medical Alert Systems, and CP Hotels.



Maxine in action at the Victoria Volunteer Facilitator Training.

“I enjoy developing strong collaborative working relationships. I am extremely motivated by the opportunity to participate in a strong service-minded community resource such as PSS.”

Maxine can be reached at maxine.machan@parentsupportbc.ca or 250-384-8042

Volunteer Facilitators Needed!

Are you someone who has:

- Good listening & interpersonal skills
- An interest in supporting parent/caregiver and child relationships
- Basic understanding of child development & parenting issues
- Willing to do some community outreach & development activities

Learn to be an effective Circle leader

Benefits of this training:

- Continuing education opportunities
- Develop skills for career and personal growth
- Support families in your community
- Letter of reference upon request (minimum 1 year commitment)

To find out about training opportunities in your area—contact 1- 877-345-9777 office@parentsupportbc.ca

Grandparents' Day around BC—September 9th, 2018



New Childcare Benefits

The Affordable Child Care Benefit replaced the Child Care Subsidy on September 1, 2018.

To apply for the benefit, the child's parent or guardian must have a current B.C. address and be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection

Most types of child care are eligible. Child care by a family member who lives with you and licensed occasional child care are not eligible for funding.

To qualify for the benefit, the child care must be required because the parent or guardian is working or self-employed, attending school, participating in an employment program, a lone caregiver looking for work, living with a medical condition that interferes with the ability to care for a child, the child is attending licensed preschool, or referred by a Ministry of Children and Family Development or Delegated Aboriginal Agency social worker. Kinship caregivers with Extended Family Program agreements or section 54.01 or 54.1 permanent transfer of custody orders may receive these referrals.

The benefit is tested against the family's income, so families with more income receive less benefit, and families with less income receive more benefit. Families that earn up to \$111,000 may qualify for funding. Families that earn more than \$111,000, but have considerable deductions for family size or children who have special needs, can also apply.

Apply for funding before the end of the month in which you need child care. For example, if you would like to receive funding for child care starting September 1, you need to apply by September 30.

Applications are made online or by mail or fax. The online application process takes about 30 minutes to complete if you have all of your documents ready.

To apply: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/child-care-funding/child-care-benefit/apply>

The Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative is a separate program for child care providers that is designed to lower the cost of child care for parents each month. Caregivers or parents do not need to apply for the fee reduction. Child care providers that are approved to opt in to the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative receive funding to reduce parent or caregiver fees. A list of participating child care locations by city is on the Ministry of Children and Family Development website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool/child-care-operating-funding/child-care-fee-reduction-initiative-provider-opt-in-status/list-by-cities>

The New Affordable Child Care Benefit

HELPING MORE FAMILIES WITH THE COST OF CHILD CARE.
*Application open to families earning up to \$111,000/year.

A NEW DAY FOR FAMILIES
CHILDCARE BC

SINGLE OR TWO PARENT HOUSEHOLD WITH ONE INFANT

TOTAL INCOME OF: \$45K

POTENTIAL MONTHLY SAVINGS* OF UP TO: \$1,250

USE THE ONLINE ESTIMATOR TO SEE IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR SAVINGS, AND APPLY ONLINE AT:
WWW.GOV.BC.CA/AFFORDABLECHILDCAREBENEFIT

Parent & Grandparent/Kinship Support Circles in BC

Support Circles—Free, confidential, anonymous, meetings of parents and other caregivers who wish to learn new ways to nurture and protect their children.

To find out more call:

1-877-345-9777 or email office@parentsupportbc.ca



Parent Support Services
Society of BC

Join a Circle near you

We currently have Support Circles that operate in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Filipino, Korean, and Spanish; for Fathers; for Indigenous parents/caregivers; for grandparents and other kinship caregivers & more.

[We have Support Circles for parents and caregivers just like you!](#)

"I've learned to be more patient with my kids since I started to go to the circle."

Keep our Circles running — <http://www.parentsupportbc.ca/donate/>

Our Support Circles are:

- ◆ Open to all parents & grandparents with children & teens
- ◆ Offer free healthy snacks & often childminding
- ◆ Led by two trained volunteer facilitators
- ◆ Based on a self-help model, are confidential & held regularly

Our Support Circles operate around the province. They ebb and flow depending on demand and our ability to meet that demand. Contact us to find a Circle near you, or to see about starting one in your area.

office@parentsupportbc.ca



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sarah Allan (President) - Vancouver—*Lawyer*

Kamy Zargarpour (Vice President/Secretary) - North Vancouver—*Retired Information/Technology*

Jade Chan (Treasurer) - Richmond—*Accountant*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Louise Costello — Victoria—*Retired from child mental health practice —PhD*

Shaun Wilson—North Vancouver—*Partner, KPMG*

Randall Gillis—Vancouver— *Child Psychologist– PhD*

Melissa Cailleaux—Prince George— *Community Health Director*

Jacob Black-Lock— Burnaby—*Project Manager*

Crissy George—Vancouver—*Retired Social Worker*

FUNDERS AND DONORS

We acknowledge the financial assistance of:

- The Province of British Columbia
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- United Way of Greater Victoria
- United Way of Northern British Columbia
- United Way of Central and Northern Vancouver Island
- Law Foundation of BC
- Children’s Health Foundation
- Vancouver Foundation
- Adoption and Permanency Fund—Victoria Foundation
- City of Prince George
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Various service agencies
- Appreciation to all of our generous individual and corporate donors.



We are grateful to our supporters and community partners who work with us to create a better world for all children and families. Collaboration is the key to successful social change. Our partners provide meeting space, childcare, food for Circle participants. Others provide consultation, referral and promotion. Many individuals share their wisdom, time, efforts and skills for the success of PSS programs and resources.

TO DONATE—[hp: //parentsupportbc.ca/donate](http://parentsupportbc.ca/donate)

Parent Support Services Society Research—Jane Bouey

PSS does ongoing research to learn more about “kinship care’ families. We also want to hear what kind of benefits thee families need. We will use this information to inform our work, to support families in advocacy, and to help government understand the needs of kinship care families. To find out how you can support this work contact us at 1-877-345-9777 or email research@parentsupportbc.ca.

As part of this work, staff members Carol Madsen and Jane Bouey have been meeting with kinship caregivers, and introducing our organization to Delegated Aboriginal Agencies on Vancouver Island.

We want to thank the Kyra Mason of the Usma Nuu-chah-nulth Family & Child Services, and Bill Yoachim of the Kw'umut Lelum Child and Family Services for taking the time to meet with us. We learned a lot, and shared our common goals of working for the best out comes for all children and youth, and working to ensure that Indigenous Children are culturally connected.

On our trip we also had the opportunity to meet with Allan and Kay, the great grandparents who are featured in our documentary, “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Telling Our Stories”. Allan shared some of the early history of GRG organizing and self-advocating. Kay and Allan tell us that their great granddaughter is flourishing.



Join Us—Become a Member Support Us—Donate — Volunteer!

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____ City _____ Province ____ Postal Code _____

Ph. number _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please note that membership is valid until the end of each ~~2~~cal year, i.e. March 31st, subject for annual renewal. Volunteer facilitators pay on a sliding scale based on income.

Membership amount enclosed and paid by: Cash Cheque

\$5.00 - \$35.00 Volunteer Facilitator \$35.00 Individuals \$100.00 Agencies

Or via our website at <http://www.parentsupportbc.ca/become-a-member/>

Volunteer and Individual Members are entitled to stand for election to and hold office on the Board of Directors of the Society elected at our Annual General Meeting (December 5, 2016). Members are entitled to attend PSS Workshops for free.

Join Parent Support Services Society of BC—be part cZcreating a world where all children and their families are nurtured, valued, and safe°