

## SPARC BC in 2006/07

# A Year of Growth and Accomplishment

As time goes by SPARC BC is growing and changing in positive ways. We reflect on what made 2006/07 another memorable year.

SPARC BC MARKED A MILESTONE year in 2006/07. It was the 40th year of the organization's operation and another extremely successful year in terms of growth, challenges met, service provision, research, and advocacy. The organization brought on more staff, including a Manager of Research and Consulting to head our thriving social enterprise, embraced a renewed, holistic vision of a just and healthy society, and successfully undertook a greater number and variety of projects than ever before. SPARC BC continues to focus on the interconnectedness in our income security, accessibility, and community development related projects and services, as well as any opportunities to leverage influence and create positive outcomes for our activities in communities across B.C.

In the area of accessibility, we continued to embrace our roles in advocacy, research, and community leadership with high profile events like our World Urban Forum workshop on accessible urban space and our Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, which now serves over 94,000 people across the province.

The Community Development Education Program grew to deliver fifteen workshops in

communities across the province. We enjoyed positive feedback, as well as new insights into how the program can be improved with more focus on collaboration between aboriginal and non-aboriginal populations.

Leading research continued to take place at SPARC BC with a project funded by the Canadian Council of Learning that explored the ways in which Aboriginal culture is communicated within schools in the Lillooet area. An equally engaging project looked at the different ways social development planning is taking place in a diversity of municipalities across the province.

Financially, SPARC BC surpassed expectations with a recorded surplus of \$105,826. Strong total revenues 5% above budget forecasts were credited for this achievement, due partly to the performance of contracted research, which exceeded budgeted expectations by 10%. SPARC BC continues to expand the number of accomplished staff working towards the goals of a just and healthy society for all. A new collective agreement was ratified in March creating a more stable environment for staff in terms of salary and advancement protocol. SPARC BC has

demonstrated steady financial and organizational growth over the last few years, reinforcing our confidence that we can expect to see more excellent results in the future.

Looking ahead, SPARC BC will continue to grow and build on our reputation as a vibrant and active organization by focusing on core work in community development issues. The Community Development Education program will be expanded in parallel with an ambitious project called the Learning Library, which aims to make our research more accessible to communities. Our priority projects in the areas of

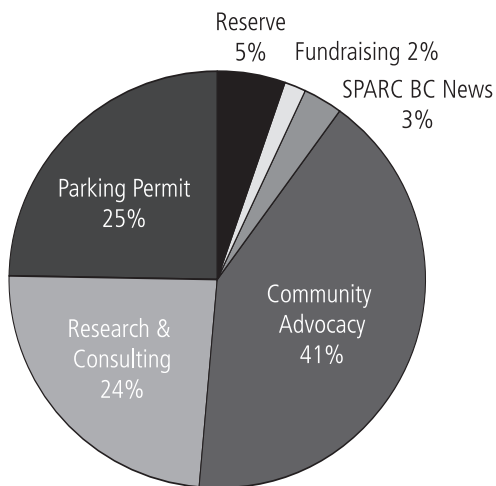
accessibility and income security are focused on drawing attention to multiple social needs and challenges. A study of municipal supports for accessibility will be used to develop recommendations for local governments' best practices in legislative support. Reporting on child poverty and Campaign 2000 will involve extensive research on data and the preparation of provincial and national child poverty report cards.

Finally, with a federal election on the horizon we plan to collaborate with other social planning councils in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and New Brunswick to bring a national perspective to our

Canada Chooses papers. We will distribute the Votes papers widely and work to stimulate voter engagement on social issues across the country.

Thank you to all SPARC BC staff, members, and donors for an impressive year of growth, change, and activism. We look forward to another year of accomplishment in building a just and healthy society for all. ■

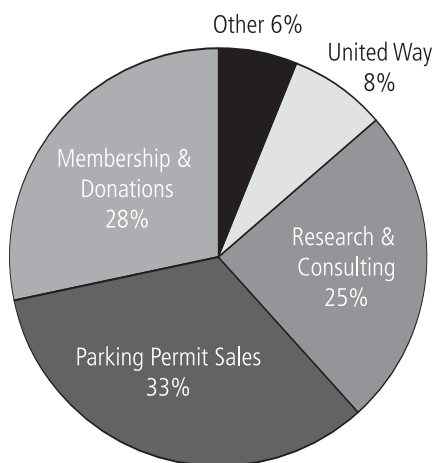
**SPARC BC Expenditures and Reserve  
2006/07: \$1.95 million**



**EXPENDITURES** \$ (in thousands)

Parking Permit	481
Research & Consulting	465
Community Advocacy	807
SPARC BC News	60
Fundraising	30
Reserve	106
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,950</b>

**SPARC BC Revenues 2006/07:  
\$1.95 million**



**REVENUES** \$ (in thousands)

Membership & Donations	550
Parking Permit Sales	652
Research & Consulting	479
United Way	147
Other	122
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,950</b>

**You can request a copy of the 2006/07 Annual Report by calling (604) 718-7733 or sending an email to [info@sparc.bc.ca](mailto:info@sparc.bc.ca). You can also download the report from our website at [www.sparc.bc.ca/annual\\_report\\_06-07](http://www.sparc.bc.ca/annual_report_06-07).**