

## Michael Goldberg, a True “SPARC Spark,” Retires

After eighteen years as a researcher at SPARC BC, Michael Goldberg retired to the Sunshine Coast. His intelligence, enthusiasm, knowledge, and integrity will be missed.

SINCE 1970, MICHAEL GOLDBERG has worked in the social development arena in the Vancouver area. He has worked in neighborhood houses, for various levels of government, but is most well known for his nearly two decades of work with SPARC BC. He retired in June 2006 to enjoy a more leisured life with his partner, Diane. His talents and experience, analysis and communications skills, sense of values—and the energy with which he pursues them—will all be greatly missed by SPARC BC.

Every community project Michael that has been a part of over his career can identify a positive legacy from the experience, whether it's improved capacity, new knowledge or skills, strong policy development, or just an engaging experience with lots of humour.

Michael is a true community leader whose life-long commitment to social justice is an inspiration. He has touched the lives of a great many people over the years and left an indelible mark on the social justice community in B.C. He leaves a legacy at SPARC BC of thoroughness and professionalism, of energy and enthusiasm, and of sensitivity and integrity that will serve the organization and its staff for years—nay, decades—to come.

Captured on this page and the next are photos from Michael's retirement celebration, as well as well-wishes from friends and colleagues. ■



**SPARC Forever.** Michael and Dianne receive a life membership to SPARC BC from board member Sheila Dobie.

*Your dedication to social justice and your research into issues of concern for all citizens has often been the impetus for change often against great odds.*

*It was always my pleasure to work with you while I was part of the SPARC board. They were very rewarding years for me and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate and meet all the dedicated people who have been a part of the SPARC organization.*

*Warm Regards,*

**Gail Thomas**

*Your reputation as a researcher is second-to-none! I hope your retirement is as much a success as your career has been!*

**—Martha Lewis**



**SPARC-ies Old and New.** A collection of many current and past SPARC BC staff.

*For me, Michael personifies the essence of caring, respect, advocacy, and social justice. And I doubt that his retirement will halt his activities relating to these values. Thanks, Michael. And here's wishing you an enjoyable and happy retirement.*

**—Roopchand Seebaran**

*Michael has been and will continue to be a tireless advocate for social justice, a well respected researcher and author who puts the “stark stats” before us, a lead spokesperson for diverse communities and a great friend! It has been our privilege and pleasure to work with him. We honour him and wish him a long happy and healthy retirement in a world at peace—with justice for all.*

**—Gyda Chud, Rita Chudnovsky, and families**

*Dear Michael—*

*Our deepest thanks for everything you have done in our movements for a more just society. We have flown higher thanks to your excellent counsel and leadership on how to get the job done well, creatively and effectively.*

*Congratulations on an inspiring career with purpose!*

*In friendship,*

**Pedro Barata**



**Old School.** Michael Goldberg and Deryck Thomson.



**Some Goldbergs.** (Left to Right) Avi, Joshua, Dianne, Michael, and Bobbi.