

# SPARC BC celebrates forty years of social planning and community development in B.C.

WHAT WE NOW KNOW AS the Social Planning and Research Council of BC was incorporated in 1966 as the Voluntary Association for Health and Welfare of British Columbia. Deryck Thomson recalls that the idea of a creating a “provincial social planning organization that would raise public awareness and understanding of health and welfare issues and the need for appropriate services” was first discussed in 1961 at a brown-bag lunch on a spring day in Victoria. Deryck Thomson, Ernie Hill, and Gordon Selman were the trio at that meeting.

The name of the organization has changed over the years, and programs and projects have shifted in response to the needs and aspirations of communities in B.C. What has remained constant over the past forty years, however, is the organization’s commitment to empowering citizens and communities with information and analysis of current issues and policies, our role as

a liaison among groups throughout the province, and an ongoing, concerted effort awareness and knowledge of social issues.

We want you to celebrate this four-decade milestone with us! We could probably fill a stadium with all the volunteers, staff people, program participants, supporters, and members who have contributed to the work of SPARC BC through the past forty years. It is the commitment of everyone involved over the years that has made SPARC BC a success.

Come to the SPARC BC 40th Anniversary celebration on Friday June 2, 2006 at Van Dusen Gardens. (See the invitation on the next page—don’t forget to RSVP!)

Let’s take this opportunity to look back at our successes over the last forty years, build on our strengths and the lessons we’ve learned so we can continue to work with communities to build a just and healthy society for all!

## It’s your chance to share your memories and stories...

We want to hear your stories about SPARC BC. Do you have an anecdote, memory, or story about people or events connected to SPARC BC? Has SPARC BC had an impact on an organization you have been involved with?

We will gather these stories together and share them with others at the anniversary celebration, in future issues of *SPARC BC News*, and in other publications we are planning in conjunction with SPARC BC’s forty years

of social planning and community development.

You can send your stories to Matthew Beall, Editor and Publications Coordinator at SPARC BC, by:

Email: [mbeall@sparc.bc.ca](mailto:mbeall@sparc.bc.ca)

Fax: (604) 736-8697

Mail: 201-221 E. 10th Ave., Vancouver, BC V5T 4V3

Dear SPARC BC Members,



Please consider joining us to celebrate on June 2, 2006. Help us plan by contacting Gillian at (604) 718-7751 or [gtong@sparc.bc.ca](mailto:gtong@sparc.bc.ca) with your RSVP by May 12, 2006.

## ... and hopes and dreams for SPARC BC

We also want this 40th Anniversary to be about looking forward to the next forty years of social planning and community development in B.C. If you are just reading *SPARC BC News* for the first time, or have thought about becoming a member of SPARC BC, now is the time! When you sign up, send us a note with your thoughts about the next forty years of social planning in B.C. What are the issues that are going to be important to you, your family, and community from now until 2046?

## Official Notice

SOCIAL PLANNING  
AND RESEARCH  
COUNCIL OF BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### WHEN

**June 2, 2006**

7:00 pm

### WHERE

Van Dusen Gardens  
Floral Hall  
5251 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC

### NEED MORE INFO?

Call (604) 718-7733  
Email [info@sparc.bc.ca](mailto:info@sparc.bc.ca)

### AGM BUSINESS

The business of the meeting will include the presentation and approval of the Society's audited financial statements and the election of the Society's directors.

Nominations to the Society's Board of Directors are encouraged and may be made by any member provided that such nominations are received by the Chair of the Nomination Committee and the Society's office 48 hours before the date of the Annual General Meeting and that they are accompanied by the written consent of the nominee.