



 sparc bc  
**Annual Report**

2019/2020



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# Mission & Values

*“SPARCBC works with communities to build a just and healthy society for all.”*

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## **Our definition of “just and healthy” is based on five key principles:**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Equity:</b>           | The recognition that some individuals or groups require more or less than others to flourish, and that some individuals or groups are capable of contributing more to address deficiencies and promote fairness of distribution.  |
| <b>Social Inclusion:</b> | The recognition that both the rights and the opportunity to participate in and enjoy all aspects of human life enables individuals and communities to celebrate their diversity, and recognize and act on their responsibilities. |
| <b>Security:</b>         | The recognition that individuals and communities flourish when they have confidence in their surroundings as safe, supportive and stable environments.  |
| <b>Adaptability:</b>     | The recognition that sustainability requires resilience for both individuals and communities, and the ability to respond creatively to change.  |
| <b>Equality:</b>         | The recognition that increasing equality within society builds social cohesion, improves health, increases safety and security, and contributes to sustainable and vibrant communities.   |

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## **Our work is founded on the following values:**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Social Justice:</b> | We strive for a just and healthy society in which social, economic, and environmental well-being are interdependent, through advocating for equality, fairness and dignity for all.  |
| <b>Inclusion:</b>      | We are committed to achieving access and the full participation and engagement of all in our diverse society by fostering communication, leadership, partnership, and collaboration. |
| <b>Integrity:</b>      | We are independent, accountable, transparent and non-partisan.   |
| <b>Learning:</b>       | We seek, develop and share knowledge and understanding which encourages citizen participation and informs innovative, effective planning and decision-making.                        |

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## President's Message

I am pleased to present SPARC BC's Annual Report for 2019/2020 and would like to highlight some of our accomplishments over this past year. They include:

- More than 56,500 seniors and people with disabilities across B.C. assisted through the delivery of the *Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities*;
- More than 33,000 calls received and answered by staff about the Parking Permit Program;
- Donations for more than 10,000 "Homeless Comfort Kits" and 4,000 "Seniors Harvest Baskets" generated through our December fund-raising campaign;
- 30 community-based workshops delivered through LIRN BC (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC) and through our CDE (Community Development Education) program;
- 29 local governments and community partners participating in our annual Access Awareness Day activities which focused on the different ways that *Accessibility Makes Communities Complete*; and,
- 52 projects delivered by our Research, Planning and Community Development team.

This year has also seen some important and positive policy changes and investments in the areas of accessibility and inclusion, and income security and poverty reduction. These changes include the Provincial government's introduction of British Columbia's first *Poverty Reduction Strategy – Together B.C.* This strategy recognizes the devastating human and social consequences of poverty and the need for communities to actively come together to work for change.

This year, the Federal government also adopted the *Accessible Canada Act*. This legislation provides an important step towards ensuring that people of all abilities have equal access to the economic and social opportunities that are available to all Canadians. With the adoption of the Federal legislation, SPARC BC was one of a number of disability-serving organizations in British Columbia who worked with the Province to look at the legislative, regulatory, and policy changes needed to remove barriers for people with disabilities and create a culture of inclusion.

Working with the Provincial Accessibility Secretariat in the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, SPARC BC also had the privilege of engaging communities across British Columbia in conversations about ways to make our communities more accessible and inclusive. The insights gained through this process will help to inform the development of SPARC BC's Accessibility Guide with a focus on the development of strategies and initiatives designed to break down barriers and to promote greater access and inclusion for everyone.

This past year, we have also had the opportunity to partner with groups and organizations across the Province to support local placed-based strategies to address the issue of homelessness. This included working with communities to ensure that people experiencing homelessness have access to the services they need to help break the cycle of poverty and homelessness and to move forward in their lives.

With funding provided through the Province, SPARC BC launched the *Homelessness Community Action Grant* program. This program is designed to support local action and knowledge about homelessness and its causes, increase public awareness and respond to gaps in services for people experiencing homelessness. SPARC BC received \$6M in funding from the Province to support this work with more than 53 community-based research grants provided to date.

I would be remiss if I did not talk about the unprecedented times that we are living in and the effects of the coronavirus. There is no question that the emergence of COVID-19 has challenged all of us in different ways. At the same time, it has reminded us of the importance of working together and the need to care for each other. As a non-profit organization with a long history of working on issues of social justice, equality, and inclusion, we know that the need to support those who are most vulnerable in our society has never been greater.

In the coming months, SPARC BC will continue to focus on addressing issues of food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness. As well, we will be looking at ways of re-imagining how we care for each other in a time of physical and social distancing with a specific focus on ways to support those who are most vulnerable in our society as they navigate the challenges that COVID-19 has introduced. This has included looking more closely at issues of access to basic communication for those who are socially isolated as well as initiatives to continue to support dignified access to healthy food for seniors and people with disabilities as existing services and support networks are interrupted.

As a Social Planning and Research organization, we continue to look at ways that communities can come together to support each other through this crisis. This includes reaching out to other social planning organizations and partners across the province around a grassroots response needed to show care, compassion, and empathy for each other. COVID-19 has made us all see more clearly the growing inequality and inequity within society. As we face this crisis together, I believe that it is possible to emerge better, stronger, and more caring.

All of the accomplishments in this Annual Report reflect the enduring commitment of SPARC BC's Board and staff to the values of social justice, inclusion, integrity, and learning. These values have set the foundation for our work over the past 54 years and continue to guide us as we move forward. As I close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to both the Board and staff. As well, I would like to recognize the ongoing generosity and unwavering support that we receive from our members and donors. It is your belief in the possibilities that comes from people in communities working together that has made all the difference. Be safe and be well. It has been an honour to serve as the President of SPARC BC over this past year.

Hugh Kellas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Kellas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, SPARC BC

## Highlights from 2019/2020

**52**

Research projects  
in progress or completed



responded to almost  
**33,000**  
phone calls



**46**

Research, Planning &  
Consulting proposals  
created



**53**

Homelessness Community  
Action Grants funded



**75**

Independent  
Community Conversations  
supported



More than **10,000**  
homeless comfort kits  
provided



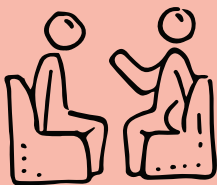
more than

**56,500**

Parking Permits  
issued

**30**

Community Development  
workshops delivered



Delivered **4,000**  
Senior's Harvest  
Baskets



**29**

communities participating  
in Access Awareness Day  
activities

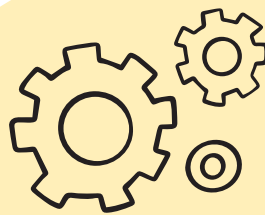


**300**

calls to our Accessibility  
and Enforcement Line



More than **1900**  
responses to SPARC BC's  
B.C. Parks Survey



**4,000 +**

participants engaged in the  
Accessibility Legislation  
Consultation



**500**

Participants in  
Accessibility Legislation  
community meetings



**18**

Accessibility Legislation  
Stakeholder and  
Community  
Meetings



Plans for Accessible  
Parking Awareness  
Month



Our Programs and Activities

# Parking Permit Program and Accessibility and Inclusion

# Parking Permit Program

SPARC BC has led the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities in British Columbia since 1984. In 2019/2020, we assisted more than 56,500 seniors and people with disabilities to access parking in their communities and answered more than 33,000 phone calls about the Parking Permit Program. We also worked in partnership with local governments and other key partners and stakeholders to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the parking they need. In 2019, we provided advice on ways to strengthen the delivery of the Parking Permit Program including advice around the need, location, and design of designated accessible parking spaces.

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING IN ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES

This past year we launched our project called “*Accessible Parking in Accessible Communities*”. Working with the *Richmond Centre for Disability*, the *South of Fraser Active Living Group (SFALG)*, and other community partners and stakeholders, SPARC BC developed a ‘mapping app’ that captures information on the inventory of accessible parking spaces both on and off the street and that includes information on the location of the spaces both in terms of the type of spaces available as well as design-related considerations (location, dimensions, signage, and safety).

Patterns of use for the spaces were also recorded including instances of misuse and abuse. Funding for this initiative came through the *Provincial Disability Innovation Fund* administered by the *Disability Alliance (DABC)*. As well, SPARC BC provided funding to support the employment of people with disabilities in the different phases of this project from the design of the app through to the field research and user testing. The research is being used to demonstrate the need for different types of spaces including the need for more van accessible parking, as well as to strengthen efforts around enforcement.

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING STANDARDS

We are also working to strengthen standards across accessibility parking and have made an application in partnership with the *Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization (CASDO)* to look at ways to strengthen the delivery, management, and enforcement of accessible parking in B.C. Our application to CASDO was supported by the *City of Richmond*, the *Richmond Centre for Disability*, the *City of Surrey*, the *South of Fraser Active Living Group*, *People in Motion Kamloops* as well as the *Provincial Accessibility Secretariat*. We hope to hear back on our application later in the summer.

The *Americans with Disabilities Act* requires that one (1) in every six (6) spaces is van accessible parking.



## **ACCESSIBLE PARKING AWARENESS MONTH**

We have also started to make plans for introducing *Accessible Parking Awareness Month* in September. Through *Accessible Parking Awareness Month*, our goal is to reach out to local governments to build increased awareness around existing and emerging needs for accessible parking as well as strengthen efforts to better meet the needs of people with disabilities. Through *Accessible Parking Awareness Month*, we want to draw attention to the need for designated accessible parking and to put measures in place which allow communities to work together to help ensure these spaces are respected and protected.

## **INVISIBLE/HIDDEN DISABILITY CAMPAIGN OUTREACH**

Not all disabilities are visible. Frequently, we hear from permit holders who have a hidden or invisible disability who tell us that their need for an accessible parking space was questioned. As part of SPARC BC's public education and outreach, we have developed a series of cards that include information about invisible or hidden disabilities. The cards highlight different messages and include "Please leave space for me", "I have good days and bad days, on good days, I don't use this space", and "I am a valid permit holder". The idea for this initiative came through comments received through our *Your Ideas* initiative and through conversations that we have had with permit holders.

Through this campaign, we continue to reach out to different networks and support groups including arthritis support groups who have found these cards to be helpful in raising awareness about their specific needs. We also make these cards available to permit holders who have an invisible disability and who often feel judged by others. The card is designed for them to display on their dashboard along with their placard and is intended to allow them to assert their need.

In developing these cards, one of our goals has been to work with TransLink or B.C. Transit to create a campaign that would allow people with invisible or hidden disabilities to have access to the priority seating on buses and transit. In this case, the card would say "Please offer me a seat" and could be used by anyone with a disability to access priority seating. This idea was based on similar initiatives implemented in other jurisdictions in Canada and the U.K. and is part of an inclusive transit system. Continuing to advance this initiative will remain an important focus for 2020/2021.



## **ACCESS AWARENESS DAY EVENTS**

The following are communities that partnered with SPARC BC and that received funding to support their efforts around Access Awareness Day for 2019:

Belcarra

Burnaby

Central Saanich

City of Chilliwack (Chilliwack Learning)

Colwood

Coquitlam

Cumberland

Dawson Creek (Dawson Creek Society for Community Living)

District of Kent

District of Maple Ridge

District of North Saanich (Panorama Recreation Centre)

Duncan (Duncan Clements Centre Society)

Gibsons

Granisle

Harrison Hot Springs

Kelowna

Keremeos

Kootenay (Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association)

Lake Country

Lytton

Nakusp

North Vancouver

Osoyoos

Pitt Meadows (Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion)

Qualicum Beach (Universal Access Qualicum Beach & Accessible Oceanside Association)

Revelstoke

Smithers

Surrey

Town of Sidney (Beacon Community Services)

Vancouver (The Gathering Place)

# Accessibility and Inclusion

## **ACCESS AWARENESS DAY**

Celebrated annually the first Saturday in June, SPARC BC has led *Access Awareness Day* for more than 23 years. In 2019, the theme for *Access Awareness Day* was “*Accessibility Makes Communities Complete*”. As part of our *Access Awareness Day* outreach, SPARC BC engaged more than 1,100 stakeholders including local governments, local Accessibility Committees, local libraries, and parks and recreation departments to look at the ways to make our communities as accessible and inclusive as possible. Small grants of \$500 were provided to communities to support local awareness building activities. Twenty-nine (29) community partners and organizations came together to participate in *Access Awareness Day* activities.

## **BC PARKS ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

In 2017, SPARC BC launched a survey in partnership with B.C. Parks to learn more about the ways that people with disabilities use B.C.’s network of parks and natural areas. The survey generated more than 1,900 responses from across every region in the province and offered insight into the different types of activities that people with disabilities enjoy when visiting one of B.C.’s parks and natural areas. The information gathered through the survey is designed to build a more complete understanding of the types of improvements and enhancements that can be made to ensure that B.C.’s parks and natural areas are available to everyone.

## **FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION**

On June 21, 2019, *The Accessible Canada Act* became law. *The Accessible Canada Act* was created to recognize that every Canadian deserves the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of community life. *The Accessible Canada Act* seeks to address the issue of accessibility and identify and remove barriers to participation that continue to limit access to economic and social opportunities for people with disabilities. To support these efforts, SPARC BC received funding from the Federal Government through their *Social Development Partnership Program* to work with communities across B.C. to encourage and support leadership and innovation in the area of accessibility.

## PRINCIPLES OF ACCESSIBLE CANADA ACT:

The Accessible Canada Act recognizes:

- (a) All persons must be treated with dignity regardless of their disabilities;
- (b) All persons must have the same opportunity to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have regardless of their disabilities;
- (c) All persons must have barrier-free access to full and equal participation in society, regardless of their disabilities;
- (d) All persons must have meaningful options and be free to make their own choices, with support if they desire, regardless of their disabilities;
- (e) Laws, policies, programs, services and structures must take into account the disabilities of persons, the different ways that persons interact with their environments and the multiple and intersecting forms of marginalization and discrimination faced by persons;
- (f) Persons with disabilities must be involved in the development and design of laws, policies, programs, services and structures; and
- (g) The development and revision of accessibility standards and the making of regulations must be done with the objective of achieving the highest level of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

## PROVINCIAL ACCESSIBILITY STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE

There are four (4) provinces that have accessibility legislation – *Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Manitoba*. Following the adoption of the *Accessible Canada Act* in June 2019, the *Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction* organized a series of Stakeholder Roundtable meetings to explore ways to advance accessibility and inclusion in B.C. SPARC BC participated in these meeting along with 15 to 20 other organizations. These meetings helped to set the context for looking at the types of steps and actions needed within B.C. to improve accessibility for everyone and to complement and support the *Accessible Canada Act*.

In the fall of 2019, SPARC BC had the privilege of working with the *Accessibility Secretariat* and the *Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction* to create a consultation process designed to engage British Columbians in a conversation about the action needed to create a province where everyone can thrive and pursue opportunities meaningful to them.

SPARC BC assisted in the design and delivery of a series of stakeholder and community meetings across B.C. including meetings in Prince George, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Penticton, Terrace, Nelson, Victoria, Comox, Vancouver, and Surrey. Nearly 500 individuals and organizations participated in these meetings, while an additional 72 organizations reached out to host meetings of their own. In total, more than 7,700 individuals and organizations from across the Province engaged in the meetings and conversations about what accessibility and inclusion could look like in B.C.

## PROVINCIAL ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The following are communities and organizations that partnered with SPARC BC and that received funding to lead an independent community conversation to support the development of the Provincial Accessibility Legislation:

 Autistics United Canada (Neurodiversity Listening Society)	Metro Vancouver
 BC Coalition of Guide Dogs & Canadian Council of the Blind	Comox
 BC Coalition of Guide Dogs & Canadian Council of the Blind	Conference Call (Northern Community)
 BC Coalition of Guide Dogs & Canadian Council of the Blind	Conference Call (Northern Community)
 BC Coalition of Guide Dogs & Canadian Council of the Blind	Nanaimo
 BC Coalition of Guide Dogs & Canadian Council of the Blind	Victoria
 BC People First	New Westminister
 BC Poverty Reduction	Vancouver
 BC Poverty Reduction	Vancouver
 Beacon Community Services	Sidney
 Beta Collective & Greater Vancouver Association	Surrey
 Campbell River and District Association for Community Living	Campbell River
 Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (BC Chapter)	Province-wide
 Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (BC Youth Peer Support Program)	Burnaby
 Capilano Students' Union	North Vancouver
 Chilliwack Society for Community Living	Chilliwack
 Citizens for Accessible Neighbourhoods	Vancouver

## PROVINCIAL ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION

### INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, continued

 City of Maple Ridge (Recreation Department)	Maple Ridge
 City of Powell River	Powell River
 City of Surrey (Support Services & Accessibility Manager)	Surrey
 Community Connections	Revelstoke
 Community Living BC	Nanaimo
 Coquitlam Public Library	Tri-Cities/Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows
 Disability Alliance BC	Vancouver
 District of Mackenzie	District of Mackenzie
 Embers Eastside Works	Vancouver
 Faculty of Medicine UBC (Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy)	Vancouver
 Footprints Centre Neil Squire Society & Penticton Indian Band	Penticton
 Fostering Change (First Call BC)	Vancouver
 Greater Vancouver Association of The Deaf	Vancouver
 Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness	Victoria
 Greenwood Board of Trade	Greenwood
 Hilary Marks (Individual)	Victoria
 Inclusive Leadership Co-operative	Duncan
 Independent Living Centre (Kelowna)	Kelowna
 Independent Living Centre (Vernon)	Vernon
 Individualized Funding Resource Centre Society	Vancouver
 Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture	Vancouver
 Langley Community Services Society	Langley
 Lower Similkameen Community Services Society	Keremeos
 Lu'ma Native Housing and Health Society	Vancouver

## PROVINCIAL ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION

### INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, continued

📍	Mayne Island Assisted Living Society	Mayne Island
📍	New Westminster and District Labour Council	New Westminster
📍	North Island Metis Association	Campbell River
📍	Okanagan Regional Library	Kelowna
📍	Osoyoos Accessibility Committee	Osoyoos
📍	Pacific Autism Family Network	Vancouver
📍	People in Motion	Kelowna
📍	Pivot Legal Society	Vancouver
📍	Princeton & District Community Services Society	Princeton
📍	Richmond Centre for Disability	Richmond
📍	Salt Spring Community Alliance Society	Salt Spring Island
📍	Sechelt Public Library	Sechelt
📍	Semiahmoo House Society (Uniti)	Surrey
📍	Sooke Region Communities Health Network	Sooke
📍	Spectrum Society for Community Living	Vancouver
📍	Spring Hawes	Kelowna
📍	Square Peg Society	Vancouver
📍	Steps Forward	Province-wide
📍	The Disability Foundation	Kelowna
📍	The Disability Foundation	Nanaimo
📍	The Disability Foundation	Prince George
📍	Town of Gibsons	Gibsons
📍	Unique Get Together Society	Downtown East Side, Vancouver
📍	Unity Centre Association for Black Cultures	Vancouver
📍	University of the Fraser Valley (Teaching and Learning Centre)	Abbotsford
📍	University of Victoria Students' Union	Victoria
📍	West End Seniors Network	Vancouver



Our Programs and Activities

# Social Policy, Research & Advocacy

# Our Programs and Activities

## Social Policy, Research & Advocacy

SPARC BC's vision of a just and healthy society for all is one where all citizens have economic security, affordable housing, access to healthy food and a sense of connection to their community. SPARC BC's work in the area of social policy research and advocacy continues to focus on the use of evidence-based research and partnerships to contribute to improvements in service delivery systems and to strengthen public policies.

In 2019, SPARC BC worked on a diverse range of projects in the areas of housing and homelessness as well as in the area of food security and dignified access to healthy food. We have also continued to focus on the development of partnerships and place-based strategies to address issues of income security and poverty reduction.

Our work in the area of food security included the launch of two (2) *Communities of Practice* including partnering with the *Skeetchestn First Nation* and *Q'wemtsin Health Society* to deliver local food and to co-design *Learning Circles* for students in First Nations schools in the Kamloops area. The *Learning Circle* is organized and coordinated by Bobbi Saskamoose, along with a long-standing Community Dietician, Laura Kalina. Both Bobbi and Laura have provided mentoring and support to the project which they have called "*Knowing Our Roots*."

SPARC BC also partnered with the *Lush Valley Food Action Society* and *Amara Farm* in the Comox Valley to implement a *Learning Circle* process. Partners for this initiative include *Arzeena Hamir* (a farmer, regional district elected official, and well-respected food security advocate) as well as the *K'omoks First Nation*. This initiative was introduced into three (3) different schools in the Comox Valley area. In addition to working directly with the three (3) schools, this initiative will also contribute to the development of educational material on food literacy.

In response to the emergence of COVID-19, our partners have also introduced a local delivery services of socially isolated seniors and people with disabilities who were unable to access food on their own. This initiative was supported through funding from our *Seniors' Harvest Basket* initiative. Over this next year, we will continue to look at ways to build on these initiatives and to strengthen local service delivery systems in response to the challenges created by COVID-19. We have called this initiative "*Caring from a Distance*".

## **HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS PROGRAM**

In June 2019, the Province announced \$6M in funding to support the launch of the *Community Homelessness Action Grant*. This funding supports efforts designed to respond to the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This includes initiatives designed to support demonstration projects, partnerships, research, and other initiatives which respond to gaps in the current system of services and supports for those who are experiencing homelessness.

Funding provided through this initiative is designed to:

- Build a deeper understanding of existing and emerging needs at the community level;
- Understand or address specific needs for distinct populations experiencing homelessness;
- Respond to gaps in the current spectrum of services and supports available to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;
- Build capacity at the local level to better understand and respond to existing and emerging needs;
- Support local innovation designed to foster positive outcomes at the individual and community level; and,
- Address other needs or opportunities as identified by the community.

To date, more than 53 projects across 27 communities and regions have received funding.

## **REACHING HOME – COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

SPARC BC has also continued to serve on the *Community Advisory Board (CAB)* for the delivery of the *Reaching Home* program for Metro Vancouver. *Reaching Home* is a community-based program funded by the Federal government and is focused on preventing and reducing homelessness through the development of a data-driven, systems-based approach. *Reaching Home* priorities include:

- Reducing chronic homelessness by 50% by 2028; and,
- Reducing the inflow into homelessness through preventative strategies as well as strategies and initiatives designed to reduce the number of individuals returning to homelessness.

*Reaching Home* has also been designed to strengthen and support community-wide reporting and measurement with a focus on building and strengthening partnerships at the community level.

Delivery of the *Reaching Home* program is through community partnership between the CAB and a *Community Entity (CE)* where both the CAB and CE have specific roles and

responsibilities. Under the *Reaching Home* program, the Community Advisory Board is responsible for:

- Establishing priorities;
- Encouraging partnerships at the community level;
- Supporting and coordinating community efforts to address homelessness;
- Identifying priorities through a planning process;
- Working to build and strengthen community connections; and,
- Establishing an integrated and coordinated approach for addressing homelessness.

### **SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS TABLES**

Finding and keeping housing that is affordable is a challenge for many low-income families and individuals. Working with the *Council of Community Homelessness Tables* in the Lower Mainland, SPARC BC has continued to champion efforts to support *Homelessness Action Week*. This year, the theme for *Homelessness Action Week* was "*Housing is the Difference/ Community is the Connection.*"

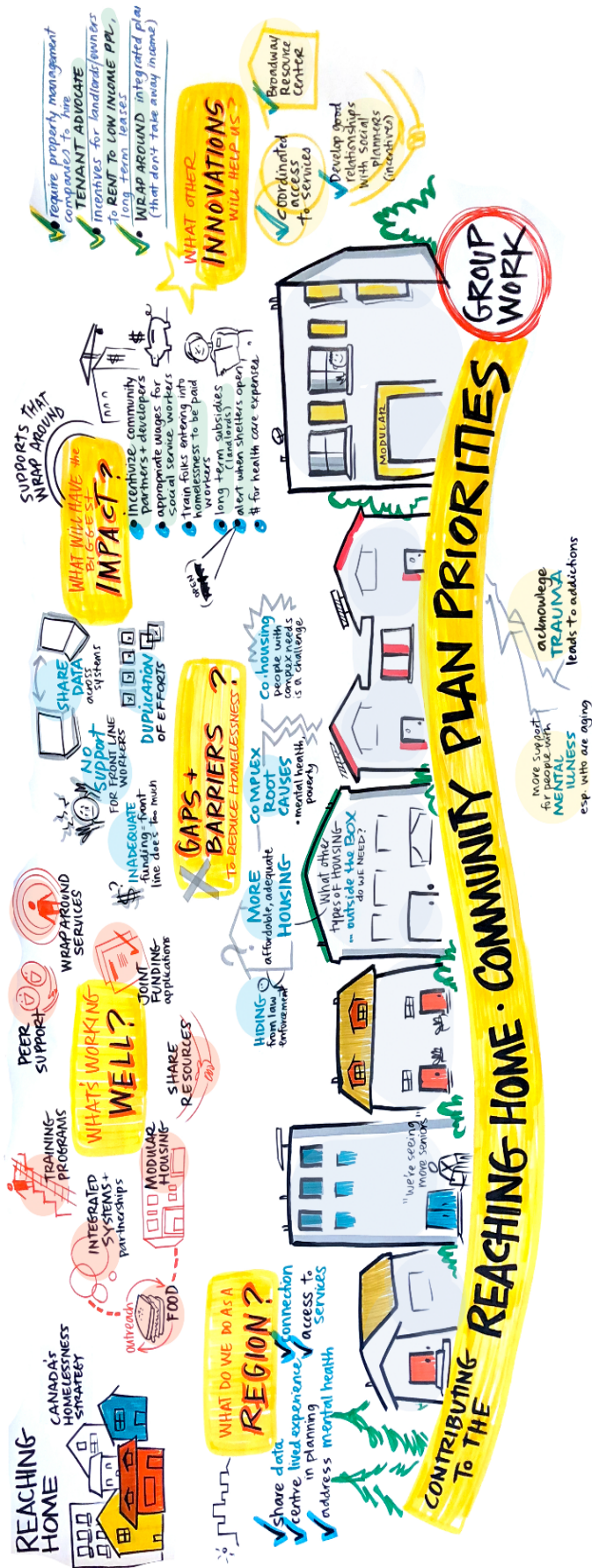
As part of the planning and support around *Homelessness Action Week*, SPARC BC also prepares and distributes more than 10,000 comfort kits across the Province. These kits have traditionally included a mix of basic hygiene products such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors and tissues. However, we have recently expanded this initiative to include food cards and coffee cards, as well as socks and other forms of comfort (i.e. medicine pouches). These simple acts of kindness have been made possible through the generosity and support of our members and donors. As well, we have been able to leverage this funding through partnerships with Save-On-Foods, 7-Eleven and Bombas Socks – all of whom recognize the importance of working together to ensure that those who are most vulnerable in society have the supports they need.

## **BUILDING ON STRENGTHS AND SETTING PRIORITIES**

As part of the 2H (Housing + Homelessness) Forum 2019, SPARC BC worked in collaboration with the Council of Community Homelessness Tables, and with Sam Bradd from *Drawing Change* to explore the full range of needs, strategies and existing and emerging priorities to be considered as part of the *Reaching Home Community Planning* process.

In setting priorities, participants were asked to answer the following questions:

1. What do we have to do as a region to address homelessness?
2. What is working well?
3. What are the potential gaps and barriers?
4. What are the areas where we have had the biggest impact?
5. What are the other innovations that have helped us?



LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING | Drawing Change  
 Sam Bradd

2H (Housing + Homelessness) Forum 2019

## HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS PROGRAM

The following are communities and organizations that received funding through the Homelessness Community Action Grants program:

A Way Home Kamloops Society	Kamloops
Abbotsford Housing and Homelessness Prevention and Response System	Abbotsford
Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George	Prince George
B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association	Province-wide
Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness	Campbell River
Canadian Mental Health Association - Shuswap/Revelstoke	Salmon Arm
Castlegar & District Community Services Society	Castlegar
City of Courtenay	Courtenay
City of Penticton	Penticton
City of Surrey Planning and Development Department	Surrey
Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness	Courtenay
Comox Valley Transition Society	Courtenay
Comox Valley Transition Society	Courtenay
Cyrus Centre	Chilliwack
Dawn to Dawn: Action on Homelessness Society	Comox
Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society	Vancouver
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)	Province-wide
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) - Indigenous Youth	Surrey
Helping Spirit Lodge Society - Indigenous Homelessness (Women)	Vancouver
Hollyburn Family Services Society - Senior Homelessness	North Vancouver - Lower Mainland
Hollyburn Family Services Society - Youth Homelessness	North Vancouver - Lower Mainland
Hope for Freedom Society	Port Coquitlam
Indigenous Women's Sharing Society	Courtenay
Island Crisis Care Society	Nanaimo
Journey Home Community Association	Burnaby

<b>HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS PROGRAM, continued</b>	
Lookout Housing and Health Society (Peer Led Homelessness Research)	Surrey, Langley
Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society (LCCDTS)	Trail
Lu'ma Native Housing Society	Vancouver
Network of Inner-City Community Services Society (NICCSS)	Vancouver
New Leaf Project Society	Province-wide
North Shore Homelessness Task Force	North Vancouver
Oheart Oceanside Homelessness Ecumenical Response Team	Parksville
Phoenix Society - Addiction/Recovery	Surrey
Realistic Recovery Society	Surrey
Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society	Salt Spring Island
Street Corner Media Foundation - Persons with Lived Experience	Vancouver, Victoria
"The Existence Project" - In Partnership with Tides Canada Initiative	Victoria
The John Howard Society of British Columbia	Vancouver
The Salvation Army Ocean Crest Ministry	Campbell River
Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group	Coquitlam
Union Gospel Mission	Vancouver
United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island	Nanaimo
Whole Way House Society	Vancouver
Whole Way House Society	Vancouver
YWCA Metro Vancouver	Vancouver
Zero Ceiling Society of Canada	Whistler



Our Programs and Activities  
Community Development,  
Education & Outreach

## Our Programs and Activities

# Community Development, Education & Outreach

SPARC BC's work in community development education and outreach includes ongoing efforts to advance positive social policy change in partnership with key community partners and stakeholders with a focus on working together to identify and understand local social development needs and priorities as well as ongoing efforts to support local action and change. Through this work, SPARC BC is committed to creating space for diverse voices and perspectives with the goal of ensuring that everyone is included. Over this next week, we will continue to:

- Work to build capacity by providing ongoing leadership in the delivery of LIRN BC (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC), CDE (Community Development Education Program) and the Community Data Program;
- Support information sharing and knowledge exchange through the development of SPROUT publications, resource guides and other materials; and,
- Recognize individuals and organizations making a significant contribution to social planning and social justice in BC through the Deryck Thomson Award.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIRN BC WORKSHOPS**

Over this past year, we have delivered 30 workshops through our CDE and LIRN BC partnerships. These workshops have covered a range of social policy issues and topics and have brought together local governments, community-based agencies and partners including social planning councils and other key partners. For 2020, and taking into consideration the impact of COVID-19, we have introduced a new form of outreach called VERVE.

VERVE is a virtual peer-based learning program using Zoom. VERVE supports knowledge sharing among people engaged in social justice and health equity who work with First Nations and BC communities. The two (2) main goals are to provide free 60-minute webinars with Knowledge Contributors that specialize in research, planning, and community development for social justice and health equality with First Nations and British Columbians and to support people with lived experience, researchers, educators and/or organizers to share their knowledge with people who want to learn more about social justice and health equality. Successful applicants who wish to become a "Knowledge Contributor" will be provided a \$500 grant and encouraged to share knowledge about one of the following:

- Innovative approaches to including diverse voices in community planning
- Facilitating online community engagement sessions
- Pathways for mental health in workplaces
- Community-based participatory action research methods and success stories
- Other social justice and health equity related topics.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

City of Maple Ridge – Accessibility Workshop

City of Richmond – Indicators and Measures of Poverty

City of Vancouver--Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

City of Vancouver–Seniors’ Advisory Committee (SAC)

City of Victoria–Accessibility Training for Mayor and Council

City of Victoria–Accessibility Training for Senior Management

City of Nelson – Poverty Reduction Measures

City of Smithers – Evaluation Workshop

Tofino/Ucluelet -Clayoquot Biosphere Trust

Tofino/Ucluelet Clayoquot Youth Workshop

Clean Energy Transformation Collaboration

Comox Valley Social Planning

Cowichan Community Planning

Farm to School Conference

Kootenay Boundary Region-Poverty Reduction Measures

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Development Review Working Group

Nanaimo Social Indicators Workshop

Simon Fraser University – Data Visualization Conference

Skeetchestn First Nation CDE Workshop

Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative

Terrace Evaluation Workshop

UBC Human Early Learning Project (HELP)

Union of BC Municipalities – Homeless Action Grant Workshop

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition & Tamarack – UBCM Poverty Reduction Grants Workshop

University of Calgary – Data that Makes a Difference Conference

Upper Skeena Housing Workshop

Victoria Community Social Planning Council

Village of Burns Lake

Whistler Housing Authority

Williams Lake Poverty Reduction Indicators



Deryck **THOMSON**  
**AWARD**

## **THE DERYCK THOMSON AWARD**

The Deryck Thomson Award is named after one of SPARC BC's founding Directors. The nominees for this year are aligned with SPARC BC's mission and values and were selected for their significant contribution to social planning and social justice in British Columbia.

In 2019/2020 there are three (3) nominees:

### **ALL NATIONS DRIVING ACADEMY (TERRACE, B.C.)—Social Sustainability**

Obtaining a driver's license is an empowering rite of passage, but for some Indigenous people in northern British Columbia, it can be a real challenge. The inability to drive, especially in remote communities, makes accessing employment, and medical appointments or evacuating during natural disasters impossible.

Academy founder, Lucy Sager, started the All Nations Driving Academy after similarly realizing transportation can be a difficult issue in remote communities, especially when there are vast distances separating residents. Most of the thousands of new trades jobs expected in the region over the coming years will require applicants to have a driver's license.

All Nations Driving Academy is working to build community capacity and community well-being by creating innovation that creates positive change for Indigenous people in northern communities. From Haida Gwaii to Prince George, All Nations Driving Academy is hoping to change the dynamic of family units by teaching individuals how to operate a vehicle.

The academy, located in Terrace, B.C., has already received some funding from the provincial government to support driver training, licensing and to assist students who have issues obtaining identification. Unfortunately, ICBC does not accept status cards as government issued ID, presenting a major hurdle. The program works by sending authorized driving instructors to meet with students for training before they travel to larger centres to take their driving test.

The academy also encourages communities to own and operate their own driving school. In working with Indigenous communities, All Nations Driving Academy is working to do everything they can to reduce transportation barriers.

To date, All Nations Driving Academy has already helped 220 people from 13 First Nations get their license, with approximately 600 more individuals scheduled to receive their license in 2020.

### **OCEAN LEGACY FOUNDATION (DELTA, B.C.)—Environmental Sustainability**

Ocean Legacy Foundation is a B.C.-based non-profit organization that has developed a world leading plastic pollution emergency response program called EPIC.

This dynamic and integrative approach combines four (4) main components including education, policy, infrastructure and clean-up.

Ocean Legacy Foundation's goal is to give plastic waste an economic value to stimulate the plastic circular economy and provide communities the long-term tools they need to steward their environment by keeping plastic out of the oceans. At the heart of Ocean Legacy Foundation is a community development approach that makes space for youth to be actively involved and to co-lead plastic pollution clean-up projects, from capacity building, logistics

leadership, plastic pollution collection to reporting on positive impacts of environmental clean-up.

This initiative has been championed internally by Scott Graham with the vision that one day our Parking Permits will be made from recycled sea plastic.

**UNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK CULTURES - UCABC (LOWER MAINLAND, B.C.)—Cultural Sustainability**

Recognizing the emerging critical awareness around the *Black Lives Matter* movement and the ongoing unconscious bias and systemic racism within society, we are recommending that the Board also present an award to the *Unity Centre Association for Black Cultures (UCABC)*.

Having engaged with SPARC BC previously, during the *Independent Community Conversations* around *Accessibility Legislation*, and as a \$500 grant recipient for *Access Awareness Day* in 2019 and 2020, the *Unity Centre Association for Black Cultures (UCABC)* is a non-profit organization which celebrates the social and economic contributions of all Black Canadians and Black people in Canada and supports the integration of individuals and families into local communities.

The *Unity Centre* is committed to building a “Hub” to enable programs that reflect and acknowledge the history, heritage, and cultural diversity of Black Canadians, other Black people and all individuals who associate with the cultures of the African diaspora in Canadian society. SPARC BC has been privileged to witness, through the *Independent Community Conversations* and *Access Awareness Day 2020*, the *Unity Centre's* creative ability to communicate and share information during a time of self-isolation by raising awareness and continuing discussions among Black people with disabilities.

“We’re engaged in a noble profession with a significant past and a challenging future. While forces and events may swirl about us, our objectives have been the same—to develop the human condition while protecting its weakest from harm. The ways in which we go about the task may differ, but the goal remains constant.”

–Deryck Thomson



Our Programs and Activities

# Research, Planning & Consulting

## Our Programs and Activities

# Research, Planning & Consulting

SPARC BC provides research, planning and consulting services for a diverse range of partners including all levels of government (federal, provincial, regional, local and First Nations). SPARC BC also works with community-based agencies and service providers on research strategies that focus on the social, economic and health needs of people and communities across B.C. Members of SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting team bring core strengths and subject matter expertise in different areas including applied social policy research, as well as community development and capacity building. SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting team also brings expertise in the area of community data, community facilitation and stakeholder engagement. Over the years, SPARC BC has been successful in bringing together a multidisciplinary team of researchers with expertise in urban planning, education, health, social work, public policy, program evaluation and applied science. In 2019/2020 the Research, Planning and Consulting team created and submitted more than 46 research, planning and consulting proposals and worked on more than 52 research, planning and consulting projects. Members of SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting team bring:

- **Experience in applied research** including a strong track record in designing and implementing a broad range of community-based research projects and initiatives;
- **A strong track record in community facilitation and community engagement** including a commitment to making space for a diverse range of voices and perspectives;
- **Subject area expertise** on a wide range of social policy issues, including mental health and addictions, housing and homelessness, senior and age-friendly planning, community social planning, and community development;
- **National recognition and accreditation** in the practice of program evaluation including significant experience and expertise in research design and performance measurement;
- **Social and relationship capital** including a reputation for being a good partner as well as advanced competencies in effectively managing complex change initiatives involving multiple partners and stakeholders;
- **Strong project management and leadership skills** including demonstrated success in the design, implementation, and monitoring of multi-sided community-based research and planning projects; and,
- **A commitment to the highest possible standards**, both ethically and socially, including a strong commitment to the values of social justice, inclusion, integrity and learning.

The following is a list of the community partners and points of engagement for SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting efforts in 2019/2020:

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	Evaluation
City of Burnaby	Child Care Needs Assessment
City of Coquitlam	Child Care Project
City of Coquitlam	Child Care Actions Action Plan
City of Delta	Child Care Study and Plan
City of Maple Ridge	Social Service Inventory
City of Nanaimo	
City of North Vancouver	Child Care Strategy
City of Quesnel	Child Care Project
City of Surrey	Child Care Planning
District of North Vancouver	Child Care Assessment and Strategy
District of West Vancouver	Child Care Strategy
Doctors of BC	Inter Division Meeting
First Nations Health Authority	Operating Model for Chief Operating Officer
First Nations Health Authority	Northern Region Projects
First Nations Health Authority	Disengagement Facilitation
First Nations Health Authority	Primary Health Care Initiative
First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day Project	First Nations Health Authority
Kitimat Stikine Needs Project	Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
Metro Vancouver	PWLEAC Photo Voice
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	Convening Grants
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	Public Consultation
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	Labour Market Information Study
Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House	Resurfacing History
Native Education College	Evaluation
Office of the Wet'Suwet'en	Developmental Evaluation
Pacific Immigrant Resource Society	Mobile Childcare

The following is a list of the community partners and points of engagement for SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting efforts in 2019/2020, continued:

Pacific Resources Immigrant Society	Developmental Evaluation
Provincial Health Services Authority	Food Security Research
Public Health Agency of Canada	Canada Digs In - Farm 2 Cafeteria Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada	Program Support
Public Health Agency of Canada	Evaluation Support
South Coast BC Transportation Authority	TransLink
Sunshine Coast	Perinatal Project
UBCM	Child Care Resource Guide
University of British Columbia	Workforce Housing Study
Vancouver Coastal Health	Provincial Perinatal Project
Vancouver Foundation	Moving Toward Health
Whole Kids Foundation	Farm 2 School Project
Whole Kids Foundation	Farm 2 School Phase 3



SPARC BC  
Annual General Meeting

## **AGENDA**

SPARC BC 2019/2020  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Virtual Meeting  
4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, BC  
June 26, 2020  
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes from the AGM, June 14, 2019
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Presentation of the Financial Statements for April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020
6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2020/2021
7. Report from the Nominations Committee–Election of Directors
8. Report from the Nominations Committee–Deryck Thomson Award
9. Message from the Executive Director
10. Adjournment

## **MINUTES**

SPARC BC

Annual General Meeting 2018/2019

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC June 14, 2019

6:00 PM

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The President called the meeting to order.

### **2. MINUTES FROM THE AGM, JUNE 29, 2018**

The President referred members to the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 29, 2018. The President called for a motion to adopt the minutes as presented.

#### **Motion:**

That the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 29, 2018 be approved.

**MOVED:** Angela Towle, **SECONDED:** Christene Walsh, **CARRIED.**

### **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President (Hugh Kellas) noted that 2018/2019 brought success to SPARC BC's two (2) social enterprises: The Parking Permit Program for Persons with Disabilities and the consulting work completed by the Research, Planning and Consulting team. The President continued by saying that there were notable mission-driven advances for SPARC BC through the expansion of accessibility initiatives, the completion of BC's first Seniors' Poverty Report Card in association with First Call as well as the work completed in guiding the consultation process for the development of BC's first Poverty Reduction Strategy. These successes, the President noted, were at the heart of what SPARC BC is trying to accomplish and that, through the continued support of calls to action like the *Homeless Comfort Kits*, *Seniors' Harvest Baskets*, and other important initiatives, and with the ongoing generosity of members and donors, SPARC BC has been able to continue this valuable work.

As a values-driven organization, the President recognized the importance of honouring the voices of those who shared their stories through the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and emphasized the importance of exploring different ways to deepen SPARC BC's commitment to reconciliation including looking at what cultural safety and cultural humility means in terms of work and relationships with others. To this end, the President gave a special thanks to the Indigenous leaders on SPARC BC's Board for their valuable guidance. The President extended his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to staff and management by noting that the accomplishments highlighted in the Annual Report bear testament to their dedication and commitment. Lastly, the President expressed his appreciation to the

other Directors who serve on SPARC BC's Board and who have continued to bring their knowledge, experience and dedication to the work of the Board. The President also thanked the members and donors for the honour of being their president for 2018/2019.

Following the presentation of his report the President called for a motion to adopt the President's Report.

**Motion:**

That the President's Report be adopted.

**MOVED:** Tarita Davenock, **SECONDED:** Bev Onishack, **CARRIED.**

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cameron Gray served as the Treasurer for 2018/2019 and was unable to attend the meeting. In his place was Marla Reed, who was a member of the Finance and Audit Committee for 2018/2019 and who presented the report. Marla provided highlights from the past year and indicated that 2018/2019 was a strong financial year for SPARC BC with an operating surplus of over \$200,000. Marla directed members to the Year End Financials which showed all areas of SPARC BC flowing smoothly and noted that staff were excellent at keeping the Board informed on how the finances were operating. Marla also gave recognition to members of the Finance and Audit Committee for their hard work with meetings throughout the year. Marla concluded by thanking staff and the Board for keeping SPARC BC in a strong financial position.

Following the presentation, Marla called for a motion to adopt the Treasurer's report.

**Motion:**

That the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

**MOVED:** Marla Reed, **SECONDED:** Angela Towle, **CARRIED.**

**5. PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2018/2019**

Marla Reed referred members to the Financial Statements within the Annual Report for the period from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Marla noted that the Finance and Audit Committee reviewed the financial statements prepared by DMCL and discussed the statements with the Governance Committee. Marla noted that there was agreement that SPARC BC is doing well in all departments and that the operations of SPARC BC are done efficiently with good checks and balances with staff accountable for financial responsibility. Marla concluded by noting that the Finance and Audit Committee recommended the adoption of the 2018/2019 Financial Statements as presented.

**Motion:**

That the Financial Statements for 2018/2019 be adopted.

**MOVED:** Marla Reed, **SECONDED:** Christene Walsh, **CARRIED.**

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2018/2019.

Marla Reed called for a motion to approve the appointment of DMCL as the Auditors for 2019/2020.

### **Motion:**

That DMCL be appointed as Auditor for 2019/2020.

**MOVED:** Hugh Kellas, **SECONDED:** Angela Towle, **CARRIED.**

The President thanked Marla Reed for her efforts and invited Christene Walsh, the Chair of the Nominations Committee, to present the report from the Nominations Committee.

## 7. REPORT FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Bylaws establish that the Board of Directors shall have a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of fifteen (15) Directors with the ideal number being set at twelve (12).

The Bylaws also establish that the Board of Directors should represent the geographic and social diversity that is characteristic of the province.

The report from the Nominations Committee noted that there were three (3) Directors whose terms were ending in June 2019 – Sharlene Frank, Manpreet Grewal, and Marcel Swain. Of these Directors, Sharlene Frank and Manpreet Grewal indicated that they will not be standing for re-election.

It was also noted that Marcel Swain indicated a willingness to remain on the Board for an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2022.

With the departure of Sharlene Frank and Manpreet Grewal, two (2) vacant positions needed to be filled – one in the Fraser Valley and one on Vancouver Island.

The Nominations Committee identified one (1) potential candidate to fill the vacant position for Vancouver Island – Wes Hewitt.

The chair of the Nominations Committee noted that there is one (1) additional vacancy created from the departure of Manpreet Grewal which will be filled at a later date.

To this end, the Nominations Committee is recommending that:

Marcel Swain be re-elected to serve for an additional three-year term ending in June 2022 and that Wes Hewitt be elected to serve on the Board for a three-year term ending in June 2022.

### **Motion:**

That Marcel Swain be re-elected to serve for an additional three-year term ending in June 2022 and that Wes Hewitt be elected to serve on SPARC BC's Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in June 2022.

**MOVED:** Christene Walsh, **SECONDED:** Tarita Davenock, **CARRIED.**

## **8. MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Executive Director talked about SPARC BC's work across communities and about all of the promise and potential for the year ahead.

**Motion:**

That the Executive Director's Report be adopted.

**MOVED:** Hugh Kellas, **SECONDED:** Cameron Gray, **CARRIED.**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The President noted that this concludes the Annual General Meeting for 2018/2019. The President called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:**

That 2018/2019 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

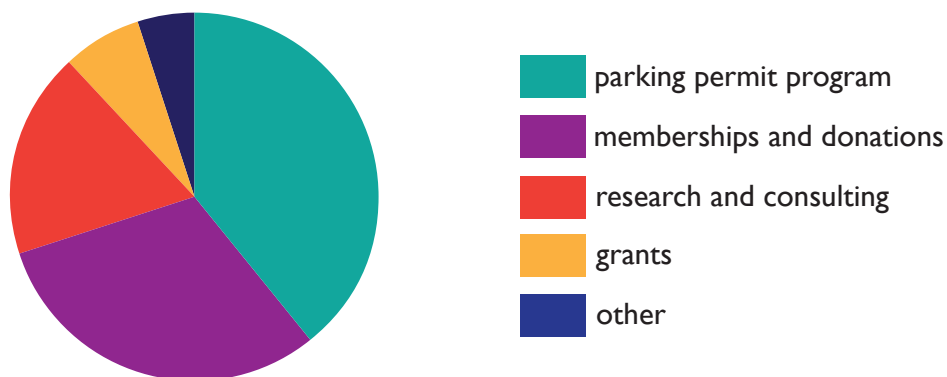
**MOVED:** Christene Walsh, **SECONDED:** Bev Onishack, **CARRIED.**

## Treasurer's Report

I would like to present the Treasurer's Report for 2019/2020. SPARC BC operates through a social enterprise model where any income generated through our Parking Permit and Research and Consulting programs is reinvested in keeping our programs and services strong. Essential to SPARC BC's financial well-being, however, is the very significant support we receive from our members and donors which enables our mission-driven work in the areas of accessibility and inclusion, social policy research and advocacy, and community development education and outreach.

SPARC BC has continued to have strong financial results with 2019/2020 closing with an operating surplus of \$364,993. Revenues for 2019/2020 were \$3,317,612 up from \$2,613,272 in 2018/2019.

SPARC BC's revenue includes income generated from the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, funding from Membership and Donations, and revenue generated through the provision of Research, Planning and Consulting services. The graph below shows the different sources of revenue and their overall contribution to SPARC BC's mission-driven activities.



The Parking Permit Program represents 39% of SPARC BC's overall revenue. In 2019/2020, SPARC BC realized \$1,303,318 in revenue from the delivery of the Parking Permit Program and issued more than 56,500 permits. The revenue generated through the processing fee of \$23 not only enables SPARC BC to administer the program for people who depend on having access to designated accessible parking in their community, but it also supports our Accessibility and Enforcement line, and our work with communities to advance and support broader accessibility goals.

Memberships and donations also play a critical role in supporting our work with people and communities across B.C. SPARC BC is fortunate to have the generous support of a broad membership and donor base who share our vision of a just and healthy society for all. In 2019/2020, contributions from members and donors totaled \$1,019,386. These contributions help support SPARC BC's mission-driven work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction as well as our outreach and engagement with local communities across B.C. on a range of social policy issues. As a

non-profit society and federally registered charity, SPARC BC relies on the generosity and support of our members and donors to advance our work and to help make a difference in the lives of the people and communities we serve.

Over this past year we also saw strong support for our *Homeless Comfort Kits* outreach and our *Seniors' Harvest Basket* initiative. Together through these "calls to action", SPARC BC was successful in generating a combined \$105,000 in revenue. This strong response from our membership and donor base has meant that we can provide more support and relief year-round to a larger number of individuals who are experiencing homelessness or struggling to get by. Most importantly, the strong response from our members and donors allows us to send a clear signal to those who are homeless that people care and that their needs are not invisible. These initiatives also allow us to show how acts of kindness can still make a big difference in the lives of those who have very little.

Our *Seniors' Harvest Basket* initiative is in the second year of implementation. This initiative was developed in response to concerns raised by our members about the needs of low income and vulnerable seniors. Through our own research we know that there were more than 70,000 seniors across B.C. who were living in poverty and who are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Through our *Seniors' Harvest Basket* initiative, our goal is to find ways to promote dignified access to healthy food and to ensure that seniors get the support they need as they grow older. Thanks to the generous support of our members and donors we have received more than \$48,000 in funding to continue to grow and expand this work.

Revenue generated through SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting Services has also remained strong. In 2019/2020, \$599,978 in revenue was generated through contracted research (up from \$486,829 in 2018/2019). This represents an increase of almost \$115,000 or 23% over the previous year. Our Research and Consulting team worked on more than 65 projects in 2019/2020 and reinvested more than \$1,361,616 back into communities and local economies through their various projects and initiatives. Key projects and initiatives included work with the Provincial government to engage local communities and partners on issues such as affordable childcare, healthy food in local schools as well as local strategies for SPARC BC's on-going work with the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Whole Kids Foundation and Farm 2 Cafeteria. The initiatives have allowed us to focus on important social policy issues around food security and local food systems.

In June 2019, the Provincial government launched the Community Homelessness Action Grants initiative designed to support local efforts for addressing homelessness. Through this initiative 53 grants totaling approximately \$1.7m in funding were approved. We have also continued to work with the *Council of Community Homelessness Tables* in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, and successfully hosted a forum attended by more than 100 delegates. The theme for the forum was 'Changing the Narrative and Narratives of Change' with a focus on sharing success stories and leading practices across the region. As well, working in partnership with the *Council of Community Homelessness Tables*, we have continued to help to lead Homelessness Action Week, both locally and provincially.

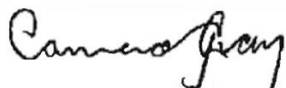
SPARC BC's annual operating expenditures for 2019/2020 were \$2,952,619, up from \$2,373,914 in 2018/2019. Most of the additional expenses were related to staffing costs for the delivery of our programs as well as additional investments in SPARC BC's mission-driven work in the areas of accessibility and inclusion, social policy research and advocacy and community development education and outreach. This year we added two (2) communities of practice, one in the area of food security and one in the area of homelessness including engagement with frontline staff and workers. Expenses in the day-to-day operating costs for the delivery of the Parking Permit Program have continue to increase including postage costs which were \$126,106 in 2019/2020 compared to \$119,509 in 2018/2019. Significant attention continues to be paid to the daily operating expenses at SPARC BC to ensure that we continue to deliver our services in a responsive and accountable manner, and to ensure that our operating and overhead costs remain as low as possible.

As a final note, we would like to draw your attention to an adjustment that has been made to the 2018/2019 disbursement income and expenditure lines on the financial statements. This issue arose in the context of a review of SPARC BC's Farm 2 Cafeteria project funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada where we realized that our project management and administration fees were treated as a disbursement which is contrary to our accounting procedures and which would have resulted in an overstatement of both disbursement revenues and expenditures in 2018/2019. Several options were discussed with the Auditors and it was recommended that a note would be appropriate in these circumstances. This note was added to the financial statements (Page 12, Note 3).

Like you and the rest of the world, SPARC BC is having to respond to the current pandemic. SPARC BC has been eligible for some of the federal funding and to date, has been able to avoid any serious financial consequences. SPARC BC is confident in its future, and in its ability to deliver the parking permit program which is so important to seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as its research and social development programs which are so important to the future of British Columbia and its citizens.

I want to conclude by thanking our members, donors and staff for a productive and successful year at SPARC BC. On behalf of the other members of the Finance and Audit Committee and the SPARC BC Board of Directors, I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to the accomplishments highlighted in this report and look forward to on-going success in 2020/2021. I would also like to thank all of SPARC BC's members for your belief in the possibilities that come from people and communities working together to build a more just and healthy society for all. It is this belief and commitment that continues to make such an important difference in the lives of so many people in communities across the Province.

Sincerely,



Cameron Gray, Treasurer

Financial Statements of

# SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Year ended March 31, 2020

**SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY**

**Financial Statements**

**Year Ended March 31, 2020**

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

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Year Ended March 31, 2020

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**DALE MATHESON CARR-HILTON LABONTE LLP**  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society

*Report on the Financial Statements*

*Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society (the Society), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-profit Organizations (ASNPO).

*Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

*Emphasis of Matter*

We draw attention to Note 12 of the financial statements, which indicates that a recent health crisis may have an adverse impact on the Society's future operations. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

*Other Matter*

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019 were reviewed by our firm, who expressed an unmodified conclusion on those financial statements on June 14, 2019.

### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### *Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements*

As required by the British Columbia Societies Act, we report that, in our opinion, these accounting principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2020

	2020	2019 <i>(Unaudited – As Restated Note 3)</i>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 6,431,186	\$ 1,396,403
Short-term investments <i>(Note 4)</i>	94,000	127,664
Accounts receivable	493,012	319,658
Accrued interest receivable	18,019	9,667
Goods and services tax recoverable	32,454	42,792
Prepaid expenses	123,957	73,905
	7,192,628	1,970,089
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT <i>(Note 5)</i>	595,588	365,173
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS <i>(Note 4)</i>	443,472	402,672
	\$ 8,231,688	\$ 2,737,934
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 455,878	\$ 378,552
Payroll withholdings payable	21,445	29,137
Deferred revenue on projects and disbursement recoveries	5,143,556	207,139
Deferred contributions	-	70,000
Current portion of deferred lease inducement <i>(Note 6)</i>	23,346	5,730
	5,644,225	690,558
DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENT <i>(Note 6)</i>	175,094	-
	5,819,319	690,558
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Internally restricted	1,425,373	1,192,500
Unrestricted	986,996	854,876
	2,412,369	2,047,376
	\$ 8,231,688	\$ 2,737,934
COMMITMENT <i>(Note 8)</i>		

See notes to financial statements

**SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY**

**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**

**Year Ended March 31, 2020**

	2020	2019 <i>(Unaudited – As Restated Note 3)</i>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Permit sales	\$ 1,303,318	\$ 1,236,963
Memberships and donations	1,019,386	736,666
Grants	236,783	80,000
Interest income	56,030	38,487
Rental income	97,902	30,810
Other income	4,215	3,517
Contracted research	599,978	486,829
	<u>3,317,612</u>	<u>2,613,272</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Audit and legal fees	22,477	18,856
Amortization of property and equipment	85,564	41,410
Board and executive meetings	33,987	41,638
Computer and website maintenance	101,038	92,009
Direct mail fundraising	63,172	50,479
Insurance	7,128	6,981
Marketing, publicity and promotion	79,344	27,446
Office supplies	44,938	27,838
Other expenditures	31,220	16,181
Photocopying	36,208	33,558
Postage and courier	126,106	119,509
Printing	47,251	53,506
Professional and consulting services	34,989	27,559
Programs and projects	385,424	147,907
Rental	260,520	230,147
Repairs and maintenance	44,365	19,008
Salaries, wages and benefits <i>(Note 9)</i>	1,513,721	1,372,449
Staff training and development	15,209	20,914
Telephone	19,958	26,519
	<u>2,952,619</u>	<u>2,373,914</u>
Contracted Research Disbursements		
Disbursement recoveries	2,767,370	1,212,922
Project disbursements	<u>(2,767,370)</u>	<u>(1,212,922)</u>
	-	-
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>\$ 364,993</u>	<u>\$ 239,358</u>

See notes to financial statements

**SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY**

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

**Year Ended March 31, 2020**

	Internally Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2020	Total 2019 <i>(Unaudited - As Restated Note 3)</i>
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 1,192,500	\$ 854,876	\$ 2,047,376	\$ 1,808,018
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	-	364,993	<b>364,993</b>	239,358
	1,192,500	1,219,869	<b>2,412,369</b>	2,047,376
Interfund transfers	232,873	(232,873)	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 1,425,373	\$ 986,996	\$ 2,412,369	\$ 2,047,376

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2020**

	2020	2019 <i>(Unaudited – As Restated Note 3)</i>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 364,993	\$ 239,358
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization of property and equipment	85,564	41,410
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	(7,990)	(4,545)
	442,567	276,223
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(173,354)	42,050
Accrued interest receivable	(8,352)	(187)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	77,326	73,552
Deferred revenue on projects and disbursement recoveries	4,936,417	(209,919)
Deferred contributions	(70,000)	(10,000)
Prepaid expenses	(50,052)	(41,876)
Goods and services tax payable	10,338	(28,426)
Payroll withholdings payable	(7,692)	3,672
Proceeds from maturity of short-term investments	127,664	961,401
	4,842,295	790,267
Cash flow from operating activities	5,284,862	1,066,490
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(315,979)	(373,463)
Purchase of long-term investments	(134,800)	(275,008)
Proceeds from leasehold inducement	200,700	-
	(250,079)	(648,471)
<b>INCREASE IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>5,034,783</b>	<b>418,019</b>
Cash - beginning of year	1,396,403	978,384
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 6,431,186</b>	<b>\$ 1,396,403</b>

See notes to financial statements

# SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2020

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### 1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society (the "Society") is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated as a Society under the Societies Act (British Columbia). The Society's mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all persons in British Columbia. The Society is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and accordingly is exempt from income taxes, provided certain requirements of the Income Tax Act are met.

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### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of presentation

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and short-term deposits which are highly liquid with original maturities of less than three months at the date of acquisition.

#### Investments

Short-term investments are comprised of term deposits and guaranteed investment certificates and high interest savings accounts that are traded in an active market and are readily convertible to cash. These items are carried at amortized cost at the date of the statements of financial position and have a maturity period of less than one year.

Long-term investments are comprised of guaranteed investment certificates. These items are carried at amortized cost at the date of the statement of financial position and have maturity period of greater than one year.

#### Property and equipment

Purchased property and equipment are recorded at cost. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to expense. Betterments which extend the estimated life of an asset are capitalized. When an asset no longer contributes to the Society's ability to provide services, its carrying amount is written down to its residual value.

Property and equipment are amortized on a straight-line basis using the following rates.

Computer equipment	3 years
Furniture and fixtures	3 years
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease

Property and equipment acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

*(continues)*

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Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2020

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2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Revenue recognition

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions from grants. Under this method, externally restricted contributions are recognized in the period the related expenses are incurred or the restrictions are met.

Revenue from the sale of parking permits is recognized when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, the significant risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to the buyer, there is no continuing managerial involvement, the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, and the related receivable is received or collection is reasonably assured.

Unrestricted contributions which are received in the form of donations and membership fees are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is assured.

Interest income is recognized on a time proportion basis when it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity, the amount can be measured reliably and collection is reasonably assured.

Rental revenue is recognized on a monthly basis when earned and collection is reasonably assured.

Revenue from contracted research and disbursement recoveries is recognized on the percentage of completion basis as the research project is performed, collection of the related receivable is probable, persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists and the contract fee is fixed or determinable. The percentage of completion is determined by a combination of management's estimates of the progress on the project and the costs incurred to date. Costs are generally the most determinable measure of performance which relate as directly as possible to the activities critical to the completion of the contract.

A provision is made for the total anticipated loss when the estimates of total costs on a contract indicate a loss.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of the financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs. These costs are amortized using the effective interest rate method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indications of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Society determines if there is significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the Society expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future year, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial impairment charge.

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Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2020

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2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Deferred Revenue On Projects and Disbursement Recoveries

Deferred revenue on projects and disbursement recoveries consist of deposits received for projects where revenues or disbursement recoveries have not yet been earned or recognized.

Deferred Lease Inducement

The deferred lease inducement consists of a construction allowance provided by the landlord which is being amortized to offset rent expense on a straight-line basis over the remaining term of the related premise's lease.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year.

Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include provisions for impairment of trade accounts receivables, the carrying amount of property and equipment, deferred revenue on projects and disbursement recoveries and the percentage of completion or projects. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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**SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**Year Ended March 31, 2020**

**3. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT**

During the 2020 fiscal year, the Society performed an internal review of its contract accounting procedures and presentation and as a result of this, the 2019 comparative year's financial information has been restated as follows:

	As Previously Reported	Prior Period Adjustment	As Restated
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>			
Accounts receivable	\$ 565,164	\$ (245,506)	\$ 319,658
Deferred revenue on projects and disbursement recoveries	(452,645)	245,506	(207,139)
<b>Statement of Revenues and Expenditures</b>			
Disbursement recoveries	1,348,565	(135,643)	1,212,922
Project disbursements	(1,348,565)	135,643	(1,212,922)
Excess of revenues over expenditures	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Statement of Cash Flows</b>			
Changes in non-cash working capital:			
Accounts receivable	(38,460)	80,510	42,050
Deferred revenue on projects and disbursement recoveries	(129,409)	(80,510)	(209,919)

Adjustments are reclassifications of balances on the statement of financial position, the statement of revenues and expenditures, and the statement of cash flows. There are no changes to net assets or excess revenues over expenditures.

**SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**Year Ended March 31, 2020**

**4. INVESTMENTS**

	<u>2020</u>	2019
<u>Short-term Investments</u>		
Guaranteed investment certificates	\$ 94,000	\$ 127,664
<u>Long-term Investments</u>		
Term deposits	200,000	200,000
Guaranteed investment certificates	243,472	202,672
	<u>443,472</u>	<u>402,672</u>
	<u>\$ 537,472</u>	<u>\$ 530,336</u>

Short-term investments consist of term deposits and guaranteed investment certificates maturing in May 2020 and July 2020 at interest rates ranging from 2.62% to 3.00% per annum.

Long-term investments consist of guaranteed investment certificates maturing in May 2021 and March 2022 at interest rates ranging from 2.10% to 2.90% per annum.

**5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2020 Net book value	2019 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 313,448	\$ 282,483	\$ 30,965	\$ 22,922
Furniture and fixtures	256,861	185,256	71,605	16,098
Leasehold improvements	853,454	360,436	493,018	326,153
	<u>\$ 1,423,763</u>	<u>\$ 828,175</u>	<u>\$ 595,588</u>	<u>\$ 365,173</u>

**6. DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENT**

The deferred lease inducement represents the reimbursement by the lessor of certain expenditures for leasehold improvements made by the Society. These inducements are amortized on a straight-line basis as a reduction of rental expense over the remaining term of the lease.

	<u>2020</u>
Balance – March 31, 2019	\$ 5,730
Addition	200,700
Amortized to rental expense 2020	<u>(7,990)</u>
Balance – March 31, 2020	198,440
Amounts to be amortized in 2021	(23,346)
Amounts to be amortized in 2022 and subsequent years	<u>(175,094)</u>
	<u>\$ -</u>

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2020

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7. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<u>Designated to:</u>		
Provide for the ongoing financial stability of the Society. It is the objective of the Board of Directors to maintain a reserve fund of at least one-half of the annual operating budget or \$500,000 whichever is more. The reserve will be set aside in a restricted account to be used to maintain operations during difficult financial circumstances; or to cover contingent liabilities.	<u>\$ 1,425,373</u>	<u>\$ 1,192,500</u>

These designated internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without approval of the Board of Directors.

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8. COMMITMENT

The Society entered into a ten-year lease agreement for its premises which expires September 30, 2028. Basic rental payments excluding goods and services tax, operating expenses and property taxes are as follows:

2021	\$ 117,075
2022	120,420
2023	127,110
2024	130,455
2025	130,455
Thereafter	<u>326,138</u>
	<u>\$ 951,653</u>

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9. EMPLOYEE AND CONTRACTOR REMUNERATION

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, the Society paid total remuneration of \$417,989 to four employees for services, each of whom received total remuneration of more than \$75,000.

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10. DIRECTOR REMUNERATION

The Society's directors do not receive remuneration.

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Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2020

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11. FINANCIAL RISK AND CONCENTRATION OF RISKS

The significant risks to which the Society is exposed are credit risk and liquidity risk.

(a) Credit risk

Credit Risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. The Society's exposure to credit risk is indicated by the carrying amount of its accounts receivable, cash and cash equivalents, and investments. The Society deals with creditworthy counterparties to mitigate the risk of financial loss from defaults on its accounts receivable. The Society deposits its cash and cash equivalents and investments with high credit quality financial institutions. There has been no change to the risk exposure from 2019.

(b) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Society manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. The Society prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations. There has been no change to the risk exposures from 2019.

(c) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the value of fixed income investments held by the Society. The Society manages this risk by investing in highly rated term deposits and guaranteed investment certificates with varying maturity dates.

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12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The recent outbreak of the coronavirus, also known as "COVID-19", has spread across the globe and is impacting worldwide economic activity. Conditions surrounding the coronavirus continue to rapidly evolve and government authorities have implemented emergency measures to mitigate the spread of the virus. The outbreak and the related mitigation measures may have an adverse impact on global economic conditions as well as on the Society's activities. The extent to which the coronavirus may impact the Society's activities will depend on future developments, such as the ultimate geographic spread of the disease, the duration of the outbreak, travel restrictions, business disruptions, and the effectiveness of actions taken in Canada and other countries to contain and treat the disease. These events are highly uncertain and as such, the Society cannot determine their financial impact at this time.

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