

SPARC BC ANNUAL REPORT

2007/2008

From the President and Board of Directors

It's Because of You...

Changing the world for the better is a task that involves mass collaboration, heart, soul, creativity, and stamina. SPARC BC continues to thrive and drive towards our goal of building a just and healthy society for all because we have the support of very special people like you.

Evidence of our success can be found by looking at the significant growth in our operations. It is testament to the value of our work and the high caliber of staff and volunteers we have in our organization. We are supporting important initiatives which contribute to building local capacity in communities across the province of BC. We hope you feel proud of the accomplishments of this organization, outlined in this annual report.

SPARC BC has a long history of responsibility and innovation. The other Directors and I are committed to sustaining this legacy. We are accountable to you, the members and donors, and want to demonstrate in this report our careful stewardship of SPARC BC's funds and the ways in which we've been able to stretch them to do so much.

Each member and donor is critical to SPARC BC's ability to reach our goals and, ultimately, achieve our mission. Thank you for being part of the effort to change the world for the better. We look forward to another year of accomplishments and to your continued support.

Yours Truly,



Derek Gent
President, SPARC BC

"HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE MOMENT, BEFORE STARTING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD"

— ANNE FRANK

Annual Report 2007/08

Now, more than ever, the lens of social planning needs to be understood and applied.

We've spent a lot of time in the past couple of years developing our own capacity as an organization. It has been a core priority in our planning. If we're not effective in our work, we're not contributing to our broader vision of a just and healthy society for all.

One of the things we've had to reflect on is how we work. Our primary success has been in attracting and retaining talented and committed staff people. We have developed a strong team ethic, believing that collaboration among staff on projects brings improved results for our clients and communities. In our new office, we'll plan to support that style of work with improved formal and informal meeting spaces.

We've also reflected that it is important that we model accessibility to every extent possible. We have chosen to move further east, into Burnaby with this move, but are welcoming the opportunity of premises that are much improved in their accessibility to people with disabilities. Not only will our parking permit clients see the advantage, SPARC BC will be able to demonstrate our commitment to being an accessible and inclusive workplace for staff, members, and visitors.

Our search for a suitable building in Vancouver's Lower Mainland, has been an exciting and frustrating exercise, resulting in some additional costs you see in the financial statements. We have learned a great deal, first hand, about the challenges of seeking ownership in a heated real estate market. While valiant efforts have been made by management and our volunteer board, we have decided to move forward by securing leased premises and will seek to invest our core asset base in other ways which reflect our values and contribute to our sustainability.

We have recognized that we also need to be flexible to meet emerging issues and new challenges to communities. The financial arrangements we've been able to negotiate for our new space will keep SPARC BC in a strong financial position to meet new challenges, while allowing us to increase our space and our potential for further growth. In these ways, we expect to maintain our faithfulness to our mission of working with BC communities, building a just and

healthy society for all.

In 2007/08 SPARC BC continued to produce important achievements in our three key areas set by the Board of Directors: income security, community development, and accessibility.

- We produced top tier research reports, like Still Left Behind:

A comparison of Employment Assistance and Living Costs in BC, and our review of the Resettlement Assistance Program

- We delivered training and development education workshops in 20 communities including new programs in Cortes Island and Dease Lake.

- We advocated for and promote accessibility and inclusion through Access Awareness Day, our Parking Permit Program and publications like "Everybody's Welcome"

- We coordinated important community wide processes like the Homeless Count and our work with several municipalities in developing social plans.

- Our Research & Consulting division is a model for Social Enterprise, earning major contracts and providing a highly sophisticated array of services.

Our direction for the future builds on what we have already established, but also on what we are hearing from communities. We are concerned with the complexity of issues that communities face and have committed long term resources to some of our core projects such as the Community Development Education program, Accessibility Awareness, our knowledge exchange initiative. Sprout: Resources for Social Change, and our networks, like the Community Social Planning Network.

Our thanks again to all who share in our vision. There is never a moment to lose when it comes to changing the world; we need to keep the spark alive and spread the warmth around.

Finances

2007/08 was another financially strong year for the organization, despite a small recorded deficit of \$25,569, which is less than half of the projected deficit and resulting from the search for new office space.

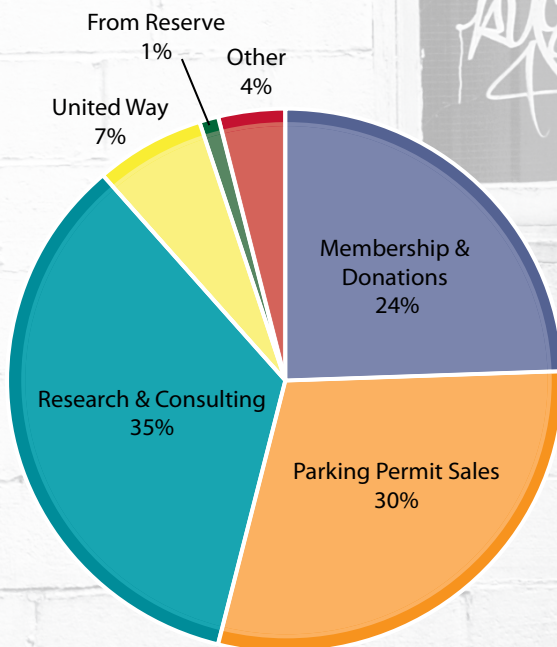
SPARC BC's total expenditures were on target. The revenue sources remained strong this past year. Thanks to the hard work of SPARC staff, Contracted Research was excellent, exceeding budgeted expectations by 23%. Parking permits and memberships were 4% and 1% respectively above budget. Donations fell short of the budgeted target by 14%.

SPARC BC continues to maintain an adequate reserve fund for supporting cash flow needs and its capacity for providing to provide stability in case funding is interrupted. The organization remains committed to prudent financial management to

ensure that it continues to deliver on its mandate in the coming years.

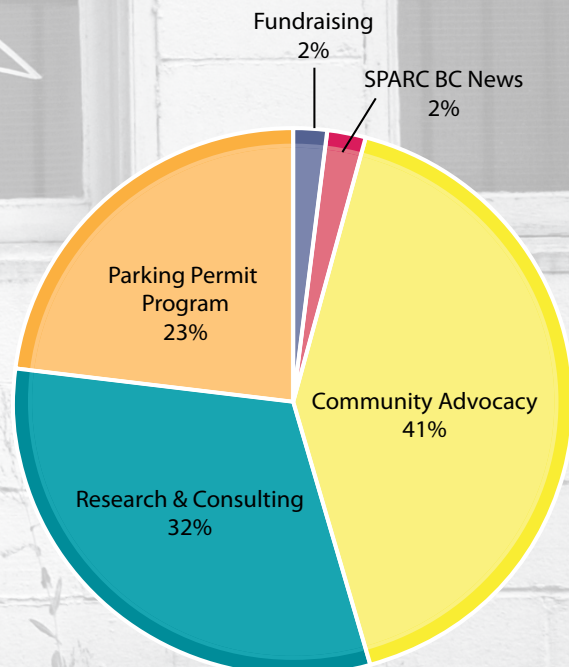
Overall, SPARC BC continues to show growth and financial strength, which should continue for the foreseeable future. The future holds all kinds of possibilities for change making; an exciting prospect that keeps us all driven to succeed. Thanks to all SPARC BC staff, members and donors for another great year in building a just and healthy society for all!

SPARC BC Revenues 2007/08:
\$2.24 million



REVENUES	\$
Membership & Donations	549,323
Parking Permit Sales	666,105
United Way	146,892
Research & Consulting	774,684
From Reserve	25,569
Other	81,850
TOTAL	2,244,423

SPARC BC Expenditures 2007/08:
\$2.24 million



EXPENDITURES	\$
Parking Permit Program	511,355
Research & Consulting	709,907
Community Advocacy	928,211
SPARC BC News	50,652
Fundraising	44,298
TOTAL	2,244,423

2007/08 Resources and Publications from SPARC BC



Tools for Action 1: A Resource Guide for Designing A Community Indicator Project

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