



Annual Report 2011/2012



Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Message from the Executive Director	3
Vision, Mission, Values and Guiding Principles of SPARC BC	5
About the Programs and Services We Deliver	6
Our Partnerships and Relationships in 2011/2012	8
Report from the Governance Committee	10
Report from the Nominations Committee	11
Profile of Members Nominated for Election (or Re-Election)	12
New Nominees for the SPARC BC Board of Directors for 2012/2013	15
Recommendation from the Nominations Committee	16
Report from the Treasurer	17
Minutes from Annual General Meeting June 3, 2011	19
Audited Financial Statements	24

President's Message

SPARC BC continues its work with communities and service to British Columbians in contributing to building a just and healthy society for all. Once again, this year has been busy as we strived to make a difference through directly delivering community development education, administering the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, providing research and consulting services on a wide range of social policy issues and advocating for policies and programs to better meet the needs of seniors, people with disabilities and those living in poverty in our province.

This year brought with it a number of changes to SPARC BC both on the Board of Directors and at the staff level. These changes meant saying good-bye to old friends as well as welcoming new colleagues. For 2011/2012, the Board has continued to focus its efforts on building up the Society's financial sustainability and operational effectiveness. This has included working to expand the reach of the organization and to reinforce the Board's provincial focus. The Board has also continued to maintain the focus of the organization on three key priority areas: accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction and community development education.

Over this year, SPARC's membership base increased to more than 17,000. This growth signals the importance of our efforts in working to build an increased sense of belonging of all citizens in their communities while trying to maintain the strength of our province's social safety net.

Our campaigns and partnerships also grew this year, with our efforts continuing to focus on working with and through communities across the province to promote social planning and action in pursuit of a just and healthy society. These efforts have included partnerships in Abbotsford, Burnaby, Castlegar, Celista, Chase, Chetwynd, Delta, Duncan, Enderby, Falkland, Gibsons, Gitxsan Nation communities (Gitanyow, Gitanmaax, Sik-e-dakh and Kipsiox), Grand Forks, Kamloops, Kelowna, Malakwa, Nelson, North Vancouver District, Port Alberni, Prince Rupert, Prince George, Revelstoke, Salmon Arm, Scotch Creek, Secwepemc Nation communities (Splatsin, Neskoni'th, Adams Lake and Little Shuswap), Sicamous, Sorrento, Surrey, the Tri-Cities, Vancouver and Victoria.

The Board also completed a review of our internal governance policies and practices this year and took measures to modernize and update our constitution and bylaws. A new Board policy and procedure manual was adopted along with the decision to consider formally changing our name from SPARC BC Society to the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society. In our deliberations at the Board level, there was a sense that adopting the Social Planning and Research Council as our official name would be a way to recognize and reinforce the importance of the legacy that has been created over the last 45 years and set the foundation for future years. This proposal is

on the agenda for consideration and approval by the membership as part of our Annual General Meeting.

Even though we have many accomplishments to celebrate in 2011/2012, it is the ongoing commitment and generous support of our members and partners that has made such an important contribution to our mission and allowed SPARC to advocate for a strong and sustainable social safety net for British Columbians - one that supports people in need and that ensures access to basic services and supports such as healthy food, safe and affordable housing, and accessible and safe communities.

To members who have supported, and who continue to support our work, we want to thank you for choosing to support SPARC BC. Your contributions have made a real difference to the people we serve. It is through your generous support that we have been able to continue building a just and healthy society for all. It has been an honour to serve as the President of the Board of Directors for SPARC BC over this past year and I look forward to more great things to come in 2012/2013.



Hal Gerein,
President, SPARC BC

Message from the Executive Director

With more than a 45 year history of serving people and communities, SPARC BC knows that communities are about people and that people and communities thrive when they are equitable, inclusive, socially diverse and economically sustainable. To this end, our work focuses on ways to build on these principles and advance projects that contribute to the well-being of communities and citizens across B.C.

With an unwavering belief in the importance of effective partnerships and relationships, and guided by a talented and committed Board of Directors and a strong membership base that believes in and supports our work, SPARC BC has been able to work together with communities across British Columbia to advance the ideals of social justice and to advance policies and initiatives that positively impact people and communities.

Much of the work done by SPARC BC occurs in the spaces between broader social policy areas including health, education, housing, and income support – spaces where gaps in these systems have resulted in the potential for some families and individuals to fall behind. To address existing and emerging needs, SPARC BC has actively worked with communities to promote a mix of strategies and approaches to advance positive policy solutions. These include evidence-based research, comprehensive and inclusive place-based planning, community dialogue and capacity building, as well as critical social policy analysis and advocacy.

It has been said that organizations which have enduring success are those which have adapted their business strategies and practices to respond to a changing world while, at the same time, maintaining clarity around their vision and purpose. This year, through the dedication and commitment of the staff, and the thoughtful leadership of our Board of Directors, SPARC BC has had strong results across all of our business areas. This has been achieved in spite of significant uncertainty and change in the non-profit sector, and is possible only through the generous and ongoing support of our members and partners.

To all of the staff at SPARC BC, I would like to extend my appreciation for their personal commitment to the work that we do. Whether it is delivering the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities or working with communities and organizations in addressing important social policy issues, our staff recognizes and believes in the importance of our work and the difference that we make in peoples' lives. We also believe in continuously looking for new opportunities and partnerships to advance our mission.

From our Community Social Planning Network (CSPN) to our BC Community Accessibility Network (BC CAN) to the many partnerships and relationships that we have developed at the community level, I want to acknowledge the role and contribution of everyone who has helped us to work for a more equitable and just society.

As we look forward to the year ahead, it will be important to think about what it truly means to build a just and healthy society and the role that each of us can play. I would like to conclude by saying that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Executive Director of SPARC BC. I am looking forward to all of the promise and potential of 2012/2013 and to the new partnerships and relationships that we will continue to build.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Copas".

Lorraine Copas,
Executive Director, SPARC BC

Vision, Mission, Values and Guiding Principles of SPARC BC

The mission of SPARC BC is the foundation on which all of its strategic and operational planning is based. SPARC BC's mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all. The just and healthy society that we work toward is defined in terms of the following guiding principles:

- **Equity:** 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.
- **Social Inclusion:** 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.
- **Security:** The recognition that individuals and communities flourish when they have confidence in their surroundings as safe, supportive and stable environments.
- **Adaptability:** The recognition that sustainability requires resilience for both individuals and communities, and the ability to respond creatively to change.

All of the activities that SPARC BC undertakes are grounded in the following values:

- **Social Justice:** We strive for a just and healthy society in which social, economic, and environmental well-being are indivisible, through advocating for equality, fairness and dignity for all.
- **Inclusion:** 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.
- **Integrity:** We are independent, accountable, and non-partisan.
- **Learning:** We seek, develop and share knowledge and understanding which encourages citizen participation and informs innovative, effective planning and decision-making.

About the Programs and Services We Deliver

To achieve our mission of working with communities to build a just and healthy society for all, SPARC BC has five (5) interconnected programs and service priorities including:

- 1. Community Development Initiatives:** SPARC BC works with communities and local governments across British Columbia to help citizens become informed, identify local issues, find creative solutions, and act.
- 2. Social Policy Research and Advocacy:** SPARC BC works with communities, coalitions, and governments to research public policy issues, develop creative and positive public policy changes, and advocate for consistent government action in making these changes.
- 3. Accessibility-Related Initiatives and Partnerships:** SPARC BC works in collaboration and partnership with other disability advocacy organizations to increase awareness and support around issues related to accessibility in communities across British Columbia.
- 4. Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities:** SPARC BC delivers the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, which helps to ensure that those with mobility disabilities have access to designated parking spaces and that the importance of these spaces is understood and respected within communities and by all citizens.
- 5. Research and Consulting Services:** SPARC BC provides a range of research and consulting services to non-profit organizations, civil society organizations, municipalities, and other levels of government.

Key directions resulting from the Board's strategic planning session in 2011/2012 included the following key strategic priorities for 2012/2013:

- Increase the reach, credibility and influence of the organization;
- Expand the organization's work in the area of community development particularly in rural and small town areas of the province;
- Continue to build on the organization's reputation of undertaking evidence-based research and its reputation as a public voice that is effective, clear, respected and respectful;

- Develop and implement a comprehensive approach for advocating for sustainable and positive policy change related to accessibility and inclusion;
- Ensure the sustainability of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities and its ongoing effectiveness in serving people and communities;
- Ensure the sustainability of the Research and Consulting services and its ongoing capacity and effectiveness in working with and supporting communities and civil society;
- Diversify and expand the membership base and donation base; and
- Continue to work to maintain strong organizational and financial performance.

Our Partnerships and Relationships in 2011/2012

SPARC recognizes and values partnerships. We work from the conviction that the most effective strategies for positive social outcomes are co-created in and with community members with the support of government, business and the non-profit sector. In 2011/2012, SPARC BC engaged in several multi-sector projects that confirmed there is power in collaboration. In addition to the many partnerships that have been established at the municipal level, the following is a list of the organizations that we have been fortunate to work alongside in 2011/2012 in pursuit of our mission of a just and healthy society for all.

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies (AMMSA)	Fraser Valley Regional Library	Public Health Agency of Canada
ASPECT	Fraser Health Authority	Regina Public Library – Mainly Mother Goose Program
Alliance for Equality for Blind Canadians (AEBC)	Fresh Outlook Foundation – SustainAble Communities	Rick Hansen Foundation
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	Gibsons and District Public Library Association	Ryerson University Ted Rodger School of Management
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities	Gitksan Government Commission	SAFEWAY
BC Hydro	Gordon Neighbourhood House	SAP Canada
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)	SFU (Department of Sociology)
BC Public Health Association	HRSDC	SFU (Centre for Dialogue)
Burnaby Board of Trade	Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC)	SHOPPERS' Home Health Care
Burnaby Homeless Connect	Investors Group	South Vancouver Neighborhood House
Burnaby Public Library	Italian Cultural Centre	Surrey Homelessness and Housing Society

Canadian Cancer Society	Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall	Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force
Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD)	Kamloops-Cities Fit for Children Conference	Translink (User Advisory Access Group)
Community Social Data Strategy (CSDS)	Langara Community College-Equality and Sustainability Conference	United Way of the Lower Mainland
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-BC Division	Metro Vancouver –Social Issues Subcommittee	UBC (College of Health Disciplines)
Canadian Rural Partnership	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation	UBC (Department of Geography)
Canadian Mental Health Association- BC Division	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation	UBC (School of Community and Regional Planning)
Centre for Native Policy and Research (CNPR)	Ministry of Social Development	University of Toronto (Faculty of Social Work)
City of Vancouver, Planning Commission	MOSAIC	United Community Services Co-op
Community Action Initiative (CAI)	Mission Community Services Society	VanCity Community Foundation
Community Foundations of Canada (CFC)	Native Education College	Vancouver Aquarium
Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS)	North Vancouver District Public Library	Vancouver Coastal Health
Community Living BC	Pacific Community Resources Society	Vancouver Foundation
Corrections Canada	Passenger Transportation Safety Board	Vancouver Public Library
Cowichan Social Planning	PeerNetBC	Vibrant Surrey
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Planning Institute of British Columbia	Volunteer Canada
First Call	PovNet BC	West End Seniors' Network (WESN)

Report from the Governance Committee

The Governance Committee is appointed annually by the Board of Directors and is accountable to the Board as a whole. The Governance Committee is responsible for recommending areas for policy review or development by the Board.

In 2011/2012, the Board's Governance Committee completed a comprehensive review of the Board's existing policies and procedures as well as provided direction on a review of our constitution and bylaws and put forward a series of recommendations for changes which were introduced at an extraordinary general meeting held in February 2012.

There is one additional change that the Governance Committee has put forward for consideration by the membership and to formally change the name of the Society to the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society.

The proposed change in name is being put forward in recognition of the long history and legacy of social planning that has been undertaken by SPARC BC over the years as well as to provide some degree of protection for the Society in the future in terms of other societies which may operate under a name which is confusingly similar.

Motion:

*BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION of the Society, pursuant to Section 20 of the Society Act (British Columbia), that the name of the Society is hereby changed to **"SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY"***

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 characteristics of the province. Taking this into consideration, the following persons have been nominated for election (or re-election, as applicable):

Dr. Hal Gerein	(Victoria)	Director since 2006
Irene Willsie	(Williams Lake)	Director since 2006
Jennifer Cliff-Marks	(Castlegar)	Director since 2008
Steve Harvard	(Victoria)	Director since 2008
Nate Bello	(Quesnel)	Director since 2009
Linda Locke	(Hazelton)	Director since 2009
Charley Beresford	(Victoria)	Director since 2011
Jamie Maclaren	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011
Cameron Gray	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011

Based on regional representation, Board asset requirements and the recommended ideal number of twelve members, the Nominations Committee is also recommending the following candidates for election to serve on the Board of Directors.

Marilyn Belak	(Dawson Creek)
Shelley Cook	(Kelowna)
Hugh Kellas	(West Vancouver)

Profile of Members Nominated for Election (or Re-Election)

Dr. Hal Gerein: Dr Gerein has been on SPARC's Board of Directors since 2006, including time as Chair of the Nominations and Governance Committee, Vice-president and most recently as President. In 24 years of public service, Hal has served at both deputy and assistant deputy minister levels in the governments of BC and the Northwest Territories. Hal has also worked for a large consulting company and now has his own practice, specializing in planning, leadership, and public sector management. Hal brings a strong educational background as well as extensive experience in working with communities, ranging from community planning and development, to social indicators and wellness measurement, to the rural and social economy, to natural resource development, to community impact assessment, adjustment and transition.

Irene Willsie: Irene is the Executive Director of the Women's Contact Society of Williams Lake and has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2006. Irene has held the position of Vice President on the Board of Directors and has also helped to lead the work of the Nominations and Governance Committee. Prior to taking her position as Executive Director of the Women's Contact Society in William's Lake, Irene worked in the delivery of programs and services for youth as well as those with addictions. Irene's career in non-profit society management, advocacy, and community development is diverse and progressive. In particular, Irene has worked on issues related to income security, program development and service delivery and has experience in working to build community-based partnerships and relationships. Irene also brings experience in the area of fundraising.

Jennifer Cliff-Marks: Jennifer has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2008 and brings a strong understanding of adult education and literacy as well as knowledge of some of the specific social issues and challenges in smaller communities. Jennifer originally completed her undergraduate degree in Peterborough, Ontario and Grenada, Spain, and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Adult Education and Community Development at the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University. Jennifer is active in her community and has served on numerous Boards including Literacy BC, the Nakusp Public Library, the Nakusp and Area Community Foundation and Stepping Stones Preschool. Jennifer is passionate about community development, especially as it pertains to rural communities.

Steve Harvard: Steve has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2008 including serving as the Treasurer for 2011/2012. Steve lives in Victoria with his family and works with BC Transit as a Senior Regional Transit Manager. Steve bring a deep understanding of transportation and transit planning and has experience both in accessibility-related issues as well as the challenges of providing service and infrastructure to rural and remote communities. Steve has worked with SPARC BC to support BC Transit's participation in Access Awareness Day campaigns. Steve's education and background include business management and community service including his involvement with the Lions Club as well as participation in sports and scouting through his sons.

Nate Bello: Nate has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2009 including on the Executive Committee as a Vice President. Nate is dedicated to community sustainability and has a long history of community involvement, including being a founding member of the Quesnel Multicultural Society, a member and Vice-Chair for the University of Northern British Columbia, Chair of the North Cariboo Post-Secondary Education Council, Treasurer of the Quesnel Principals and Vice-Principals Association and a director of the Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation. Nate also served two (2) terms as the Mayor of Quesnel and three (3) terms as a Councilor on Quesnel City Council. As Mayor, Nate was a founding member of the Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition and served on the Northern Development Initiative Trust. Nate currently operates his own consulting practice 'n.b. consulting' and is president of the Quesnel Media Access Group which is dedicated to the promotion of community telecommunications.

Linda Locke: Linda has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2009. Linda brings significant understanding of the issues and challenges related to poverty as well as challenges faced by smaller communities. Linda has been the lawyer and leader at the Upper Skeena Counseling and Legal Assistance Society (USCLAS) in Hazelton for more than twenty years. Linda's work includes community development, legal assistance as well as direct work with individuals with a focus on empowering individuals and communities. Linda obtained her Law Degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and previously completed a Social Work Degree at University of Calgary. Linda also has a Diploma of Social Sciences at Mount Royal College. With her experience in family law, child protection and poverty law and her deep commitment to community, Linda brings a unique and important perspective to SPARC BC especially as it relates to Aboriginal people and communities as well as people living in poverty.

Charley Beresford: Charley has served on the SPARC BC Board of Director since 2011 and brings a wealth of experience and understanding of local issues. As the Executive Director for the Columbia Institute, Charley is actively engaged in working with local governments and communities to build inclusive and sustainable communities that value social justice and that are healthier and happier places for people to live. Charley is also active in her community and has served on a number of local planning groups and advisory bodies including the City of Victoria's Social Planning and Housing Advisory Committee. As part of her political career, Charley provided leadership and policy advice on issues related to Health, Finance and Women's Equality and helped to establish a Code of Conduct for Public Appointees.

Cameron Gray: Cameron has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2011. Cameron is the former managing director for the Department of Social Development in the City of Vancouver and before that was the Director of the Housing Centre. Cameron has a planning degree and a diploma in urban economics and is recognized for his skills and experience in championing the development and implementation of a diverse range of strategies to address issues related to housing affordability and homelessness in the City of Vancouver. Cameron is recognized for his passion for social justice and his tireless commitment to affordable housing as well as his significant contribution and innovation at the policy level. Cameron's municipal experience as well as his experience in delivering programs and services to address issues related to housing affordability and homelessness will help to make an important contribution to the work of SPARC BC.

Jamie Maclaren: Jamie has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2011 and helped to lead the Board's Nominations Committee. Jamie is a practicing lawyer and the Executive Director of the Access Pro Bono Society of BC. In addition to his commitment to social justice, Jamie has served as a Director of the Vancouver-based Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) and as the Executive Director of both the UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) and Pro Bono Law of BC. Jamie volunteers as a supervising lawyer for LSLAP, conducts legal seminars for people overcoming homelessness and addictions through the Salvation Army, and provides pro bono legal advice in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Jamie also provides pro bono legal representation at all levels of court to several indigent clients each year.

New Nominees for the SPARC BC Board of Directors for 2012/2013

Based on regional representation, Board asset requirements and the recommended ideal number of twelve (12) members, the Nominations Committee is recommending the following candidates to be elected to serve on the Board of Directors

Marilyn Belak: Marilyn recently retired from Dawson Creek City Council after nine (9) years of service including a period as Interim Mayor in 2008. During her time on Council, Marilyn initiated a partnership with SPARC BC to develop an OCP built around a Social Plan. Marilyn also established the Dawson Creek Housing Committee, a collaborative community-based partnership focused on addressing homelessness as well as unmet housing needs in the community. Marilyn received the 2005 “Today’s Woman Award” for “Woman of the Year, Impact and Influence in Northern BC.” and has received several local Civic Leader citations. Marilyn is also the recipient of three “misbehaving women” trophies and two Aurora awards (2008 and 2009).

Shelley Cook: Shelley is the Executive Director of the John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan. Shelley brings over 20 years of experience working with criminally involved and at-risk youth and adults at a community level. Shelley was born and raised in Kelowna before moving to Vancouver Island where she attended the University of Victoria for both her undergraduate (Psychology) and graduate education (Human & Social Development). Shelly returned to Kelowna in 2003 and has been active in the social service community including involvement on various committees and community coalitions responding to key social and health related issues. Shelley has served as the Chair of the Housing Committee for the City of Kelowna, and Chair of the Treatment Pillar of the Central Okanagan Four Pillars Coalition.

Hugh Kellas: Hugh Kellas brings a diverse range of skills and experience to the SPARC BC Board of Directors. Trained as an urban planner, Hugh has held a series of positions within Metro Vancouver including the Manager of Policy and Planning from 2004 to 2010. Hugh is also a current member and past president of both the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC). As well, Hugh has served on the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Lower Mainland. Hugh brings extensive knowledge and understanding of urban and regional planning both at a policy level and at a community level. Hugh has also delivered lectures and presentations on planning, housing and sustainability issues in Canada and internationally including the US, Europe, China, Brazil, Australia, and Abu Dhabi.

Recommendation from the Nominations Committee:

The Nominations Committee is putting the following recommendation forward to the membership for consideration and adoption:

The following four (4) directors to serve on the Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year:

- Nate Bello (Quesnel)
- Jennifer Cliff-Marks (Castlegar)
- Dr. Hal Gerein (Victoria)
- Linda Locke (Hazelton)

The following four (4) directors to serve on the Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years:

- Marilyn Belak (Dawson Creek)
- Charely Beresford (Victoria)
- Shelley Cook (Kelowna)
- Cameron Gray (Vancouver)

The following four (4) directors to serve on the Board of Directors for a term of three (3) year:

- Steve Harvard (Victoria)
- Hugh Kellas (West Vancouver)
- Jamie Maclaren (Vancouver)
- Irene Willsie (Williams Lake)

Report from the Treasurer

The process of strategic change requires decision-makers within an organization to articulate a vision and to work to ensure that the resources and structures are in place to realize this vision. Over the past few years, SPARC BC has been undergoing a process of strategic change with a focus on responding to significant pressures in the external operating environment including the end of funding from United Way.

The Board and staff have shown significant resilience in adapting to uncertainty in the operating environment by enhancing efforts to increase revenues and decrease expenditures. These efforts have met with considerable success with our audited financial statements showing an operating surplus of \$224,835 in 2011/2012.

The operating surplus generated in 2011/2012 will be reinvested to strengthen the overall sustainability of the organization and in the programs and services we provide across communities in B.C. This includes our work through CSPN (the Community Social Planning Network), BC CAN (BC Community Accessibility Network), LIRN BC (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC) and our Community Development Education (CDE) program as well as other Board adopted initiatives and priorities.

Our success was the result of strong performance across all three (3) priority areas –research and consulting, membership and donations and the sale of the Parking Permit for People with Disabilities. In addition, we focused on the implementation of internal measures that would help to strengthen and enhance our overall effectiveness and efficiency.

Whether it is the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, the partnerships that we have been able to create through the delivery of our Research and Consulting Services or our tireless efforts in Community Development Education, our work touches communities. In 2011/2012, SPARC BC was successful in connecting with individuals and organizations in communities all across B.C.

As the Board continues to focus on setting the long-term strategic directions for the organization, we will also continue to focus on efforts to build up and sustain the organization's overall financial stability and operational effectiveness.

I feel confident that the foundation that is in place this year is strong and that SPARC BC is in a solid position to face the significant uncertainty and complexity of the times, as well as the rapid pace and scale of change that is characteristic of both the non-profit sector and the broader external environment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Harvard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Harvard,
Treasurer, SPARC BC

Minutes ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Pomeroy Inn and Suites

5200 North Access Road,

Chetwynd, BC

June 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Dr. Hal Gerein, the President of SPARC BC greeted the members and called the Annual General Meeting to order. It was noted that the agenda for the meeting was available in the Annual Report which was distributed to members.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting from June 11, 2010

The President, called for adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting which was held on June 11, 2010 at the SPARC BC offices -4445 Norfolk Street in Burnaby, B.C.

Motion:

That the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 11, 2010 be adopted.

Moved: Nate Bello, Seconded: Irene Willsie, all in favour: CARRIED.

3. President's Report

The President noted that copies of his written report can be found on page 3 of the Annual Report which was distributed to the membership.

The President noted that SPARC BC is moving into its 45th year of serving British Columbians and working with communities to build a more just and healthy society for all.

The President thanked the members and volunteers who have helped to contribute to the organization and noted that he would specifically like to thank Derek Gent, who has served on the Board of Directors for the past eight years and who helped to provide tremendous leadership in the role as President and Past President for the organization.

Dr Gerein also noted that Loraine Lundquist will be leaving the Board and wanted to thank her for her contribution to the work of the organization. In his address, the President noted that over the next year, key objectives include being more visible in the Province, investing in and promoting social justice and community social planning and action while striving for organizational excellence. The President also thanked the Executive Director and staff for their professionalism, dedication and hard work.

Motion:

That the President's Report be adopted. Moved: Linda Locke, Seconded: Marcie Fofonoff, all in favour: CARRIED.

4. Treasurer's Report

The President introduced Loraine Lundquist, Treasurer and noted that a copy of the Treasurer's Report can be found on page 5 of the Annual Report which was distributed to the membership.

Loraine Lundquist provided a brief review of the financial status of the organization and called for adoption of the report.

Motion:

That the Treasurer's Report be adopted. Moved: Loraine Lundquist, Seconded: Heather McCain, all in favour: CARRIED.

5. **Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements 2010/2011**

The Treasurer presented the Audited Financial Statements 2010/2011 to the membership and called for a motion that the Audited Financial Statements and the Annual Report as presented be approved.

Motion:

That the Audited Financial Statements and the Annual Report as presented be approved.

Moved: Loraine Lundquist, Seconded: Steve Harvard, all in favour: CARRIED.

The Treasurer also called for a motion to set aside the following reserve amounts:

Motion:

That the amount of \$493,313 be internally restricted according to the Board's policy of maintaining a reserve fund of at least 25% of the annual operating budget in order to maintain operations and support staff in the event of uncertainty of the revenues and/or the potential of an interruption or cut to funding; and,

That one-time expenditures in the amount of \$150,000 be approved to:

Make enhancements to the existing IT infrastructure and technology (\$40,000);

Undertake an organizational effectiveness and efficiency review (\$35,000);

Engage in the development and implementation of partnerships in support of our mission (\$25,000); and,

Implement the outcomes arising from the organizational review (\$50,000).

Moved: Loraine Lundquist, Seconded: Linda Locke, all in favour: CARRIED.

6. **Appointment of the Auditors for 2011/2012**

The Treasurer noted that Loewen, Stronach & Company provided auditing services for SPARC BC for 2010/2011 and recommended that Loewen, Stronach & Company be appointed as the Auditors for SPARC BC for 2011/2012.

Motion:

That Loewen, Stronach & Company be appointed as the Auditors for SPARC BC for 2011/2012 Moved: Loraine Lundquist, Seconded: Irene Willsie, all in favour: CARRIED.

7. Election of Directors

The President introduced Irene Willsie, Vice President of SPARC BC and Chair of the Board's Nominations and Governance Committee.

Ms Willsie referred members to the Nominations and Governance Committee report on page 7 of the Annual Report and moved the adoption of the report and the election of the nominated candidates as set out in the report.

Motion:

- (a) The two (2) members –Nate Bello (Quesnel) and Linda Locke (Hazelton) currently serving on the Board of Directors and whose terms are expiring June 2011, are nominated for election for a further two (2) year term to June 2013;*
- (b) The following seven (7) members – Heather McCain (Vancouver), Jennifer Cliff-Marks (Nakusp) - currently serving on the Board of Directors are continuing their two (2) year term to June 2012;*
- (c) The following three (3) members –Charley Beresford (Victoria), Cameron Gray (Vancouver), Jamie Maclaren (Vancouver)-are nominated for election to serve on the SPARC BC Board of Directors for a two (2) year term starting June 2011 to June 2013.*

Moved: Irene Willsie, Seconded: Steve Harvard, all in favour: CARRIED.

8. Recognition and Lifetime Memberships

The President also wanted to take an opportunity to pause and further honour the significant contribution made by Derek Gent over his eight years serving on the SPARC BC Board of Directors including the leadership he provided as both President and Past President. Vice Presidents Irene Willsie and Steve Harvard stepped forward to present Derek with a lifetime membership.

9. **Executive Director's Message**

The President welcomed Lorraine Copas, Executive Director and asked her to provide a few words. Lorraine spoke about the history of SPARC BC and the depth of relationships at all levels from individual members through to partnerships both within government and across the non-profit sector. Lorraine thanked the Board for their tremendous leadership and the members for their constant support. Lorraine also noted that staff are excited about the year ahead and look forward to continuing to build and strengthen our networks and relationships across the province as we work with others to promote social justice, health, and equity in B.C. communities.

10. **Adjournment**

The President made a motion to adjourn the Annual General Meeting and invited those present to remain and be part of the presentation of the annual Deryck Thomson Award to Mr Brandon Hughes.

Motion:

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Derek Gent, Seconded: Irene Willsie, all in favour, CARRIED



Audited Financial Statements

SPARC BC SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To The Members of the SPARC BC Society:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the SPARC BC Society, which comprise of the balance sheet as at March 31, 2012, and the statements of revenues and expenditures and net assets, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, 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.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the SPARC BC Society as at March 31, 2012 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the Society Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the prior year.



Chartered Accountants

Vancouver, BC
June 15, 2012


SPARC BC SOCIETY


BALANCE SHEET

MARCH 31, 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
<hr/>		
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	1,417,443	1,049,260
Accounts receivable	91,554	302,083
Prepaid expenses	28,868	33,753
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,537,865	1,385,096
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Note 3)	220,206	256,019
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,758,071	1,641,115
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	161,114	58,897
Unearned revenue	-	70,150
Deposits on projects	123,973	243,347
Current portion of deferred lease inducement	20,572	20,572
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	305,659	392,966
DEFERRED LEASE INDUCEMENT	113,144	133,716
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	418,803	526,682
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS		
Internally restricted (Note 5)	542,813	643,813
Unrestricted	796,455	470,620
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,339,268	1,114,433
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,758,071	1,641,115
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LEASE COMMITMENTS (Note 4)		

Approved by the Board:





Director
Director

See accompanying notes to financial statements

 Loewen, Stronach & Co.
Chartered Accountants

SPARC BC SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012			2011
	Internally Restricted (Note 5) \$	Unrestricted \$	Total \$	Total \$
NET ASSETS , beginning of year	643,813	470,620	1,114,433	829,350
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-	224,835	224,835	285,083
	<u>643,813</u>	<u>695,455</u>	<u>1,339,268</u>	<u>1,114,433</u>
TRANSFERS				
Planning for financial stability	(21,000)	21,000	-	-
Enhancements to the existing IT infrastructure and technology	(20,000)	20,000	-	-
Organizational review for effectiveness and efficiency	(35,000)	35,000	-	-
Development and implementation of partnerships in support of our mission including Sector Research Platform	-	-	-	-
Implementation of outcome of organizational review	(50,000)	50,000	-	-
Development and implementation of support partnerships - poverty reduction	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
	<u>(101,000)</u>	<u>101,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS , end of year	<u>542,813</u>	<u>796,455</u>	<u>1,339,268</u>	<u>1,114,433</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements

LS Loewen, Stronach & Co.
Chartered Accountants

SPARC BC SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
REVENUES		
General		
Permit sales	826,254	801,284
Memberships and donations	685,919	639,172
Direct access gaming funds	68,750	35,000
United Way grant	58,757	102,824
Rentals	22,740	15,400
Interest	16,704	11,719
Other grants	8,409	6,542
	<u>1,687,533</u>	<u>1,611,941</u>
Projects		
Consulting services	401,457	415,451
Disbursement recoveries	246,387	314,720
	<u>647,844</u>	<u>730,171</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	2,335,377	2,342,112
EXPENDITURES (Schedule 1)	2,110,542	2,057,029
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	224,835	285,083
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	1,114,433	829,350
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>1,339,268</u>	<u>1,114,433</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements

SPARC BC SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Cash derived from (applied to)		
OPERATING		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	224,835	285,083
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of property and equipment	57,486	79,068
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	<u>(20,572)</u>	<u>(20,572)</u>
	261,749	343,579
Change in non-cash working capital items:		
Accounts receivable	210,529	(65,101)
Prepaid expenses	4,885	17,088
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	102,217	(20,437)
Unearned revenue	(70,150)	35,150
Deposits on projects	<u>(119,374)</u>	<u>30,903</u>
	<u>389,856</u>	<u>341,182</u>
INVESTING		
Acquisition of property and equipment	<u>(21,673)</u>	<u>(19,668)</u>
INCREASE IN CASH	368,183	321,514
CASH, beginning of year	<u>1,049,260</u>	<u>727,746</u>
CASH, end of year	<u><u>1,417,443</u></u>	<u><u>1,049,260</u></u>

Note to statement of cash flows

Cash consists of balances with banks and term deposits.

See accompanying notes to financial statements

SPARC BC SOCIETY

Schedule 1

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012**

	2012 \$	2011 \$
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and benefits	1,119,142	1,041,465
Projects disbursements	246,387	314,720
Rent	191,350	179,951
Postage and courier	74,278	73,460
Printing	60,791	65,565
Board and executive meetings	57,890	28,843
Amortization	57,486	79,068
Computer and website maintenance	53,744	51,951
Fundraising	38,232	47,434
Professional and consulting services	32,631	23,302
Travel and meetings	33,269	26,588
Telephone	21,742	19,361
Audit and legal	20,384	12,871
Marketing, publicity and promotion	21,609	9,246
Organizational development	17,357	-
Office supplies	15,589	18,866
Other expenditures	13,430	17,537
Photocopying	11,430	10,312
News letter /SPARC BC News	9,882	5,314
Repairs and maintenance	7,841	7,687
Staff training and development	6,078	3,309
Partnership contribution	-	5,000
SPARC contribution to projects	-	15,179
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,110,542	2,057,029

See accompanying notes to financial statements

SPARC BC SOCIETY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

1. PURPOSE OF SOCIETY

SPARC BC Society is a provincially incorporated non-profit society and a federally registered charitable organization. Its mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all persons in British Columbia.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, including those discussed below.

Use of estimates

In conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that could 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 revenues and expenditures during the year. Actual results could differ from those reported.

Financial instruments

The Society uses the recommendations of the CICA Handbook on the accounting, measurement and presentation of financial instruments issued in Section 3855, *Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement* and Section 3861, *Financial Instruments – Disclosures and presentation*.

Under these standards, all financial instruments are classified into one of the following five categories: held for trading, held-to-maturity, loans and receivables, available-for-sale financial assets, or other financial liabilities and are measured in the balance sheet at fair value except for loans and receivables, held-for-maturity investments and other financial liabilities which are measured at amortized cost. Subsequent measurement and changes in fair value will depend on their initial classification. Held-for-trading financial instruments are measured at fair value and changes in fair value are recognized in net income. Available-for-sale financial assets are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recorded in other comprehensive income until the instrument is derecognized or impaired.

The Society classifies its cash and term deposits as held-for-trading, which are measured at fair value, accounts receivable as loans and receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities as other financial liabilities, which are measured as amortized costs.

Revenue recognition

Permit sales, memberships and donations are recognized on a cash basis.

United Way and other grants are recognized on a cash basis.

Direct access gaming funds are recognized when the approved programs commence.

Consulting services are recognized when the requirements as to performance set out in the research project agreements are satisfied, provided that at the time of performance ultimate collection is reasonably assured.

Rental income is recognized on terms set out in the sub-lease agreements.

SPARC BC SOCIETY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd.)

Property and equipment

Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Computers, furniture and other equipment are amortized on the straight-line method over three years. Leaseholds are amortized on the straight-line method over the term of the lease.

Unearned revenue and deposits on projects

Project funding and other revenues received in advance are recognized as operating revenues when the related expenditure is incurred.

Unearned revenue represents direct access gaming funds designated for expenditures for the 2012 fiscal year.

Deferred lease inducement

The deferred lease inducement is being amortized on a straight-line basis over ten years, the term of the related premise's lease.

3. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2012		2011
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$
Computers	133,014	103,382	29,632
Furniture and other equipment	123,604	121,502	2,102
Leaseholds	289,959	101,487	188,472
	<u>546,577</u>	<u>326,371</u>	<u>220,206</u>
			<u>256,019</u>

4. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Society entered into a ten-year lease agreement for its premises. Basic rental payments for the period October 2008 to September 2013 are \$97,005 per annum and then \$110,385 per annum to September 2018, plus operating expenses.

SPARC BC SOCIETY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

5. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

The Board of Directors of the Society has designated funding for internally restricted purposes as follows:

<u>Designated to:</u>	<u>2012</u> <u>\$</u>	<u>2011</u> <u>\$</u>
• Provide for the ongoing financial stability of the Society. It is the objective of the Board of Directors to maintain financial reserves of 25% of the annual operating budget due to the uncertainty of revenues and the potential for an interruption or cut in funding.	492,813	493,813
• Engage in the development and implementation of partnerships in support of poverty reduction	25,000	-
• Engage in the development and implementation of partnerships in support of our mission including Sector Research Platform	25,000	25,000
• Make enhancements to the existing IT infrastructure and technology	-	40,000
• Undertake an organizational effectiveness and efficiency review	-	35,000
• Implement the outcomes arising from the organizational review	-	50,000
	<u>542,813</u>	<u>643,813</u>

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

6. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivables, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying value, unless otherwise noted. The Society has exposure to the following risks in its use of financial instruments:

a) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society cannot meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due. The Society manages liquidity risk by continuously monitoring cash flow. As of March 31, 2012 the only contractual maturity of the Society's financial instrument liabilities is the balance of its accounts payable and accrued liabilities in the amount of \$161,114 (\$58,897 - 2011).

b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the Society is exposed to a counterparty that defaults or becomes insolvent. The only financial instrument that potentially subjects the Society to concentrations of credit risk is its accounts receivable. As of March 31, 2012, the maximum exposure to credit risk in terms of receivable is \$92,554 (\$302,083 - 2011). Management believes that the Society does not have a significant credit risk on its receivables.

SPARC BC SOCIETY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

7. CAPITAL DISCLOSURE

The Society considers its capital to be the balance maintained in its Net Assets of \$1,339,268 (2011 - \$1,114,433). The primary objective of the Society is to invest its capital in a manner that will allow it to continue as a going concern and comply with its stated objectives. Capital is invested under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Society with the objective of providing a reasonable rate of return, minimizing risk and ensuring adequate liquid investments are on hand for current cash flow requirements. The Society is not subject to any externally imposed requirements of its capital.

8. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The comparative figures have been reclassified where applicable in order to conform with the presentation used in the current year.

9. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The Society adopted the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") Accounting Standards – Section 1506 – *Accounting Changes* effective January 1, 2007, requiring the Society to disclose certain information related to recently issued but not yet effective accounting standards.

There are no recently issued accounting standards applicable to the Society which have not been adopted in these financial statements.

In December 2010, the CICA issued Part III of the CICA Handbook – Accounting to provide Canadian private sector not-for-profit organizations with a new financial reporting framework. The standards are effective for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, earlier adoption is permitted. The Society does not expect that the changeover will have a material impact on its results from operations or financial position.



people. planning. positive change.

social planning & research council of british columbia

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC V5G 0A7

tel: 604-718-7733 fax: 604-736-8697

www.sparc.bc.ca