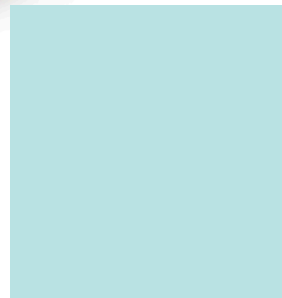
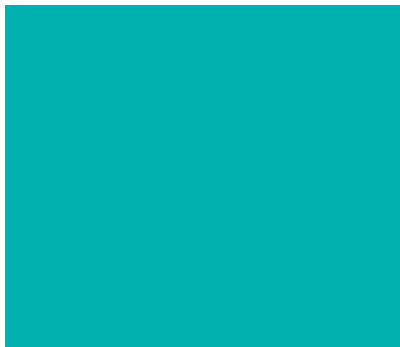
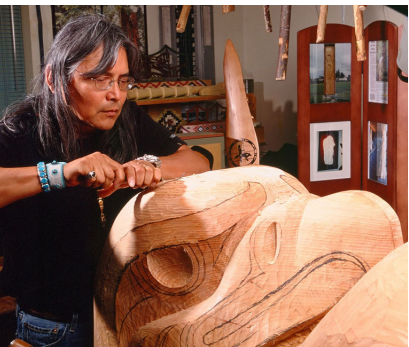




people. planning. positive change.

# Annual Report

## 2012 - 2013





SPARC BC  
Annual Report  
2012 - 2013

## Mission and Values

**SPARC BC works with communities to build a just and healthy society for all.**

Our definition of “just and healthy” is based on five key 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.

**EQUALITY:** The recognition that increasing equality within society builds social cohesion, improves health, increases safety and security, and contributes to sustainable and vibrant communities.

## Values

Our work is founded on the following values:

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:** 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.

**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, transparent and non-partisan.

**LEARNING:** We seek, develop and share knowledge and understanding which encourages citizen participation and informs innovative, effective planning and decision-making.

## Table of Contents

	Page
President's Message	2
Message from the Executive Director	4
About SPARC BC's Programs and Services	6
Key Accomplishments 2012/2013	7
Our Partnerships and Relationships 2012/2013	10
Agenda -2012/2013 Annual General Meeting	14
Minutes –Annual General Meeting 2011/2012	15
Treasurer's Report	19
Audited Financial Statements	21
Report from the Nominations Committee	37
Profile of Members Nominated for Re-Election	38
Profile of Members Continuing Their Current Term	39
New Nominees for the SPARC BC Board of Directors	41
Recommendations from the Nominations Committee	42

## President's Message

It has been an exciting year for SPARC BC as we continue to work with communities and British Columbians to build a just and healthy society for all. As with past years, our efforts have continued to focus on striving to make a difference through the delivery of community development education and workshops, social policy, research and advocacy as well as through our on-going role in the delivery and administration of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities.

This year, as a Board, we have continued to learn and grow both in our vision for the organization and in our commitment to advancing policies and policy changes that reflect our values of social justice, inclusion, integrity and learning. This is reflected in all of our work including our work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction as well as our work with local communities.

As part of the priorities for this year, the Board has continued to focus its efforts on ensuring the long-term financial sustainability and operational effectiveness of our programs and services and has begun the process of developing long-term strategic and business plans. This will allow us to build on our strong foundation and will help us to continue to grow our membership base while further developing strong and effective partnerships with individuals and organizations who share our vision.

As I reflect on the many accomplishments of the organization over the past twelve months, there are many reasons for us to celebrate. Highlights for me include the Disability Without Poverty project, the amazing work done with First Nations communities in the north, and our ability to connect with people and communities who share our values and who are committed to working to create positive change in BC. This includes the outstanding work of the Storytellers' Foundation in Hazelton, BC which was the recipient of this year's Deryck Thomson award.

It is also important to recognize that the social policy community has lost a number of important champions and voices over the past year - people who had an enduring belief in the need to work for social change and who were committed to working to make a real difference in their communities. I know that we will miss the tremendous leadership of people like Clyde Hertzman and the passion, insight and commitment that he brought to issues of early childhood development. More recently the social policy community lost Steve Kerstetter – a tireless advocate for social change and an important partner and contributor to the development of the Child Poverty Report Card that we produce with First Call every year.



Deryck Thomson was also among those who passed away this year. Deryck Thomson has left a particularly important legacy for us here at SPARC BC. Deryck's tireless commitment in working with communities to create positive and lasting change will always be remembered by those who knew him. His contribution to social planning and social policy will not be forgotten. Likewise, his values and his commitment to working to create a better life for British Columbians has left a valuable and important legacy that has become part of our annual Deryck Thomson Award.

We wish that our efforts to have Deryck recognized with an Order of BC had been successful. However, we know that Deryck was a person of great distinction who excelled in his field and who had a profound commitment to working to benefit everyone and to improving the lives of those who were less fortunate. We also know that his legacy will live on through the work that we do here at SPARC BC.

As I reflect on the year, I also know that we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the generosity and support of our members. Through the generous donations and contributions of our members we have been able to extend our work in communities and continue our efforts to advocate for a strong and sustainable social safety net for British Columbians. As members who have supported, and who continue to support our work, we want to thank you for choosing to support SPARC BC and want to recognize the difference that your donations and contributions have made.

To the staff and management at SPARC BC, I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation. 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 2013/2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene Willsie', with a stylized, flowing script.

Irene Willsie  
President, SPARC BC

## Message from the Executive Director

How can communities and civil society take action on issues of poverty, inequality, and social justice? How can communities and members of civil society continue to work to create a climate of decency, civility, openness and respect? These are some of the fundamental questions and beliefs that guide our work as an organization and that allow us to bring people and communities together to work to build a just and healthy society for all.

At its very essence, SPARC BC is about people and about communities. As an organization, we strive for communities that are equitable, inclusive, socially diverse and economically sustainable. We also work to reflect the values of social justice, inclusion, integrity and learning in everything we do. These are values that are enduring and that have helped to guide successive Boards of Directors for more than forty-seven years and have helped to set the organization on a strong foundation for now and into the future.

SPARC BC uses a variety of strategies and approaches to advance the ideals of social justice, equity, accessibility and inclusion. This includes evidence-based research, comprehensive and inclusive place-based planning, community dialogue, facilitation and community capacity building. We also rely on critical analysis and evidence-based social policy research and advocacy to advance policies and initiatives that will help strengthen the social safety net for British Columbians while ensuring that the policies and decisions that are made recognize and support the well-being of people and communities.

In looking back over the past year, I want to extend my appreciation to the Board of Directors for their dedication and leadership. This year, the Board started their work in articulating a long-term strategic vision for the organization – one that builds on the Board's ideals of equity, inclusion, security, adaptability and equality and that works toward the fulfillment of the Board's mission and vision of a just and healthy society for all.

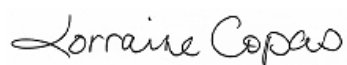


Our volunteers and staff also deserve recognition for their dedication and commitment to the work of SPARC BC. Whether it is delivering the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities or working with community partners in the delivery of research, planning and consulting services, our staff team works to ensure that the programs that we deliver and the services that we provide make a difference in peoples' lives.

The generosity and support of our members and partners has also allowed us to work to draw attention to the needs of individuals and communities across BC. This has included our efforts to work to build increased awareness and support around policies and measures to help to strengthen the social safety net and to work to improve the lives and circumstances of those who are less fortunate. Our work has included research and policy analysis in the area of housing affordability, food security, homelessness, access to community-based mental health services, accessibility as well as the types of actions and investments needed to reduce poverty across all groups in society. It has also included actively working with Aboriginal people and communities to support their efforts in addressing inequities, ensuring that the needs of their communities are met and that their cultures and traditions are respected.

This year, we have also been successful in expanding our community-based partnerships and relationships and in reaching out to individuals and organizations who share our vision of a just and healthy society for all. These partnerships and relationships are important in that they help to build a strong and sustainable social infrastructure across BC while ensuring that the services and supports are available to those who need them.

I want to conclude by extending my appreciation to the other members of the management team, and staff for their on-going commitment and dedication to the work of SPARC BC. As well, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their generosity and support. I know that it is by working together that it is possible to advance policies and initiatives that can make a real difference in the lives of people and communities. Together, I know that we can make that difference.



Lorraine Copas,  
Executive Director, SPARC BC

## About SPARC BC's Programs and Services

The programs and services delivered through by SPARC BC include:

### Community Development Education

Communities need the capacity, creativity and will to effectively identify and respond to local issues. SPARC BC works with communities and local governments across British Columbia to help citizens identify and understand local issues, find solutions, and take action. Our work in the area of community development education includes the delivery of our CDE workshops for smaller, rural and northern communities. We are also active partners in LIRN (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC). In addition, SPARC BC actively works with community partners to support local planning efforts, facilitate community dialogues and produce workshops and SPROUT resource guides as well as other materials to help build capacity at the local level.

### Accessibility-Related Partnerships and Initiatives

In addition to the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, SPARC BC also works in collaboration with other disability-serving organizations and advocacy groups to draw attention to the needs of people with disabilities. This includes working to remove barriers and to advance policies and initiatives that promote and support the active engagement of all citizens. Major projects and initiatives in this area include our annual Access Awareness Day campaigns which are always held on the first Saturday in June, as well as education and outreach to local governments, business, municipal partners and other key stakeholders. Through these efforts, our goal is to ensure that our communities are as accessible and inclusive as possible.

### Social Policy Research and Advocacy

SPARC BC uses a variety of strategies and approaches to advance the ideals of social justice, equity, accessibility and inclusion. This year, staff worked with community-partners on a wide range of social policy issues including housing affordability, homelessness, early childhood development, food security as well as strategies to reduce poverty. We also undertook research and analysis to support the needs of low income and vulnerable seniors, single parent family households and others who are living on the margins and who are at risk of poverty and exclusion.

## Key Accomplishments for 2012/2013

This section provides an overview of some of the key organizational accomplishments for 2012/2013:

### Community Development Education Initiatives

In 2012/2013 staff partnered with seven different government and non-government agencies to co-design and deliver a series of community-based workshops in communities in rural and northern BC. These partnerships were through the LIRN program (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC). A total of eight (8) workshops were planned during 2012/2013. They included workshops in Alberni Clayoquot, Quesnel, Terrace, Port Alberni, Shuswap, Hazelton and two (2) in Castlegar. The workshops included the exploration of a diverse range of topics including strategic planning, pathways of community social planning, community capacity building as well as building communities of friendship. The workshops also included a youth engagement and outreach component.

Government and non-government partners who participated in LIRN in 2012/2013 included Service Canada and the New Horizons Seniors' Program, PeerNetBC, the Fraser Basin Council (Smart Planning for Communities), the Rural BC Secretariat, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, the Province of BC's Heritage Branch and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. A new Expressions of Interest has been issued for 2013/2014 and we are already seeing a strong response. In addition, a number of new partners have joined the LIRN table for 2013/2014 including: the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC, the Leave Out Violence Society of BC (LOVE), the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC, YouthCO, and the Access to Media Education Society (AMES).

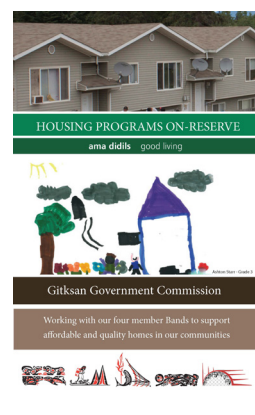
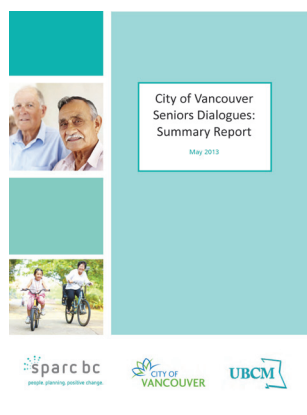
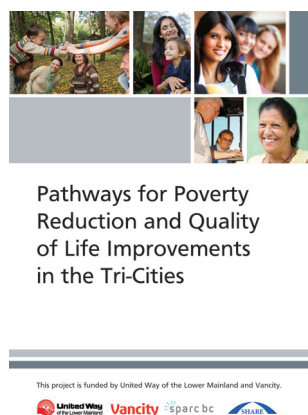
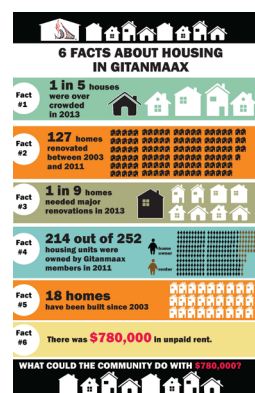
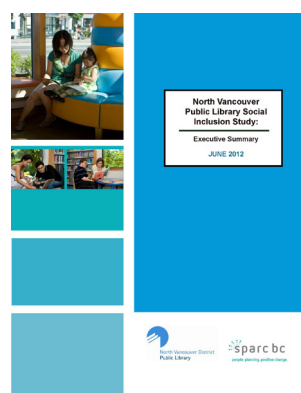
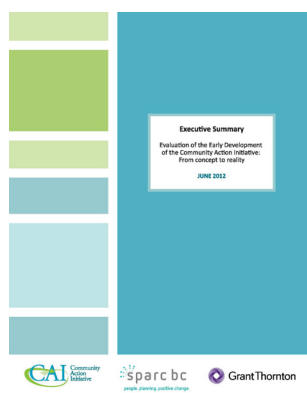
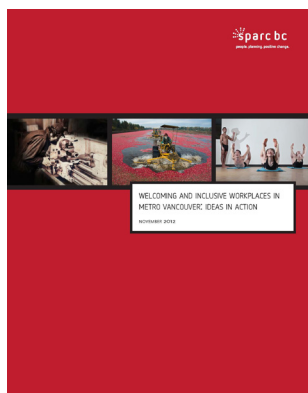


# Key Accomplishments

## Social Policy Research and Advocacy

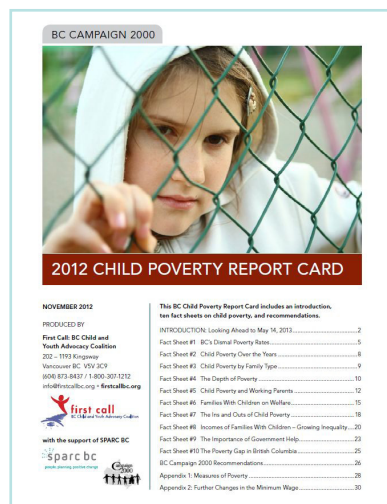
In 2012/2013, SPARC BC worked on more than fifty different projects through our work in research, planning and consulting. This has included the development of resources and materials to help advance important community conversations around:

- Food security and access to nutritional food for vulnerable populations;
- Community-based solutions and supports for people with mental illness and addictions;
- Homelessness;
- Housing and supports for people with developmental disabilities;
- Youth engagement;
- Early childhood development;
- Strategies to respond to the needs of an aging population;
- The needs of frail and vulnerable seniors;
- Single parent family households at risk of poverty and exclusion; and,
- Strategies to create welcoming and inclusive communities and work places.



## Release of BC's 12th Annual Child Poverty Report Card

This year we continued our efforts to work in collaboration with First Call and Campaign 2000 to produce an annual Child Poverty Report Card for BC. This report card focuses on policy changes that have helped to lift families and children out of poverty as well as changes that are still needed to ensure that children across BC have access to the opportunities that they deserve.



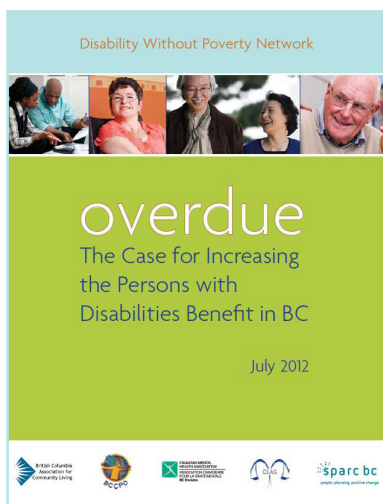
### **Excerpts from the 2012 Child Poverty Report Card**

In 2010, Statistics Canada reported that BC had an overall poverty rate of 15.5 percent (before tax) –the worst of any Province in Canada. The data also showed that the incidence of child poverty in BC was the second highest in all of Canada at 14.3 percent. BC also had the largest gap between rich families and poor families with families at the upper-end of the income distribution having an annual income almost 14 times higher than families at the lower-end of the income distribution.

First Call,  
BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

## Creation of the Disability Without Poverty Network (DWP)

This year SPARC BC also collaborated with the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD), Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS), Inclusion BC and the Canadian Mental Health Association (BC Division) to form the Disability Without Poverty Network (DWP). This network was created to draw attention to the needs of people with disabilities and to identify the types of policy changes needed to ensure that British Columbians who receive BC's PWD benefit are not living in poverty.



### **Excerpts from the Disability Without Poverty Network Brief**

The 2006 Census showed 193,530 individuals across BC with a health and activity limitation who were living in poverty. Many of these individuals rely on the disability benefits available through BC's income assistance program. Our research shows a growing gap between the cost of basic living expenses and what a person receiving BC's disability benefit can afford. It also shows that the assistance provided in BC for persons with disabilities is lagging behind other Provinces. Through the Disability Without Poverty Network, SPARC BC and our other partners are committed to working together to ensure that people with disabilities have the support that they need to live with dignity. Our research also shows that British Columbians care and that they recognize that as a province, we can do better.

Overdue: The Case for Increasing the Persons with Disabilities Benefit in BC

## Accessibility-Related Partnerships and Initiatives

### Access Awareness Day 2012/2013

Access Awareness Day is an annual SPARC BC-led campaign designed to draw attention to the types of measures and actions that are needed to allow our communities to become more accessible and inclusive.

The theme for the 2012/2013 Access Awareness Day was Celebrate Accessibility/ Celebrate Inclusion. Thirty-four local governments came forward to support our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Access Awareness Day by passing proclamations or leading local events and celebrations. Geographically this included twenty one different regions across BC.

Every year, we continue to see the number of communities participating in Access Awareness Day grow! This type of support is important in that it helps to show a real commitment to accessibility on the part of many local governments and community partners. The following list identifies the communities who joined us in celebrating Access Awareness Day in 2012/2013.

### Access Awareness Day –Community Leaders 2012/2013

Armstrong	Kelowna	Port Moody
Ashcroft	Keremeos	Powell River
Burnaby	Kitimat	Prince George
Campbell River	Langford	Prince Rupert
Central Saanich	New Westminster	Quesnel
Colwood	North Vancouver City	Richmond
Creston	Parksville	Sechelt
Dawson Creek	Penticton	Surrey
Duncan	Pitt Meadows	Trail
Fort St. John	Port Alberni	Victoria
Fruitvale	Port Alice	
Golden	Port Coquitlam	





## Other Accessibility Related Initiatives

This year we have continued with the use of our “your ideas” cards initiative. These cards are included in our communication with members as well as in the renewal notices that go out to all of our permit holders. The “your ideas” cards were designed to provide members and permit holders with a way to give us feedback and suggestions around how to work together to improve accessibility in communities across BC. Our initial “Your Ideas” campaign brought 195 responses including:

- Positive comments and feedback on the service we provide through the delivery of the Parking Permit Program;
- Some concerns about limitations in the number of parking spaces available in some locations and an interest in having us work with local businesses, community partners and local governments to ensure that there are enough designated parking spaces available to keep up with the demand;
- Some concerns about issues related to people who park in designated parking spaces without a valid placard and the need for stronger enforcement and penalties;
- Concerns about some permit holders who are not respecting the “rules of use” of the Parking Permit;
- Suggestions for accessibility improvements and enhancements to entrances, washrooms, community infrastructure and pathways.

We are grateful for the feedback that we received and will work to incorporate the comments and suggestions into the information that we provide about our program and the resources we produce.

my  
community  
includes *me.*  
accessibility.

# —Your Ideas—

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE -  
THINGS YOUR COMMUNITY IS DOING WELL TO ADVANCE ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION  
OR THINGS WHERE ADDITIONAL WORK IS NEEDED.

Comments and feedback excerpted from our Your Ideas initiative:

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*"Your parking card has been a real blessing to me. The only idea I can think of is to try to convince large businesses and institutions to add additional handicapped parking where possible."*

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*"The penalties when designated spots are abused are not high enough."*

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*"This is a really wonderful service. I use it often as I am 90 years old. It is nice not to have to carry heavy groceries."*

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*"First of all, I am grateful for SPARC BC. I am one who doesn't use the designated parking spaces unless I desperately need to. What frustrates me is the abuse of these spaces. Numerous times, I have either spoken or written a note to the offender. What I would like to see is a public service announcement informing the public that there is a penalty for parking in spaces that are reserved for those with a disability. It would be good to have a fine or loss of points."*

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## Our Partnerships and Relationships in 2012/2013

SPARC BC's success is the result of the strength of our membership base and the different partnerships and relationships that we have been able to build over the years. The following list shows some of the organizations and networks that we worked with in 2012/2013:

Alberni-Clayquot Healthy Communities Network	Langara Community College
Alliance for Equality for Blind Canadians	Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC
Association of Neighbourhood Houses	Leave Out Violence BC (LOVE BC)
BC Centre for Non-Profit Management	Living Wage Coalition
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities	Maytree Foundation
BC Non-Profit Housing Association	Ministry of Social Development
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition	Museum of Vancouver
BC Rural Secretariat	North Vancouver District Library
Burnaby Board of Trade	Okanagan RESPECT Network BC
Burnaby Homelessness Task Force	Pacific Community Resources Society
Campaign 2000	Public Health Association of BC
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	Planning Institute of BC
Canadian Council on Social Development	PeerNet
Canadian Mental Health Association	PovNet
Community Legal Assistance Society	Regina Public Library
Community Action Initiative	Safeway
Community Data Consortium	Service Canada
Community Foundations of Canada	SHARE Food Bank
Council of Senior Citizens of BC (COSCO)	Skeena Diversity
Cowichan Social Planning	Storytellers' Foundation
Disabled Women's Network (DAWN)	Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force
First Call	Translink (User Advisory Access Group)
Farm to Cafeteria	United Way of the Lower Mainland
Fraser Basin Council	United Community Services Coop
Fraser Health Authority	UBC Indigenous Community Planning Program
Fresh Outlook Foundation	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
Frog Hollow Generating Citizenship Project	Vancouver Aquarium
Gibsons and District Public Library	Vancouver Food Bank Fresh Choice Kitchens
Gitxsan Government Commission	Vancouver Foundation
Gordon Neighbourhood House	Vancouver Public Library
Human Resources & Skills Development Canada	Vibrant Surrey
Inclusion BC	Volunteer BC
Irving K. Barber Centre, UBC	Volunteer Canada
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver	Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC
	West End Seniors' Network
	Youth CO

## **AGENDA**

SPARC BC

2012/2013

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, BC

June 21, 2013

6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes from the AGM, July 13, 2012
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements -2012/2013
6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2013/2014
7. Election of Directors
8. Message from the Executive Director
9. Adjournment

# **MINUTES**

SPARC BC  
Annual General Meeting 2011/2012  
4445 Norfolk Street  
July 13, 2012

## **1. Call to Order**

The President called the meeting to order and welcomed all of the members present.

## **2. Minutes from the AGM, June 3, 2011**

The President referred the members to the minutes from the Annual General meeting held on June 3, 2011 at 5200 North Access Road, Chetwynd, B.C. The President called for a motion for the minutes from the 2010/2011 Annual General Meeting to be approved.

### Motion:

That the minutes from the 2010/2011 Annual General Meeting held on June 3, 2011 in Chetwynd, British Columbia be approved.

Moved: Irene Willsie, Seconded: David Rennie, All in Favour: CARRIED.

## **3. President's Report**

The President noted that the Annual Report that was circulated at the meeting includes a written copy of the President's Report. The President shared some of his reflections on the past year and thanked out-going Board members for their contribution.

The President noted that some of the Board's strategic priorities for the coming year will include working on raising the profile of key social policy issues as well as working to become more visible in the province.

The President also noted that the Board's priorities include investments in promoting social justice and in working to support community social planning and action. The President also noted that SPARC BC will continue to strive for organizational excellence and positive policy change for people and communities.

The President thanked the Executive Director and staff for their professionalism, dedication and hard work.

### Motion:

That the President's Report be adopted

Moved: Dr. Hal Gerein, Seconded: Dorothy Riddle, All in Favour: CARRIED.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The President introduced Steve Harvard, Treasurer. Steve provided an overview of the financial results for the year and noted that the organization had a successful year with the Audited Financial Statements showing a significant surplus. Steve noted that this surplus will be reinvested in the programs and services that we deliver as well as contribute to strengthening the organization's overall long-term viability and sustainability. Following his presentation, Steve moved that the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

Motion:

That the Treasurer's Report for 2011/2012 be adopted

Moved: Steve Harvard, Seconded: Linda Locke, All in Favour: CARRIED.

#### **5. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements -2011/2012**

The Treasurer presented the Audited Financial Statements for 2011/2012 to the membership and called for a motion that the Audited Financial Statements as presented be adopted.

Motion:

That the Audited Financial Statements for 2011/2012 be adopted

Moved: Steve Harvard, Seconded: Linda Locke, All in Favour: CARRIED.

#### **6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2012/2013**

Steve noted that after reviewing proposals from across a number of auditing firms, the Finance and Audit Committee is recommending that KPMG be appointed as the Auditors for SPARC BC for 2012/2013.

Motion:

That KPMG be appointed as the Auditors for SPARC BC for 2012/2013

Moved: Steve Harvard, Seconded: Linda Locke, All in Favour: CARRIED.

#### **7. Election of Directors**

The President introduced Jamie Maclaren, Chair of the Nominations Committee. Jamie referred members to the report from the Nominations Committee and provided a short overview of the Board's nomination process.

Jamie noted that 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).



Jamie also noted that the election of directors to the Board of Directors takes into consideration the Board's desire to reflect the geographic and social diversity that is characteristic of the province.

Following a brief introduction of the candidates who were up for nomination, the Chair of the Nominations Committee put forward the following motion.

Motion:

That the following four (4) directors serve on the Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year expiring in June 2013:

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

That the following four (4) directors serve on the Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years expiring in June 2014:

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

*That the following* four (4) directors serve on the Board of Directors for a term of three (3) year expiring in 2015:

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

Moved: Jamie Maclaren, Seconded: Nichola Hall, All in Favour: CARRIED.

Following the Election of Directors, Marcie Fofonoff , an out-going Director shared some of her reflections about serving on the SPARC BC Board of Directors. The Board presented Marcie with a small token of their appreciation for her contribution to social planning and her commitment to working to build a just and healthy society for all.

## 8. Proposed Name Change

Irene Willsie, Vice President and Chair of the Governance Committee noted that the Governance Committee has been engaged in a comprehensive review of the Board's policies and procedures and that after some discussion, the Committee is recommending that the membership formally change the name of the Society to the "SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY".

Irene noted that 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 wishing to operate under a name which may be confusingly similar. Following the presentation, Irene put forward the following motion:

### 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"

Moved: Irene Willsie, Seconded: Nichola Hall, All in Favour: CARRIED.

## 9. Message from the Executive Director

The Executive Director thanked the Board of Directors for their leadership and spoke about the vision, values and potential of the organization. Lorraine talked about the hard work and dedication of staff and noted that she is excited by the potential and possibilities of the year ahead.

## 10. Adjournment

The President thanked the members for attending and called for a motion for the meeting to be adjourned.

### Motion:

That the 2011/2012 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Irene Willsie, Seconded: Jamie Maclaren, All in Favour: CARRIED.

## Treasurer's Report

The focus of the Board of Directors over the past two to three years has been on restoring and strengthening the financial sustainability of the organization. This has included working to find alternate sources of revenue to replace the loss of funding from the United Way with 2012/2013 representing the first year that SPARC BC did not receive any core funding from United Way to support our activities across communities.

While the loss of United Way funding resulted in the need for significant adjustments within the organization over the past few years including how we deliver our programs and services, I am pleased to report that we have been able to remain strong with our audited financial statements showing an operating surplus of \$117,214 for 2012/2013.

I am also pleased to report that our strong financial performance over the course of this year can be attributed to the strong operating results for each of our three (3) business areas: the sale of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, the provision of research, planning and consulting services to non-profit organizations, civil society organizations, municipalities and other levels of government, and generosity of our members and donors.

Each of these sources of revenue plays a significant role in allowing us to invest in programs and initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of people and communities. We are proud of the results that we are able to achieve and understand the importance of the programs and services that we provide. Whether it is the delivery of the Parking Permit Programs for People with Disabilities or our work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, we know that our programs and services can make a real difference in people's lives and can help to ensure that people have access to the supports that they need to remain active in their community.

We also know that it is the generosity and support of our members across the province that has allowed SPARC BC to remain an independent voice and advocate for positive policy change across all levels of government. It is through this generosity that we have been able to build a forty-seven year history of working with communities across British Columbia to advocate for policies which contribute to a strong and sustainable social safety net while strengthening the social fabric across communities.

In addition to the programs and services that we deliver, the Board has also made significant investments in upgrades to our systems and infrastructure to better serve our clients and partners and to broaden our reach and relationships across the Province. As well, members of the Finance and Audit Committee have been engaged in looking at our internal processes and practices to ensure that they are strong and that we have the appropriate strategies and actions in place to ensure the long-term financial viability and sustainability of our organization.

As we go forward, it is our goal to ensure that the programs and services that we deliver are responsive to the needs of our clients and that we deliver these services in a manner that is as effective and efficient as possible. This includes working to ensure that we have appropriate measures in place to allow for our members and our clients to let us know if there are things that we can do better or things that we can do differently. We also know from the feedback that we receive from our clients that our efforts are valued and that our work plays an important role in the lives of people and communities.

I would like to conclude by thanking our members and those who support the work that we do in communities. I know that the dedication and commitment of both our staff and our membership base is one of the key ingredients to SPARC BC's continued success. I am looking forward to on-going strong organizational and financial performance in 2013/2014 and want to express our appreciation to each and every one of our members for the role that they have played and will continue to play in helping us to realize our vision of working together to build a just and healthy society for all.

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

**Steve Harvard**  
Treasurer

Financial Statements of

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)

Year ended March 31, 2013



**KPMG LLP**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society (formerly as SPARC BC Society), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2013, the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising 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 accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, 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 our 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, we consider internal control 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 Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society as at March 31, 2013, and its results of operations, changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Comparative Information and Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to note 1 to the financial statements which describes that Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society adopted Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations on April 1, 2012 with a transition date of April 1, 2011. We were not engaged to report on the restated comparative information, and as such, it is unaudited.



Chartered Accountants

June 18, 2013  
Vancouver, Canada

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Statement of Financial Position

	March 31, 2013	March 31, 2012	April 1, 2011
		(unaudited)	(unaudited)
<b>Assets</b>			
Current assets:			
Cash	\$ 744,628	\$ 366,912	\$ 104,838
Accounts receivable (note 3)	63,284	91,554	302,083
Short-term investments	690,353	690,539	590,170
Prepaid expenses	44,073	28,868	33,753
	1,542,338	1,177,873	1,030,844
Term deposits (note 4)	365,949	359,992	354,252
Property and equipment (note 5)	208,819	220,206	256,019
	\$ 2,117,106	\$ 1,758,071	\$ 1,641,115

## **Liabilities and Net Assets**

Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 151,083	\$ 161,114	\$ 58,897
Deferred contributions (note 8)	45,000	-	68,750
Deferred revenue on projects	351,397	123,973	244,747
Current portion of deferred lease inducement	20,572	20,572	20,572
	568,052	305,659	392,966
Deferred lease inducement	92,572	113,144	133,716
Net assets:			
Internally restricted (note 9)	600,597	542,813	643,813
Unrestricted	855,885	796,455	470,620
	1,456,482	1,339,268	1,114,433
Commitment (note 7)			
	\$ 2,117,106	\$ 1,758,071	\$ 1,641,115

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Statement of Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 2013, with comparative information for 2012

	2013	2012
		(unaudited)
Revenues:		
Permit sales	\$ 848,434	\$ 826,254
Memberships and donations	636,270	685,919
Rentals	22,740	22,740
Interest income	16,030	16,704
Other grants	2,785	8,409
Other income	1,207	-
Direct access gaming funds	-	68,750
United Way grant	-	58,757
	<u>1,527,466</u>	<u>1,687,533</u>
Projects:		
Consulting services	447,499	401,457
Disbursement recoveries	217,296	246,387
	<u>664,795</u>	<u>647,844</u>
Expenditures (schedule)	2,075,047	2,110,542
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ 117,214</u>	<u>\$ 224,835</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)

## **Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

Year ended March 31, 2013, with comparative information for 2012

	Internally restricted (note 9)	Unrestricted	2013 Total	2012 Total (unaudited)
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 542,813	\$ 796,455	\$ 1,339,268	\$ 1,114,433
Excess of revenues over expenditures	(19,403)	136,617	117,214	224,835
	523,410	933,072	1,456,482	1,339,268
Transfers:				
Planning for financial stability	7,187	(7,187)	-	-
Development and implementation of support partnerships - Community Data Consortium	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Implementation and enhancement of current IT infrastructure to implement SharePoint Enterprise	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Development and implementation of partnerships in support of poverty reduction	(25,000)	25,000	-	-
Development and implementation of support partnerships - United Community Services Co-op	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
	77,187	(77,187)	-	-
Net assets, end of year	\$ 600,597	\$ 855,885	\$ 1,456,482	\$ 1,339,268

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)

## **Statement of Cash Flows**

Year ended March 31, 2013, with comparative information for 2012

	2013	2012
		(unaudited)
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 117,214	\$ 224,835
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization	48,212	57,486
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	(20,572)	(20,572)
	144,854	261,749
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Decrease in accounts receivable	28,270	210,529
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(15,205)	4,885
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(10,031)	102,217
Increase (decrease) in deferred contributions	45,000	(68,750)
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue on projects	227,424	(120,774)
	420,312	389,856
Investing:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(36,825)	(21,673)
Investment in term deposits	(5,771)	(106,109)
	(42,596)	(127,782)
Increase in cash	377,716	262,074
Cash, beginning of year	366,912	104,838
Cash, end of year	\$ 744,628	\$ 366,912

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

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## **1. Nature of operations:**

Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society (the "Society") (formerly SPARC BC Society) is a Not-for-Profit Organization incorporated as a corporation without share capital under the Business Corporations Act of 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.

Amended Articles of Incorporation were filed under the British Columbia Society Act on August 9, 2012, to change the name of the Society to Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society.

On April 1, 2012, the Society adopted Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-For-Profit Organizations in Part III of the CICA Handbook. These are the first financial statements prepared in accordance with Not-For-Profit Standards.

In accordance with the transitional provisions in Not-For-Profit Standards, the Society has adopted the changes retrospectively, subject to certain exemptions allowed under these standards. The transition date is April 1, 2011 and all comparative information provided has been presented by applying Not-For-Profit Standards.

There are no adjustments to retained earnings as at April 1, 2011 or net income for the year ended March 31, 2012 as a result of the transition to Not-For-Profit Standards.

## **2. Significant accounting policies:**

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The Society's significant accounting policies are as follows:

### **(a) 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.



# SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (b) Trade and other receivables:

Trade and other receivables are measured at fair value on origination.

At year end, the Society assesses whether there are any indications that the carrying value of the receivables may be impaired. For purposes of impairment testing, each individually significant account is assessed individually; the balances of the accounts are grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics. When there is an indication of impairment, the Society determines whether there has been a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows. When the Society identifies a significant adverse change, it reduces the carrying amount of the receivable to the higher of the amount that could be realized by selling the receivable at the balance sheet date and the present value of the cash flows expected to be generated by holding the receivable.

When the extent of impairment of a previously written down receivable decreases and the decrease can be related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the impairment loss is reversed to the extent of the improvement.

### (c) Short-term investments:

Short-term investments consist of term deposits and accrued interest with maturity dates of greater than three months and less than one year at the date of acquisition. All investments are accounted for at fair value.

### (d) Term deposits:

Term deposits consist of term deposits with maturity dates of greater than one year at the date of acquisition. All investments are accounted for at fair value.

### (e) Property and equipment:

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Repairs and maintenance costs are charged to expense. Betterments which extend the estimated life of an asset are capitalized. When a capital 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 annual rates:

Asset	Term
Computers, furniture, other equipment	3 years
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

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## **2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

### **(f) 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.

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 reasonably assured.

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 probable.

Revenue from projects 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 completion of the contract. However, the progress of the project may not be accurately reflected in instances where subcontractors are hired and paid in advance. In these instances, management revises the application of the percentage of completion method to reflect the actual estimated progress on the project to date. A provision is made for the total anticipated loss when the estimates of total costs on a contract indicate a loss.

### **(g) 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, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of 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.

# SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (g) Financial instruments (continued):

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Society determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in 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 period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial impairment charge.

### (h) Deferred revenue on projects:

Deferred revenue on projects consists of deposits received for projects where revenues have not yet been earned.

### (i) Deferred lease inducement:

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

### (j) Use of estimates:

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with 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 receivable; the carrying amounts of property and equipment; and deferred revenue on projects. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## 3. Accounts receivable:

	March 31, 2013	March 31, 2012 (unaudited)	April 1, 2011 (unaudited)
Trade receivable	\$ 35,975	\$ 43,777	\$ 275,718
HST receivable	27,309	47,777	26,365
	\$ 63,284	\$ 91,554	\$ 302,083

# SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

## 4. Term deposits:

Long-term investments consist of term deposits plus accrued interest with a maturity of three years at the date of acquisition and interest rate yields ranging from 2.15% to 2.40%.

	March 31, 2013	March 31, 2012	April 1, 2011
		(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Concentra GIC	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Canadian Western GIC	100,000	100,000	100,000
Manulife GIC	100,000	100,000	100,000
Pacific and Western Bank of Canada GICs	50,000	50,000	50,000
Accrued interest	15,949	9,992	4,252
	\$ 365,949	\$ 359,992	\$ 354,252

## 5. Property and equipment:

			March 31, 2013	March 31, 2012	April 1, 2011
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value	Net book value
				(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 123,604	\$ 122,203	\$ 1,401	\$ 2,101	\$ 20,250
Computer	161,024	120,795	40,229	29,632	18,300
Leasehold improvements	298,773	131,584	167,189	188,473	217,469
	\$ 583,401	\$ 374,582	\$ 208,819	\$ 220,206	\$ 256,019

Amortization for the year amounted to \$27,640, net of amortization of the deferred lease inducement in the amount of \$20,572 (March 31 2012 (unaudited) - \$36,914, net of amortization of the deferred lease inducement of \$20,572).

## 6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities as at March 31, 2013 are government remittances payable of \$12,378 (March 31, 2012 (unaudited) - \$8,180; April 1, 2011 (unaudited) - \$3,778) relating to payroll taxes and health taxes.

# SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

## 7. Lease commitment:

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, excluding HST, operating expenses and property taxes.

## 8. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions represent funds received in advance from the BC Gaming Commission and for projects with the United Way that have designated special purposes and related expenditures have not been incurred.

Deferred contributions are recognized to revenue when the expenditures on the designated projects are made. Changes during the year are as follows:

Year ended March 31, 2013	Balance, beginning of the year	Contributions received	Amounts recognized to revenue	Balance, end of the year
Deferred contributions:				
BC Gaming Commission	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000

Year ended March 31, 2012	Balance, beginning of the year	Contributions received	Amounts recognized to revenue	Balance, end of the year (unaudited)
Deferred contributions:				
BC Gaming Commission	\$ 68,750	\$ -	\$ 68,750	\$ -
United Way	-	58,757	58,757	-
	\$ 68,750	\$ 58,757	\$ 127,507	\$ -

# SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

## 9. Internally restricted net assets:

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

	March 31, 2013	March 31, 2012	April 1, 2011
		(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Designated to:			
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	\$ 500,000	\$ 492,813	\$ 493,813
Development and implementation of support partnerships for the Community Data Consortium	32,000	-	-
Enhancements to the existing IT infrastructure and technology to implement SharePoint Enterprise	28,597	-	-
Development and implementation of support partnerships for the United Community Services Co-Op	15,000	-	-
Development and implementation of partnerships in support of poverty reduction	-	25,000	-
Enhancements to the existing IT infrastructure and technology	-	-	40,000
Development and implementation of partnerships in support of our mission including Sector Research Platform	25,000	25,000	25,000
Undertake an organizational effectiveness and efficiency review	-	-	35,000
Implement the outcomes arising from the organizational review	-	-	50,000
	\$ 600,597	\$ 542,813	\$ 643,813

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

(Formerly as SPARC BC Society)  
Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

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## **9. Internally restricted net assets (continued):**

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

## **10. Comparative information:**

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation used in the current year. The changes do not affect prior year earnings.

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

(FORMERLY AS SPARC BC SOCIETY)

## **Schedule of Expenditures**

Year ended March 31, 2013, with comparative information for 2012

	2013	2012
		(unaudited)
Amortization	\$ 27,640	\$ 36,914
Audit and legal	20,380	20,384
Board and executive meetings	54,444	57,890
Community data consortium	8,000	-
Computer and website maintenance	42,024	53,744
Fundraising	22,525	38,232
Insurance	5,028	4,750
Marketing, publicity and promotion	25,504	21,609
Newsletter / SPARC BC News	-	9,882
Office supplies	21,784	15,589
Organizational development	-	17,357
Other expenditures	12,120	13,430
Photocopying	22,700	11,430
Postage and courier	86,447	74,278
Printing	50,697	60,791
Professional and consulting services	7,260	32,631
Project disbursements	217,296	246,387
Rent	211,768	211,922
Repairs and maintenance	7,829	3,091
Salaries and benefits	1,156,326	1,119,142
SharePoint Implementation	11,403	-
Staff training and development	-	6,078
Telephone	19,967	21,742
Travel and meetings	43,905	33,269
	<b>\$ 2,075,047</b>	<b>\$ 2,110,542</b>



## 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 following provides information on the current structure and composition of the Board of Directors including those members whose term is ending and who are up for re-election. It also includes members who will be continuing their current two year and three year terms.

Members whose terms are ending and who are up for re-election

Nate Bello	(Quesnel)	Director since 2009
Jennifer Cliff-Marks	(Castlegar)	Director since 2008
Linda Locke	(Hazelton)	Director since 2009

Members who are continuing their two year terms to June 2014

Marilyn Belak	(Dawson Creek)	Director since 2012
Charley Beresford	(Victoria)	Director since 2011
Shelley Cook	(Kelowna)	Director since 2012
Cameron Gray	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011

Members who are continuing their three year terms to June 2015

Steve Harvard	(Victoria)	Director since 2008
Hugh Kellas	(West Vancouver)	Director since 2012
Jamie Maclaren	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011
Irene Willsie	(Williams Lake)	Director since 2006

The Nominations Committee is also pleased to introduce **Sharlene Frank** as a new candidate to be elected to serve a three (3) year term.

## Profile of Members Nominated for Re-Election

### Nate Bello (Quesnel)

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. Nate was 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.

### Jennifer Cliff-Marks (Castlegar)

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.

### Linda Locke (Hazelton)

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.

## Profile of Members Continuing Their Current Terms

### Members who are continuing their two year terms to June 2014

#### **Marilyn Belak (Dawson Creek)**

Marilyn joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2012. Prior to joining the SPARC BC Board of Directors, 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 process to develop the City's Official Community Plan 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 working to address 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).

#### **Charley Beresford (Victoria)**

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.

#### **Shelley Cook (Kelowna)**

Shelley joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2012. 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.

### **Cameron Gray (Vancouver)**

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 contributions and innovations 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 continue to make an important contribution to the work of SPARC BC.

### **Members who are continuing their three year terms to June 2015**

#### **Steve Harvard (Victoria)**

Steve has served on the SPARC BC Board of Directors since 2008 including serving as the Treasurer since 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.

#### **Hugh Kellas (West Vancouver)**

Hugh joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2012. Hugh brings a diverse range of skills and experience to the Board. Trained as an urban planner, Hugh held a series of positions within Metro Vancouver including the Manger 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.

## **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.

## **Irene Willsie (Williams Lake)**

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 Williams 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.

## **New Nominees to the SPARC BC Board of Directors**

### **Sharlene Frank (Victoria)**

Sharlene is a member of the K'ómoks First Nation and has a Master of Public Administration and a strong history in community development. For more than 20 years, Sharlene has worked with Aboriginal communities as a researcher, policy analyst and program administrator and has been involved in a wide range of individual and organizational capacity development issues. Sharlene's career has included working with Aboriginal communities to help them to define and develop their programs, services and vision. Sharlene has played many different roles from educator, mentor, advocate to elected leader and Task Force member. Sharlene has observed that over the course of her career she has come to appreciate the need for a continual process of developing, evaluating and refining a holistic view point on community development.

## Recommendation from the Nominations Committee:

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

That the current Directors, Nate Bello, Jennifer Cliff-Marks, and Linda Locke whose terms are expiring be re-elected to serve another three year term on the Board of Directors to June 2016 and that Sharlene Frank also be elected to serve for a three year term ending June 2016.





