



Annual Report 2013 - 2014

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.

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President's Message

I am pleased to present SPARC BC's Annual Report for 2013/2014. I have served on SPARC BC's Board of Directors for the past eight years in a variety of capacities and will be moving to the role of Past President in the coming year. With every passing year, I have continued to be amazed and inspired by the creativity, commitment and innovation of the individuals and organizations that make up the non-profit and volunteer sector in BC.

As an organization, SPARC BC has had the privilege of working with a broad diversity of individuals and organizations committed to building communities that are equitable, inclusive, socially diverse and economically sustainable. Our work has included partnerships in the area of food security and healthy access to food, child poverty and healthy childhood development as well as strategies to address issues of housing affordability and homelessness. Through the work of our Research and Consulting group, we have also focused on research and action related to the needs of vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people and communities as well as low income families and children living in poverty.

This past year we have also had an active year in working with communities across the Province. This has included our work with LIRN BC (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC) as well as our work with Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC (VOC BC), Volunteer BC and Vancity Community Foundation through the New Directions project that was funded through the BC Centre for Non-Profit Management and Sustainability. Through this project we have focused our efforts on the development of a Sector Impact Report and have worked together with others to build a shared narrative for the non-profit and volunteer sector in BC. Through our Community Development Education (CDE) program, we have also led workshops in a number of different communities and regions including the Alberni Valley, the Boundary Region, Castlegar, the Comox Valley, Parksville/Qualicum, Kitimat, Hazelton, Nelson, Shuswap, and Clayoquot.

Our partnerships through the Disability Without Poverty Network (DWP) and our work with First Call on the Child Poverty Report Card also continue to be important initiatives designed to help identify opportunities and actions needed to strengthen the social safety net. Our research shows that while other provinces across Canada have adopted specific measures and strategies to address issues of poverty and low income, BC has continued to fall behind. As a result, we see too many families and individuals who are unable to meet even their most basic needs like food and shelter. We know that, as a Province, we can do better and we must do better.

We have had another successful year in reaching out to communities and in supporting increased accessibility and inclusion through the delivery of our Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities. This has included the successful introduction of an Accessibility and Enforcement Line as part of our annual Access Awareness Day

campaign. As well, we are pleased to report that with each passing year we see more local governments engaged in acknowledging and supporting our efforts around Access Awareness Day. We are also seeing more communities engaged in conversations and actions to ensure that their communities are as accessible and inclusive as they can be.

This year, I am also pleased to announce that the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) is the winner of our 2013/2014 Deryck Thomson Award. Through the Deryck Thomson Award our goal is to recognize individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to social planning and social justice in BC. It is clear that the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society is a worthy recipient of this Award. Not only does BCANDS provide a strong and effective voice for Aboriginal people living with a disability but it continues to advocate for changes to our social safety net that would benefit everyone. On behalf of the SPARC BC Board of Directors, I want to thank the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society for their dedication and leadership in working to build a more just and healthy society for all. It is an honour to be able to recognize the tremendous work that they do.

As we reflect on the year that has passed, it is important to recognize the role and contribution of our members and donors. Over the past year, we have had significant success in growing and expanding our membership and donor base. In 2013/2014, more than 19,200 individuals joined our organization as new members or made a contribution to support our work with communities. As the President of SPARC BC, I am honoured by the trust, generosity and support that we continue to receive from our members and donors. We are fortunate to have this kind of support. I also know that it is the generosity and support of our members and donors that keeps us strong and that allows us to make a real difference in reaching out and supporting people and communities.

I want to conclude by recognizing the dedication, commitment and talent of everyone who has given of their time to contribute to the great work of SPARC BC. This includes the Board, staff and volunteers who share our same vision and who believe in the importance of the work that we do. It has been an honour to serve as the President over this past year and I am looking forward to more great things to come in 2014/2015.

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

It has been another busy year at SPARC BC. Through our work with people and communities, we seek to bring ideas, research and action to help create communities that are equitable, inclusive, socially diverse and economically sustainable. Our work continues to be guided by the belief that policy decisions must be informed and shaped by the people who are affected by them and who best understand the needs and challenges in the community.

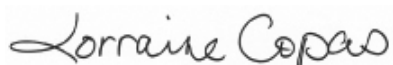
Recognizing the importance of working together with others, SPARC BC has a true passion and belief that it is possible to advance policies and decisions that can make a real difference in the lives of people and communities. To this end, we have been actively working to build key relationships and partnerships with all levels of government, community-based agencies and service providers, local social planning agencies, local government, academic institutions, civil society and others who share our vision and belief in a just and healthy society for all.

In reflecting on SPARC BC's history and contribution, it is clear that SPARC BC occupies an important place both in terms of the role that it plays in communities and its role in advocating for broader social policy change. Since it was established in 1966, SPARC BC has been recognized as an important voice on social policy issues in BC and has established a reputation for using evidence-based research as a way of advancing positive policy change.

We know that British Columbia is a prosperous province that holds a lot of promise. At the same time, we know that the opportunities can be uneven and that there are many low income families and individuals who are being left behind. As a society, we need to look at what can be done in order to ensure that the opportunities are there for everyone. This includes low income families, vulnerable seniors as well as people with disabilities. We also know that Aboriginal people and communities face historical and contemporary challenges and that there is a need to critically examine what can be done to remove barriers and build new bridges and new pathways forward.

As I reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I feel proud of what has been accomplished through the dedication and commitment of our staff, our volunteers, our members and our partners. Over the next year, SPARC BC will continue to focus on developing new areas of strength based on staff expertise and to pursue available opportunities while working with our community partners to build and strengthen the social safety net.

As I look ahead to 2014/2015, I feel confident that there are more great things to come. I know that by working together, we can create lasting and positive change. Thank you for joining us in helping to make this happen.



Lorraine Copas,
Executive Director, SPARC BC

About SPARC BC's Programs and Services

At its very essence, SPARC BC is about people and about communities. As an organization, our work is guided by the values of social justice, inclusion, integrity and learning. These values help to inform our work and guide our decisions.

SPARC BC uses evidence-based research, comprehensive and inclusive place-based planning, community dialogue, facilitation and community capacity building to advance policies and initiatives that will help strengthen the social safety net for British Columbians.

In addition to working to build local partnerships and relationships through convening and facilitating local meetings and workshops, we work to share our knowledge through our website and other online tools and resources. We also work to share our knowledge through the development of SPROUT publications and reports as well as through the active engagement of our different networks and partners.

The following provides some key highlights for 2013/2014:

- More than 57,000 individuals and organizations visited our website in 2013/2014 and we had more than 1,500 followers on Twitter;
- We received more than 19,000 calls from members and permit holders including more than 300 calls or inquiries to our Accessibility and Enforcement line;
- Staff in Research and Consulting completed thirty-two (32) research and consulting reports on a range of topics including housing and homelessness, food security for vulnerable populations, early childhood development, poverty and low income, as well as community and social inclusion.
- We received more than 3,200 responses to our Parking and Accessibility Survey with more than 45% of all respondents rating the overall accessibility of their community as excellent or very good. At the same time, approximately 1 in 3 respondents identified potential strategies or actions that could be taken to help improve the overall accessibility in their community.
- We convened or facilitated 23 community workshops and engaged more than 1,400 individuals or organizations from across BC through our CDE program and our New Directions Project that we delivered in partnership with VOC BC, Volunteer BC, and Vancity Community Foundation.
- We received acknowledgment and letters of support from more than 40 local governments as part of our Annual Access Awareness Day activities.

Our Partnerships and Relationships in 2013/2014

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 2013/2014:

Alberni-Clayquot Healthy Communities Network	Heart and Stroke Foundation
Association of Neighbourhood Houses	Inclusion BC
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS)	Irving K. Barber Centre, UBC
BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)	Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver
BC Centre for Non-Profit Management and Sustainability	Langara Community College
BC Coalition of People with Disabilities	Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC)
BC Non-Profit Housing Association	Leave Out Violence BC (LOVE BC)
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition	Living Wage Coalition
BC Rural Secretariat	Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
Burnaby Board of Trade	Okanagan RESPECT Network BC
Burnaby Homelessness Task Force	Public Health Association of BC
Campaign 2000	PeerNet
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	PovNet
Canadian Council on Social Development	Service Canada
Canadian Mental Health Association -BC Division	StepUpBC
Community Legal Assistance Society	Storytellers' Foundation
Community Action Initiative	Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force
Community Data Program	The Federation of Community Social Services of BC
Council of Senior Citizens of BC (COSCO)	United Way of the Lower Mainland
Disabled Women's Network (DAWN)	UBC Indigenous Community Planning Program
Disability Without Poverty Network (DWP)	Vancouver Aquarium
First Call	Vancouver Food Bank Society
Farm to Cafeteria	Vancouver Foundation
Fraser Basin Council	Vancouver Public Library
Fraser Health Authority	Vibrant Surrey
Fresh Outlook Foundation	Volunteer BC
Gitxsan Government Commission	Volunteer Canada
Gordon Neighbourhood House	Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC
Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness	West End Seniors' Network

AGENDA

SPARC BC
2013/2014
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, BC

June 20, 2014
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes from the AGM, June 21, 2013
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements -2013/2014
6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2014/2015
7. Election of Directors
8. Message from the Executive Director
9. Adjournment

MINUTES

SPARC BC
Annual General Meeting 2012/2013

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC
June 21, 2013

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order.

2. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting, July 13, 2012

The President noted that the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on July 13, 2012 were included in the Annual Report. The President called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the 2011/2012 Annual General Meeting.

Motion:

That the minutes from the 2011/2012 Annual General Meeting held on July 13, 2012 at the SPARC BC offices, 4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, British Columbia be approved.

MOVED: Marilyn Belak, SECONDED: Jennifer Cliff-Marks, All in Favour: CARRIED.

3. President's Report

The President noted that the Annual Report includes a report from the President. The President shared some of her reflections over the past year and thanked the Board and staff for their hard work and dedication. The President also thanked SPARC BC's members for their on-going generosity and support.

Motion:

That the President's Report be adopted.

MOVED: Charley Beresford, SECONDED: Steve Harvard, All in Favour: CARRIED

4. Treasurer's Report

The President introduced Steve Harvard, Treasurer. Steve noted that SPARC BC continues to have strong organizational and financial results. It was also noted that the Board will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen the organization's overall long-term financial viability and sustainability while reinvesting in communities. The Treasurer moved adoption of the Treasurer's Report.

Motion:

That the Treasurer's Report for 2012/2013 be adopted.

MOVED: Steve Harvard, SECONDED: Cameron Gray, All in Favour: CARRIED.

5. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements -2012/2013

The Treasurer referred members to the Audited Financial Statements on pages 21 to

36 of the Annual Report. The Treasurer presented the Audited Financial Statements and called for a motion to adopt the Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Motion:

That the Audited Financial Statements for 2012/2013 be adopted as presented.

MOVED: Hugh Kellas, SECONDED: Jennifer Cliff-Marks, All in Favour: CARRIED.

6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2013/2014

The Treasurer noted that KPMG served as the external auditor for 2012/2013 and recommended that KPMG be reappointed to serve as the external auditor for 2013/2014.

Motion:

That KPMG be appointed as the external auditor for SPARC BC for 2013/2014

MOVED: Steve Harvard, SECONDED: Marilyn Belak, All in Favour: CARRIED.

7. Election of Directors

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

It was 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).

It was also noted that the election of Directors takes into consideration the Board's desire to reflect the geographic and social diversity that is characteristic of the Province.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee reported that for 2012/2013, there are three (3) Directors who are up for re-election and eight (8) Directors who will be continuing their two year and three year terms.

The Chair referred members to the background information on each of the Directors who is up for re-election as well as those who are continuing their terms. This information can be found on pages 38 to 41 in the Annual Report.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee noted that there are three (3) Directors whose terms are ending and who have been nominated to serve an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2016. They are:

<i>Nate Bello</i>	<i>(Quesnel)</i>	<i>Director since 2009</i>	<i>Term ending June 2013</i>
<i>Jennifer Cliff-Marks</i>	<i>(Castlegar)</i>	<i>Director since 2008</i>	<i>Term ending June 2013</i>
<i>Linda Locke</i>	<i>(Hazelton)</i>	<i>Director since 2009</i>	<i>Term ending June 2013</i>

It was also noted that the Nominations Committee is recommending that Sharlene Frank (Victoria) be elected to serve on the SPARC BC Board of Directors for a three year (3) term ending in June 2016.

Following a brief introduction of the candidates, the Chair of the Nominations Committee recommended that the Directors as named be elected.

Motion

That Nate Bello, Jennifer Cliff-Marks, and Linda Locke, whose terms are ending, be re-elected for an additional three (3) year term; and, that Sharlene Frank be elected to serve a three (3) year term ending in June 2016.

MOVED: Steve Harvard, SECONDED: Marilyn Belak, All in Favour: CARRIED.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee also noted that the following Directors will continue to serve their two (2) year term ending in June 2014:

Marilyn Belak	(Dawson Creek)	Director since 2012	Term ending June 2014
Charley Beresford	(Victoria)	Director since 2011	Term ending June 2014
Shelley Cook	(Kelowna)	Director since 2012	Term ending June 2014
Cameron Gray	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011	Term ending June 2014

Similarly the following Directors will continue to serve their three year term ending in June 2015:

Steve Harvard	(Victoria)	Director since 2008	Term ending June 2015
Hugh Kellas	(West Vancouver)	Director since 2012	Term ending June 2015
Jamie Maclaren	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011	Term ending June 2015
Irene Willsie	(Williams Lake)	Director since 2006	Term ending June 2015

8. Message from the Executive Director

The Executive Director thanked the Board for their leadership, and management and staff for their commitment to the work of the organization. The Executive Director also noted that she is excited by the potential and possibilities of the year ahead.

9. Adjournment

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

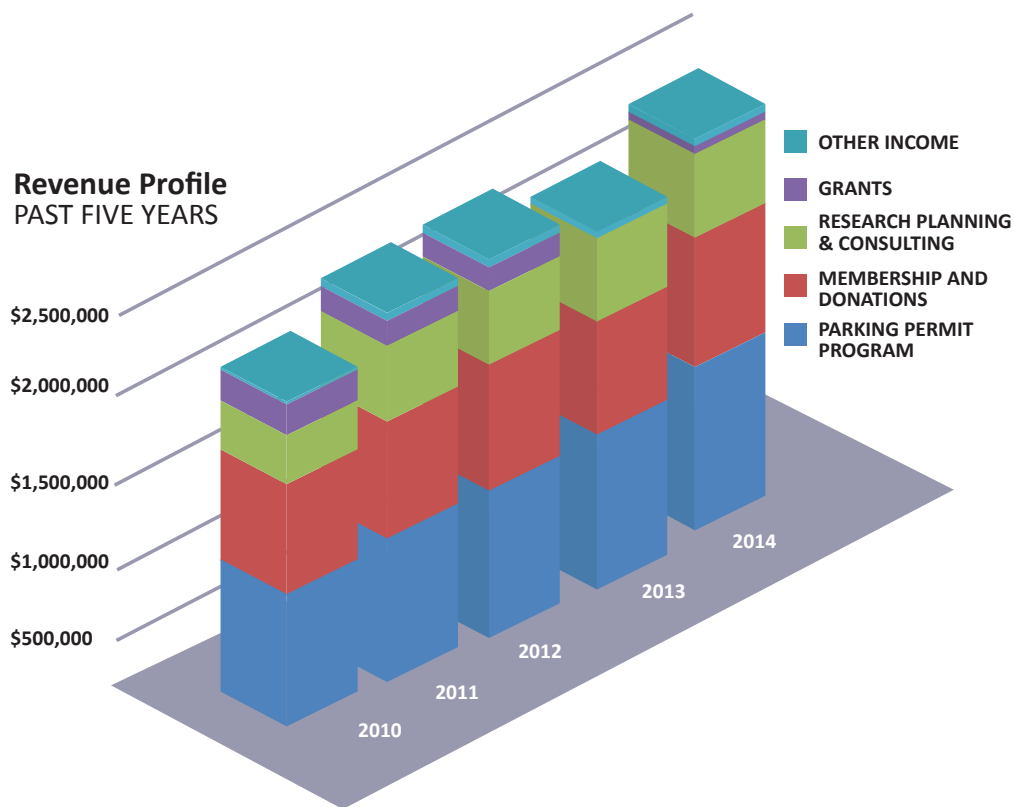
Motion:

That the 2012/2013 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

MOVED: Irene Willsie, SECONDED: Jamie Maclaren, All in Favour: CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for 2013/2014. Over the past year, SPARC BC has continued to have strong financial and operating results across all of our program and business areas. This includes the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, Membership and Donations as well as the revenue generated through our Research, Planning and Consulting Services. Combined these programs helped to generate \$2,065,360 in revenue over the year with the following graph providing a picture of the revenue profile for our organization over the past five years.



It is clear that each of our different programs and initiatives contribute to the work that we do and help us to advance our mission. I also want to acknowledge and thank the BC Government for the assistance they provide through the BC Gaming Grant. This funding goes to support our annual Access Awareness Day activities, our outreach to communities around accessibility and inclusion as well as our community development education program.

In addition to the strong financial performance of our different programs and services, I am pleased to report that SPARC BC has been successful in generating an operating surplus of \$194,598 in 2013/2014. This funding will be reinvested back into our mission-driven work including our work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction, as well as in community development education and outreach.

As a Board we recognize the important stewardship role that we play and know that we have a responsibility to provide the type of oversight and leadership needed to ensure that the programs and services that we provide are both sustainable and effective. Over the past few years we have made a number of investments in up-dating our office equipment and infrastructure in order to better meet the needs of our clients. This has included the introduction of our 1-888-718-7794 phone line which allows individuals and permit holders from across BC to reach us toll free.

This year, we have also made investments in updating our website as well as a number of security enhancements and other practical changes to our JADE database. These types of investments will help to reduce costs over the longer term as well as make it easier for our members and permit holders to find the information that they need. As we go forward, we will continue to explore other ways to use technology to improve productivity and to help us to do our business better and more efficiently.

Over the past year, our Finance and Audit Committee has also been actively engaged in working to establish a systematic approach for analyzing and evaluating risks and opportunities. This includes working to ensure that we have effective policies and controls in place to allow for the prudent management of the organization's assets and resources as well as working to establish clear policies and practices to allow for reliable reporting on results. We have also been looking at ways to ensure that our members and donors know how their contributions are being used and the types of results that are being achieved. As a Board, this is important to us. We know that it is the generosity and support of our members and donors that has helped us to make a real difference. To this end, I want to thank our members and donors for choosing to support SPARC BC – it is because of you that we are able to do what we do.

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

Steve Harvard
Treasurer

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 terms.

The following are the three (3) Directors whose terms are ending and who have been nominated for re-election for an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2017:

Marilyn Belak	(Dawson Creek)	Director since 2012	Nominated for re-election
Charley Beresford	(Victoria)	Director since 2011	Nominated for re-election
Cameron Gray	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011	Nominated for re-election

The Nominations Committee is also pleased to introduce **Christene Walsh** (Kelowna) as a new candidate to be elected to serve on the SPARC BC Board of Directors for a three year (3) term ending in June 2017.

The Nominations Committee also notes that:

The following Directors are continuing to serve a three (3) year term ending in June 2015:

Steve Harvard	(Victoria)	Director since 2008	Term expiring 2015
Hugh Kellas	(West Vancouver)	Director since 2012	Term expiring 2015
Jamie Maclaren	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011	Term expiring 2015
Irene Willsie	(Williams Lake)	Director since 2006	Term expiring 2015

The following Directors are continuing to serve a three (3) year term ending in June 2016:

Nate Bello	(Quesnel)	Director since 2009	Term expiring 2016
Jennifer Cliff-Marks	(Castlegar)	Director since 2008	Term expiring 2016
Linda Locke	(Hazelton)	Director since 2009	Term expiring 2016
Sharlene Frank	(Victoria)	Director since 2013	Term expiring 2016

Background information on each of the Directors up for re-election as well as those who are continuing their terms can be found in the section following Recommendations from the Nominations Committee.

Recommendations from the Nominations Committee

1. That the current Directors whose terms are ending – Marilyn Belak, Charley Beresford, and Cameron Gray be re-elected to serve an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2017.
2. That Christene Walsh be appointed to the SPARC BC Board of Directors for a three (3) year term ending in June 2017.

Profile of Members Nominated for Re-Election

Marilyn Belak (Dawson Creek)

Marilyn joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2012 and has served on the Nominations Committee. Prior to joining the SPARC BC Board of Directors, Marilyn 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." Marilyn also received several local Civic Leader citations and received the "misbehaving women" trophies three times. Marilyn also received two Aurora awards in 2008 and 2009.

Charley Beresford (Victoria)

Charley joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2011 and has served on the Governance Committee. Charley brings a wealth of experience in, 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 (Vancouver)

Cameron joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2011 and has served on the Governance Committee. Cameron is the former managing director for the Department of Social Development for the City of Vancouver and the former Director of the Housing Centre. Cameron holds a planning degree and a diploma in urban economics and is recognized for his knowledge and expertise in the area of housing affordability and homelessness. Cameron is recognized for his commitment to social justice and for his significant contribution to the development of innovative strategies and approaches in the field of housing.

Profile of New Nominees

Christene Walsh (Kelowna)

Christene Walsh currently works as the Social Development Coordinator (SDC) with the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Utilizing an urban health approach, Christene is an important resource for non-profit and government service organizations while helping to promote harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement services for individuals with complex needs. Christene also plays an important role in building partnerships and encouraging collaboration between service providers and brings significant experience in the area of community development, collaborative practice and the delivery of client-centered services.

Profile of Members Continuing Their Current Term

Members continuing their three (3) year term ending in June, 2015

Steve Harvard (Victoria)

Steve joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2008 and has served on the Finance and Audit Committee. Steve has also served as Treasurer since 2011/2012. Steve lives in Victoria with his family and brings significant experience in the area of transportation and transit planning. Steve also brings knowledge of accessibility and service planning as it relates to the needs in smaller, rural and remote communities. Steve's work has taken him across the Province and has allowed him to build a deep understanding of some of the challenges that smaller communities face. Steve's education and background include business management and community service.

Hugh Kellas (West Vancouver)

Hugh joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2012 and has served on the Finance and Audit Committee. Trained as an urban planner, Hugh held a series of positions within Metro Vancouver, including the Manager of Policy and Planning, and currently provides consulting services. Active in his profession, Hugh is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and a past president of both CIP and the Planning Institute of British Columbia. Hugh has also served on the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Lower Mainland. Hugh brings extensive knowledge of urban and community development.

Jamie McLaren (Vancouver)

Jamie joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2011 and has served as a Vice President and as the Chair of the 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 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 joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2006 and has served in a number of capacities. For the past two (2) years, Irene has served as the President of the SPARC BC Board of Directors. Irene is the Executive Director of the Women's Contact Society of Williams Lake. Prior to taking her position as Executive Director of the Women's Contact Society, Irene worked in the delivery of programs and services for youth including those who faced addictions-related challenges. Irene's career in non-profit society management, advocacy, and community development is diverse and progressive and includes work on issues related to income security, program development and service delivery. Irene also has experience in working to build community-based partnerships and relationships including experience in the area of fundraising.

Members continuing their three (3) year term ending in June, 2016

Nate Bello (Quesnel)

Nate joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2009 and has served as a Vice President and as the Chair of the Governance Committee. 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 joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2008 and has served on a number of Board Committees including the Finance and Audit Committee and the Board's Nominations Committee. Jennifer brings a strong background in the area of adult education and literacy and a deep understanding of some of the specific social issues and challenges in smaller communities. Jennifer has graduate training in Community Development from the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University. Jennifer is actively engaged in her community and is passionate about community development, especially as it pertains to rural communities. Jennifer has worked with Selkirk College in a variety of capacities in the area of adult education and continuing education.

Sharlene Frank (Victoria)

Sharlene joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2013 and serves as a member of the Governance Committee. Sharlene is a member of the K'ómoks First Nation. Sharlene 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.

Linda Locke (Hazelton)

Linda joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2009 and has served on the Finance and Audit Committee and the Governance Committee. Linda brings significant understanding of the issues and challenges of poverty and a deep understanding of the impact of poverty in smaller, rural and northern communities. Linda is a practicing lawyer and has been leading the work of the Upper Skeena Counseling and Legal Assistance Society (USCLAS) in Hazelton for more than twenty years. Linda obtained her Law Degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and previously completed a Social Work Degree at the 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.



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