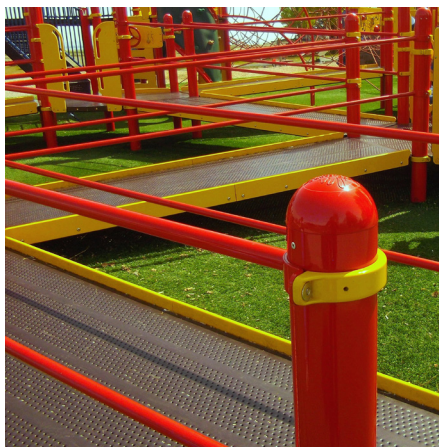




Annual Report

2014/2015



Annual Report

2014/2015

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

—Deryck Thomson, Founding President, SPARC BC

Recognizing and Remembering Deryck Thomson

The Deryck Thomson Award was created by the SPARC BC Board of Directors to recognize individuals and organizations making a significant contribution to social planning and social justice in BC. For 2014/2015, the SPARC BC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that two Awards will be given. The first Award will be presented to **Jason DaSilva** to recognize his work and accomplishments in the area of accessibility and inclusion. **The Coastal Family Resource Coalition** will receive the second Award for their collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life and well-being of families and individuals living in their region.

Jason DaSilva (Delta, BC)

Using his lived experience to guide his actions, Jason has used technology to reach out to others with disabilities to help build increased awareness and understanding of the needs and experiences of people with disabilities. Through AXS Map—a crowd-sourced platform—Jason has provided a way for participants to rate businesses on their accessibility features as well as share information about the overall accessibility of the different spaces and venues. Jason has also created AXS Lab which provides a space for people to share stories of disability and to generate ideas for innovation. Jason is also a prolific filmmaker. His latest film, *When I Walk*, tells the story of what it is like to become progressively disabled and allows people with disabilities to see their lives and successes as well as their struggles represented in mainstream culture and society. *When I Walk* was an Official Selection of the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and won Best Canadian Feature at Hot

Docs 2013. Jason's films have been broadcast extensively on PBS, HBO, and the CBC. The SPARC BC Board of Directors is both pleased and honoured to present Jason the 2014/2015 Deryck Thomson Award. We will be organizing an event in September 2015 to celebrate Jason's leadership in his field and to recognize his many accomplishments. Please join us.

Coastal Family Resource Coalition (the west coast of Vancouver Island, BC)

Faced with the challenge of serving a relatively small population (5,500 people in eight communities) across a large and geographically remote area, the Coastal Family Resource Coalition realized that one of the best strategies was to form a close-knit coalition of like-minded people. In 2003, the Coastal Family Resource Coalition began to transform their actions from a series of disconnected programs into an organized and focused network of active and engaged service providers. Today, the Coastal Family Resource Coalition has evolved into a strong and innovative network that supports relationship building, engagement, social planning and facilitation on a wide range of local and regional priorities. By working collaboratively, the Coastal Family Resource Coalition is focused on breaking down barriers and responding to gaps in services for everyone who lives in their region. They have also helped to create community service hubs and daycare spaces and have reached out to work in partnership with local First Nation governments to ensure that culturally appropriate services and programs are available for Aboriginal people who live in the region.

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President's Message

I am pleased to present SPARC BC's Annual Report for 2014/2015. We have had another successful year working with people and communities across BC to advance policy change in accessibility, inclusion, income security and poverty reduction. As civil society, we all have a role to play in breaking down barriers and ensuring that everyone has equitable access to housing, transportation, health, education, and economic security. Through our research and outreach we draw attention to areas where these needs are not being met and promote change to ensure that everyone has access to opportunities that are important to the well-being and social development of people and communities.

Our work in the area of community development education and outreach, both through the delivery of our CDE (Community Development Education) program and through our leadership in LIRN BC (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC), has continued to be an important area of focus. Over the past year, we partnered with nine other organizations and delivered workshops in Castlegar, McBride, Port Hardy, Shuswap, Tofino, and Wells through LIRN BC. Not only does this work contribute to the health and well-being of communities but it is central to our mission of working with communities to build a just and healthy society for all.

The situation of Aboriginal peoples and the deep wounds of the legacy of the Residential School system is alarming as well as the persistent discrimination against them. As a Canadian, I know that there is a significant and unresolved history around Indigenous people in Canada and that this is an issue that underlies the future of the country and that needs to be addressed by all levels of government and by all Canadians. In 2014/2015, the SPARC BC Board of Directors articulated a specific priority to expand and deepen our relationships with Aboriginal people and communities. This includes exploring opportunities to play a role in building bridges and in helping to create new pathways forward. Over the coming year, we will continue to look for opportunities where we can help to play a positive and constructive role in this regard.

It can also be surprising that in a Province as rich as BC, that there are more than 200,000 families and children living in poverty and almost 124,000 families spending 50% or more of their income on their housing costs. Over this past year, our research included an examination of the issue of family homelessness in a number of communities across BC including Kelowna, Prince George, Nanaimo, Nelson and Kamloops. Continuing to draw attention to the issue of homelessness as well as addressing the needs of children living in poverty through our partnership with First Call has been an important area of focus and will be an area that we continue to work to promote change in the coming year.

We will also focus our attention on the specific needs and challenges faced by low income and vulnerable seniors including seniors living in poverty as well as older adults who are experiencing isolation because of changing health needs and who are finding it increasingly more difficult to

remain active in their communities. Working in partnership with the West End Seniors' Network and with funding provided through the Vancouver Foundation, we have initiated a senior-led participatory action research project to engage older adults living in Vancouver's West End to help develop place-based strategies and actions to promote greater physical and social inclusion for aging seniors, many of whom face increased mobility challenges. We believe that the insights gained through this project will help to advance and support our efforts in the area of accessibility and inclusion.

I am also pleased to announce that this year, the SPARC BC Board of Directors will present two (2) Deryck Thomson Awards. The first Award will go to Jason DaSilva for his work in the area of accessibility and inclusion. Jason has shown himself to be a dedicated innovator and an important voice on issues around disability and accessibility. We will be hosting an event in the fall to honour Jason's work and to celebrate his many accomplishments. A second Award will be given to the Coastal Family Resource Coalition for their collaborative work in improving the quality of life and well-being of families and individuals living in their region on the west coast of Vancouver Island. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with them and to presenting them with this Award. It is through the efforts and positive leadership of groups like the Coastal Family Resource Coalition that we can demonstrate that the problems that we face in our communities are not problems without solutions and that change is possible.

In reflecting on the accomplishments and successes of the past year, it is necessary to recognize the generosity of the more than 23,000 members and donors who supported our work. 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 truly fortunate to receive this kind of support as it allows us to draw attention to the many important needs across communities and to promote change that can make a real difference in the lives of many. Thank you for choosing to support SPARC BC.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge the creativity, passion and commitment of the staff, students and volunteers who helped to contribute to our success over this past year. It has been an honour to serve as the President of SPARC BC and I look forward to more great things to come in 2015/2016.

Steve Harvard

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Harvard", written in a cursive style.

President, SPARC BC

Message from the Executive Director

It has been a busy year. I would like to share some highlights of our accomplishments related to our mission-driven work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction and community development, education and outreach. I would also like to share some highlights related to the work of our two (2) social enterprises—the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities and the provision of Research, Planning and Consulting Services. The results set out in this report speak to the strength of our many different partnerships and relationships as well as the success of our outreach and communication campaigns. **Here are some of the key highlights for 2014/2015:**

THE PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Over the past year, we assisted more than 47,000 Parking Permit holders from across 500 communities in BC, including 22,600 permanent permit holders who renewed their permits, 18,700 new permit holders as well as 5,700 temporary permit holders. This year, we also made changes to the way we deliver the program to help strengthen enforcement including changes to our temporary permits to make it more difficult for them to be altered. As well, we have introduced a practice of requesting the return of the expired Permits once a new Permit has been issued. We believe that these changes will help to strengthen our efforts in the area of accessibility and enforcement and help to keep the program strong.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION—BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY TOGETHER

Building Accessibility Together was the theme for this year's Access Awareness Day. We had more than forty (40) local governments and community partners celebrate Access Awareness Day with us through issuing proclamations as well as through hosting community accessibility events. We also released the results of our "Community Inclusion Initiative" this year. This initiative included the active outreach and engagement with community partners to show what it means to be a truly accessible and inclusive community. The photos and stories that were developed through this initiative helped to show the little actions that can help to make our communities more accessible and inclusive for everyone, and can help to start important conversations about what it means to be a truly accessible and inclusive community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Through our work in the Community Development Education (CDE) program and Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC) we partnered with nine (9) governmental and non-governmental organizations across BC including the Association for Neighbourhood Houses, BC Healthy Communities, Fraser Basin Council, the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Leave Out Violence (LoVE) Society, PeerNet BC, StepUP BC, Vantage Point and YouthCO to deliver a number of workshops. In addition, through LIRN BC, we delivered six (6) workshops in Castlegar, McBride, Port Hardy, Shuswap, Tofino, and Wells. We also participated in the delivery of a number of other

community-based initiatives over the past year including the delivery of workshops and presentations in Kelowna, Williams Lake, Terrace, Maple Ridge and Langley. These workshops covered a range of topics including building a shared narrative for the non-profit sector in BC as well as issues related to housing affordability and homelessness.

RESEARCH, PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES

Through our work in research and consulting, more than thirty-two (32) research and consulting projects were completed in 2014/2015 and an additional thirty-four (34) started. This included work in the area of housing and homelessness, food security, early childhood development, poverty, and economic, social, and cultural inclusion. We also had more than 3,000 individuals participate in our community-based research activities and more than sixty (60) different organizations from the non-profit sector, government (First Nations, federal, provincial, regional and local), academia, and health authorities partner with us.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Our efforts in the area of communication and outreach were also successful. We had more than 64,900 visitors to our website and more than 198,800 page views or an average of 16,570 page views per month. We also have 1,929 followers on Twitter including 400 new followers this year. In addition, we received more than 890 responses from non-profit organizations in more than 170 communities across BC in response to our New Directions Survey –a survey designed to explore the economic and social contribution of the non-profit sector in BC. These relationships are important and the opportunities to continue to build and strengthen our networks and relationships over the coming year will continue to be an important topic for discussion.

OUR MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We have also seen tremendous success in adding to our membership and donor base over the past year. In 2014/2015 we received support from more than 23,000 members and donors including 334 sustaining members who made monthly contributions. The growth in our membership and donor base continues to signal the importance of the work that we are doing and allows us to make a real difference in the lives of the people and communities we serve.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their leadership, dedication and support. As well, I would like to recognize the creativity, energy and commitment of the management team, staff, volunteers and students who through their collective talents and efforts have helped to ensure that we had another successful year. I am looking forward to all of the promise and potential of the coming year.

Lorraine Copas,



Executive Director, SPARC BC

Who We Are

“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.

What We Do

“At its very essence, SPARC BC is about people, planning and positive change.”

Our mission-driven work focuses on three key areas: accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction, and community development education and outreach. The following provides highlights of some of our accomplishments in each of these different areas.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

SPARC BC has a strong reputation in promoting positive policy change in the area of accessibility and inclusion. Our work in this area includes the design and delivery of public workshops, planning and research initiatives as well as outreach to local governments and community partners through initiatives such as Access Awareness Day, Everyone In!, as well as through our recent Community Inclusion Initiative. The following reflects some highlights from our work in the area of accessibility and inclusion for 2014/2015.

Building Accessibility Together—Access Awareness Day 2014

Every year, we reach out to local governments, businesses and communities across BC to look at how we can make our communities more accessible. In 2014/2015 our theme for Access Awareness Day was *Building Accessibility* Together. More than 40 local governments and community partners celebrated Access Awareness Day with us in 2014.

Everyone In!—Building Accessible and Inclusive Communities

Everyone In! is about sharing ideas and leading practices on actions that BC communities are taking to become more accessible and inclusive. This includes looking at different types of community spaces and gathering places to show what can be done to promote greater accessibility and inclusion across communities. We will document our findings and reach out to communities to show what can be done to ensure that our communities are as accessible and inclusive as possible and to ensure that we make space for everyone!

About our Community Inclusion Initiative

Through our Community Inclusion Initiative, we invited photographers (students, professionals, and amateurs) to share images and stories that show what it means to be a truly accessible and inclusive community. We received responses from a diverse range of participants (students, parents, photographers, people with disabilities, care givers and support networks) from across different regions and parts of the province. Each of the participants shared their unique perspectives and stories about what accessibility and inclusion means to them, and the little actions that can help to make a real difference by creating a genuine sense of connection and inclusion.

INCOME SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

SPARC BC's work in the areas of social policy research and advocacy focuses on addressing gaps in the social safety net and in working to create the conditions needed for positive policy change for people receiving income assistance as well as families and individuals living in poverty. Our work in the area of social policy research and advocacy includes public education and outreach as well as knowledge development through leading-edge, evidence-based research to advance and support positive policy change in the area of income security and poverty reduction. The following reflects some highlights from our work in the area of income security and poverty reduction in 2014/2015.

Responding to Child Poverty

Working in partnership with First Call, we produced the 2014 Child Poverty Report Card. The Report Card shows that BC continues to struggle with high levels of child poverty, with 1 in 5 children under the age of 17 in BC living below the poverty line. This translates into more than 169,000 children or 20.6% of all children between the ages of 0 and 17. Through the Child Poverty Report Card, we work to draw attention to the need for change so that every child is given a fair chance in life to realize their full potential.

Addressing Homelessness

Over the past year, we worked with the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness (RSCH) in Metro Vancouver to prepare an updated Regional Homelessness Plan and provided support to the local planning tables for Homelessness Action Week by helping them in their efforts to draw attention to existing and emerging needs across the region. In addition to our work with the RSCH and the local planning tables, we also engaged a number of community partners across BC—Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Nelson and Prince George — to look at the issue of family homelessness. The work builds on other research that SPARC BC has done including an examination of the problem of 'hidden homelessness' in smaller rural communities and smaller urban centres as well as an examination of promising practices for creating culturally responsive approaches for addressing the issue of Aboriginal homeless. Through research, we are committed to working to identify opportunities and solutions for ending homelessness.

Addressing the Needs of Low Income Seniors

There are 88,000 seniors in BC living in poverty. Many of these seniors are facing increasing levels of housing stress. In 2014/2015 we partnered with the West End Seniors' Network, the United Way of the Lower Mainland and the West End Seniors' Planning Table to document this need through the production of a video called "The Invisible Senior". We have also led a number of presentations and workshops on this topic including workshops at the BC Non-Profit Housing Association Conference, the Seniors' Advisory Committee in Maple Ridge, and the Triple AAA Seniors Housing Conference in Langley. Over the next year, we will continue to document the needs of seniors and to promote change through the publication of a "Seniors' Poverty Report Card".

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Community development helps to build capacity in local communities and support the active engagement and participation of all citizens. Community development provides an effective model for bringing citizens and community partners together. Through LIRN BC (Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC) and through our CDE (Community Development Education) program, SPARC BC co-designs and delivers workshops on a wide range of topics as well as produces SPROUT resource guides and publications to provide tools for social change. The following are some of the key highlights related to our community development, education and outreach activities in 2014/2015.

Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC)

LIRN BC is a collaborative approach to building on the capacities of rural, remote and northern BC communities. Services offered by the LIRN BC partners include the co-design of workshops to meet community needs and to facilitate and support dialogue to strengthen local capacity to take action on issues that matter. The LIRN BC partners have developed a flexible approach to working with communities that includes the co-creation of workshops and learning opportunities that are responsive to, and informed by the local context, and that identify and recognize local assets, issues, and resources. In 2014/2015, SPARC BC delivered six (6) workshops through LIRN BC including workshops in Castlegar, McBride, Port Hardy, Shuswap, Tofino and Wells.

Outreach and Engagement with the City of Vancouver Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

As part of our work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, SPARC BC provides accessibility audits and delivers community workshops. In 2014/2015, SPARC BC worked with the City of Vancouver and the City's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee to look at the accessibility of the City's public theatres spaces and other facilities. Members of the Audit Team used a multi-disciplinary approach that included considerations related to physical accessibility, as well as sensory (Deaf and Hard of Hearing and low vision). As part of this work, SPARC BC presented the findings of their Audit to the City's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and helped to facilitate a prioritization workshop.

Collectively Speaking—New Directions for the Non-Profit Sector

New Directions is a partnership between SPARC BC, VOC BC, Volunteer BC and Vancity Community Foundation and is designed to facilitate and engage the non-profit sector in conversations around the strengths, and the economic and social contributions of the sector. Through the New Directions project, community conversations have been held in more than thirteen (13) communities across BC. As well, more than 890 non-profit organizations from more than 170 communities across BC participated in our survey. We will be using the feedback received through the survey to produce a "Sector Impact Report". We will also work with community partners from across the sector to explore ways to work together to build solutions to some of the common issues and challenges we share as a sector.

About LIRN BC

Since its inception in 2006, LIRN BC has consistently provided high-quality and relevant community development support to communities across BC, involving more than twenty (20) different governmental and non-governmental partners, to facilitate and support the co-creation of more than ninety-nine (99) learning events across forty-one different BC communities.

It is estimated that more than 2,250 participants have taken part in those events, with SPARC BC continuing to be a key partner in LIRN BC.

Key workshop topics and areas of focus explored through LIRN BC included:

Relationship Building—Thirty-three (33) events focused on relationship building, partnership development, and establishing networks including building relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

Engagement—Eight (8) events involved strengthening engagement in decision making with a focus on issues such as youth engagement, participatory budgeting, and methods of community engagement.

Coordinated Approaches to Community Problems—Seventeen (17) events focused on strengthening the ability of organizations to work together to address common issues and challenges including topics related to community social planning, social development strategies, community sustainability planning, and service coordination.

Community Economic Development—Ten (10) events addressed community economic development issues addressing issues such as social enterprise development, cultural tourism and regional economic development planning.

Development of Skills and Organizational Capacity—Thirteen (13) workshops focused on skills development in areas such as grassroots group development, strategic planning and project planning, program evaluation, and grant writing.

Addressing Community Issues—Eighteen (18) workshops focused on specific community issues including accessibility, food security, homelessness, housing affordability, poverty, multiculturalism, health, community arts, and volunteerism.

Future Directions

The following sets out the Board's key strategic priorities in the area of accessibility and inclusion, social policy research and advocacy, and community development education and outreach for the next three years (2015/2016 to 2017/2018):

- 1 Strengthening our efforts in the area of accessibility and enforcement
- 2 Building and enhancing our relationships with local governments and local communities to advance shared accessibility goals
- 3 Monitoring the implementation of the strategies and actions set out in the provincial government's 2024 Accessibility Action Plan launched in May 2014.
- 4 Exploring opportunities to influence policy change related to the built environment including changes in BC's Building Code as well as changes in income assistance rates for persons with disabilities.
- 5 Providing leading-edge evidence-based research to support positive policy change to better meet the needs of low income and vulnerable families and individuals.
- 6 Maintaining on-going partnerships with the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, First Call and others who share our values and who are committed to working to build a more just and healthy society for all.
- 7 Supporting local strategies and initiatives to better meet the needs of vulnerable families and individuals including seniors, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities as well as children and youth living in poverty.
- 8 Deepening SPARC BC's efforts in supporting local communities, particularly rural and smaller communities across BC.
- 9 Expanding SPARC BC's work related to building and strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and communities.
- 10 Delivering a minimum of eight (8) to ten (10) community development workshops across BC through LIRN BC as well as other initiatives.
- 11 Supporting information sharing and knowledge exchange through the production of SPROUT publications, resource guides and other materials.
- 12 Strengthening relationships with rural and smaller communities across BC including providing community development education and outreach to these communities.
- 13 Strengthening relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal people and communities across BC.
- 14 Recognizing individuals and organizations making a significant contribution to social planning and social justice in BC through the annual Deryck Thomson Award.

About Our Social Enterprises

SPARC BC operates two (2) social enterprises including the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities as well as the delivery of Research, Planning and Consulting Services. The following provides highlights of the results achieved in 2014/2015.

THE PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SPARC BC is responsible for the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities across BC. This involves working with municipalities to ensure that accessible parking is available for those who need it as well as working with key Provincial and community partners to provide the necessary oversight and administration. In 2014/2015, we assisted more than 47,000 Parking Permit holders from across more than 500 communities in BC. This includes 22,600 permanent permit holders who renewed their permits, 18,700 new permit holders and 5,700 temporary permit holders.

We know the Parking Permit Program is valued, and that the services provided through the Parking Permit Program play a central role in supporting the independence and the active engagement of people with disabilities. The following are some excerpts from letters and notes that we have received from our permit holders:

“With my parking permit my life activities are easier for me. Thank you, SPARC BC.”

“I would really like to let you know that I am very appreciative of you and your service. Having the ability to find a place to park that gives me room to get in and out of our vehicle is a godsend.”

“I just wanted to say thank you for your great help for my mom.”

RESEARCH, PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES

SPARC BC also provides research, planning and consulting services to all levels of government (federal, provincial, regional, local and First Nations) as well as community-based agencies and service providers. The services provided through Research and Consulting include education and outreach, social policy, research and analysis, community facilitation and program evaluation. In 2014/2015 more thirty-two (32) research and consulting projects were completed and an additional thirty-four (34) were started. This included work in the area of housing and homelessness, food security, early childhood development, poverty and economic and social and cultural inclusion. More than 3,000 individuals and sixty (60) different organizations from the non-profit sector, government, academia, and local health authorities participated or partnered in our research with the list on the following page showing some of our collaborators, clients and partners.

Our Collaborators, Clients and Partners

SPARC BC's success is closely linked to the interests and aspirations of our progressive collaborators, clients and partners who share our values and our commitment to working to promote lasting and positive change. The following is a list of some of our key partners and collaborators:

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Boundary Region
City of Kamloops
City of Kelowna
City of Nanaimo
City of Nelson
City of Pitt Meadows
City of Port Moody
City of Powell River
City of Richmond
City of Surrey
City of Vancouver
District of Tofino
Metro Vancouver
Fraser Valley Regional District
Town of Smithers
Village of Burns Lake
First Nations and Health Authorities
Gitksan Government Commission
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nations
Office of the Wet'suwet'en
First Nations Health Authority
Gitksan Health

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, NETWORKS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Alliance for Equality for Blind Canadians
BC Aboriginal Childcare Society (BCACS)
BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)
BC Centre for Non-Profit Management and Sustainability
BC Council for Families (BCCF)
BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA)
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)
Board Voice
Burnaby Homeless Connect
Burnaby Board of Trade
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)
Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD)
Canadian Evaluation Society (CES)
Canadian Mental Health Association
Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
Columbia Basin Trust
Co-op Housing Federation of BC (CHF-BC)
Crisis Centre
Disability Alliance BC (DABC)
First Call

Federation of Community Social Services
Farm to Cafeteria Canada (F2CC)
Georgia Strait Alliance
Gordon Neighbourhood House Seniors' Planning Table
Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society
Heart and Stroke Foundation
Hiiye'yu Lelum - House of Friendship
Human Resources and Skill Development Canada
Inclusion BC
Leave Out Violence BC (LOVE BC)
Metro Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness
Nanaimo Disability Resource Centre
Nanaimo Foundation
North Shore Homelessness Task Force (Homelessness Action Week)
Planning Institute of BC (PIBC)
PeerNet BC
Peninsula Homeless to Housing (PH2H) (Homelessness Action Week)
Public Health Services Authority
Richmond Centre for Disability
Richmond Homelessness Coalition (Homelessness Action Week)
Salvation Army Caring Place (Homelessness Action Week)
Seniors' Services Society
Surrey Homelessness & Housing Society
Simon Fraser University, Department of Sociology
The Gathering Place (City of Vancouver)
United Way of the Lower Mainland
University of British Columbia, College of Health Disciplines
University of British Columbia, Department of Geography
University of British Columbia, Human Early Learning Partnership
University of British Columbia, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
University of British Columbia, School of Community & Regional Planning
University of British Columbia Okanagan
University of Toronto, Faculty of Social Work
University of Waterloo, Propel Centre for Population Health
Vancity Community Foundation
Vancouver Aquarium
Vancouver Foundation
Vancouver School Board
Vibrant Abbotsford
Vibrant Surrey
Voluntary Organizations Consortium of BC
Volunteer BC
Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
West End Seniors' Network (WESN)
Yukon Government, Department of Justice

AGENDA

SPARC BC
2014/2015
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, BC
June 19, 2015
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes from the AGM, June 20, 2014
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements -2014/2015
6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2015/2016
7. Election of Directors
8. Message from the Executive Director
9. Adjournment

MINUTES

SPARC BC
Annual General Meeting 2013/2014

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC
June 20, 2014

1. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order.

2. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting, June 21, 2013

The President noted that the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 21, 2013 were included in the Annual Report. The President called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the 2013/2014 Annual General Meeting.

Motion:

That the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 21, 2013 at the SPARC BC offices, 4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, British Columbia be approved.

MOVED: Marilyn Belak, SECONDED: Brandy MacKinnon, All in Favour: CARRIED.

3. President's Report

The President referred members to the written President's Report in the Annual Report. The President shared some highlights from the year. The President also thanked SPARC BC's members for their on-going generosity and support.

Motion:

That the President's Report be adopted.

MOVED: Sharlene Frank, SECONDED: Jamie Maclaren, All in Favour: CARRIED.

4. Treasurer's Report

The President asked the Treasurer to speak. The Treasurer provided a brief overview of the financial performance for the year including a summary of the different sources of revenue and expenses.

Motion:

That the Treasurer's Report for 2013/2014 be adopted.

MOVED: Linda Locke, SECONDED: Jamie Maclaren, All in Favour: CARRIED.

5. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements—2013/2014

The Treasurer referred members to the Audited Financial Statements which were included as an attachment to the report.

Motion:

That the Audited Financial Statements for 2013/2014 as presented be adopted.

MOVED: Jennifer-Cliff Marks, SECONDED: Nate Bello, All in Favour: CARRIED.

6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2014/2015

The Treasurer noted that KPMG provided the external auditing services for 2013/2014 and recommended that KPMG be reappointed to serve as the external auditors for 2014/2015.

Motion:

That KPMG be appointed as the external auditors for SPARC BC for 2014/2015

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

7. Election of Directors

The President asked the Chair of the Nominations Committee to provide a short overview of the Board's nomination process. The Chair of the Nominations Committee referred members to the background information for each of the Directors and noted that there are three (3) Directors whose terms are ending and who have been nominated for re-election for an additional three (3) years:

<i>Marilyn Belak</i>	<i>(Dawson Creek)</i>	<i>Director since 2012</i>
<i>Charley Beresford</i>	<i>(Victoria)</i>	<i>Director since 2011</i>
<i>Cameron Gray</i>	<i>(Vancouver)</i>	<i>Director since 2011</i>

The Nominations Committee also recommended that Christene Walsh (Kelowna) be elected to serve on the SPARC BC Board of Directors for a three year (3) term.

Following a brief introduction of the candidates, the Chair of the Nominations Committee made the following motion:

Motion

(a) That the current Directors whose terms are ending — Marilyn Belak, Charley Beresford, and Cameron Gray, be re-elected to serve an additional three (3) years, ending in 2017; and,

(b) That Christene Walsh be elected to serve a three (3) year term ending June 2017.

MOVED: Nate Bello, SECONDED: Steve Harvard, All in Favour: CARRIED.

8. Message from the Executive Director

The President asked the Executive Director to say a few words.

9. Adjournment

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

Motion:

That the 2013/2014 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

MOVED: Hugh Kellas, SECONDED: Irene Willsie, All in Favour: CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for 2014/2015. Over the past year, SPARC BC has continued to show good financial results in the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, and in the provision of Research, Planning and Consulting services. The very significant support we receive from our members and donors every year contributes substantially to SPARC BC's ability to reach out to more communities and advance our mission of building a just and healthy society for all.

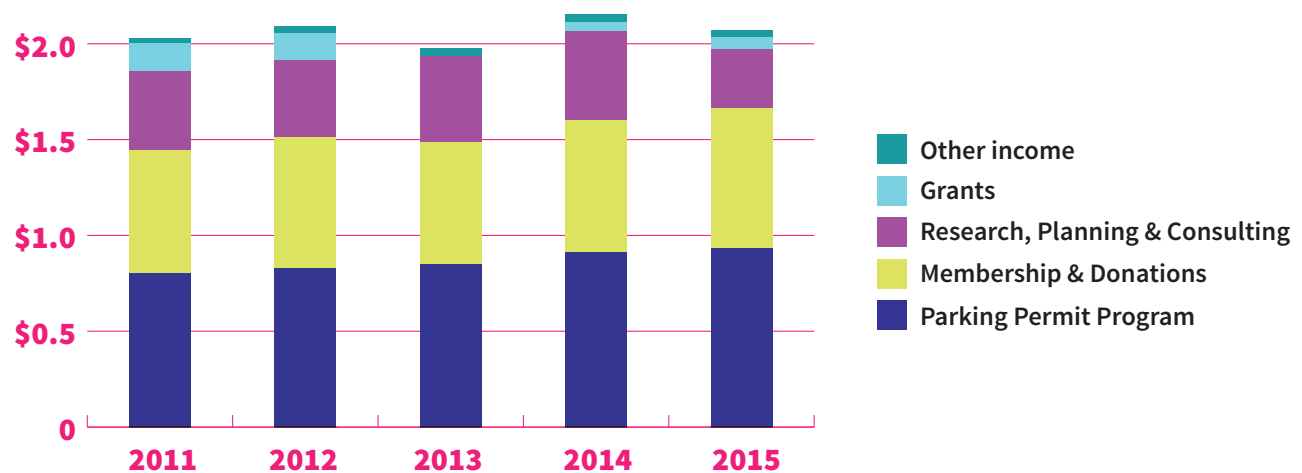
SPARC BC was established in 1966 and operates through a social enterprise model which means that all of the revenue generated through our different programs and initiatives is reinvested in advancing the Board's key strategic priorities in the areas of accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction, and community development.

2014/2015 was a year of continued growth and reinvestment for SPARC BC.

In 2014/2015, SPARC BC generated total revenue of \$2,069,000, exceeding its target by \$15,000. Graph 1 shows sources of revenue as well as changes in the revenues over the last five (5) years.

REVENUE for 2011–2015

\$2.5 million



The Parking Program for People with Disabilities represents an important business area for our organization accounting for 45% of the total revenue. In 2014/2015, we served more than 47,000 permit holders from across BC including approximately 22,600 permit holders who renewed their permanent permits, 18,700 new permit holders, and 5,700 temporary permit holders.

The revenue generated through the Parking Permit Program not only helps us to meet the needs of those who depend on this service but it also supports our Accessibility and Enforcement line and our work in accessibility and inclusion across communities.

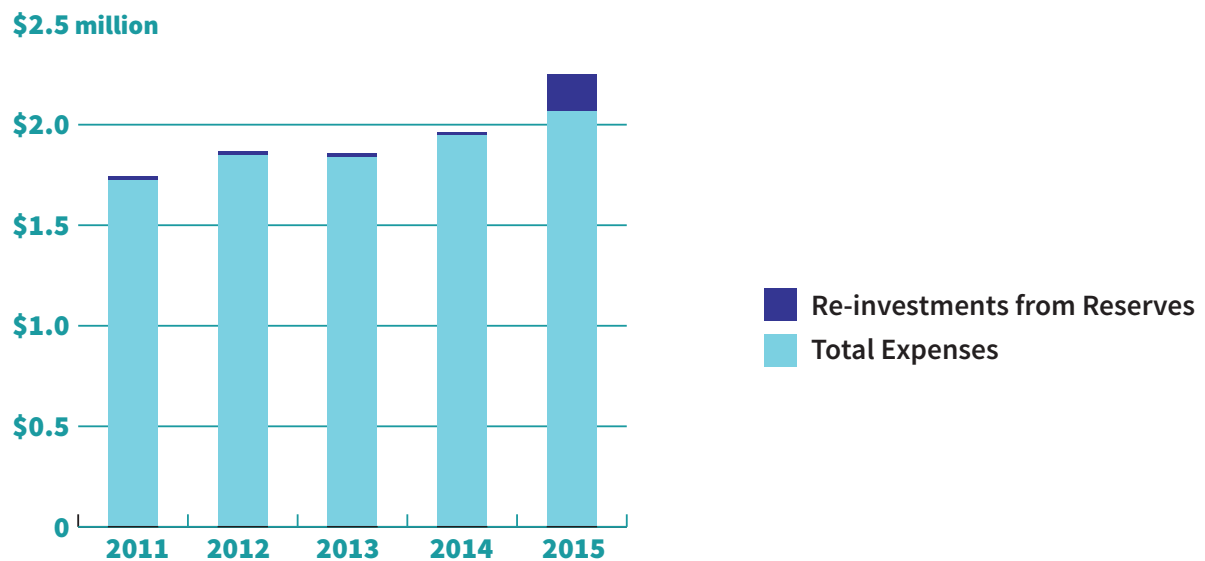
The performance of the Research and Consulting team has been strong despite a more difficult external environment for this social enterprise. In 2014/2015, Research and Consulting generated \$305,456 in revenue. This was \$42,856 over the revenue target established for the year and accounts for 15% of the total revenue.

Staff in Research and Consulting provides services to all levels of government (federal, provincial, regional, local and First Nations) as well as community based agencies and service providers. These services include education and outreach, social policy research and analysis, community facilitation and program evaluation. All of the work undertaken by staff in Research and Consulting is aligned with our mission and any revenue generated through the program is reinvested in SPARC BC’s mission-driven work.

Contributions from our members and donors play a critical role in supporting our work in communities. SPARC BC is fortunate to have the generous support of a broad membership and donor base who share our vision of a just and healthy society for all. In 2014/2015, revenue from Membership and Donations was \$734,274, accounting for 35% of our annual operating budget. As a non-profit society and federally-registered charity, we rely on the support of our members and donors to advance our work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction, and community development education and outreach. The generosity of our members and donors keeps our programs strong and makes a real difference in the lives of people and communities.

EXPENSES for 2011–2015

Total expenses in 2014/2015 were \$2,249,335. This includes \$183,194 that was reinvested from our reserve account. Graph 2 shows the total expenses for 2011 to 2015 including the additional funding that was invested from the SPARC BC’s reserve account.



Note: Excluding Research and Consulting project disbursements

After a period of uncertainty, SPARC BC's financial position has been relatively strong. As a result, in 2014/2015 the Board made a decision to re-invest an additional \$150,000 from reserves to further advance our mission-driven work. These investments allowed for additional staffing and capacity in the area of accessibility and inclusion as well as additional outreach around the rules of use for designated parking.

This year, we also introduced our Community Inclusion Initiative which included published images and stories from professional and amateur photographers, students, people with disabilities, and their families and support networks about what it means to be a truly accessible and inclusive community. All of these initiatives play a key role in advancing our mission and in promoting change.

The Board also made an additional investment of \$55,000 in our computer systems to better meet the needs of our Parking Permit holders. This includes enhancement to our website to allow members and Parking Permit holders to update their address information and renew their permits on-line. The introduction of these changes means better customer service, greater efficiency, as well as the potential for cost savings in printing and postage. In 2014/2015, SPARC BC spent close to \$160,000 on printing and postage alone. As we find opportunities for savings and greater efficiencies, it means that more funding is available to advance and support our mission-driven work.

I want to conclude by thanking our members and donors as well as our staff for a productive and successful year. I also want to acknowledge the contribution of the BC government through the BC Community Gaming Grant. It is by working together that we can realize our vision of building a just and healthy society for all. I look forward to continued success in 2015/2016.

Hugh Kellas

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

Treasurer, SPARC BC

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 and includes information on Directors whose terms are ending and who are standing for re-election.

The Nominations Committee notes that there are four (4) Directors whose terms are ending in June 2015. However, two of the Directors—Jamie Maclaren (Vancouver) and Irene Willsie (Williams Lake) will not be standing for re-election. This leaves two (2) vacancies on the Board.

There are two (2) remaining Directors—Steve Harvard (Victoria) and Hugh Kellas (West Vancouver) whose terms are ending and who have agreed to stand for re-election for an additional three (3) years.

Steve Harvard	(Victoria)	Director since 2008	Term expiring 2018
Hugh Kellas	(West Vancouver)	Director since 2012	Term expiring 2018

Charley Beresford, has also indicated that she is wishing to step down from the Board, leaving an additional vacancy on the Board.

At this time, the Nominations Committee is recommending that Susan Wood Jensen (Prince George) be elected to serve on the SPARC BC Board of Directors for a three (3) year term ending in June 2018 and that the remaining two (2) vacancies will be filled at a later date. The Nominations Committee is also recommending that Steve Harvard and Hugh Kellas be elected for an additional three (3) year term ending in 2018.

Steve Harvard	(Victoria)	Director since 2008	Term expiring 2018
Hugh Kellas	(West Vancouver)	Director since 2012	Term expiring 2018

The Nominations Committee also notes that the following Directors are continuing to serve a three (3) year term ending in June 2017:

Marilyn Belak	(Dawson Creek)	Director since 2012	Term expiring 2017
Cameron Gray	(Vancouver)	Director since 2011	Term expiring 2017
Christene Walsh	(Kelowna)	Director since 2014	Term expiring 2017

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

Nate Bello	(Lantzville)	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

Recommendations from the Nominations Committee:

1. That Steve Harvard and Hugh Kellas whose term is ending be re-elected to serve for an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2018; and,
2. That Susan Wood Jensen be appointed to the SPARC BC Board of Directors for a three (3) year term ending in June 2018; and,
3. That the two (2) remaining vacancies on the Board be filled at a later date.

Background information on each of the Directors who have been nominated for election or re-election can be found in the following section. In addition, information is also available on the Directors who are continuing their terms.

Profile of Directors Nominated for Election & Re-Election

Steve Harvard—President (Victoria, BC)

Steve joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2008 and has served on the Finance and Audit Committee. Steve also served as Treasurer since 2011. 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—Treasurer (West Vancouver, BC)

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.

Susan Wood Jensen (Prince George, BC)

Susan was born in Dawson Creek and is currently living in Prince George. Susan has a passion for social justice and has had a career working with older adults, seniors and people with disabilities. Susan holds a degree from Northern Lights College in Dawson Creek, BC where she majored in business finance and business administration. Susan has extensive experience in working in legal services and has assisted many seniors in dealing with issues around landlord/tenant relations as well as abuse, criminal matters, family matters, and access to benefits. Susan has always found this work to be gratifying and believes in the importance of working to do good deeds for others. Susan is excited by the opportunity to join the SPARC BC Board of Directors and is committed to bringing her knowledge, insights and passion to the Board.

Profile of Directors Continuing Their Three (3) Year Term

Nate Bello—Vice President (Lantzville, BC)

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.

Jennifer Cliff-Marks—Vice President (Castlegar, BC)

Jennifer joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2008 and has served on the Nominations and Governance Committees. 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 Adult Education and 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 and continuing education.

Marilyn Belak (Dawson Creek, BC)

Marilyn joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2012 and has served on the Nominations Committee. Marilyn retired after nine (9) years as a City Councillor in Dawson Creek. She is a registered nurse (RN) and retired from Hospice and Palliative Care and Community Care Nursing in 2013. Marilyn is a published poet and a past recipient of Impact and Influence Woman of the Year in Northern BC. Marilyn has also received three (3) Misbehaving Women Awards and several civic leader citations. Marilyn is passionate about sustainable development within a sustainable environment that includes sustainable economic systems planning. As a mother and grandmother with a 93 year old mother who lives independently, Marilyn is involved in advocating for excellence in quality of life from cradle to grave. She is a gardener and an outdoors woman.

Cameron Gray (Vancouver, BC)

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.

Sharlene Frank (Victoria, BC)

Sharlene joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2013 and serves as a member of the Finance 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, BC)

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 from 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, and people living in poverty.

Christene Walsh (Kelowna, BC)

Christene joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2014 and is newly involved with the Governance Committee. Christene is a social worker by profession, completing both a Master's Degree in Social Work (University of Calgary) and Bachelor of Social Work (McMaster University). Christene also holds a Diploma in Regulatory Law (Seneca College) and a Bachelor of Arts/Sociology (St. Francis Xavier University). Christene is currently employed with the Regional District of Central Okanagan [RDCO] in a new role as Manager, Police/Community Support Services. Previously Christene served as the Social Development Coordinator—a community development role within Central Okanagan's social services sector. Christene has also worked as a social worker in mental health & substance use services, palliative [cancer] care, hospital social work and child protection (Aboriginal communities). Her primary area of interest is social justice.

Financial Statements of

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Year ended March 31, 2015

Financial Statements of

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

Year ended March 31, 2015



KPMG LLP
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2015, 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.

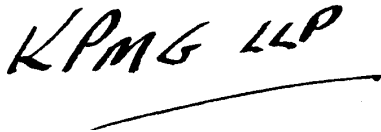
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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, 2015, 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.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Society Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles in the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a consistent basis with that of the preceding year.



Chartered Accountants

June 8, 2015
Vancouver, Canada

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	2015	2014
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 486,521	\$ 808,241
Accounts receivable (note 3)	114,694	92,480
Short-term investments (note 4)	801,411	589,236
Prepaid expenses	39,549	17,773
	<u>1,442,175</u>	<u>1,507,730</u>
Long term investments (note 4)	303,493	504,004
Property and equipment (note 5)	179,681	214,828
	<u>\$ 1,925,349</u>	<u>\$ 2,226,562</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 218,158	\$ 216,692
Deferred contributions (note 7)	80,000	65,000
Deferred revenue on projects	84,010	201,219
Current portion of deferred lease inducement	20,572	20,572
	<u>402,740</u>	<u>503,483</u>
Deferred lease inducement	51,428	72,000
Net assets:		
Internally restricted (note 8)	597,124	580,343
Unrestricted	874,057	1,070,736
	<u>1,471,181</u>	<u>1,651,079</u>
Commitment (note 9)		
	<u>\$ 1,925,349</u>	<u>\$ 2,226,562</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:



Director



Director

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	2015	2014
Revenues:		
Permit sales	\$ 929,031	\$ 909,322
Memberships and donations	734,274	688,669
Gaming grant (note 7)	65,000	45,000
Interest income	20,041	17,669
Other income	6,645	2,920
Rentals	5,940	19,940
Other grants	3,050	2,767
	<u>1,763,981</u>	<u>1,686,287</u>
Projects:		
Consulting services (note 10)	305,456	467,369
Disbursement recoveries (note 10)	686,706	279,955
	<u>992,162</u>	<u>747,324</u>
Expenditures (schedule)	2,936,041	2,239,014
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ (179,898)</u>	<u>\$ 194,597</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2015 Total	2014 Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 580,343	\$ 1,070,736	\$ 1,651,079	\$ 1,456,482
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(18,194)	(161,704)	(179,898)	194,597
	562,149	909,032	1,471,181	1,651,079
Transfers:				
Planning for financial stability	34,975	(34,975)	-	-
Net assets, end of year	\$ 597,124	\$ 874,057	\$ 1,471,181	\$ 1,651,079

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	2015	2014
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ (179,898)	\$ 194,597
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization	72,316	58,037
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	(20,572)	(20,572)
	(128,154)	232,062
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Increase in accounts receivable	(22,214)	(29,196)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(21,776)	26,300
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,466	65,609
Increase in deferred contributions	15,000	20,000
Decrease in deferred revenue on projects	(117,209)	(150,178)
	(272,887)	164,597
Investing:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(37,169)	(64,046)
Investment in term deposits and short-term investments	(11,664)	(36,938)
	(48,833)	(100,984)
Increase (decrease) in cash	(321,720)	63,613
Cash, beginning of year	808,241	744,628
Cash, end of year	\$ 486,521	\$ 808,241

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

1. Nature of operations:

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

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:

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

(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.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Investments:

Short-term investments are comprised of term deposits and high interest savings account that are traded in an active market and are readily convertible to cash. These items are carried at market value at the date of the statement of financial position and have a maturity period of less than one year.

Long-term investments are comprised of term deposits convertible to cash. These items are carried at market value at the date of the statement of financial position and have a maturity period greater than one year.

Short-term and long-term investments are comprised of the following investments:

(i) Term deposits:

Term deposits represent guaranteed investment certificates ("GICs") which are insured by the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation which are federally guaranteed.

(d) 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 and fixtures	3 years
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease

(e) 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.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(e) Revenue recognition (continued):

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

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.

(f) 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. The Society has not elected to carry financial 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.

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.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(g) Deferred revenue on projects:

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

(h) Deferred lease inducement:

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

(i) 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; deferred revenue on projects and percentage of completion on projects. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Accounts receivable:

	2015	2014
Trade receivable	\$ 99,388	\$ 81,598
Government remittances	15,306	10,882
	<u>\$ 114,694</u>	<u>\$ 92,480</u>

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

4. Investments:

Term deposits consist of the initial deposit plus accrued interest with maturity dates between May 2015 to November 2016, and interest rate yields ranging from 1.96% to 2.20%.

	2015	2014
Short-term investments:		
Term Deposits and GICs	\$ 791,949	\$ 586,392
Accrued interest	9,462	2,844
	<u>\$ 801,411</u>	<u>\$ 589,236</u>

	2015	2014
Long-term investments:		
GIC's	\$ 303,493	\$ 504,004

5. Property and equipment:

			2015	2014
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 157,598	\$ 132,849	\$ 24,749	\$ 28,435
Computers	228,245	179,116	49,129	50,296
Leasehold improvements	298,773	192,970	105,803	136,097
	<u>\$ 684,616</u>	<u>\$ 504,935</u>	<u>\$ 179,681</u>	<u>\$ 214,828</u>

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities as at March 31, 2015 are government remittances payable of \$34,073 (2014 - \$1,641) relating to payroll taxes.

7. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions represent funds received in advance from the BC Gaming Commission.

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

	Balance, beginning of the year	Contributions received	Amounts recognized to revenue	Balance, end of the year
2015				
Deferred contributions:				
BC Gaming Commission	\$ 65,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 80,000

	Balance, beginning of the year	Contributions received	Amounts recognized to revenue	Balance, end of the year
2014				
Deferred contributions:				
BC Gaming Commission	\$ 45,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 65,000

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

8. Internally restricted net assets:

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

	2015	2014
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	\$ 552,125	\$ 517,150
Development and implementation of support partnerships for the Community Data Consortium	16,000	24,000
Enhancements to the existing IT infrastructure and technology to implement SharePoint Enterprise	13,999	24,193
Development and implementation of support partnerships for the United Community Services Co-Op	15,000	15,000
	<u>\$ 597,124</u>	<u>\$ 580,343</u>

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

9. Lease commitment:

The Society entered into a ten-year lease agreement for its premises commencing October 2008. Basic rental payments are \$110,385 per annum to September 2018, excluding goods and services tax, operating expenses and property taxes.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2015

10.Consulting Services:

On December 1, 2013, the Society entered into an Agreement with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada to act as the administrator and project manager for projects associated with Farm to Cafeteria Canada for the Coalitions Linking Action and Science for Prevention ("CLASP Initiative") with a fee of \$39,571 to be paid to the Society over the term of the Agreement for the administration of the contract. Under the Agreement the total grant is \$791,381 and will be administered in phases until the expiry of the agreement (September 30, 2016). In 2015, revenue recognized by the Society related to the administration of the contract was \$18,682 (2014 - \$2,500). In 2015, there was \$337,108 recognized for project disbursements and an equivalent amount recorded in disbursement recoveries related to the project (2014 - \$55,737).

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Schedule of Expenditures

Year ended March 31, 2015, with comparative information for 2014

	2015	2014
Amortization	\$ 72,316	\$ 58,037
Audit and legal	14,530	15,827
Board and executive meetings	55,153	50,275
Community data consortium	8,000	8,000
Computer and website maintenance	69,780	47,525
Fundraising	47,389	41,953
Insurance	6,235	6,784
Lease termination	9,111	-
Marketing, publicity and promotion	48,691	34,406
Office supplies	16,876	15,275
Other expenditures	20,860	14,776
Photocopying	27,697	18,742
Postage and courier	98,253	89,091
Printing	62,494	48,903
Professional and consulting services	14,866	18,525
Project disbursements	686,706	279,955
Programs and projects	104,857	66,906
Rent	207,927	207,363
Repairs and maintenance	7,420	4,556
Salaries and benefits	1,317,304	1,175,444
SharePoint implementation	10,194	4,404
Staff training and development	11,953	12,775
Telephone	17,429	19,492
	\$ 2,936,041	\$ 2,239,014

