

sparc bc Annual Report

2020/2021





Annual Report

2020/2021

Mission & Values

" SPARCBC 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.

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 2020/2021—a year unlike any other, with COVID-19 teaching us so many lessons about the importance of community and about having a shared sense of responsibility and caring for each other. I am also pleased to report that, through the generosity and support of our members and donors and the strength of our partnerships, we were able to stay strong amidst the uncertainty.

Here are some of the specific accomplishments I would like to highlight:

- More than 48,400 seniors and people with disabilities assisted through the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities
- More than 10,000 pairs of warm dry socks provided to people experiencing homelessness
- More than 16,000 comfort kits delivered including hand sanitizer, face masks and other personal hygiene products as part of Homelessness Action Week
- More than 22,000 healthy meals provided to low- income and vulnerable seniors and families through our Harvest Basket initiative including expanded partnerships in the Comox Valley, Kamloops, and the North Okanagan region
- 22 local governments and disability-serving organizations joining us in recognizing that “*accessibility should have no limits*” as part of our annual Access Awareness Day and National AccessAbility Week celebrations
- 92 Homelessness Community Action grants delivered across more than 37 different communities and regions in B.C.
- More than 10,000 smartphones delivered through our partnerships with 7-Eleven and the Provincial government to more than 146 different partners and organizations, 58 different communities as well as half of all First Nations communities

While COVID made the year extraordinarily challenging and highly unpredictable, the generosity of our members and donors provided much needed stability, ensuring that our programs and initiatives remained strong.

During our December fundraising campaign:

- More than 1,400 new members joined SPARC BC
- More than 2,500 individuals made donations towards our Homeless Comfort Kits
- More than 1,300 individuals stepped forward to support our Seniors' Harvest Basket initiative, and
- More than 2,600 individuals supported our new “stay in touch” program which provides access to basic ‘smartphones’ for vulnerable and isolated seniors and people with disabilities.

It is clear that the generosity and support of our members and donors has helped to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of so many vulnerable and 'at risk' individuals. Over this coming year, we will continue to focus our research on issues of poverty and inequality. We recognize that there is a growing number of families and individuals who are precariously housed and 'at risk' of becoming homeless. We also know that too many people with disabilities continue to live in poverty. Through working with others including all levels of government, we will continue to draw attention to these needs and seek to ensure that everyone is given the chance in life they deserve.

As the entire country begins to reopen after COVID, I am hopeful that as a society, we will emerge from this crisis with a renewed sense of commitment to the importance of community and a deeper sense of caring and responsibility for each other. The Deryck Thomson Award recipients to be announced later this evening show all that can be accomplished when people and communities come together with an intensity of purpose and a shared commitment to building a more just and healthy society for all. Thank you for being a part of SPARC BC and for the difference that you continue to make.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to recognize the dedication and commitment of our SPARC BC staff team, and to acknowledge the significant and unwavering commitment of SPARC BC's Board of Directors. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the President of SPARC BC over this past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Kellas". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "H" and "K" being significantly larger and more stylized than the rest of the letters.

Hugh Kellas
President, SPARC BC

Message from the Executive Director

We know that a “just and healthy society” is one where seniors do not have to worry about their future and where children do not go to bed hungry. It is a society where everyone is invited to share their unique talents and abilities and to pursue their dreams. It is also a society where people and communities come together to care for each other and to work to find creative solutions to the challenges that we face as a society.

This year, with the emergence of COVID-19, we saw communities challenged beyond their capacity and at the same time it was a year where so many people stepped forward to lead with their values and to care for one another. At the start of the year, our Board of Directors adopted the idea that one of our priorities should be to look at the different ways that people and communities have come together to help to support one another and to show that “better is possible”.

In this way, I want to recognize the many members and donors who responded to the crisis with generosity and kindness. Not only did this response help to keep our programs strong but it allowed us to reach out and to help others. Whether it was our “Calls to Action” around our Seniors’ Harvest Basket initiative or funding for our “Homeless Comfort Kits” our members and donors stepped forward to help.

As well, we received a strong and positive response to our “Stay in Touch” initiative which was designed to allow us to reach out to individuals who lack the financial resources to have access to basic communication. Through this initiative our goal is to reach out through our different community partners including local libraries as well as senior-serving and disability serving organizations to let them know that these phones are available for people who are alone and feeling isolated. It is our way of saying that others care and that their needs are not forgotten.

It has been an extremely busy year and I have had the privilege of working with so many committed and caring individuals who were determined to continue to make a difference despite the upheaval created by COVID. To the Board and staff here today, I want to thank you for your on-going dedication and commitment including your belief that ‘better is possible’.

I also want to recognize our partnership with 7-Eleven and the Provincial government around our ‘smartphone’ initiative. I still remember my first conversation about the phones with our 7-Eleven partner who concluded the conversation by saying “leave this with me, I feel motivated”. I feel grateful to have partners who are willing to test new ideas and to help us push those ideas forward – these phones have already made a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals.

This year, SPARC BC was also named as a finalist in the partnership category for the Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence for our work on Together BC – British Columbia's First Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is an honour to be nominated for this Award and it speaks to the importance and impact of our work.

For this coming year, I know that we will continue to set high standards for ourselves as we seek to ensure that our work has impact. In this way, SPARC BC is fortunate to have a team of dedicated, talented, and resourceful staff who believe in the importance of our vision of a more just and healthy society for everyone.

In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors for its thoughtful and steady guidance over the past year.

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

Lorraine Copas
Executive Director, SPARC BC



Our Programs and Activities

2020/2021 Highlights

Highlights from 2020/2021

The infographic consists of ten overlapping colored boxes arranged in a grid-like fashion. Each box contains an icon, a numerical value, and a brief description of an achievement. The colors of the boxes are: light orange, medium orange, yellow, light yellow, and light pink.

- 10,000+** smartphones secured for people who are homeless.
- 67** Research projects in progress or completed.
- Received donations from more than **6,400** donors in support of our Calls to Action.
- Delivered more than **16,000** comfort kits.
- Launched our first ever Accessible Parking Awareness Month in November.
- 92** Homelessness Community Action Grants funded.
- Provided more than **10,000** pairs of warm dry socks to people experiencing homelessness.
- Delivered **22,000** healthy meals to low income seniors.
- Issued more than **48,400** Parking Permits.
- 22** communities and organizations participated in Access Awareness Day Activities.



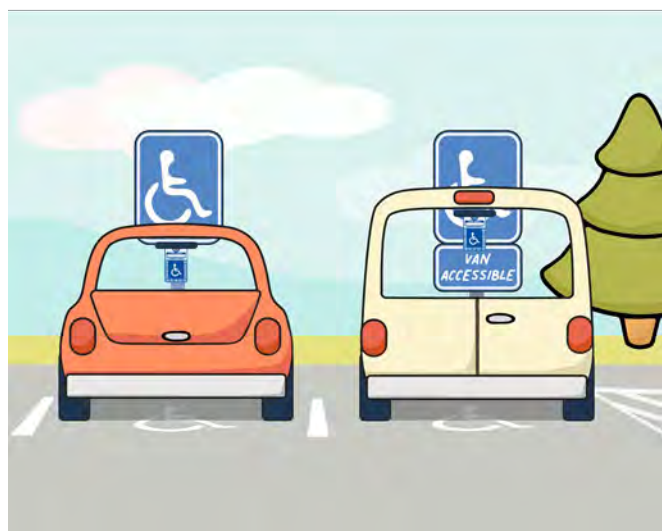
Our Programs and Activities

Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities

Our Programs and Activities

Parking Permit Program

Designated accessible parking plays an integral role in enabling and supporting true inclusion. For almost 40 years, SPARC BC has led the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities in partnership with local governments and other community partners across British Columbia.



In 2020/2021 there were more than 48,400 seniors and people with disabilities who were assisted through the program. This is down from previous years with fewer new parking permit applications

being received as well as fewer temporary permits processed. As B.C. communities start to re-open, we anticipate that the demand for designated accessible parking will return to previous levels.

The table below provides key program-related data for the Parking Permit Program in 2020/2021 compared to 2019/2020 as well as the anticipated level for 2021/2022.

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
New Parking Permits issued	22,350	15,500	23,500
Parking Permits renewed	25,400	27,500	26,500
Temporary Permits issued	8,200	5,000	7,500
Organizational Permits issued	600	400	500
Total Permits issued	56,550	48,400	58,000



Our Programs and Activities

Accessibility and Inclusion

Our Programs and Activities

Accessibility and Inclusion

SPARC BC's work in the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities also informs our work in accessibility and inclusion. This includes our work in the delivery of our Accessible Parking in Accessible Communities initiative. This initiative is focused on working with local partners to capture information on the inventory of designated accessible parking spaces available in a community and includes the collection of information on the number and type of spaces available as well as information on the overall quality and nature of the spaces available including the number of van accessible spaces. This year, working in partnership with local governments, disability-serving organizations and other partners, our focus has been on improving the design, delivery and enforcement of designated accessible parking across the province.

Through our work in accessibility and inclusion, we also design and deliver workshops, conduct accessibility audits and undertake research to ensure that B.C.'s communities are as accessible and inclusive as possible. In setting the directions for SPARC BC's work in accessibility and inclusion, the SPARC BC Board of Directors has continued to emphasize the importance of a comprehensive definition of disability and has expressed a commitment to promoting and supporting greater equality and access to opportunities for everyone.

As we reflect on future directions and emerging opportunities, the following reflects some of the key areas of focus for our work with communities over this past year.

Promoting and Supporting Economic and Financial Inclusion

We recognize that too many people with disabilities are living in poverty. In 2020/2021, we partnered with Plan Institute as well as the Disability Alliance BC (DABC) to build increased awareness about financial inclusion and the different programs and services available to improve the economic circumstances of people with disabilities. This included working to ensure that people were aware of the new Federal Disability Tax Credit.

Over this past year, we have actively worked to create employment for people with disabilities as economic inclusion is one of the truest forms of inclusion. This has included creating opportunities for people with disabilities to work with us on a number of our different initiatives including our B.C. Parks research, our Accessible Parking in Accessible Communities initiative as well as support in the activation of the 'smartphones' that we distribute to communities. To date, we have been successful in creating opportunities for more than 7 individuals with lived/living experience to engage in projects with us.

SPARC BC/BC Parks Partnership

Over this past year, we were successful in continuing to work with BC Parks, both in terms of our overall research and planning efforts as well as in terms of experimenting with different types of technologies to create ‘accessibility maps’ of different BC Parks locations. This year, we also partnered with BC Parks in co-presenting our collaborative research on the experiences of people with disabilities and their use of B.C. Parks. This included the design of a presentation for the B.C. Protected Areas Research Forum. This forum represents a national gathering of researchers and organizations engaged in working on both the ecological and social dimensions of parks planning and management with accessibility being an important area of focus.

Through our collaborative research we found that people living with disabilities experience a combination of challenges that limit their ability to participate in many social and recreational opportunities. This can include considerations related to age, level of independence, access to supportive networks (family and friends) as well as considerations related to one’s overall health or socio-economic status. For many people visiting one of B.C.’s parks or natural areas, it can also be about gaining new experiences.

In terms of the overall parks planning and management, it was noted that pathways, parking and the accessibility of washrooms are among the highest priorities. In addition, it was also recognized that the adoption of a universal design approach can help to make the park experience better for everybody.

Access Awareness Day and National AccessAbility Week

2020/2021 also represented SPARC BC’s 23rd annual Access Awareness Day – a day of reflection and celebration. Always held on the first Saturday in June, the theme for this year’s Access Awareness Day was “Accessibility Means Knowing No Limits”. In advancing conversations around what accessibility means for our communities, we were able to explore how we can break down barriers while engendering further support for the principles of greater accessibility and inclusion for everyone.

Key partners who joined us in celebrating Access Awareness Day included local government partners, libraries, businesses, as well as local parks and recreation departments and community centres. Academic institutions, disability-serving organizations and local Accessibility Committees also helped us celebrate Access Awareness Day and to explore ways to improve accessibility in their community. In total, more than 22 different communities and partners came together in 2020/2021 to join us in celebrating Access Awareness Day and National AccessAbility Week.

As part of the planning for 2021/2022, our goal is to broaden and deepen our engagement and partnerships with local governments and others especially as government continues to move forward with the implementation of accessibility legislation, both at the Federal and the Provincial level.



Our Programs and Activities

Social Policy, Research & Advocacy

Our Programs and Activities

Social Policy, Research & Advocacy

SPARC BC's vision of a just and healthy society for all is one where all citizens have economic security, affordable housing, dignified access to healthy food and a sense of connection to their community. Over this past year, SPARC BC's work in social policy research and advocacy has continued to focus on the use of evidence-based research and partnerships to strengthen public policies and contribute to improvements in the health, well-being, and inclusion of all citizens.

As we continue to reflect on a future without COVID, the following reflect some of our key areas of focus and accomplishment for 2020/2021:

Delivery of the Provincial Homelessness Community Action Grant Project

In June 2019, the Province announced \$6M in funding to support the launch of the Community Homelessness Action Grant. This funding is designed to support local efforts to respond to the needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and includes demonstration projects, research partnerships, and other initiatives designed to respond to gaps in the current system of services and supports for those who are experiencing homelessness.

Funding provided through the Provincial Homelessness Community Action Grant program is designed to:

- Build a deeper understanding of existing and emerging needs at the community level
- Address the specific needs of distinct populations experiencing homelessness
- Build capacity at the local level to better understand and respond to existing and emerging needs
- Support local innovation designed to foster positive outcomes at the individual and community level; and,
- Address other needs or opportunities as identified by the community.

To date, more than 92 projects across 36 different communities and regions have received funding through the Community Homelessness Action Grant program.

SPARC BC/7-Eleven Smartphone Initiative

With the emergence of COVID-19, the Provincial government through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction indicated that there could be enhanced supports for communities in helping to strengthen their response to COVID-19. This led to the launch of the SPARC BC/7-Eleven Smartphone initiative and the provision of more than 10,000 pre-loaded smartphones to vulnerable and 'at risk' individuals including individuals experiencing homelessness.

The phones are intended to provide access to basic communication and enable people experiencing homelessness to maintain contact or access the services and supports they need even in the face of the pandemic. The phones come pre-loaded with a \$10 7-Eleven data card and help to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness can stay connected to their support networks including family and friends.

Over the past year, the phones have been distributed to more than 146 different partners and organizations across 58 different communities. As well, we have been successful in reaching almost half of all First Nations communities through our partnership with the First Nations Health Authority.

Different priority population groups and partnerships include:

- Vulnerable and 'at risk' youth (MCFD and different community-based agencies)
- Women and children escaping violence (BC Housing)
- Urban Indigenous populations (through the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the different Friendship Centres across the Province)
- Rural and remote Indigenous populations (FNHA/Doctor of the Day)
- Individuals with a mental illness and issues of substance use through their connection to the local community action tables and local health authorities.
- Homeless encampments in Vancouver and Victoria (BC Housing and MMAH)
- Homeless outreach workers province-wide
- The SRO Collaborative in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside
- The Prince George Library pilot project for low income and vulnerable families and individuals
- Emergency room physicians who are part of the Fraser Health Authority Emergency Room Physician Network

The phone initiative has contributed to many different positive outcomes and has received a high level of support across government with this initiative helping to contribute to the following outcomes:

- A strengthened community-based response to COVID
- Improved access to basic communication and support for vulnerable populations
- Strong, positive community-based engagement
- Broad geographic reach across communities and regions
- The ability to realize large successes from a relatively small investment
- The ability to respond to a diversity of needs across different populations
- Increased flexibility and improved digital equity.

Homelessness Action Week


































Finding and keeping housing that is affordable is a challenge for many low-income families and individuals. Working with the Council of Community Homelessness Tables in the Lower Mainland, SPARC BC has continued to champion efforts to support Homelessness Action Week as well as to continue our project that we call “Different Forms of Comfort”. As part of our planning and support around Homelessness Action Week, SPARC BC also prepared and distributed more than 16,000 comfort kits to individuals and organizations. Traditionally, these kits have included a mix of basic hygiene projects including soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, and tissues. This year, we added masks and hand sanitizer to each of the kits.

Through an initiative we called “Different Forms of Comfort,” we were able to provide more than 10,000 food and coffee cards to individuals experiencing homelessness as well as more than 10,000 pairs of ‘warm dry’ socks. Those receiving the cards observed the difference that it makes on a cold winter day when you can get out of the wind and rain and have a coffee. We would like to recognize our different partners - Save-On-Foods, 7-Eleven and Bombas Socks –each of whom also provided their products and services at a discounted rate to allow the impact of our dollars to be stretched as far as possible. As well, this year we also sponsored a “parks outreach team” who reached out to individuals living rough in various parks to help ensure that they were aware of the different programs and services available as well as to provide them with access to food and other supports.

HOMELESSNESS GRANTS





ALL GROUPS

-  **Campbell River**
The Salvation Army Ocean Crest Ministry
-  **Campbell River**
Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness
-  **Castlegar**
Castlegar & District Community Services Society
-  **Castlegar**
Castlegar & District Community Services Society
-  **Comox Valley**
Comox Valley Transition Society
-  **Comox**
Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society
-  **Comox Valley**
Comox Valley Transition Society (On behalf of the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness)
-  **Coquitlam**
Tri-Cities Homelessness and Housing Task Group
-  **Courtenay**
Comox Valley Transition Society
-  **Courtenay**
City of Courtenay
-  **District of North Vancouver**
North Shore Homelessness Task Force (c/o District of North Vancouver)
-  **Metro Vancouver**
Whole Way House Society (I Get to Legacy Project)
-  **Metro Vancouver**
Whole Way House Society
-  **Metro Vancouver**
Rent Smart Education and Support Society
-  **Nanaimo**
Island Crisis Care Society
-  **New Westminster**
Douglas College Digital Equity Initiative
-  **Parksville**
OHEART Oceanside Homelessness Ecumenical Response Team
-  **Port Alberni**
Salvation Army Alberni Valley Ministries
-  **Port Coquitlam**
Hope for Freedom Society
-  **Provincial**
BC Non-Profit Housing Association
-  **Salt Spring Island**
Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society
-  **Salt Spring Island**
Salt Spring Island Social Services
-  **South Surrey/White Rock**
Surrey Road to Home Society
-  **Surrey**
Realistic Success Recovery Society
-  **Surrey**
Phoenix Society
-  **Surrey**
Sources Community Resources Society
-  **Surrey**
Sources Community Resources Society
-  **Trail BC**
Lower Columbia Region
-  **Vancouver**
Union Gospel Mission
-  **Vancouver**
Network of Inner City Community Services Society
-  **Vancouver**
John Howard Society
-  **Vancouver/Victoria**
Street Corner Media Foundation
-  **Victoria**
The Existence Project

At Risk Renters (SRO)

-  **Metro Vancouver**
DTES SRO Collaborative











Immigrant and Refugee

-  **Metro Vancouver**
Journey Home Community Association
-  **Metro Vancouver**
Kinbrace Refugee Housing and Support

Refugee Claimants

-  **Metro Vancouver**
Journey Home Community Association

Indigenous

-  **Prince George**
Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George
-  **Provincial**
Lu'ma Native Housing Society,
Oppenheimer Outreach
-  **Provincial**
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship
Centre Association
-  **Smithers**
Dze L Kant Friendship Centre Society
-  **Surrey**
City of Surrey, The SUILC's Skookum Lab
-  **Upper Skeena**
Upper Skeena Housing Coalition Society
-  **Vancouver**
Helping Spirit Lodge Society
-  **Victoria**
Aboriginal Coalition to End
Homelessness, Decolonizing Harm
Reduction
-  **Victoria**
Aboriginal Coalition to End
Homelessness, Nourishment Box
-  **Victoria**
Aboriginal Coalition to End
Homelessness, Homelessness
Stigmatization Workshops

Indigenous Elders

-  **Fraser Valley**
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship
Centre Association

Indigenous families

-  **Fraser Valley**
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship
Centre Association










Indigenous Women

-  **Comox Valley**
Indigenous Women's Sharing Society

Indigenous Youth

-  **Fraser Valley**
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship
Centre Association
-  **Surrey**
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship
Centre Association






Lived/Living Experience

-  **Burnaby**
Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby
-  **Cowichan Region**
United Way Central and North Vancouver
Island
-  **Kelowna**
Central Okanagan Journey Home Society
-  **Kelowna**
Central Okanagan Journey Home Society
-  **Langley**
Out of the Cold Arts Initiative (Lookout
Housing and Health Society)
-  **Langley**
Peer-Led Homelessness Survey (Diverse
Organization Providing Education and
Regional Services)
-  **Langley**
Lookout Housing and Health Society—Out
of the Cold Implementation
-  **Nanaimo**
United Way Central and Northern
Vancouver Island
-  **Nanaimo Region**
United Way Central and North Vancouver
Island

Lived/Living Experience

-  **Provincial**
New Leaf Project
-  **Salt Spring Island**
Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands
Community Services Society
-  **Saltspring Island**
Salt Spring & Southern Gulf Islands
Community Services Society
-  **Surrey**
Lookout Housing and Health Society–
Peer Led Homelessness Survey
-  **Surrey**
Out of the Cold Arts Initiative (Lookout
Housing and Health Society)
-  **Surrey**
Peer-Led Homelessness Survey (Diverse
Organization Providing Education and
Regional Services)
-  **Victoria**
The Existence Project (Part 2)



Mental Health & Addictions

-  **Central Okanagan**
Fresh Outlook Foundation
-  **Fraser Region**
Fraser Health Authority
-  **Kelowna**
City of Kelowna
-  **Sechelt**
Vancouver Coastal Health, Sechelt
Mental Health & Addictions, Mental
Health Drop-In
-  **Shuswap/Revelstoke**
Canadian Mental Health Association,
Shuswap/Revelstoke


Seniors

-  **North Vancouver**
Hollyburn Family Services Society



Street homeless

-  **Vancouver**
Christ Church Cathedral
-  **Victoria**
North Park Neighbourhood Association








Veterans

-  **Metro Vancouver**
Whole Way House Society (Goals and
Guidance)

Women

-  **Metro Vancouver**
YWCA Metro Vancouver
-  **Surrey**
City of Surrey Vulnerable Women and Girls
Working Group

Youth

-  **Chilliwack**
Cyrus Centre
-  **Kamloops**
A Way Home Kamloops
-  **North Vancouver**
Hollyburn Family Services Society
-  **Penticton**
City of Penticton
-  **Port Alberni**
ADAPS Youth and Family Services
-  **Vancouver**
McCreary Centre Society--Trust Collective
Impact
-  **Whistler**
Zero Ceiling Society of Canada



Our Programs and Activities

Community Development, Education & Outreach

Our Programs and Activities

Community Development, Education & Outreach

SPARC BC's work in community development and capacity building focuses on working with community partners to build a deeper understanding of local needs and challenges while finding solutions that can lead to lasting and positive change. Much of our work focuses on the design and delivery of workshops as well as the development of resource guides and publications designed to provide communities with the information and resources needed to address social inequities and to promote and support social change. Key areas of focus within the context of our CDE program include outreach and engagement with smaller, rural, and northern communities as well as on-going partnership and engagement designed to build and strengthen relations with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

While COVID limited the amount of direct engagement we were able to do over this past year, we were successful in identifying partnerships and in working together with others to advance key goals and objectives in this area. This has included continuing to work to build and strengthen our networks and relationships related to food security and dignified access to healthy local foods while exploring opportunities and partnerships designed to leverage our knowledge and the insights that have been gained through our leadership in the national Farm to School movement in recent years.

Within the context of our work in Farm to School, SPARC BC brings strong project management and leadership skills to help support this multi-sectoral partnership in its effort to prevent chronic disease, improve student nutrition, and build food literacy among children and youth. Farm to School also seeks to build and strengthen local and regional food systems by creating partnerships with local farmers. Within the context of this initiative, the focus is on working to provide healthy, sustainably sourced local foods to children and youth as they learn and grow. This year, in addition to working in partnership with local schools, Farm to Cafeteria Canada (F2CC) also completed an evaluation of the different ways that the Farm to School movement has continued to deliver socially relevant results. This has included:

- \$4.5M in direct investments in 103 schools across five (5) provinces including B.C.
- \$2M in government funding with \$2.5M in matched funding from other sources
- Direct benefit for 56,000 students including 35,000 from kindergarten to grade 12 and 21,000 on-campus students.

As a result of the evaluation and the strong outcomes demonstrated to date, the Federal

government through the Public Health Agency of Canada has extended the program to allow for more schools and more students to benefit from the knowledge that has been gained.

Over this past year, SPARC BC has also partnered to support different food security communities of practice including a partnership with Land2Table in the North Okanagan region as well as an on-going partnership with Lush Valley Food Society in the Comox Valley. As well, we have been successful in creating partnerships with First Nation communities including the Skeetchestn First Nation and Q'wemtsin Health Society. This has included the organization of a school learning circle designed to increase the volume and variety of local healthy foods provided to students in First Nations schools in the Kamloops area. In total, through the generosity and kindness of our members and donors, more than 22,000 healthy meals have been provided to low-income seniors and families across these different regions including door-to-door delivery for vulnerable and 'at risk' individuals during COVID.

Peer-Based Knowledge Development and Knowledge Transfer

This year, as part of our homelessness communities of practice, we have focused on efforts to build a deeper understanding of what it means to experience homelessness through the voices of individuals with lived/living experience of homelessness. This has led to a number of different projects and initiatives including a partnership with Dawn to Dawn Homelessness Action Group in the Comox Valley to support their engagement with Indigenous artisans in helping to tell the story of 'home' in the new Gwax' Dzi Dsas affordable housing project that is being built in Cumberland on the traditional unceded territory of K'omoks First Nations. Through this partnership, the goal is to deepen our understanding of the meaning of home and the role that it plays in the lives of Indigenous people and communities, with a particular focus on actively working to transform the space to include Indigenous culture and practice through the presence of Indigenous art, the presence of Indigenous knowledge keepers as well as through the programming and native plants that have been incorporated into the design of the project.

In addition to supporting local efforts to incorporate Indigenous cultures and traditions into the design of this new housing development, our contributions are also supporting local artisans in developing their skills. Of particular note is the work of Marlo Wylie Brillon who comes from a Skidegate Haida and Northern Cree background and who now lives in Courtenay, B.C. Marlo has been carving since she was seventeen years old and follows the traditional form lines of Northwest Coast art. Marlo has created cedar panels and is now learning to carve in 3D form such as masks, rattles and frontlets. Her mentors are her uncle Jesse Brillon, Andy Everson and Karver Everson. Marlo was a recipient of the YVR Art Foundation Gallery Emerging Artist Scholarship in 2019/2020. Marlo believes that upholding cultural traditions and the strength of her own matrilineal heritage is what informs her art and gives it life.

While seeking to build and deepen our relationships with Indigenous communities and partners, we also explored different ways of building a deeper sense of empathy and understanding of homelessness at the neighbourhood and community level. This has included working in partnership with MindFuel Films to help explore the topic of “Us and Them” as well as an on-going partnership with Jim Mandelin, Frank Tester, Tanyss Knowles, and others to explore opportunities to build and amplify the voices and experiences of individuals with a history of homelessness.



Our Programs and Activities

Research, Planning & Consulting

Our Programs and Activities

Research, Planning & Consulting

SPARC BC provides research, planning and consulting services for a diverse range of clients and partners. This includes working in partnership with all levels of government—Federal, Provincial, regional, local and First Nations. SPARC BC also works closely with community-based agencies and service providers to design and implement placed-based solutions that contribute to the well-being of people and communities. In 2020/2021, our Research, Planning and Consulting team worked on or completed 67 different research, planning and consulting projects over the course of the year.

Members of our research, planning and consulting team bring a strong track record in designing and implementing a broad range of community-based projects and are recognized for their subject area expertise on a range of social planning and policy issues including our work in the areas of housing and homelessness, income security and poverty reduction as well as engaging community partners in age-friendly planning, community social planning and community development.

Core strengths of the team include expertise in completing community needs assessment studies, gap analysis research as well as systems-based planning. SPARC BC is also known for our knowledge and practice in the areas of community consultation and engagement including our ability to ensure that local planning and decision-making takes into consideration the full diversity of needs and experiences across communities.

SPARC BC also brings subject matter expertise in using evidence-based research to inform the development of local plans and strategies to support the well-being of people and communities. Over the coming year, our research team will continue to focus on the development of targeted strategies and actions to address the issues of poverty and inequality. Through our work in leading the Community Data Program in B.C., we recognize that there are many families and individuals who are precariously housed and who face extreme affordability challenges. We also know that too many people with disabilities continue to live in poverty. In collaborating with our many community partners including all levels of government, our research, planning and consulting team will continue to draw attention to these needs and to work with others to put into place strategies and actions needed to create a more just and healthy society for everyone.



SPARC BC

Annual General Meeting

AGENDA
SPARC BC 2020/2021
Annual General Meeting

Virtual Meeting
4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC
June 25, 2021
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes from the AGM, June 26, 2020
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Presentation of the Financial Statements for April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021
6. Appointment of the Auditors for 2021/2022
7. Report from the Nominations Committee—Election of Directors
8. Report from the Nominations Committee—Deryck Thomson Award
9. Message from the Executive Director
10. Adjournment

MINUTES

SPARC BC
Electronic Annual General Meeting 2019/2020

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC

June 26, 2020
6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order.

2. Minutes from the AGM, June 14, 2019

The President referred members to the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 14, 2019. The President called for a motion to adopt the minutes as presented.

Motion:

That the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 14, 2019 be approved.

MOVED: Bev Onischak, **SECONDED:** Angela Towle, **CARRIED.**

3. President's Report

The President (Hugh Kellas) was pleased to report on SPARC BC's successful year and noted that 2019/2020 brought many highlights in the areas of SPARC BC's two (2) social enterprises: The Parking Permit Program for Persons with Disabilities and the consulting work completed by the Research, Planning and Community Development team. The President continued by noting the many mission-driven advances for SPARC BC in the area of accessibility and inclusion where, through the adoption of the Federal government's Accessible Canada Act, SPARC BC worked with the Province to look at the legislative, regulatory, and policy changes needed to remove barriers for people with disabilities and create a culture of inclusion. The President also noted that SPARC BC received \$6M in funding from the Province to launch the Homelessness Community Action Grant program.

Through this funding, SPARC BC had the opportunity to partner with 53 groups and organizations from across the Province to support local placed-based strategies to address the issue of homelessness. This included working with communities to ensure that people experiencing homelessness have access to the services they need to help break the cycle of poverty and homelessness they face and to move forward in their lives. With the unprecedented times ahead, with the uncertainty of COVID-19, the President noted that it has reminded us of the importance of working together and the need to care for each other and that SPARC BC remains hopeful. The President also

noted that, in the coming months, SPARC BC will continue to focus on addressing issues of food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness and that as we look at ways of re-imagining how we care for each other in a time of physical and social distancing, the need to support those who are most vulnerable in our society has never been greater.

The President extended his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to both the staff and the Board for their thoughtful contributions to a great year, including the contribution of Cameron Gray, for his dedication to the Board through his nine (9) years of service including bringing many policies up-to-date, and Kara Keam for her contribution to two (2) years worth of Board meeting discussions. Lastly, the President recognized the ongoing generosity and unwavering support that SPARC BC has received from its members and donors and that by their belief in the possibilities that comes from people in communities working together, it has made all the difference. In closing, the President noted that it has been an honour to serve as the President of SPARC BC over this past year.

Following the presentation of his report, the President called for a motion to adopt the Presidents Report.

Motion:

That the President's Report be adopted.

MOVED: Hugh Kellas, **SECONDED:** Susan Jensen, **CARRIED.**

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Cameron Gray) provided highlights from the past year and noted that SPARC BC is in good financial shape with a substantial surplus for 2019/2020. Cameron directed members to the Year End Financials which showed all areas of SPARC BC flowing smoothly and noted that staff were excellent at keeping the Board informed on how the finances were operating. Cameron also gave recognition to members of the Finance and Audit Committee for their hard work with meetings throughout the year. Cameron concluded by thanking staff and the Board for keeping SPARC BC in a strong position, financially. Following the presentation, Cameron called for a motion to adopt the Treasurer's report.

Motion:

That the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

MOVED: Cameron Gray, **SECONDED:** Susan Jensen, **CARRIED.**

5. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for 2019/2020

The Treasurer referred members to the Financial Statements for April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, as prepared by DMCL.

The Treasurer noted that the Finance and Audit Committee met with DMCL as well as SPARC BC staff, to review the Audit Findings Report. Cameron also noted that there was agreement that SPARC BC is doing well in all departments and that the operations of SPARC BC run efficiently with good checks and balances with staff accountable for financial responsibility.

The Treasurer concluded by noting that the Finance and Audit Committee is recommending the adoption of the 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements, as presented.

Motion:

That the Financial Statements for 2019/2020 be adopted.

MOVED: Cameron Gray, **SECONDED:** Wes Hewitt, **CARRIED.**

6. Appointment of the Auditor for 2020/2021.

The Treasurer noted that the Finance and Audit Committee is recommending that KPMG be appointed to provide external auditing services to SPARC BC for 2020/2021.

Motion:

That KPMG be appointed as SPARC BC's external Auditor for 2020/2021.

MOVED: Cameron Gray, **SECONDED:** Margaret Coombes, **CARRIED.**

The President thanked Cameron Gray and the Finance and Audit Committee for their efforts and invited Christene Walsh, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to present the report from the Nominations Committee.

7. Report from the Nominations Committee on the Election of Directors

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 report from the Nominations Committee noted that there are five (5) Directors whose terms are ending in June 2020 – Cameron Gray, Angela Towle, Margaret Coombes, Christene Walsh, and Bev Onischak.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee noted that Cameron Gray has reached the end of his nine (9) year term and will be leaving the Board. The Chair of the Nominations Committee thanked Cameron on behalf of the Board of his years of services and his leadership both as a member of the Board and as Treasurer.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee also noted that Kara Keam indicated that she is unable to continue her term. Christene thanked Kara for the two (2) years of participation while serving on the Board and on the Board's Governance Committee.

Of the remaining directors whose terms are ending in June 2020, Christene noted that:

Angela Towle, who joined the Board in 2017 and whose term is ending, indicated a willingness to stand for re-election for an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2023.

Margaret Coombes, who joined the Board in 2019 for a one (1) year term indicated a willingness to stand for re-election for a three (3) year term ending in June 2023.

Christene Walsh and Bev Onischak who are unable to commit for a three (3) year term, indicated a willingness to remain on the Board for one (1) additional year with their term ending in June 2021.

With the departure of Cameron Gray, Kara Keam, and the previous departure of Marcel Swain, Christene noted that three (3) vacant positions need to be filled.

To this end, the Nominations Committee is recommending that:

Angela Towle be re-elected to serve for an additional three (3) year term, ending in June 2023 and that **Margaret Coombes** be re-elected to serve for a three (3) year term ending in June 2023.

Christene Walsh and **Bev Onischak** are unable to continue for a three (3) year term, be re-elected to serve for a one (1) year term ending in June 2021.

The Nominations Committee has also identified two (2) potential candidates, **Theresa Harding** and **Linden Collette**, to fill the vacant positions on the Board that was created as a result of the departure of **Cameron Gray** and **Marcel Swain**. To this end, the Nominations Committee is recommending that Theresa Harding and Linden Collette stand for nomination to serve on SPARC BC's Board of Directors for a three (3) year term, ending in June 2023.

The chair of the Nominations Committee noted that there is one (1) additional vacancy created from the departure of Kara Keam which is being recommended to be filled at a later date.

Motion:

A. That Angela Towle, whose term is ending June 2020, be re-elected to serve for a three (3) year term ending in June 2023.

B. That Margaret Coombes, whose term is ending June 2020, be re-elected to serve for a three (3) year term ending in June 2023.

C. That Christene Walsh and Bev Onischak, whose terms are ending June 2020 and are who are unable to commit for a full three (3) year term, be re-elected to serve for a one (1) year term ending in June 2021.

D. That Theresa Harding be nominated to serve on SPARC BC's Board of Directors for a three (3) year term ending in June 2023, to fill a Board vacancy with the departure of Cameron Gray.

E. That Linden Collette be nominated to serve on SPARC BC's Board of Directors for a three (3) year term ending in June 2023, to fill a Board vacancy with the departure of Marcel Swain.

F. That the vacant position with the departure of Kara Keam be filled at a later date.

MOVED: Christene Walsh, **SECONDED:** Wes Hewitt, **CARRIED.**

8. Message from the Executive Director

The Executive Director welcomed Theresa Harding and Linden Collette to SPARC BC's Board of Directors.

Lorraine provided highlights for the year and spoke about the dedication and commitment of staff. Lorraine also thanked the Board for their support and direction during the current environment of COVID-19. In closing, Lorraine shared a video with members showcasing the success of one of SPARC BC's investments around food security.

9. Adjournment

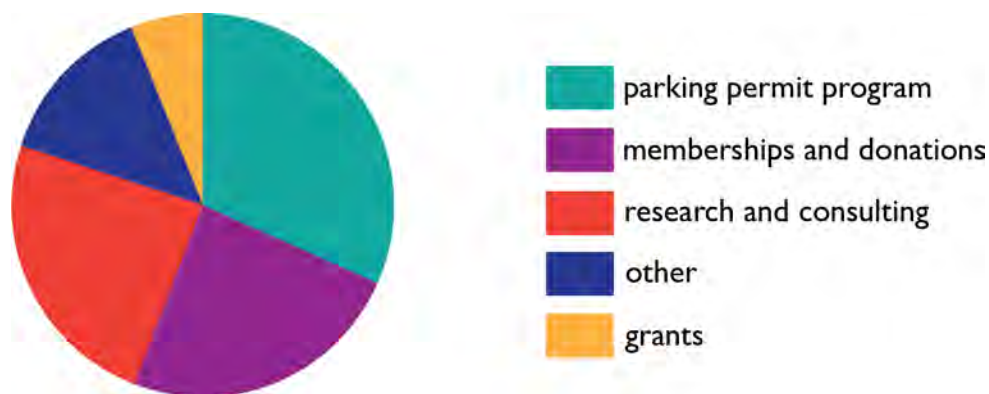
Treasurer's Report

I would like to present the Treasurer's Report for 2020/2021. SPARC BC operates through a social enterprise model where any income generated through our Parking Permit and Research and Consulting programs is reinvested in keeping our programs and services strong. Essential to SPARC BC's financial well-being, however, is the very significant support we receive from our members and donors which enables our mission-driven work in the areas of accessibility and inclusion, social policy research and advocacy, and community development education and outreach.

Like you and the rest of the world, SPARC BC is having to respond to the current pandemic. SPARC has been eligible for federal funding of approximately \$375,000 and has been able to avoid any serious financial consequences. This funding has provided increased stability that provides us confidence in the future and our ability to deliver the parking program which is so important to seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as its research and social development programs which are so important to the future of British Columbia and its citizens.

SPARC BC has continued to have strong financial results with 2020/2021 closing with an operating surplus of \$383,487. Revenues for 2020/2021 were \$3,749,317 up from \$3,317,612 in 2019/2020.

SPARC BC's revenue includes income generated from the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, funding from Membership and Donations, and revenue generated through the provision of Research, Planning and Consulting services. The graph below shows the different sources of revenue and their overall contribution to SPARC BC's mission-driven activities.



The Parking Permit Program represents 32% of SPARC BC's overall revenue. In 2020/2021, SPARC BC realized \$1,187,980 in revenue from the delivery of the Parking Permit Program and issued more than 48,000 permits. The revenue generated through the processing fee of \$26 not only enables SPARC BC to administer the program

for people who depend on having access to designated accessible parking in their community but it also supports our Accessibility and Enforcement line and works with communities to advance and support broader accessibility goals.

Memberships and donations also play a critical role in supporting our work with people and communities across B.C. 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 2020/2021, contributions from members and donors totaled \$912,156. These contributions help support SPARC BC's mission-driven work in the area of accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction as well as our outreach and engagement with local communities across B.C on a range of social policy issues. As a non-profit society and federally registered charity, SPARC BC relies on the generosity and support of our members and donors to advance our work and to help make a difference in the lives of the people and communities we serve.

Over this past year we also saw strong support for our Homeless Comfort Kits outreach, our Seniors' Harvest Basket Initiative and the Smartphone Initiative. Together through these "calls to action", SPARC BC was successful in generating a combined \$222,000 in revenue during our annual Christmas Direct Mail campaign. This strong response from our membership and donor base has meant that we can provide more support and relief year-round to a larger number of individuals who are experiencing homelessness or struggling to get by. Most importantly, the strong response from our members and donors allows us to send a clear signal to those who are homeless that people care and that their needs are not invisible. These initiatives also allow us to show how acts of kindness can still make a big difference in the lives of those who have very little.

Our Seniors' Harvest Basket initiative is in the third year of implementation. This initiative was developed in response to concerns raised by our members about the needs of low-income and vulnerable seniors. Through our own research we know that there were more than 70,000 seniors across B.C who were living in poverty and who are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Through our Seniors' Harvest Basket Initiative, our goal is to find ways to promote dignified access to healthy food and to ensure that seniors get the support they need as they grow older. Thanks to the generous support of our members and donors we have received more than \$34,000 in funding to continue to grow and expand this work.

Revenue generated through SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting Services has also remained strong. In 2020/2021, \$906,757 in revenue was generated through contracted research (up from \$599,978 in 2019/2020). This represents an increase of almost \$307,000 or 51% over the previous year. Our Research and Consulting team worked on more than 58 projects in 2020/2021 and reinvested more than \$1,121,959 back into communities and local economies through their various projects and initiatives. Key projects and initiatives included work with the Provincial government to engage local communities and partners in issues around affordable childcare, dignified access to healthy food including investments in local partnerships to support healthy food in local schools. It also included SPARC BC's on-going work with the Public Health Agency of

Canada, the Whole Kids Foundation and Farm to Cafeteria which have focused on some of the broader social policy issues around food security and local food systems.

In June 2019, the Provincial government launched the Community Homelessness Action Grants initiative designed to support local efforts for addressing homelessness. Through this initiative 76 grants totaling approximately \$2.2m in funding were approved in 2020/2021. In addition to this, we have invested over \$950k in the Smartphone Initiative to allow vulnerable people to stay connected with support networks during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has translated into the distribution of more than 10,000 phones to low-income and vulnerable individuals in need.

SPARC BC's annual operating expenditures for 2020/2021 were \$3,365,881, up from \$2,952,619 in 2019/2020. Most of the additional expense were related to staffing costs for the delivery of our programs as well as additional investments in SPARC BC's mission-driven work in the areas of accessibility and inclusion, social policy research and advocacy and community development education and outreach. This year we added two (2) communities of practice, one in the area of food security and one in the area of homelessness expanding SPARC BC's role and voice in the area of peer support and peer-based research. Expenses in the day-to-day operating costs for the delivery of the Parking Permit Program have continued to increase including postage costs which were \$126,106 in 2019/2020 compared to \$133,375 in 2020/2021. Significant attention continues to be paid to the daily operating expenses at SPARC BC to ensure that we continue to deliver our services in a responsive and accountable way, and to ensure that our operating and overhead costs remain as low as possible.

I want to conclude by thanking our members, donors and staff for a productive and successful year at SPARC BC. On behalf of the other members of the Finance and Audit Committee and the SPARC BC Board of Directors, I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to the accomplishments highlighted in this report and look forward to on-going success in 2021/2022. I would also like to thank all of SPARC BC's members for your belief in the possibilities that come from people and communities working together to build a more just and healthy society for all. It is this belief and commitment that continues to make such an important difference in the lives of so many. Thank you for the role that you play.

Sincerely,

Si Marla Reed

Marla Reed, Treasurer

Financial Statements of

Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia

Year ended March 31, 2021

Financial Statements of

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

And Independent Auditors' Report thereon

Year ended March 31, 2021



KPMG LLP
PO Box 10426 777 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver BC V7Y 1K3
Canada
Telephone (604) 691-3000
Fax (604) 691-3031

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at March 31, 2021, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "**Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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



Other Matter – Comparative information

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements on June 12, 2020.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.



- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Vancouver, Canada
June 25, 2021

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 4,968,825	\$ 6,431,186
Short-term investments (note 3)	452,487	94,000
Accounts receivable (note 12(a))	416,721	543,485
Other receivable (note 13)	72,093	-
Prepaid expenses	209,814	123,957
	6,119,940	7,192,628
Long-term investments (note 3)	99,000	443,472
Capital assets (note 4)	566,972	595,588
	\$ 6,785,912	\$ 8,231,688
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 5)	\$ 565,702	\$ 477,323
Deferred revenue	576,507	608,197
Deferred contributions (note 6)	2,672,803	4,535,359
Current portion of deferred lease inducement (note 7)	23,346	23,346
	3,838,358	5,644,225
Deferred lease inducement (note 7)	151,748	175,094
	3,990,106	5,819,319
Net assets:		
Internally restricted (note 8)	1,642,995	1,425,373
Invested in capital assets (note 9(a))	391,878	397,148
Unrestricted	760,933	589,848
	2,795,806	2,412,369
Commitment (note 10)		
	\$ 6,785,912	\$ 8,231,688

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, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Revenue:		
Permits	\$ 1,187,980	\$ 1,303,318
Contracted research	2,028,715	1,961,595
Grants (note 6)	1,945,382	1,642,536
Memberships and donations	912,156	1,019,386
Rental income	107,816	97,902
Interest income	32,335	56,030
Other income (note 13)	375,174	4,215
	6,589,558	6,084,982
Expenses:		
Audit and legal fees	27,018	22,477
Amortization of capital assets	109,494	85,564
Board and executive meetings	9,865	33,987
Computer and website maintenance	59,658	101,038
Direct mail fundraising	69,269	63,172
Disbursements – contracted research and projects	1,121,958	1,361,617
Disbursements – grants	1,718,282	1,405,753
Insurance	7,007	7,128
Marketing, publicity and promotion	74,742	79,344
Office supplies	48,625	44,938
Other expenditures	32,913	31,220
Photocopying	37,711	36,208
Postage and courier	133,374	126,106
Printing	50,291	47,251
Professional and consulting services	28,007	34,989
Programs and projects	773,882	385,424
Rental	221,750	260,520
Repairs and maintenance	17,905	44,365
Salaries, wages and benefits	1,630,172	1,513,721
Staff training and development	15,924	15,209
Telephone	18,274	19,958
	6,206,121	5,719,989
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 383,437	\$ 364,993

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, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	Internally restricted	Invested in capital assets (note 9)	Unrestricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,425,373	\$ 397,148	\$ 589,848	\$ 2,412,369	\$ 2,047,376
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	(86,148)	469,585	383,437	364,993
Change in invested in capital assets	-	80,878	(80,878)	-	-
Interfund transfer (note 8)	217,622	-	(217,622)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 1,642,995	\$ 391,878	\$ 760,933	\$ 2,795,806	\$ 2,412,369

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 383,437	\$ 364,993
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	109,494	85,564
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	(23,346)	(7,990)
	469,585	442,567
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	126,764	(171,368)
Other receivable	(72,093)	-
Prepaid expenses	(85,857)	(50,052)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	88,379	69,634
Deferred revenue	(31,690)	340,961
Deferred contributions	(1,862,556)	4,525,456
	(1,367,468)	5,157,198
Investing:		
Acquisition of capital assets	(80,878)	(315,979)
Purchase of investments	(108,015)	(134,800)
Proceeds from maturity of investments	94,000	127,664
	(94,893)	(323,115)
Financing:		
Lease inducement received	-	200,700
	-	200,700
Increase (decrease) in cash	(1,462,361)	5,034,783
Cash, beginning of year	6,431,186	1,396,403
Cash, end of year	\$ 4,968,825	\$ 6,431,186

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

1. Nature of operations:

Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society (the "Society") is incorporated under the Societies 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.

In March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The pandemic impacted the Society's operations resulting in a decrease in certain types of revenue, and changes in expenses. The situation is dynamic and the ultimate duration and magnitude of the future impact on the economy and the financial effect on Society is not known at this time.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies:

These financial statements were prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook - *Accounting*. The significant accounting policies are as follows:

(a) Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and short-term deposits which are highly liquid with original maturities of less than three months at the date of acquisition. There were no cash equivalents as at March 31, 2021 and 2020.

(b) Investments:

Short-term investments are comprised of term deposits and guaranteed investment certificates and have a maturity period of less than one year as of the date of the statement of financial position.

Long-term investments are comprised of guaranteed investment certificates, and have a maturity period of greater than one year as of the date of the statement of financial position.

(c) Capital assets:

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

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Capital assets (continued):

Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful lives as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Furniture and fixtures	3 years
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

The Society reviews for impairment the carrying value of capital assets to be held and used whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that associated future economic benefits or service potential have been reduced. If such conditions exist, an impairment loss is measured at the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its fair value or replacement cost.

(d) Revenue recognition:

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include grants and donations. Under this method, contributions with specific external restrictions are recorded as deferred contributions and recognized in the period the related expenses are incurred or the restrictions are met. Unrestricted contributions, which include memberships and donations, are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is assured.

Revenue from the sale of parking permits is recognized when the permit is provided and collection is reasonably assured.

Revenue from contracted research is recognized on the percentage of completion basis as the contracted research project is performed. The percentage of completion is typically determined using an output method based on management's estimate of the progress on the project. Disbursement that are recoverable or reimbursable under the terms of the project contract are recognized as the related eligible disbursements are incurred. A provision is made for the total anticipated loss when the estimates of total costs on a project contract indicate a loss.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued):

(d) Revenue recognition (continued):

Deferred revenue relates to amounts received for contracted research projects but not yet recognized.

Rental revenue is recognized on an accrual basis over the lease term as earned.

Interest income from cash, short-term investments and long term investments is recognized as earned.

(e) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and 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 any such financial instruments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of the 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 indications of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Society determines if there is significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of 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 year, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial impairment charge.

(f) 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 the lease term.

(g) Contributed materials and services:

Volunteers contribute their time each year to the Society. Because of the difficulty of determining the fair value of these services, the value of contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Contributed materials and supplies are not recognized in these financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued):

(h) Use of estimates:

The preparation of the financial statements 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.

Items subject to such estimates and assumptions include percentage of completion on contracted research projects. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Investments:

As at March 31, 2021, short-term investments consist of term deposits and guaranteed investment certificates maturing on varying dates from May 2021 to March 2022 at interest rates ranging from 1.25% to 2.90% per annum (2020 – 2.62% to 3.00%).

Long-term investments consist of a guaranteed investment certificate maturing in May 2023 at an interest rate of 2.10% per annum (2020 – 2.10% to 2.90%).

4. Capital assets:

			2021	2020
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer equipment	356,786	302,940	53,846	30,965
Furniture and fixtures	263,289	215,521	47,768	71,605
Leasehold improvements	884,566	419,208	465,358	493,018
	\$ 1,504,641	\$ 937,669	\$ 566,972	\$ 595,588

5. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$18,417 (2020 - \$21,445) for payroll related taxes.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

6. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions represent unspent externally restricted amounts received by the Society for specific purposes. Changes in deferred contributions are as follows:

	2021	2020
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 4,535,359	\$ 9,903
Amounts received, including accrued interest	82,826	6,167,992
Amounts recognized as revenue	(1,945,382)	(1,642,536)
Balance, end of year	\$ 2,672,803	\$ 4,535,359

7. Deferred lease inducement:

	2021	2020
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 198,440	\$ 5,730
Amounts received	-	200,700
Amortization to rental expense	(23,346)	(7,990)
Balance, end of year	175,094	198,440
Less current portion	(23,346)	(23,346)
	\$ 151,748	\$ 175,094

8. Internally restricted net assets:

The Board of Directors has approved a reserve fund of at least one-half of the annual operating budget or \$500,000 whichever is more to provide for the ongoing financial stability of the Society. The reserve fund will be set aside to be used to maintain operations during difficult financial circumstances; or to cover contingent liabilities. The reserve fund is not available for other purposes without approval of the Board of Directors.

As at March 31, 2021, \$1,642,995 (2020 - \$1,425,373) is recorded in the reserve fund. During the year ended March 31, 2021, \$217,622 (2020 - \$232,873) was transferred from unrestricted net assets to the reserve fund.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

9. Net assets invested in capital assets:

(a) Net assets invested in capital assets are comprised of the following:

	2021	2020
Capital assets	\$ 566,972	\$ 595,588
Deferred lease inducement	(175,094)	(198,440)
	<u>\$ 391,878</u>	<u>\$ 397,148</u>

(b) Change in net assets invested in capital assets is comprised of the following:

	2021	2020
Excess of revenue over expenses:		
Amortization of capital assets	\$ (109,494)	\$ (85,564)
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	23,346	7,990
	<u>\$ (86,148)</u>	<u>\$ (77,574)</u>
Change in invested in capital assets:		
Acquisition of capital assets	\$ 80,878	\$ 315,979

10. Commitment:

The Society entered into a ten-year lease agreement for its premises which expires September 30, 2028. Basic rental payments excluding goods and services tax, operating expenses and property taxes for the next 5 fiscal years and thereafter are as follows:

2022	\$ 120,420
2023	127,110
2024	130,455
2025	130,455
2026	130,455
Thereafter	195,683
	<u>\$ 834,578</u>

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

11. Employee and contractor remuneration:

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, the Society paid total remuneration of \$454,663 (2020 - \$417,989) to four (2020 – four) employees and contractors for services, each of whom received total remuneration of more than \$75,000.

The Society's Board of Directors do not receive remuneration

12. Financial risks:

(a) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. The Society's is exposed to credit risk with respect to its accounts receivable. The Society deals with creditworthy counterparties to mitigate the risk of financial loss from defaults on its accounts receivable. The Society assesses, on a continuous basis, accounts receivable and provides for any amounts that are not collectible in the allowance for doubtful accounts. As at March 31, 2021 and 2020, there was nil allowance for doubtful accounts.

(b) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Society manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. The Society prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations.

(c) Interest rate risk:

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the value of fixed income investments held by the Society. The Society manages this risk by investing in highly rated term deposits and guaranteed investment certificates with varying maturity dates.

The Society believes that it is not exposed to significant foreign currency or market risks arising from its financial instruments.

There has been no change to the risk exposures outlined above from 2020 other than the pervasive impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2021

13. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian government introduced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ("CEWS") to assist eligible organizations who experienced specified percentage declines of eligible revenue during the claim periods. During the year ended March 31, 2021, the Society recognized government assistance contributions related to CEWS of \$346,672 (2020 – nil) which has been recorded as part of other income in the statement of operations. At March 31, 2021, other receivables of \$72,093 relates to CEWS accrued but not yet received.

14. Comparative information:

Certain of the comparative information has been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation. There is no impact on net assets or excess of revenue over expenses from these reclassifications.