

sparc bc

Annual Report

2024/2025





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Land Acknowledgement

SPARC BC gratefully acknowledges that our offices are located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish People including the skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. SPARC BC's work spans the entire Province that is on 213 First Nations territories, including non-status and unrecognized communities that identify as distinct. Our work also cuts across 39 Chartered Métis communities. SPARC BC wishes to acknowledge the contributions from the Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous peoples and their contributions to Indigenous ways of being and knowing in Canada.

Mission & Values

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

OUR DEFINITION OF “JUST AND HEALTHY” IS BASED ON FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES:

Equity:	The recognition that some individuals or groups require more or less than others to flourish, and that some individuals or groups are capable of contributing more to address deficiencies and promote fairness of distribution.
Social Inclusion:	The recognition that both the rights and the opportunity to participate in and enjoy all aspects of human life enables individuals and communities to celebrate their diversity, and recognize and act on their responsibilities.
Security:	The recognition that individuals and communities flourish when they have confidence in their surroundings as safe, supportive and stable environments.
Adaptability:	The recognition that sustainability requires resilience for both individuals and communities, and the ability to respond creatively to change.
Equality:	The recognition that increasing equality within society builds social cohesion, improves health, increases safety and security, and contributes to sustainable and vibrant communities.

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.

Highlights



28,605

Donors stepped forward



Issued
more
than
63,005
Parking
Permits



funded **319**
projects
through
Homelessness
Community
Action Grants



1,600+
Welcome Home
kits distributed



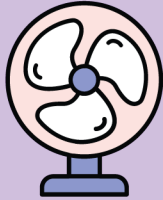
1,394
Donors supported
our Accessibility
and Inclusion
initiative



246
Donors supported our
Seniors' Harvest
Basket Initiative



Responded to
39,000+
phone calls



44

Donated to our
Fans for Extreme Heat
initiative



4,302

Members supported
our projects



13,000

Smartphones
distributed
across 91
communities
to deserving &
underserved
populations



6

Community-
based research
project and
initiatives



50

local accessibility grants
awarded



276

supported the needs of
vulnerable seniors



37 Community
partners and
disability
organizations
celebrated our
27th annual Access
Awareness Day

Message from the President

Thank you for joining us today. The Annual General Meeting provides us with an opportunity to come together and reflect on the projects and initiatives we worked on over this past year and the partnerships, friendships and relationships that were created. Tonight, when I think about everything that is going on in the world around us, I know that working together to build a more just and healthy society for everyone has never been more important.

Whether we are working on issues of poverty or homelessness or trying to make our communities more inclusive, it is about how to make everyday life better for everyone and ensuring that basic human needs are being met. Since SPARC BC was first established in 1966, our focus has been on the role of civil society and the importance of working together for the collective well-being of everyone --an ambition that is no less important today than it was 60 years ago.

We also know that the needs are growing and that too many people are being left behind. Whether it is through the delivery of the Homelessness Community Action Grant program, our Welcome Home Kits, or our 'smartphone' initiative, we know that we are making a difference and that our work with people and communities across BC matters.

When I think about the past year, I am grateful for the work of Dr. Alex Price and his team. We were successful in recruiting a new generation of leaders and workers to our organization. I am also grateful for the long-term staff who have continued to contribute their time and talents toward helping us to move closer to our vision of a just and healthy society for everyone.

A significant area of focus for SPARC BC over this past year has been an examination of the impacts of climate change and what it means in terms of the specific needs of under-served or equity-deserving populations across British Columbia. This includes considerations related to the risks of wildfires as well as extreme heat and cold. It also includes considerations related to the implications of flooding and drought and what these conditions mean for people and communities across BC in terms of their overall safety and protection as well as their physical, social and economic well-being. These are important conversations that we must continue to advance at the community level.

This year, SPARC BC also had the honour of receiving a carved eagle's feather from the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) to recognize our 5-year partnership in the delivery of our smartphone program. Not only have more than 13,000 people across BC received a phone but our partnership with the First Nations Health Authority means that we were able to broaden and deepen our reach to include every First Nations community in BC. In presenting us with the eagle's feather, our partners at FNHA wrote that:

Eagles are among the most sacred of creatures. They represent attributes we aspire to in our communities including wisdom, strength, courage, dignity and excellence. When an Eagle Feather is presented, it is with great honour as it is felt the recipient embodies these qualities.

I would be remiss not to mention the important role that our members and donors play in helping to support our vision. Not only does the support we receive from our members and donors help us to keep the Parking Permit Program strong amidst great uncertainty, but your

support allows us to do so much more in terms of working to improve the lives of others. Our efforts include working to address issues of food insecurity among low-income seniors and people with disabilities and to provide basic comforts for people experiencing homelessness. It also includes working to address the needs of families with children living in poverty and to seek to ensure they have access to the opportunities they need and the future they deserve.

I would like to conclude by thanking you for coming out tonight to participate in our Annual General meeting. It has been an honour to serve as the President for SPARC BC's Board of Directors over this past year, and I look forward to working with each of you over the coming year. I also believe that the need for people and communities to come together to work for positive social change has never been greater and I know that SPARC BC has played and will continue to play an essential role in this endeavour for years to come. Thank you for the role you play and the difference you make.

Sincerely,

Wes Hewitt

Wes Hewitt

President, SPARC BC

Message from the Executive Director

Thank you for the opportunity to share highlights from this past year. Coming together like this provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our achievements, and to set a course of action for the future.

Much of SPARC BC's work occurs in the spaces between broader social policy areas such as health, education, housing, and income support, where gaps in these systems have left too many families and individuals struggling. At the same time, it is often within these same spaces that opportunities exist for each of us to stand up and to work to create the types of changes that are needed to help to lift families and individuals out of poverty and to give them a chance for a better life.

One of SPARC BC's strengths is our ability to build connections with communities and to actively work to support the well-being of all citizens. This includes the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities and the different partnerships and initiatives that we have been able to put into place to ensure that our communities are as welcoming and inclusive as possible and that all citizens can actively participate in all aspects of community life. This year, in addition to the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, we have been actively engaged in exploring other forms of inclusive transportation including working alongside People In Motion in Kamloops on their Memories in Motion initiative as well as exploring opportunities to strengthen and improve access to HandyDART services for HandyDART riders in the Lower Mainland and beyond.

This past year, SPARC BC has also been successful in working with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to work with community partners to help to build community capacity for responding to the growing frequency and intensity of climate emergencies through an equity informed approach. We have recently completed a series of gap reports on the different climate risks and emergencies in BC and will be reaching out to community-based agencies and service providers across BC to establish a series of grants designed to bring people and communities together to support local planning and action in a way that ensures that all needs are met.

This past year, we have continued to have tremendous success in terms of the partnerships and relationships that we were able to develop around the delivery of the provincial Homelessness Community Action Grant program, the Welcome Home Kits and our 'smart phone' initiative. Combined these programs have allowed us to partner with more than 300 community-based agencies and service providers across BC, in more than 82 communities. The funding has also helped to build community capacity and to ensure that basic needs are met. It has been a privilege to work alongside

our provincial partners and the community-based agencies and service providers who stepped forward into this space to seek to make a difference for others.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board and staff for their dedication and commitment. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead SPARC BC for more than fifteen years and look forward to the future. I continue to be amazed at the different partnerships and relationships that we have put into place and the shared commitment and determination of our partners in continuing to work to remove barriers that limit access to opportunities for others.

As we continue to look toward the future, it is also important to recognize and reinforce the value of lived expertise and the need to continue to focus on the development of place-based strategies that can help to move people out of poverty. When I do this, I like to think of 'social development' as a verb –one that not only helps to create lasting and positive change but one that also recognizes that while everyone has abilities and talents that they can share we do not always start from the same starting point and that the opportunities that are available are not evenly distributed. To this end, it is more important than ever to lead with the values of social justice, inclusion, integrity and learning and to believe in the ideals of equality, equity, and opportunity. Thank you for the role that you play and the difference that you help to make.

Lorraine Copas

Lorraine Copas
Executive Director, SPARC BC



SPARC BC

Mission Driven Priorities



Accessibility and Inclusion

Our vision of a just and healthy society is one where all citizens have the chance to share their abilities and access opportunities that are meaningful and important to them. To advance this vision, SPARC BC strives to remove barriers that limit the participation and active engagement of people with disabilities and to work with our community partners to create workplaces and community gathering spaces where everyone feels welcomed and is included.



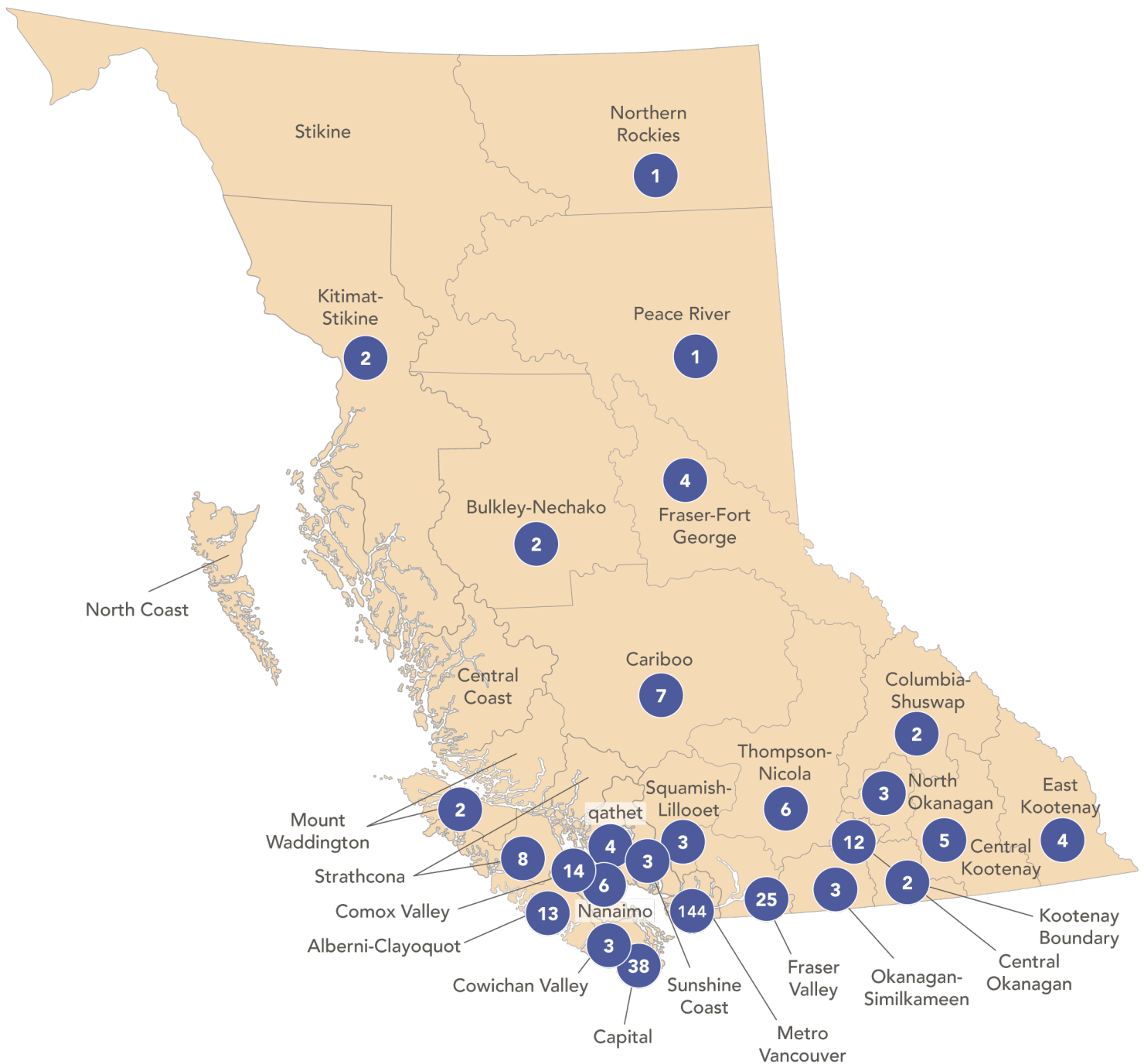
Access Awareness Day

Celebrated annually Access Awareness Day is always held on the first Saturday in June. Designed to bring communities together Access Awareness Day provides us with an opportunity to work together with others to explore ways to ensure that our communities are truly welcoming and inclusive. The theme for Access Awareness Day was “Accessibility means Communities for Everyone”. Together more than 37 communities and partners participated in Access Awareness Day this year.



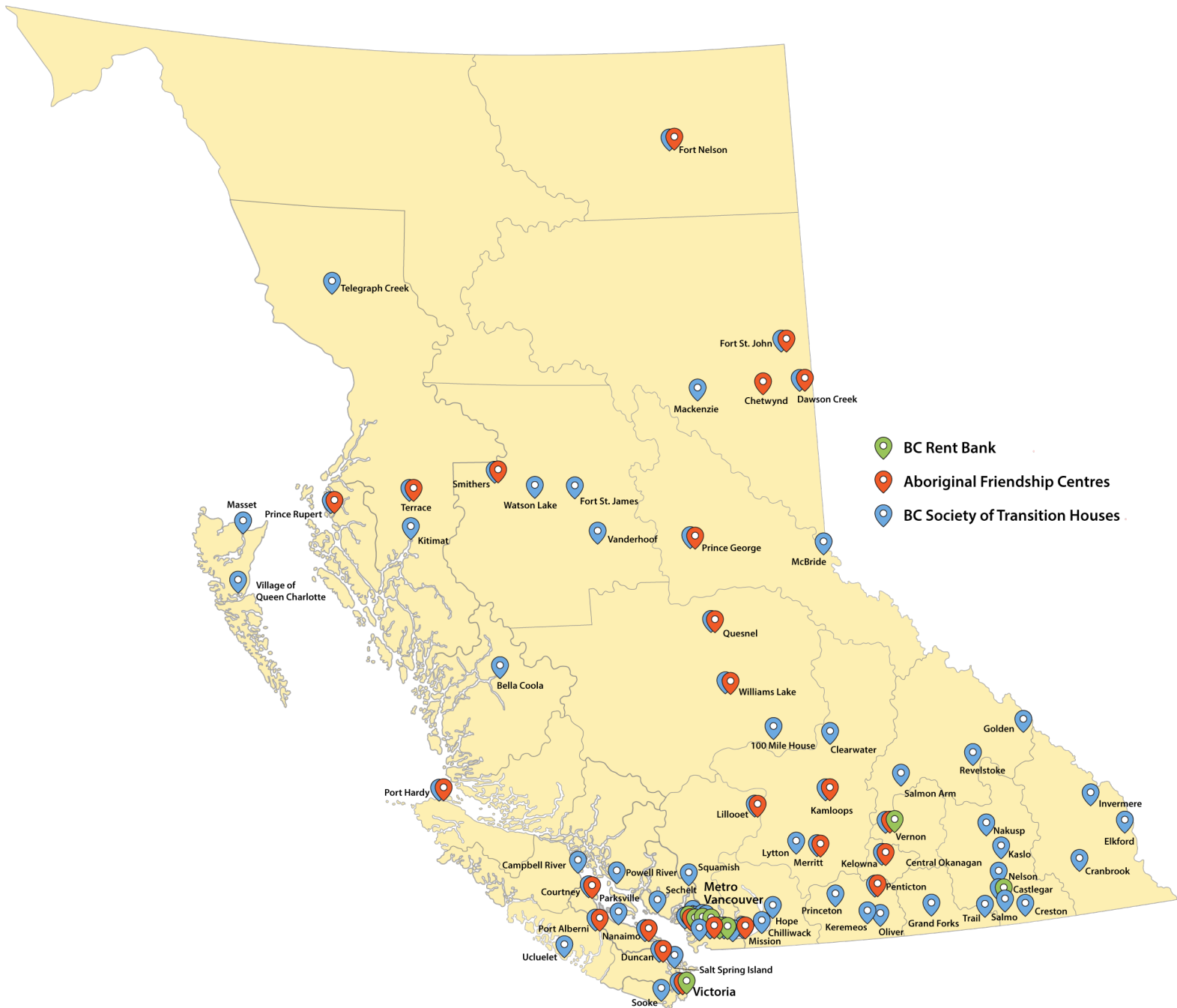
Local Government Accessibility Grants

Working in partnership with the Provincial Accessibility Secretariat, SPARC BC has launched the Local Community Accessibility Grant Program. This program is designed to promote greater accessibility by removing barriers identified by local Accessibility Committees. To date, 50 projects have been funded, with many more local governments expected to apply for this grant.



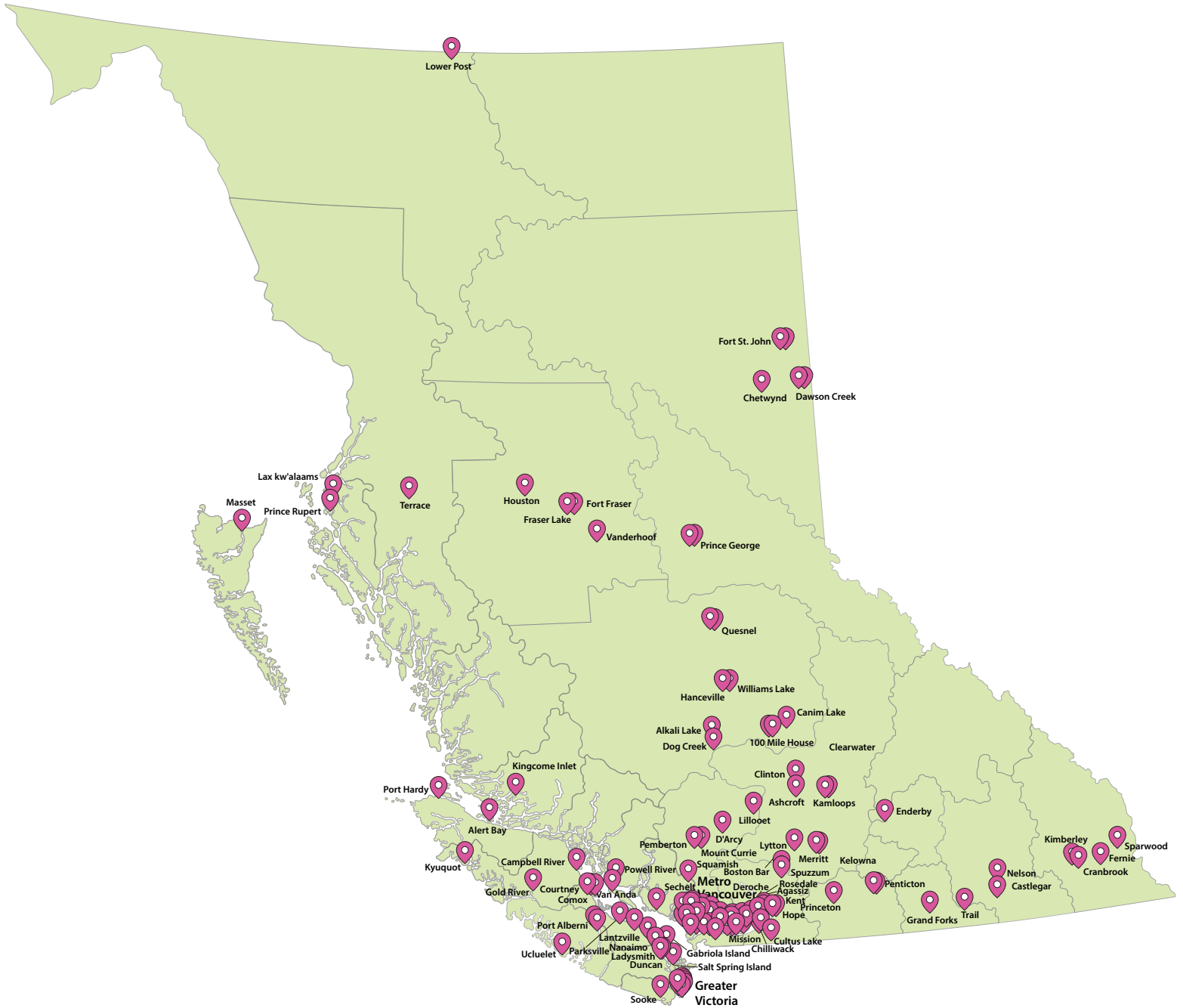
Provincial Homelessness Community Action Grants

With funding provided through this program, more than 300 projects were funded over the life of this program. This includes partnerships across 60 communities. Funding provided through the Provincial Community Homelessness Action Grant program supports community-based action research and is designed to meet existing and emerging needs across communities.



Welcome Home Kits

Our Welcome Home Kits are funded by the Province of B.C. through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. The Kits are designed to help individuals with a history of homelessness make a new start as they move into a new home. Each of the Welcome Home Kits include kitchen supplies, bedding and linens as well as cleaning supplies and other items that can help to provide a sense of home and a fresh start. In 2024/2025, 770 kits were delivered through the community-based partnerships.



Smartphone and Digital Equity Initiative

To date more than 13,000 phones have been delivered through more than 390 community partners across 91 different communities and regions across British Columbia as well as across all First Nations communities as a result of a 5 year partnership with the First Nations Health Authority Urban and Away from Home team.



Community Development Education & Outreach

Our vision of a just and healthy society is one where everyone can participate fully in their future. Through using social planning as a model to engage and support communities in taking actions to ensure that all citizens have a voice and a future they deserve. We accomplish this by working together with communities to build their capacity to advance issues that are meaningful and important and that support true social policy change.



Deryck Thomson Award

Community social planning is also about supporting the active engagement and participation of all citizens, including creating space for people whose voices are not always heard. Named after one of SPARC BC's founding directors, the Deryck Thomson Award seeks to honor individuals and organizations who have demonstrated success in contributing to the well-being of all citizens through their commitment to community service and social development.

“We’re 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 ways in which we go about the task may differ, but the goal remains constant.”

—Deryck Thomson

RECIPIENTS FOR 2024/2025

The following is the list of potential recipients put forward by the Board's Nomination Committee for the Board's 2024/2025 Deryck Thomson Award:

Debora DeLyzer is the Executive Director for People in Motion Kamloops and is nominated for her vision of working to build a more inclusive world through her efforts to bring 'non-traditional partners' together to support the development of her Memories in Motion Program -a community-based, people-centered transportation service designed to ensure that people with disabilities and those with health and activity limitations can participate in the little things that bring joy in life or get the support that they need when dealing with a health crisis and where they do not have to worry about transportation.

Elder Lorelei Hawkins is an Indigenous Elder who works in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and who is nominated for her wisdom and commitment to addressing the issues of poverty and homelessness in BC and for the way in which she helps to continue to build bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and communities in a good way.

Marla Reed is a former SPARC BC Board member and is the Executive Director for Dawson Creek Community Living Society. Marla is nominated for her creativity and ingenuity in creating a home-delivered meal program which covers 12,000 square kilometers and 168 points of connection across the Peace River Regional District and which seeks to ensure that low income and isolated seniors can age in place with confidence.

Gary Thandi is nominated for his innovative low-barrier approach to the provision of counselling services and his commitment to ensuring that cost is never a barrier and firm belief that anyone who needs access to counselling should be able to obtain it. Over the past year, 22,000 people were assisted through Gary's program entitled Moving Families Forward, including 15,000 individuals who received the service for free while others paid an average of \$5 to \$7 per session.

Jesse Vea is nominated for his dedication to providing peer-based education and support in a caring and non-stigmatizing way for people struggling with addictions including his efforts to sustain the One Stop Shop program through his own resources when there were some challenges around the overall future and sustainability of the program. Jesse has now taken his talents and leadership to the Helping Hands Program.



Membership and Donations

Our Members Make a Difference

Your Membership Matters

SPARC BC is fortunate to have the support of a broad and generous membership and donor base. Over this past year, SPARC BC received support from more than 28,600 individuals who step forward to support our programs and initiatives as well as our calls to action. Through their generosity and support, not only does it help to keep our programs strong, but it also helps us to continue to work to address issues like poverty, housing insecurity, food insecurity and homelessness as well as actively work to create communities that are more welcoming and inclusive. To our members, we want to thank you for the role that you play and the difference that you make.

Calls to Action



Senior's Harvest Baskets

Through our Seniors' Harvest Baskets initiative, SPARC BC works with local farmers and organizations across British Columbia to ensure that low-income seniors and others can have dignified access to healthy food throughout the growing season.



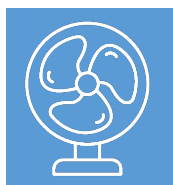
Homeless Comfort Kits

Through our Homeless Comfort Kits, SPARC BC helps to provide people experiencing homelessness with warm dry socks and others basic comforts.



Stay In Touch

Through our "Stay In Touch" initiative, SPARC BC is able to provide access to basic smartphones for low-income seniors and people with disabilities who do not have access to basic communication as a way for them to stay in touch with others or to access the services and support they need.



Fans for Extreme Heat

With the increase in the number and intensity of climate emergencies, SPARC BC has fans available to distribute through community partners to ensure that low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and others have access to basic comfort as well as the information they need to know how to protect themselves during periods of extreme heat.



SPARC BC

Annual General Meeting

AGENDA

SPARC BC

Annual General Meeting 2024/2025

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC

July 4, 2025

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting June 28, 2025
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
7. Appointment of SPARC BC's External Auditors for 2025/2026
8. Report from the Nominations Committee—Election of Directors
9. Report from the Nominations Committee—Announcement of the 2024/2025 Deryck Thomson Award Recipients
10. Message from the Executive Director
11. Adjournment

MINUTES

SPARC BC

Hybrid In-Person and Over Zoom

Annual General Meeting 2023/2024

SPARC BC Office, 4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby BC

June 28, 2024

6:00 PM

Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order and welcomed members.

Land Acknowledgement

The President started by acknowledging that SPARC BC's office is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish People including the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh). SPARC BC's work spans the entire Province of British Columbia that is on 203 First Nations territories and across 39 Chartered Métis communities. We also want to acknowledge the Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous people and their contributions to Indigenous ways of being and knowing in Canada.

Adoption of the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting – June 28, 2024

The President welcomed the Directors and members present. The President noted that we will start the meeting by reviewing and approving the Agenda which was mailed to members in advance of the meeting. Additionally, the President noted that the Agenda for the meeting can be found in the Annual Report on page 17.

The President observed that in addition to the regular business that is covered at the Annual General Meeting, members should note that the Agenda also includes considerations around proposed changes to SPARC BC's Bylaws and that these changes will be discussed more fully. The President asked if there were any questions or changes to the Agenda. Hearing no questions the President called for a motion to adopt the Agenda for SPARC BC's Annual General Meeting as presented.

MOTION:

That the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting for June 28, 2024, be approved as presented.

MOVED: FRASER HOLLAND, **SECONDED:** JIM O'DEA, **ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.**

Minutes from the 2022/2023 Annual General Meeting – June 23, 2023

The President noted that the first order of business is the review and approval of the minutes from the 2022/2023 Annual General Meeting. The President informed members that the minutes can be found on page 18 of the Annual Report which was provided to Members at the start of the meeting.

The President asked members to review the minutes from the Annual General Meeting from the previous year and asked for one of the members present at the meeting to confirm the accuracy of the minutes.

Fraser noted that he was present at the 2022/2023 Annual General Meeting and moved the adoption of the minutes.

MOTION:

That the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 23, 2023, be approved as presented.

MOVED: FRASER HOLLAND, **SECONDED:** JIM O'DEA, **ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.**

Report from the President

The President offered that he would like to share some of his reflections from the past year and noted that the Annual Report also includes a written message from the President. The President talked about how SPARC BC works with people and communities from across British Columbia on issues around accessibility and inclusion. He also talked about SPARC BC's commitment to working to address issues of income security and poverty reduction.

The President noted that for almost 40 years, SPARC BC has been engaged in the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities and the role that the program plays in promoting and supporting greater equity and in building a true sense of inclusion and connection for those who rely on the Program. The President noted that through the Parking Permit Program, seniors and people with disabilities have greater access to their communities.

The President also highlighted some of SPARC BC's recent programs including the Smartphone Program, as well as the delivery of the Provincial Homelessness Community Action Grant Program. The President also mentioned SPARC BC's role in the delivery of the Welcome Home Kit Program which is funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and which is designed to promote a sense of home among vulnerable and under-served populations who are making the transition from homelessness into housing.

The President noted that SPARC BC's success comes from the dedication, commitment and talent of the staff as well as the generosity and support from our members and donors.

The President expressed his gratitude to the members for their on-going support as well as his appreciation to the Directors, members and staff who are present at the meeting.

The President asked members to take a few minutes to look at the complete Message from the President, which can be found in the Annual Report on pages 6 & 7, and called for a motion to receive the Message from the President as presented

MOTION:

That the Message from the President be received as presented.

MOVED: WES HEWITT, **SECONDED:** JIM O'DEA, **ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.**

Report from the Treasurer

The President noted that the next item on the Agenda is the Report from the Treasurer. The President shared that Marla Reed has served as the Treasurer for SPARC BC for a number of years, but that Marla was unable to attend the meeting this evening. The President asked Jessica Li, a member of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee, to present the Treasurer's Report on Marla's behalf. Jessica agreed to present the report. Jessica directed members to page 22 of the Annual Report and read the report to the members. At the conclusion of the Treasurer's Report, Jessica asked if there were any questions. Hearing no questions, the President thanked Jessica for presenting the Treasurer's Report and called for a motion to receive the Report from the Treasurer as presented.

MOTION:

That the Report from the Treasurer be received as presented.

MOVED: JESSICA LI, **SECONDED:** JIM O'DEA, **ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.**

Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements

The President noted that the next item on the Agenda is the Presentation of SPARC BC's Audited Financial Statements for 2023/2024, and noted that the Audited Financial Statements can be found in the Annual Report following the Report from the Treasurer.

The President noted that the Financial Statements have been reviewed in detail by members of the Finance and Audit Committee and offered the observation that the Financial Statements show that SPARC BC has had a good year and that, as an organization, SPARC BC is in a strong financial position to continue to advance our mission.

The President asked if there were any questions about the information presented in the Audited Financial Statements. Hearing no questions, the President called for a motion to approve the Audited Financial Statements for 2023/2024 as presented.

MOTION:

That the Audited Financial Statements for 2023/2024 be approved, as presented.

MOVED: JESSICA LI, **SECONDED:** FRASER HOLLAND, **ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.**

Appointment of SPARC BC's External Auditors for 2024/2025

The President noted that the Finance and Audit Committee issued a Request for Proposals for external auditing services for 2024/2025 and that the Committee received three (3) proposals, including a proposal from KPMG. The President noted that KPMG has provided external auditing services to SPARC BC for the past four (4) years and that after reviewing the proposals received, the Finance and Audit Committee is recommending the appointment of KPMG for an additional year based on their proposal and reputation in the sector. The President asked if there were any questions. Hearing no questions the President called for a motion to approve the appointment of KPMG as SPARC BC's external Auditors for 2024/2025.

MOTION:

That KPMG be appointed as SPARC BC's external Auditors for 2024/2025.

MOVED: JESSICA LI, **SECONDED:** JIM O'DEA, **ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.**

The President noted that the Report from SPARC BC's Board Nominations Committee is the next item on the Agenda. The President asked Mia Burgess to step forward to share the report from the Nominations Committee.

Report from the Nominations Committee

Mia offered that the Nominations Committee, as a Committee of SPARC BC's Board of Directors, is responsible for administering the Board's nominations and recruitment process.

Mia noted that there are currently five (5) Directors who are continuing to serve their 3-year term including: **Wes Hewitt** (Port Alberni), **Sheila Lewis** (Kelowna), **Fraser Holland** (Langley), **Jessica Li** (Richmond) and herself, **Mia Burgess** (Victoria).

Mia noted that there are also two (2) Directors, **Marla Reed** (Dawson Creek) and **Beverly Onischak** (Castlegar) who will be leaving the Board following the Annual General Meeting, which means that there are two (2) vacant positions to be filled. As well, there are two (2) Directors **Jim O'Dea** (Vancouver) and **Laurie Paulin** (Hazelton), whose terms are ending and who have agreed to serve on SPARC BC's Board of Directors for an additional 3 year term.

In identifying members to fill the vacancies created by the departure of **Marla Reed** and **Beverly Onischak**, Mia noted that the Committee has identified some excellent

candidates but would like to defer making a recommendation around filling the two (2) vacant positions until the Committee has had the opportunity to do further outreach and engagement with the potential nominees.

To this end, the Nominations Committee would like to make the following recommendations:

- (a) That **Jim O'Dea** and **Laurie Paulin** whose terms are ending in June 2024 be nominated to stand for re-election for an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2027.
- (b) That **Marla Reed** and Beverly **Onischak** whose terms are ending and who will be leaving the Board be thanked for their years of service and dedication to SPARC BC.
- (c) That the remaining vacant positions be filled at the September Board meeting in order to allow members of the Nominations Committee to do further outreach and engagement with the potential nominees whose names have been put forward for consideration.

The President thanked Mia for her presentation and expressed his appreciation to Marla Reed and Beverly Onischak for their years of service to SPARC BC and to the Board. The President asked if there were any questions arising from the Report from the Nominations Committee. Hearing no questions, the President called for a motion to support the recommendations put forward by the Nominations Committee.

MOTION:

- (a) That **Jim O'Dea** and **Laurie Paulin** whose terms are ending in June 2024 be nominated to stand for re-election for an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2027
- (a) That **Marla Reed** and **Beverly Onischak** whose terms are ending, be thanked for their years of service and dedication to SPARC BC
- (b) That the remaining vacant positions be filled at the September Board meeting in order to allow members of the Nominations Committee to do further outreach and engagement with the potential nominees whose names have been put forward for consideration.

MOVED: MIA BURGESS, SECONDED: FRASER HOLLAND, ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.

Beverly, who was attending the meeting via zoom, expressed her appreciation to the other Directors and noted that she has enjoyed her time on the Board and that she knows that she has learned a lot while serving on the Board. The President once again expressed his appreciation to Bev and noted that her contribution to the Board has been very valuable. The other Directors also thanked Bev and noted that she will be missed.

The President noted that recommendations for SPARC BC's 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Awards is the next item on the Agenda. The President asked Fraser Holland from the Board's Nominations Committee to present the recommendations from the Committee.

Nominees for the 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Awards

Fraser started by providing a bit of background about the Deryck Thomson Award, including the history of the Award. Fraser noted that the Deryck Thomson Award was established by SPARC BC to recognize individuals or organizations who have demonstrated, through their professional and/or volunteer activities, a sustained commitment to social planning and social justice in BC. This includes individuals and organizations whose work contributes to:

- Building or enhancing community capacity and community well-being
- Supporting innovation that creates positive social change for people and communities
- Advocating for equity, fairness and dignity for all through social justice, inclusion, integrity and learning
- Advancing initiatives or policies that:
 - Integrate social, cultural, economic and environmental planning, decision making and action
 - Raise public consciousness about the importance of social and community well-being
 - Advocate for improved social policies and programs
 - Ensure that those who are most affected have a voice in decisions that affect them.

Fraser noted that for 2023/2024, four (4) very worthy projects and recipients were identified based on the criteria established by the Board. These included:

- Addressing the addictions and opioid crisis in caring and innovative ways
- Breaking down barriers around accessibility and creating space for true inclusion
- Bringing together 'non-traditional partners' in addressing social development needs
- Recognizing Indigenous organizations and partners
- Recognizing individuals and organizations from Northern communities

Fraser noted that the first nominee is:

Grant Shilling and the Comox Valley Rainbow Warriors, along with the Canadian Street Soccer Association

Fraser noted that Grant Shilling has continued to show leadership in the Comox Valley through his work with the Rainbow Warriors and has more recently been actively engaged in working to re-establish Canada's Street Soccer Association. Grant has more than thirteen (13) years of experience in building the street soccer program in the Comox Valley and recognizes that the need to belong and to contribute to something larger than oneself is a fundamental human need. Grant also recognizes that each of us has a role to play in working to create communities where everyone has the chance to feel connected and to be a part of something bigger. To this end, Grant is working with an array of community-based partners including the Canadian Street Soccer Association to rebuild the street soccer outreach network in the Comox Valley and across British Columbia. In looking at the value of this work, not only has Grant been successful in bringing 'non-traditional' partners together, but his work in advancing and supporting the street soccer movement has been instrumental in helping to build a sense of true inclusion. To this end, the Nominations Committee would like to recommend Grant Shilling and the Canadian Street Soccer Association along with the Comox Valley Rainbow Warriors for one of SPARC BC's 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Awards.

Fraser noted that the second nominee is:

Dr Evelyn Zeller and Norm Leech for their work with the Restorative City Collective (Vancouver)

The Restorative City Collective is an unprecedented team of diverse voices offering wisdom and insights from Indigenous-led organizations, as well as service providers, the City of Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Department, the School Board, policing, courts, corrections and business associations with the goal of uplifting the humanity of all people while respecting land, water and relations. Led by Dr. Evelyn Zeller from Peace of the Circle, an international expert on restorative justice, and working in partnership with Norm Leech, a leader in the Indigenous community, the Collective grapples with the challenges of addressing conflict, harm and crime in a large, multi-cultural city like Vancouver. Related to this are efforts to create safety, justice and peace while working towards decolonization and honouring of Indigenous laws and teachings. Over the past year, SPARC BC has helped to support the work of the Restorative City project through engagement at the community and neighbourhood level. This work has been both humbling and inspiring by the boldness and beauty of the vision of the Restorative City Collaborative, and the tremendous leadership of Dr Evelyn Zeller and Norm Leech, as they work to identify opportunities for community partners to work together holistically and relationally. To this end, the Nominations Committee would like to recommend Dr Evelyn Zeller, Norm Leech and the Restorative City Collective for one of SPARC BC's 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Awards.

Fraser noted that the third nominee is:

Cristina Schneider and the Gateway of Hope Yoga Initiative (Langley)

The Gateway of Hope is an emergency shelter in Langley that provides services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Fraser noted that the Gateway of Hope under the leadership of Cristina Schneider, has been doing a tremendous job of breaking down barriers while working to build a true sense of belonging and inclusion among those accessing the services of the shelter. The Gateway of Hope Yoga Program, led by Cristina Schneider, is a powerful example of how small acts of kindness and caring can make a big difference. Cristina is recognized for her tremendous leadership in the provision of supportive services and for her passion around building a truly welcoming and inclusive environment. In particular, Fraser noted that the design of a yoga program led by Cristina has been invaluable in building a deeper sense of belonging and connection among program participants and has resulted in an increase in the level of collaborative engagement between the Gateway of Hope Shelter and the community. Fraser also noted that Cristina's efforts including her passion around her work has been instrumental in helping to build an inclusive team culture within the Gateway of Hope Shelter system. To this end, the Nominations Committee would like to nominate Cristina Schneider and the Gateway of Hope Yoga Program for the 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Award.

Fraser noted that the fourth nominee is:

Kitselas First Nation and the K5T initiative (Terrace)

In putting this project forward, Fraser observed that the Kitselas First Nation has continued to work to advance the Kitselas Five Tier System (K5T) which builds on Indigenous ways of being and knowing to support social and economic development and well-being. Through this initiative, the Kitselas First Nation provides a holistic set of wraparound supports and culturally relevant skills training and employment services for Indigenous peoples in Northwest BC. Initially supported by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the K5T model has been successful in supporting more than 600 people, 87% of whom have gone on to employment or further education through the provision of personalized, accessible services, and wraparound supports including health, housing, childcare, nutrition and transportation. It is the holistic nature of the vision and the results achieved that makes the Kitselas First Nations and their Five Tier System (K5T), the fourth and final nominee for SPARC BC's 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Award.

Fraser noted that it has been his honour to have the opportunity to recognize the tremendous efforts of these different organizations and their leadership, and to this end would like to make the following motion:

MOTION:

- (a) That the **Comox Valley Rainbow Warriors** and the **Canadian Street Soccer Association** be nominated for a 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Award along with the provision of a cheque for \$5,000 to continue to support their efforts and that **Grant Shilling** also be nominated for an individual Award in recognition of his tremendous leadership in the Street Soccer movement.
- (a) That **Peace of the Circle** and the **City of Vancouver's Restorative Collective** be nominated for a 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Award along with the provision of a cheque for \$5,000 to continue to support their efforts to demonstrate new ways of working together relationally and holistically to address conflict, crime and harm in a large multicultural city like Vancouver, and that **Dr. Evelyn Zeller** and **Norm Leech** be recognized with individual Awards for their leadership in this movement.
- (a) That the **Gateway of Hope Yoga Program** be nominated for a 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Award along with the provision of a cheque for \$5,000 to continue to support their yoga program and other efforts designed to build a deeper sense of connection and inclusion among the clients they serve, and that **Cristina Schneider** be nominated for an individual Award in recognition of her commitment to creating a true climate of welcoming and inclusion within the Gateway of Hope Shelter system.
- (a) That the **Kitselas First Nation** and their K5T initiative be nominated for a 2023/2024 Deryck Thomson Award along with the provision of a cheque for \$5,000 to continue to support their efforts in working to break down barriers and carve new pathways forward for Indigenous people in northwestern BC.

MOVED: FRASER HOLLAND, SECONDED: SHEILA LEWIS, ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.

The President thanked the Nominations Committee for their presentation and noted that the Board will be engaged in the coming months to support staff in the presentation of these Awards. The President also noted that he continues to be impressed with the quality of the nominees and the tremendous sense of leadership and dedication they show in working to build a more just, healthy and equitable society for everyone.

Proposed Changes to SPARC BC's Bylaws

The President noted that we have now reached the point in the Agenda related to the **Proposed Changes to SPARC BC's Bylaws**. The President observed that staff have distributed two booklets which provide information about the changes proposed. One of the booklets that has been distributed provides a summary of the changes along with an explanation of the reasons the changes are being considered. The second booklet includes the current language in SPARC BC's Bylaws as well as the changes which have been proposed and which are under consideration. The President suggested that the Executive Director will help to lead the discussion around this item on the Agenda and will guide the Board and members present through various documents.

By way of background, the Executive Director offered that the Board, through the Governance Committee and through the work of the Board's Executive Committee, spent some time over the past year reviewing SPARC BC's current bylaws to ensure that they are up-to-date and representative of good governance practices. This work was completed under the guidance of Michael Blatchford, a lawyer with Miller Thomson LLP, who is recognized for his expertise in non-profit governance.

Following a series of meetings with the Board, there was agreement that the Board would like to update their current bylaws with a focus on looking at, and understanding SPARC BC's current membership structure (Article 2). There were also some other small administrative items included in the review including quorum requirements (Article 3.13), the Board's protocol and practices around actions to be taken in the event that there is a tie vote (Article 4.2), and the inspection of documents and records for review (Article 12.2). The Executive Director directed Members to the two (2) documents they received. The first document is entitled "Attachment 1 - Explanation of the Changes Proposed" while the second document is entitled "Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM". The Executive Director observed that these documents were sent out to the Members along with the meeting notice.

The Executive Director suggested that the Board and Members should start by looking at "Attachment 1 - Explanation of the Changes Proposed". She noted that this document sets out the language changes that are under consideration as well as an explanation of the changes.

The Executive Director suggested that Members might also want to refer to "Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM" to see the current language in SPARC BC's Bylaws, as well as the specific changes that have been proposed with respect to:

- SPARC BC Bylaws Article 2 – Membership

- SPARC BC Bylaws Article 3.13 – Quorum Requirements
- SPARC BC Bylaws Article 12.2 – Inspection of Documents and Records
- SPARC BC Bylaws Article 4.2 – Actions to be taken in the case of a tie vote.

The Executive Director suggested that the Board and Members systematically review the different sections of SPARC BC's bylaws and the changes proposed starting with Article 2 – Membership, where the proposed changes recommend two (2) classes of membership - governing members and supporting members. The Executive Director directed the Members to "Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM" where they can see the changes proposed in "red". The Executive Director also reviewed the proposed changes with the Members and suggested that Members could follow along by referring to the "red" text in "Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM", under Article 2 – Membership, which includes the following language:

Article 2 - Membership

In terms of changes to "Article 2 – Membership", the Executive Director noted that it has been proposed that the existing article "Article 2 – Membership" be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the language set out under "Article 2-Membership" in the document entitled "Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM" which reads as:

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Admission to Membership

Membership in the Society is restricted to:

- (a) those Persons who transition as members in accordance with bylaw 2.5 (a); and*
- (b) those Persons who are subsequently admitted as members in accordance with these Bylaws.*

2.2 Classes of Membership

There will be one (1) class of voting membership, called "governing members", and one (1) class of non-voting membership, called "supporting members".

2.3 Directors are Governing Members

Each Person who is a Director of the Society in accordance with the Bylaws is by that fact automatically a Governing member, and will continue as a Governing member until ceasing to be a Director in accordance with the Bylaws.

2.4 Eligibility for Supporting Membership

A Person may be eligible to be accepted as a supporting member if they are:

- (a) nineteen (19) years of age or older;*
- (b) ordinarily resident in British Columbia; and*
- (c) interested in advancing the purposes and supporting the activities of the Society.*

A corporation or other organization is not eligible to become a supporting member.

2.5 Transition of Membership

On the date these Bylaws come into force:

- (a) each Person who is a Director of the Society will continue as a governing member until ceasing as a Director in accordance with these Bylaws;*
- (b) each Person who is a member of the Society in good standing other than a Director and who is eligible to be supporting member under these Bylaws will continue as a supporting member until the conclusion of the current term of membership, unless the Person otherwise ceases to be a member in accordance with these Bylaws; and*
- (c) each Person who is a member of the Society not in good standing or who is ineligible for membership under these Bylaws will be deemed to have resigned from membership effective that date.*

2.6 Application for Supporting Membership

An eligible Person may apply to the Society to become a supporting member by:

- (a) submitting a completed application, in such form and manner as may be established by the Society, at the Address of the Society;*
- (b) submitting such information or documentation as the membership coordinator may require to confirm eligibility for membership; and*
- (c) submitting payment for applicable membership fees or dues, if any.*

2.7 Membership Coordinator

The Board may delegate the review and acceptance of new applications and re-applications for supporting membership to a Person, position or

committee, which Person or committee will be referred to for the purposes of these Bylaws as the membership coordinator.

If no membership coordinator is designated by the Board, then the duties for that position set out in these Bylaws remain with the Board.

2.8 Reviewing and Acceptance of Application

The membership coordinator, if any, will review all applications for supporting membership in the Society and may, if necessary to determine eligibility for membership, request the Person to provide further information or documentation in support of the application.

The membership coordinator may, by entering the Person's information into the register of members, accept that Person as a supporting member as determined in accordance with these Bylaws. The membership coordinator will regularly report to the Board regarding applications for membership received and approved.

2.9 Referral of Application to Board

The membership coordinator, may at any time and for any reason refer an application for membership to the Board for further consideration and, if so referred, the Board may, by Board Resolution, accept, postpone or refuse such application for membership.

The Board may refuse or postpone an application for membership in its sole discretion, for any reason which the Board consider appropriate and in the best interests of the Society. The decision of the Board to refuse or postpone an application membership is final and without appeal.

2.10 Membership not Transferable

Membership is not transferable.

2.11 Term and Renewal of Supporting Membership

Once accepted as a supporting member, a Person continues as a supporting member until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting, unless they otherwise cease to be a member in accordance with these Bylaws.

A supporting member who continues to be eligible may renew their membership within 30 days of the current membership term in such manner as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

A Person whose membership has expired or otherwise ceased other than by expulsion and who remains eligible may re-apply for membership

after its expiry in accordance with bylaw 2.6. Where a Person is expelled from membership the Person may, unless prohibited by the terms of the expulsion resolution, re-apply for membership in accordance with the terms of the expulsion resolution, provided that if the expulsion resolution does not restrict re-application, the Person may re-apply for membership after one (1) year from the date of expulsion. Re-applications for previously expelled members require approval by the Board.

2.12 Cessation of Membership

A Person will immediately cease to be a Member:

- (a) in the case of a governing member ceasing to be a Director;
- (b) in the case of a supporting member:
 - (i) upon the date such member is no longer eligible pursuant to bylaw 2.4; or
 - (ii) upon the date which is 31 days after the expiry of such member's current term of membership, unless renewed in accordance with these Bylaws;
- (c) in either case:
 - (i) upon the date which is the later of the date of delivering their resignation in writing to the Address of the Society; and the effective date of the resignation stated thereon;
 - (ii) upon such member's expulsion; or
 - (iii) upon such Person's death.

2.13 Rights of Membership

In addition to any rights conferred by the Act, a member in good standing has the following rights and privileges of membership, by class:

Governing Member

- (a) to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings;
- (b) to make or second motions at a General Meeting and to speak in debate on motions under consideration in accordance with such rules of order as may be adopted;
- (c) to exercise a vote on matters for determination by the members;
- (d) may nominate qualified individuals to stand for election as a Director in accordance with these Bylaws;
- (e) may be nominated, if qualified, to stand for election as a Director;

- (f) may serve on committees of the Society, as invited; and
- (g) may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society, in accordance with such criteria as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

Supporting Member

- (a) to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings;
- (b) to speak in debate on motions under consideration in accordance with such rules of order as may be adopted;
- (c) may be nominated, if qualified, to stand for election as a Director;
- (d) may serve on committees of the Society, as invited; and
- (e) may participate in the programs and initiatives of the Society, in accordance with such criteria as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

2.14 Member not in Good Standing

A member who is not in good standing has the right to receive notice of, and to attend, all General Meetings, and may participate in programs or initiatives of the Society as determined by the Board in its sole discretion, and subject to eligibility, but is suspended from all of the other rights and privileges described in bylaw 2.13 for so long as such member remains not in good standing.

2.15 Dues

The Board will, by Board Resolution, determine the dues or fees payable by members from time to time and in the absence of such determination by the Board, dues are deemed to be nil.

The Board may determine that:

- (a) different dues or fees will apply to different classes of membership; and
- (b) dues may be pro-rated, reduced or waived in cases of hardship or other appropriate circumstances.

Once determined, dues are deemed to continue each year until altered by Board Resolution.

2.16 Standing of Members

All members are deemed to be in good standing except:

- (a) a member who has failed to pay such annual membership dues as are determined by the Board, if any, when due and owing and such

member is not in good standing so long as such amount remains unpaid; and

(b) a member who is currently suspended by the Society.

2.17 Compliance with Constitution, Bylaws and Policies

Every member will, at all times:

(a) uphold the Constitution and comply with these Bylaws, the regulations and the policies of the Society in effect from time to time;

(b) abide by such codes of conduct and ethics adopted by the Society; and

(c) refrain from any action that may reasonably be perceived as hindering the purposes, aims and activities of the Society.

2.18 Expulsion of Member

Following a review of a Member's conduct or actions, the Board may, by Board Resolution, expel a Member for conduct which, in the reasonable opinion of the Board:

(a) is improper or unbecoming for a Member;

(b) is contrary to Bylaw 2.17;

(c) is in violation of any codes of conduct and ethics adopted by the Society; or

(d) is likely to endanger the reputation or hinder the interests of the Society.

At least 14 days prior to passing a Board Resolution under this Bylaw 2.18, the Board must provide notice of the proposed expulsion to the Member in question, accompanied by a brief statement of the reasons for the proposed disciplinary action and the date, time and location, if any, at which the Board proposes to consider the Board Resolution in question.

At any time prior to the date and time set out in the notice provided above, a Member who is the subject of proposed expulsion may provide an oral or written response to the Board, and the Board must consider any such response that is received.

The Executive Director noted that these are the changes proposed under Article 2 – Membership and asked if there were any questions. Hearing no questions, the Executive Director moved to the next section under review, Article 3.13 Quorum Requirements. In terms of changes to Article 3.13 – Quorum requirements, the

Executive Director reviewed the proposed changes as set out in “Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM” and noted that it is being proposed that the existing bylaw 3.13 be deleted and replaced with the proposed language for bylaw 3.13 and 3.14 along with renumbering the subsequent bylaws of Article 3, which includes the following provisions:

3.13 Quorum

A quorum at a General Meeting is the greater of a majority of the governing members, or three governing members.

No business, other than the election of a Person to chair the meeting and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, will be conducted at a General Meeting at a time when a quorum is not present. If at any time during a General Meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress will be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.

3.14 Lack of Quorum

If within thirty (30) minutes from the time appointed for a General Meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of Members, will be terminated, but in any other case it will stand adjourned to the same day of the following week, at the same time and, if applicable, location, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the Members present will constitute a quorum and the meeting may proceed.”

The Executive Director asked if there were any questions about the changes proposed to the Quorum requirements. Hearing none, the Executive Director noted that the next item under consideration is Article 12.2 - Inspection of Documents and Records. Once Article 12.2 – Inspection of Documents and Records is completed, there is only one final area for consideration and that is a minor housekeeping item under Article 4.2 which relates to actions to be taken in the event of a tie vote.

In terms of Article 12.2, the Executive Director reviewed the proposed changes as set out in “Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM” and noted that the following language be inserted as a new bylaw 12.2 Inspection of Documents and Records and the subsequent bylaws of Article 12 be renumbered, consistent with the information set out in “Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM” which includes the following provisions:

12.2 Inspection of Documents and Records

The documents and records of the Society, including the financial and

accounting records and the Minutes of General Meetings, committee meetings and meetings of the Board, will be open to the inspection of any Director at reasonable times and on reasonable notice.

A Member is entitled, upon providing not less than fourteen (14) days' notice in writing to the Society, to inspect any of the following documents and records of the Society at the Address of the Society during the Society's normal business hours:

- (a) the Constitution and these Bylaws, and any amendments thereto;*
- (b) the statement of directors and registered office of the Society;*
- (c) minutes of any General Meeting, including the text of each resolution passed at the meeting;*
- (d) resolutions of the Members in writing, if any;*
- (e) annual financial statements relating to a past fiscal year that have been received by the*

Members in a General Meeting;

- (f) the register of Directors;*
- (g) the register of Members;*
- (h) the Society's certificate of incorporation, and any other certificates, confirmations or records furnished to the Society by the Registrar;*
- (i) copies of orders made by a court, tribunal or government body in respect of the Society;*
- (j) the written consents of Directors to act as such and the written resignations of Directors; and*
- (k) the disclosure of a Director or of a senior manager regarding a conflict of interest.*

Except as expressly provided by statute or at law, a Member will not be entitled or have the right to inspect any other document or record of the Society. However, subject to such policies as the Board may establish, a Member in good standing may request, in writing delivered to the Address of the Society, to inspect any other document or record of the Society and the Board may allow the Member to inspect the document or a copy thereof, in whole or in part and subject to such redaction as the Board deems necessary, all in the Board's sole discretion.

Copies of documents which a Member is allowed to inspect may be provided on request by the Member for a fee to be determined by the

Board, provided such fee does not exceed the limits prescribed in the Act.”

The Executive Director asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, the Executive Director moved to the final area for discussion and consideration which relates to Article 4.2 – Actions to be taken in the event of a tie vote. The Executive Director noted that there is one small change proposed for this Article which is that the word “not” will be inserted immediately after the word “will” in the second sentence of bylaw 4.2 such that the sentence will read as follows:

“In the case of a tie vote, the person acting as chair of the meeting (either the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society pursuant to bylaw 3.17) will not have a second or casting vote on the motion”.

The Executive Director noted that the specific text for the proposed change can be found under Article 4.2 in the document entitled “Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM”.

The Executive Director asked if there are any final questions and observed that this concludes the overview and discussion of the different changes that have been proposed with respect to SPARC BC’s Bylaws related to changes to:

- Article 2 – Membership,
- Article 3.13 – Quorum Requirements,
- Article 12.2 – Inspection of Documents and Records, and
- Article 4.2 – Actions to be taken in the case of a tie vote.

Hearing none, the Executive Director suggested that the President may wish to ask for a motion from the Board and Members present recommending adoption of the proposed changes.

The President asked if there were any final questions before making a motion to adopt the proposed changes. Hearing no questions, the President called for a motion to adopt the recommendations as described by the Executive Director with respect to:

- Article 2 – Membership,
- Article 3.13 – Quorum Requirements,
- Article 12.2 – Inspection of Documents and Records, and
- Article 4.2 – Actions to be taken in the case of a tie vote.

The President suggested that it may be helpful if the Executive Director provided assistance in framing the motion.

In response, the Executive Director noted that the language for the motion under consideration is included in "Attachment 1: Explanation of the Changes Proposed". Specifically, the Executive Director suggested that the motion could be:

BE IT RESOLVED as special resolutions that the Bylaws of the Society be amended as follows:

1. by deleting the existing article "Article 2 – Membership" in its entirety and inserting in place the new "Article 2 – Membership" as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".
2. by deleting the existing bylaw 3.13 and inserting in place thereof the proposed new bylaws 3.13 and 3.14 respectively and renumbering the subsequent bylaws of Article 3 as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".
3. by inserting the following new bylaw 12.2 Inspection of Documents and Records and by renumbering the subsequent bylaws of Article 12 as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".
4. by making wording changes to bylaw 4.2 such that the new sentence will read as follows:

"In the case of a tie vote, the person acting as chair of the meeting (either the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society pursuant to bylaw 3.17) will not have a second or casting vote on the motion" as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".

The President asked for one of the Directors or Members present to move the motion as presented in "Attachment 1: Explanation of the Changes Proposed" and as discussed. Sheila Lewis moved that the recommended changes as set out in "Attachment 1: Explanation of the Changes Proposed" and explained more fully in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM" be approved. Fraser Holland seconded the motion. The President called for a vote and the motion was carried.

MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED as special resolutions that the Bylaws of the Society be amended as follows:

1. *by deleting the existing article "Article 2 – Membership" in its entirety and inserting in place the new "Article 2 – Membership" as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".*
2. *by deleting the existing bylaw 3.13 and inserting in place thereof the proposed new bylaws 3.13 and 3.14 respectively and renumbering the subsequent bylaws of Article 3 as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".*
3. *by inserting the following new bylaw 12.2 Inspection of Documents and Records and by renumbering the subsequent bylaws of Article 12 as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".*
4. *by making wording changes to bylaw 4.2 such that the new sentence will read as follows:*

"In the case of a tie vote, the person acting as chair of the meeting (either the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society pursuant to bylaw 3.17) will not have a second or casting vote on the motion" as discussed by the membership and as set out in "Attachment 2 – Proposed Changes to the Bylaws Under Consideration at the AGM".

MOVED: SHEILA LEWIS, **SECONDED:** FRASER HOLLAND, **ALL IN FAVOUR, CARRIED.**

The President thanked the Executive Director for guiding the discussion on the changes proposed to SPARC BC's Bylaws and for providing the Board and Members present with the background information on the rationale underpinning the decision. The President also expressed his appreciation to Marla Reed for recommending Michael Blatchford to work with the Board and the Board's Executive and Governance Committees on these changes.

The President noted that there is one final resolution to be considered before the proposed bylaw changes take effect and that is to authorize Miller Thomson LLP, to electronically file the Bylaw Alteration Application on behalf of the Society. The President noted that this resolution is found in "Attachment 1 - Explanation of the Changes Proposed". The President asked for a motion authorizing Miller Thomson LLP to electronically file the bylaw changes on behalf of the Society. Sheila Lewis offered to make the motion.

MOTION:

BE IT RESOLVED as an ordinary resolution that the solicitors for the Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia Society, Miller Thomson LLP, are hereby authorized to electronically file the Bylaw Alteration Application giving effect to the amendments approved herein.

MOVED: FRASER HOLLAND, **SECONDED:** SHEILA LEWIS, **ALL IN FAVOUR,**
CARRIED.

Message from the Executive Director

The President noted that the final item on the Agenda is to receive the Report from the Executive Director. The President asked the Executive Director to take a few minutes to share her reflections and some highlights from the past year.

The Executive Director noted that she has had the privilege of leading SPARC BC for almost fourteen (14) years and that she has seen the organization continue to grow and change. She noted that SPARC BC has had a very successful year and that she would like to recognize the staff as well as the members present for their contributions.

The Executive Director noted that it is the talent, dedication and passion of our staff and management team that has contributed to SPARC BC's success over this past year and that she is grateful for the opportunity to work with a team that comes from such diverse backgrounds and experiences.

The Executive Director noted that while we all come from different backgrounds, we are united in our commitment to working together to build a more just, healthy and equitable society for everyone. The Executive Director thanked the Board for their on-going wisdom and guidance as well as the staff and members present for their commitment and dedication.

In reflecting on the different roles and contributions, the Executive Director wanted to give special recognition to Dr. Alex Price, the Associate Executive Director, leading the work of SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting team. Lorraine noted that since joining SPARC BC in 2022, Alex has led a number of strategic initiatives including the "sector strengthening" research for the Social Services Sector which was supported by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and which was designed to respond to research gaps and to support knowledge development designed to strengthen the capacity of the sector. Lorraine noted that Alex and his team have also played a valuable role in leading community-based strategies and initiatives designed to respond to, and adapt to issues related to climate change with funding provided through the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

The Executive Director also wanted to recognize the contribution of Louise O'Shea, SPARC BC's Director of Finance and Administration and Chief Operating Officer. Lorraine noted that in addition to leading SPARC BC's work in Finance and Administration, Louise plays a valuable leadership role in SPARC BC's work in the area of accessibility and inclusion. This includes leading the day-to-day operation for SPARC BC's Parking Permit Program, as well as our work in accessibility and inclusion. Lorraine noted that Louise's passion and dedication around building a more just, healthy and inclusive society for all and has been instrumental in contributing to our success in this area.

Lorraine also noted that there are a number of other staff who have joined the meeting this evening that she would like to recognize. Lorraine introduced Dr. Iraj Poureslami, who brings a long and successful career in the academic community in population health, and who joined SPARC BC in 2023 as part of SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Community Development team. Lorraine noted that Iraj is also SPARC BC's Shop Steward. Lorraine also wanted to acknowledge Eric Ho who provides research and data support around issues related to housing and homelessness as well as accessibility and inclusion, and who brings a background in economics, and an understanding of front-line service delivery.

Also in attendance is Pat Velumany who is SPARC BC's long-term dedicated IT support. Lorraine noted that Pat brings a deep commitment to using his knowledge and talents to ensure that SPARC BC's IT infrastructure is maintained to the highest standard possible and that our data and assets are protected from external threats.

Lorraine noted that there are other team members who wanted to attend the meeting, but who unfortunately had other commitments and were not able to attend. Lorraine felt that it is important to take a moment to recognize their contributions. Lorraine ended her presentation by saying that it is truly an honour and a privilege to continue to lead SPARC BC, and again thanked the Board for the opportunity to continue to serve in this role.

Adjournment

The President thanked the Executive Director for her presentation and expressed his appreciation to the staff who were present. He also thanked the members who joined the meeting.

The President noted that this concludes SPARC BC's Annual General Meeting for 2023/2024 and asked for a motion to adjourn. Lorraine suggested that Eric Ho - one of SPARC BC's team members make the motion to adjourn.

Motion:

That SPARC BC's 2023/2024 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

MOVED: ERIC HO

Report from the Treasurer

I am pleased to present this report and to share our results for 2024/2025. At the outset, I would like to recognize the significant support we receive from our members and donors. Not only does the generosity of our members and donors help to keep our programs strong, but this support allows us to continue to work toward our vision of a more just and healthy society for everyone.

In 2024/2025 SPARC BC had an operating surplus of \$14,830 with revenues of \$3,950,253. Our key sources of income include revenue generated through the delivery of the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities, donations received from our Members and Donors, as well as revenue generated through SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Community Development social enterprise which provides research, planning and consulting services on a fee for service basis.

The Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities represents 49% of SPARC BC's overall revenue. In 2024/2025, SPARC BC realized \$1,948,159 in revenue from the delivery of the Parking Permit Program and issued more than 63,000 permits. The revenue generated through the processing fee of \$31 not only enables SPARC BC to deliver the program across BC but it also supports our Accessibility and Enforcement phone line and our work with communities on shared accessibility goals.

In 2024/2025, SPARC BC received \$795,991 through Membership and Donations including \$492,991 in response to our calls to action. This support helps us to address issues like poverty, housing insecurity, food insecurity and homelessness. The generosity and support of our members and donors allows us to provide dignified access to healthy food for low-income seniors and people with disabilities, as well as provide warm dry socks and other basic comforts for people experiencing homelessness.

As a non-profit society and federally registered charity, we are deeply grateful for the support we receive and for the difference it allows us to make. In 2024/2025 we received donations from more than 28,600 individuals.

In 2024/2025, SPARC BC received \$984,573, which included \$502,676 in contracted research and \$481,897 in funding and support through the various grants that were delivered. Members of SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Consulting team come from a multi-disciplinary background and bring strong subject area expertise and research skills across different areas of practice.

Key projects completed by members of our Research, Planning and Community Development team included a partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to address climate risk and resilience among equity deserving communities with a focus on gathering knowledge and promoting capacity building. As well, members of SPARC BC's Research, Planning and Community Development Team received funding from the Federal Government to understand consumer vulnerability in the context of post-pandemic recovery, inflation, and economic uncertainty.

In keeping with the Board's commitment to building partnerships with Indigenous people and communities, SPARC BC also worked alongside Indigenous partners to help to deepen our understanding of gaps and failures within Canada's child welfare systems and the implications and need in terms of working toward broader social policy change.

We have also been successful in our efforts to work with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) Urban and Away-from-Home (UAH) team to distribute over 3,000 mobile devices to First Nation individuals in need of help to keep them connected to health and wellness services, as well as family and friends. This was part of SPARC BC's broader smartphone and digital equity initiative that was introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as a way of ensuring that people were able to stay safe and connected.

This year, through our work in Research, Planning and Community Development, SPARC BC also helped to provide research and data support to the Aboriginal Housing Management Association in preparing a response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. These types of initiatives are not only aligned with SPARC BC's values of social justice, inclusion, integrity and learning, but they are also central to the Board's commitment to building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in finding new pathways forward in the spirit of reconciliation.

At the community level, SPARC BC has continued to provide support to local governments and community-based agencies and partners in the development of housing needs reports, inclusive housing strategies, and planning for complete communities. This includes ongoing partnerships with the Town of Oliver, the City of Colwood, the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, the Comox Valley Social Planning Society, as well as Interlink Library.

SPARC BC's annual operating expenditure for 2024/2025 was \$3,935,424 which included re-investment of \$754,735 into the Board's key strategic priorities. This included ongoing partnerships designed to respond to issues around housing and homelessness, income security and poverty reduction, as well as food insecurity. It also included initiatives designed to build capacity at the community level to identify and remove barriers to accessibility.

SPARC BC has also received funding in recent years from the Provincial Government to deliver targeted projects and initiatives including the delivery of SPARC BC's Welcome Home Kits in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Through this program, SPARC BC provides individuals who have a history of homelessness with kitchen supplies, bedding, and linens, as well as cleaning supplies and other items that can help families and individuals to make a new start. The approximate value of the kits is \$450, with more than 2,300 Welcome Home Kits distributed over the life of the program through partnerships with more than 118 different community-based agencies and service providers across 46 different communities.

2024/2025 was the final year of funding from the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs to support the delivery of the provincial Homelessness Community Action Grant program. This program is designed to support local efforts and community-based solutions for addressing homelessness. Over the life of the program, 319 grants were approved, including 50 projects across 28 communities. We have been having conversations with the Ministry and are hopeful that the funding will be renewed for an additional period as we know that this program has helped to make a difference in the lives of people experiencing homelessness in communities across BC.

In partnership with the Accessibility Directorate, SPARC BC provided \$1,223,600 in funding to help identify and remove barriers to accessibility. Through this initiative, there have been more than 50 different accessibility-related projects funded across British Columbia since the program was first introduced. Projects funded through this initiative include improvements to the built environment, expanded use of inclusive technology, and improved communication. Funding available through this program also seeks to create more inclusive practices in the development of policies and the delivery of programs at the community level.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as Treasurer over this past year, and to thank the Finance and Audit Committee for their dedication and commitment in ensuring that SPARC BC's program and services are delivered in a responsive and accountable way. As a volunteer Board, I know that this can take considerable effort. I would also like to thank our members, donors, partners, and staff for a successful year and look forward to continuing to work with everyone in 2025/2026.

Jim O'Dea

Treasurer/Secretary, 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.

There are currently nine (9) directors who are serving on SPARC BC's Board with three (3) Directors whose terms are ending and who have agreed to stand for re-election for an additional three (3) years ending in 2028.

Wes Hewitt	Port Alberni	Director since 2019	Term expiring 2025
Shelia Lewis	Kelowna	Director since 2022	Term expiring 2025
Fraser Holland	Langley	Director since 2022	Term expiring 2025

Recommendations from the Nominations Committee:

1. That Wes Hewitt, Sheila Lewis and Fraser Holland whose terms are ending be nominated to stand for re-election for an additional three (3) year term ending in June 2028.
2. That the three (3) remaining vacant positions on the Board be filled at a later date.

Background information for the current Directors both those who are continuing their terms and those who have been nominated to stand for re-election can be found in the following section.

SPARC BC Board of Directors

Wes Hewitt—Port Alberni, B.C.

Wes joined SPARC BC's Board of Directors in 2019 and has served as the President of the Board since 2020. Prior to becoming President, Wes also served on the Board's Finance and Audit Committee and the Board Nominations Committee. Wes is the Executive Director for the Alberni Shelter Society where he is proud to be considered a community leader in the development of social and supportive housing. The Port Alberni Society provides housing for low-income families and employment training within Port Alberni. Wes has enjoyed being an innovator in the field of harm reduction, substance use and mental health. Wes believes some of the strongest connections are made with clients through tasks not associated with his work; like assisting in fixing a door, or helping with carpentry. Outside of Wes's occupation, he has deep community involvement as a Shriner and Freemason.

Fraser Holland—Langley, B.C.

Fraser joined the SPARC BC Board of Directors in 2022 and serves on the Board's Nominations Committee. Fraser has a long history of working on issues of housing and homelessness within the Metro Vancouver region and has been providing outreach services to individuals with a history of homelessness since 2006. Fraser is currently serving as the Program Manager for the Intensive Case Management Team within Langley Community Services Society. Prior to joining LCSS, Fraser was the Director of Homelessness Services for Stepping Stone Services Society. Fraser works as part of a multi-disciplinary team that is focused on client engagement and housing. In his role as Program Manager, Fraser seeks to find ways to support individuals who have a history of homelessness including clients who are 19 or older and who have a history of substance use. In addition to serving on SPARC BC's Board of Directors, Fraser also participates on the Board of Directors for the Homelessness Services Association of B.C. Fraser is committed to addressing issues of income security and poverty reduction and to finding ways to increase the supply of affordable housing in communities across B.C.

Irene Willsie—Williams Lake, B.C.

Irene previously served on SPARC BC's Board of Directors and held the positions of President and Vice President during her time on the Board. It is Irene's passion for social justice and her knowledge of social development needs in smaller rural and northern communities that makes Irene want to return to the Board. Irene is the Executive Director of the Women's Contact Society in Williams Lake where she is engaged in the delivery of programs and services designed to support the well-being of women and youth in her community. In addition to her day-to-day non-profit management experience, Irene has continued to be recognized as a tireless advocate around issues of gender-based violence. This includes continuing to work to ensure that the distinct needs of women and girls are taken into consideration when planning for safe and complete communities.

Jessica Li – Richmond, B.C.

Jessica has long been passionate about social justice. This passion has motivated her to pursue a career in law and volunteer and work in the non-profit sector. In doing so, she has had the privilege of playing a direct role in helping those experiencing barriers to access the resources they need. She is analytical in nature and enjoys applying that mindset when addressing issues and coming up with solutions. Jessica was born and raised in British Columbia and would like to contribute to the diversity of SPARC BC's Board of Directors by offering her experience and perspectives with a focus on helping to advance SPARC BC's mission of building a more just and healthy society for all.

Jim O'Dea—Vancouver, B.C.

Jim joined SPARC BC's Board of Directors in 2021 and is a member of the Board's Nominations Committee. Formerly the co-founder and principal of Terra Housing, Jim has been involved in the housing and community sector for more than four decades and has experience in working in senior level positions within the Federal and Provincial governments including BC Housing, the Ministry of Community Development, the Homeowner Protection Office, and Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC). Jim also brings national and international experience and has been recognized by the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) and CMHC for his outstanding contribution to advancing the development of affordable housing. Jim is currently a member of O'Dea Song—an organization that is committed to building as well as creating space for non-profit organizations that are engaged in working to improve the quality of life in their community.

Laurie Paulin—New Hazelton, B.C.

Laurie joined SPARC BC's Board of Directors in 2021 and serves on the Board's Governance Committee. Laurie is Haisla and Haida and cares about working together with others to help Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples achieve social justice and equity. Laurie brings a strong background in poverty law and has worked with clients from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. Since 2018, Laurie has also played a central role in helping to establish the Indigenous Court in Hazelton and has served as a court navigator. In this role, Laurie assists individuals who are in the court system with a focus on helping them to develop an appropriate healing plan. Laurie also works to assist Elders in their role within the community court system. Laurie enjoys spending her free time out in nature with her son.

Mia Burgess – Victoria, B.C. (Vice President)

Mia has held positions in non-profit and government and completed her Masters degree in Community Development in 2019. Through her work experience and education, Mia has developed an in-depth understanding of the ways in which systems,

policies and practices trap people in poverty. Mia has worked alongside and within provincial and federal criminal justice systems and has provided legal advocacy services for marginalized individuals at risk of homelessness. Mia has also delivered educational sessions about tenant's rights under the Residential Tenancy Act and has worked as a funder in a community foundation for 5 years. Mia was also the co-founder and co-chair of the BC10 network and continued to advocate for better alignment of federal and provincial funding to address homelessness. Prior to moving from Kelowna to Victoria in 2021, Mia was the CEO of a non-profit organization that delivered brain injury supports to vulnerable clients. In that role, Mia launched a successful social enterprise that improved the cognitive capacity of individuals recovering from brain injuries. Mia currently adjudicates complex, sensitive claims submitted by injured workers in BC. Mia is passionate about social justice and is committed to working to build an inclusive society for all.

Dr. Sharon Karsten—Denman Island, B.C.

Sharon is a cultural and community development researcher/ practitioner who lives on the traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation. Sharon completed her PhD in Communications at Simon Fraser University, focusing on cultural policy, cultural mapping and cultural development. She also completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Vancouver Island University where she examined change-making and social innovation potentials within arts organizations throughout Canada. Sharon has played leadership roles in non-profit arts-contexts including as Executive Director for the Comox Valley Art Gallery. In 2019, Karsten worked towards the creation of the Walk With Me project—a research and social change initiative centered on the toxic drug poisoning crisis in small communities. Through this work, Dr. Karsten seeks to create a learning health system model that foregrounds the voices and lived experiences of Peers, while creating new ways forward for those at the heart of the drug poisoning crisis towards a reduction in mortality and improvements in quality of life. Karsten is grateful to those with whom she has walked on this journey, and to those whose memory lies at the heart of this work.

Sheila Lewis—Kelowna, B.C.

Sheila joined SPARC BC's Board of Directors in 2022 and currently serves on the Board's Governance Committee. Sheila brings a strong background in leading gender-based analysis and in looking at issues of community health and well-being from an intersectional lens. Sheila is based in Kelowna B.C. and currently holds the role of Provincial Women's Manager with Métis Nation of B.C. In this role, Sheila leads research into the impact of provincial, regional, local, and national policies on the well-being of Métis women and their families. In her current role, Sheila is also engaged in working with the Federal government in developing an action plan designed to respond to the calls for justice arising from the findings of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report. Prior to joining Métis Nation, Sheila held various

roles with the Interior Health Authority including regional practice lead for Aboriginal Mental Wellness as well as the Aboriginal Regional Knowledge Coordinator. Sheila has also worked with the City of West Kelowna, the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Okanagan Nation Emergency Transition House, and UBC Okanagan. Sheila is deeply committed to working to help create new pathways forward for building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and volunteers her time to support and facilitate Truth and Reconciliation Reading Circles. Through this work, Sheila seeks to help communities build a deeper understanding of the 94 Calls to Action set out in the findings report coming out of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Financial Statements of

Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia

Year ended March 31, 2025

Financial Statements of

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

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended March 31, 2025



KPMG LLP

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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, 2025
- 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, 2025, 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 "***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditor's 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.



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.

Auditor's 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 auditor's 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 auditor's 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 auditor's 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
DATE

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 6,413,213	\$ 7,359,762
Restricted cash (note 3)	4,354,305	4,901,830
Short-term investments (note 4)	256,648	362,411
Accounts receivable	145,993	103,401
Prepaid expenses	112,550	155,769
Inventory	62,326	51,957
	11,345,035	12,935,130
Long-term investments (note 4)	251,225	251,225
Tangible capital assets (note 5)	261,478	328,622
	\$ 11,857,738	\$ 13,514,977
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 395,924	\$ 328,981
Deferred revenue	923,112	1,452,701
Deferred contributions (note 7)	7,555,341	8,741,418
Current portion of deferred lease inducement (note 8)	23,346	23,346
	8,897,723	10,546,446
Deferred lease inducement (note 8)	58,364	81,710
	8,956,087	10,628,156
Net assets:		
Internally restricted (note 9)	1,711,873	1,761,984
Invested in tangible capital assets (note 10)	179,768	223,566
Unrestricted	1,010,010	901,271
	2,901,651	2,886,821
Commitment (note 11)		
	\$ 11,857,738	\$ 13,514,977

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Director

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Revenue:		
Grants (note 7)	\$ 2,428,448	\$ 3,241,787
Contracted research	984,573	2,052,647
Permits	1,948,159	1,768,205
Memberships and donations	795,991	809,406
Interest	274,670	456,667
Rental	19,065	200,695
Other	19,124	33,469
	6,470,030	8,562,876
Expenses:		
Audit and legal fees	37,401	48,885
Amortization of tangible capital assets	86,603	95,920
Board and executive meetings	39,655	80,425
Computer and website maintenance	74,440	91,487
Direct mail fundraising	132,423	110,760
Disbursements - contracted research and projects	462,648	924,427
Disbursements - grants	2,057,129	2,946,886
Insurance	10,309	9,462
Marketing, publicity and promotion	61,847	69,630
Office supplies	38,536	38,402
Other expenditures	84,125	35,625
Photocopying	9,762	31,379
Partnership	-	129
Postage and courier	167,786	163,224
Printing	79,128	79,011
Professional and consulting services	23,625	11,222
Programs and projects	754,735	1,455,709
Rental	265,366	265,576
Repairs and maintenance	16,404	9,979
Salaries, wages and benefits	2,039,216	1,958,827
Staff training and development	-	16,706
Telephone	14,062	14,321
	6,455,200	8,457,992
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 14,830	\$ 104,884

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, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	Internally Restricted	Invested in tangible capital assets (note 10)	Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,761,984	\$ 223,566	\$ 901,271	\$ 2,886,821	\$ 2,781,937
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-	(63,257)	78,087	14,830	104,884
Change in invested in tangible capital assets	-	19,459	(19,459)	-	-
Interfund transfer (note 9)	(50,111)	-	50,111	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 1,711,873	\$ 179,768	\$ 1,010,010	\$ 2,901,651	\$ 2,886,821

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 14,830	\$ 104,884
Items not involving cash:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	86,603	95,920
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	(23,346)	(23,346)
	78,087	177,458
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(42,592)	2,660,993
Prepaid expenses	43,219	(33,925)
Inventory	(10,369)	32,413
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	66,943	132,596
Deferred revenue	(529,589)	(1,390,177)
Deferred contributions	(1,186,077)	(2,137,339)
	(1,580,378)	(557,981)
Investments:		
Change in restricted cash	547,525	(4,901,830)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(19,459)	(44,277)
Purchase of investments	(240,416)	(599,605)
Proceeds from maturity of investments	346,179	573,370
	633,829	(4,972,342)
Decrease in cash	(946,549)	(5,530,323)
Cash, beginning of year	7,359,762	12,890,085
Cash, end of year	\$ 6,413,213	\$ 7,359,762

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

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.

2. 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, 2025 and 2024.

(b) Restricted cash:

Restricted cash represents cash designated for use towards certain restricted contributions.

(c) Investments:

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

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

(d) Tangible capital assets:

Purchased tangible 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.

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

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

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(d) Tangible capital assets (continued):

Tangible 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 tangible 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.

(e) 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.

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.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(f) 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.

(g) 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.

(h) 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 these financial statements.

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

(i) Use of estimates:

The preparation of these 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.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

3. Restricted cash:

Restricted cash relates to a provincial grant where the grant agreement specifies that the related funds, including earned interest, are restricted for use, and to be held in a separate bank account.

4. Investments:

As at March 31, 2025, short-term investments consist of a term deposit maturing August 2025 (2024 - term deposits maturing May 2024 to August 2024) at an interest rate of 4.25% per annum (2024 - between 4.85% to 5.10%).

As at March 31, 2025 and 2024, long-term investments consist of guaranteed investment certificates maturing on varying dates from May 2026 to March 2027 at interest rates ranging from 4.53% to 4.70% per annum.

5. Tangible capital assets:

			2025	2024
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 156,041	\$ 139,488	\$ 16,553	\$ 34,460
Furniture and fixtures	119,050	116,210	2,840	6,766
Leasehold improvements	917,592	675,507	242,085	287,396
	\$ 1,192,683	\$ 931,205	\$ 261,478	\$ 328,622

6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$4,668 (2024 - \$32,634) for payroll related taxes.

7. Deferred contributions:

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

	2025	2024
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 8,741,418	\$ 10,878,757
Amounts received or receivable	1,165,172	1,160,753
Accrued interest earned	182,546	147,948
Amounts recognized as revenue	(2,533,795)	(3,446,040)
Balance, end of year	\$ 7,555,341	\$ 8,741,418

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

8. Deferred lease inducement:

	2025	2024
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 105,056	\$ 128,402
Amortization to rental expense	(23,346)	(23,346)
Balance, end of year	81,710	105,056
Less current portion	23,346	23,346
	\$ 58,364	\$ 81,710

9. 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, 2025, \$1,711,873 (2024 - \$1,791,984) is recorded in the reserve fund. During the year ended March 31, 2025, \$50,111 (2024 - \$7,745) was transferred from the reserve fund to unrestricted net assets.

10. Net assets invested in tangible capital assets:

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

	2025	2024
Tangible capital assets	\$ 261,478	\$ 328,622
Deferred lease inducement	(81,710)	(105,056)
	\$ 179,768	\$ 223,566

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

	2025	2024
Excess of revenue over expenses:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	\$ (86,603)	\$ (95,920)
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	23,346	23,346
	\$ (63,257)	\$ (72,574)
Change in invested in tangible capital assets:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	\$ 19,459	\$ 44,277

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

11. 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 4 fiscal years until the lease expiry are as follows:

2026	\$	130,455
2027		130,455
2028		130,455
2029		65,228
		<hr/>
		\$ 456,593

12. Employee and contractor remuneration:

For the year ended March 31, 2025, the Society paid total remuneration of \$1,199,884 (2024 - \$1,036,837) to eleven (2024 - nine) 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.

13. 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 cash, restricted cash, short-term investments, long-term investments and accounts receivable. The Society holds all of its cash, restricted cash, short-term investments, and long-term investments with a British Columbia authorized credit union. 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, 2025 and 2024, 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.

SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2025

13. Financial risks (continued):

(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 in its short-term and long-term investments. The Society manages this risk by investing in highly rated term deposits and guaranteed investment certificates with varying maturity dates.

There has been no significant change to the financial risk exposures outlined above from 2024.

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