



NORTH SHORE COAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Chair Summary:

Our Council has spent considerable time developing its Strategic Plan, and this has been useful in helping us to find our way. We are committed to reaching out and meeting with numerous community groups to obtain their feedback on services. This initiative is allowing us to build relationships and to hear more detailed information on what is working, and what may need to change. Staff has also prepared a comprehensive tool kit for all council members to use in presentations to community groups. Recently, we have begun to look more intensively at transitions into adult services.

Building Welcoming Communities:

Much work needs to be done in this area. However, we feel that by working with community groups, and having the opportunity to talk with self-advocates, parents and service providers, we will be better able to assess issues most relevant to our community.

Issues and Challenges:

In general, people with disabilities tend to be defined by their special needs. Changing this mindset in communities throughout our province is a worthwhile objective that will only be accomplished over time. As we become more proficient and able to meet with a diverse range of groups in our own community, we can assist in gradually meeting this objective.

Accountability:

Our Council is still evolving and facing challenges in membership and the diverse demographics of our area. We are not yet at the stage where we feel we are actively enhancing accountability.

Issues and Challenges:

Our Council appears to have a small “core” group of participants, and we face a significant challenge in stabilizing our membership. In part, this is caused by the geography of our region, and in part of the changing mandate of CLBC. Until our membership is more cohesive, it is difficult to have an impact on accountability.

Financial Decision-Making:

Although we have had some financial briefings, our council is not satisfied with our level of understanding and our impact on financial decision-making. We have openly discussed our concerns, and expect changes to be made in this area.

Issues and challenges:

CLBC funding is complex, and it takes a great deal of time and effort to understand budgets, and to make good decisions that enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Without that understanding, it would be irresponsible for us to insist upon making decisions. Our Council is frustrated by its lack of knowledge or impact in this area.

Community Outreach:

We have met with the following organizations:

The Cascadia Society for Social Working

North Shore Connexions

North Shore Disability Resource Centre

Hollyburn Family Services

Meeting: Self-advocate and parent meeting in Powell River

Meeting: Self-advocate and parent meeting in Sechelt/Gibsons

Council membership:

Liz Barnett (Service Provider – NSDRC) North Vancouver

Catherine Abraham (parent) North Vancouver

Fiona Galvani (parent) North Vancouver

Rizia Jeffery (parent) Gibsons

Aryn Burton (parent) Whistler

Peter Russell (self-advocate) North Vancouver

Robert Soumang (self-advocate) Powell River

Patrick Hull (parent & business person) Powell River

Coranne Anderson (business person) Powell River

Rick King (parent & business person) Squamish