



# VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

### CHAIR SUMMARY

Although completing our second year as the Vancouver Community Council, we are still developing. As a new creation of CLBC, it has taken time and many meetings to clarify our role and develop an identity. Nevertheless, in self-evaluations members of the Council indicate their belief that we have done a good to very good job - working well with the Manager and staff; identifying key areas; establishing goals and objectives; and holding productive, regular meetings. In our primary role of advising and supporting the staff at the Vancouver Community Living Centre, we learnt much about the workings of CLBC, sought information from the community, and gave our opinion on matters that were raised. It was noted, however, that communicating our mission, obtaining feedback from the community and families, and recruiting new members were areas that need attention.

The key areas we identified as major problems were waitlists, isolation and transition. We proffered solutions by: requiring that the budget address these issues in so far as resources were available; contacting Community Centres, the YMCA, and PLAN; and participating in a committee dealing with transition.

If we have one major goal for the future, it would be to find ways of being even more active and effective in the community.

### BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

The Council has:

- Held a Family Meeting for clients of CLBC and their families – 900 invitations drew a crowd of c. 50
- Maintained a comprehensive website of minutes, activities, goals and objectives, and included a feedback box on our website that unfortunately has received only one submission
- Met with PLAN to seek assistance in developing support networks.
- Met with representatives of Vancouver Park Board, Programme Coordinators for several Community Centres and the YMCA.
- Submitted a brief on transportation to the CLBC Advisory Council
- Participated in a presentation on Safeguards

### ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Building Welcoming Communities and developing community capacity has been hampered by:

- inadequate funds and personnel needed to develop capacity – volunteer Council members who work full time, are not available for the hard slog

- the complexity and difficulty of communicating with a large and diverse community

## ACCOUNTABILITY

With input from the Manager and Centre staff, from the Family Meeting and from support groups with whom Council members are connected, the Council has recommended that the Vancouver Coastal region emphasize:

- reducing waitlists
- developing individual support networks
- providing more opportunities and support for Persons With Developmental Disabilities (PWDD) transitioning to adulthood

The Chair of the Council also assisted with the selection of a new Manager

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

It has long been acknowledged by families associated with CLBC that the organization is under funded. It is therefore challenged to fulfill its mission, to the satisfaction of all those in need of support, without a significant increase in its budget. Unfortunately, it is not within the mandate of the Council to advocate for more funds to reduce waitlists. CLBC is working hard and creatively to find ways of supporting PWDD and the Council is generally very satisfied with the effort it makes under the constraints of a limited budget.

However, the Council is very encouraged by the recent budgetary increase for CLBC. It signals an increased awareness of the needs and challenges faced by our community.

## FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

The Council has recommended that the Vancouver Quality Service office direct any available funds or resources to:

- the reduction of waitlists
- meeting the needs of clients transitioning to adulthood as they leave school
- the alleviation of problems associated with isolation

As pointed out elsewhere, the Council has attempted creative solutions by working with Community Centres, PLAN, the YMCA, and the Vancouver School Board, to provide better planning and greater opportunities for PWDD.

## ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

A large portion of new funds allocated to Vancouver was required to deal with crises and with aging clients requiring more support rather than less, consequently little has been available for new projects and supports. Nevertheless, the Council is participating in discussions as to how scarce resources might be used to provide some level of support for new clients.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As well as CLBC representatives from the Advisory Council and Head Office, members of the Council have met with Community Centre programmers, organizers at the YMCA, officials from PLAN (Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network), Chairs of other Councils, and held a Family Meeting attended by approx. 50 people comprising over 30 families and self advocates. Members have also attended a variety of conferences at which they discussed and promoted the work of the Council when the opportunity arose.

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

NAME	COMMUNITY	MEMBERSHIP
Richard McDonald	Vancouver	Self-Advocate
Rita Leedholm	Vancouver	Self-Advocate
Sue Salter	Vancouver	Family Member
John Tsang	Vancouver	Family Member
Yaming Chen	Vancouver	Family Member
Rachelle Czerwinski	Vancouver	Family Member
Peter Swayne (Chair)	Vancouver	Family Member
Ken Wakeman	Vancouver	Community Member
Natalie Marach	Vancouver	Community Member
Mara St. Onge-Dueck	Vancouver	Service Provider
Ernie Baatz	Vancouver	Service Provider
Jan Wood	Vancouver	Service Provider