



CHAIR SUMMARY

The Vancouver Community Council has met seven times since our last report.

We said goodbye to four hard working Council members – Sue Salter, Natalie Marach, Jan Wood, and Ken Wakeman –, and thank them greatly for their efforts on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. And we welcomed new members, Deanne Ziebart, Mark Perry, Yuko McCulloch, Theresa Huntly, and Liz Cochran.

The Council feels that it works well; it is cohesive, industrious and creative. We did not feel that diluting our impact by joining the two other Councils in our region would be to the benefit of our constituency and determined that we would not merge with them

The Council confirmed its decision from previous years that in Vancouver the main areas of concern are: Transition from youth to adulthood; Isolation; Requests for Service, and added Aging and seniors care.

In addition, based on the new terms of reference, Council adopted the following action plan:

Initiate projects and initiatives to:

1. Improve awareness and support for inclusion and full participation of people with developmental disabilities in community by:
 - using CLBC materials to inform the public – posting notices; handing out brochures; etc.
 - personal contact with friends and members of the public
2. Improve understanding of local issues within the larger community by:
 - regular reports at Council meetings of issues arising from: parent support group meetings; service provider meetings; school experiences; business contacts; etc.
 - holding an annual, Council run meeting with families
3. Improve the ability of the community to include and informally support people with developmental disabilities to live good lives in welcoming communities by:
 - creation of a subcommittee, comprised of those members able to participate, which pursues a specific initiative developed by the Council as a whole

4. Improve the identification of province wide barriers to inclusion and citizenship by reporting to the board any issues that arise in Vancouver that seem to be of a provincial nature

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Regular Council meetings are held every 6 weeks to advance the action plan, and sub-committee meetings are held in the intervening weeks.

Council members continue to run 3 parent groups, to organize an inclusive community block party, to participate in self-advocate meetings and organizations. From these situations, from other support groups and, from service providers, we gather information about the community we serve.

In the summer of 2009, Vancouver Community Council assisted and supported a summer, recreational programme for recently graduated CLBC clients. Contact with the Parks board is ongoing.

To address the issues of both isolation and transition, a Social Life Sub-committee was formed. The committee researched availability of social, inclusive activities and subsequently drafted a questionnaire for CLBC clients the results of which will direct the intended provision of broader social and recreational opportunities for them. A service agency is engaged in the process and a Neighbourhood House has said they have space and volunteers available.

The Council reviewed new regional boundaries and decided to maintain the Vancouver Community Council as an independent council within the Vancouver Coastal region.

A Family Meeting to gather more grass roots information is planned for the spring.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Effective communication with individuals supported by CLBC continues to be a challenge. Matching the expectations that the management of CLBC might have of councils with the level of commitment that most Council members are able to make is a challenge. Susan Veit's Draft Review of Terms of Reference CLBC Community Councils recommends that Councils promote community engagement, advise CLBC and be innovative. Few of our Councillors have the time or resources to meet these expectations, particularly the first, in any substantive way.

Detailed information of the number of clients in different situations – fully served, receiving respite only, receiving no services – has not been readily available. Such information would help to direct our activities.

Council members lack materials that tell about CLBC and its endeavours, materials that they could give to their contacts and colleagues and hand out at meetings they attend.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP		
NAME	COMMUNITY	MEMBERSHIP
Richard McDonald	Vancouver	Self-Advocate
Rita Leedholm	Vancouver	Self-Advocate
Peter Swayne	Vancouver – Chair	Family Member
Rachelle Czerwinski	Vancouver – Vice Chair	Family Member
Yuko McCulloch	Vancouver	Family Member
Liz Cochran	Vancouver	Family Member
Yaming Chen	Vancouver	Family Member
Ernie Baatz	Vancouver	Service Provider
Mara St. Onge-Dueck	Vancouver	Service Provider
Deaane Ziebart	Vancouver	Service Provider
Theresa Huntly	Vancouver	Service Provider
Mark Perry	Vancouver	Community Member