

VANCOUVER CLBC COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Saturday, January 17, 2009

**Present: Peter Swayne, Tina Stagnitta, Sue Salter, Ernie Baatz,
Ken Wakeman, Richard McDonald, Rachelle Czerwinski,
Mara St.Onge-Dueck, John Davies, John Tsang**

Regrets: Jan Wood, Rita Leedholm, Natalie Marach, Yaming Chen

1) Reviewed minutes

- **Reviewed minutes of November 1, 2008. Council was scheduled to meet on December 6, 2008 but meeting was cancelled as many council members could not attend.**

2) What is the Buzz?

- **The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) applications for this fiscal need to be submitted by March 2009. At present, only the Bank of Montreal (BMO) is offering the RDSP. An eligible person must first create a profile at a BMO branch, which requires 2 pieces of identification, one with a picture, and call their central office at 1-800-665-7700 to set up the RDSP. Go to <http://rdsp.com/> for more information.**
- **Vancouver Foundation News Release – The Province is providing a \$5-million grant to the Vancouver Foundation to help British Columbians with disabilities increase their savings for the future, announced Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development. When British Columbians on income assistance open an RDSP with \$25, they can apply to receive a \$150 grant from the Endowment 150 fund. In addition, the federal government will provide a grant of \$525 and \$1,000 federal bond. Within one year, clients can earn \$1,700 plus interest from their original investment of just \$25. Beginning in fall 2009, the Endowment 150 fund will be available to clients who receive income assistance anytime between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2009, and are eligible for the federal government’s Disability Tax Credit.**
- **Waitlists Issue - The “End Waitlist” campaign was discussed. See the BCACL website for details www.bcacl.org.**

- **Building a Sustainable Future** – Peter attended this workshop that was presented by MHSD and CLBC. The disability strategy that was presented at workshop is to provide for a comprehensive and integrated system of supports and services for persons with disabilities. MHSD stressed the development of personal wealth through RDSPs and other sources as a way of assisting PWDDs. The workshop also placed much reliance on families supporting PWDDs as the gap between the cost of overall needs and government funding increases and waitlists grow.
- **Building Personal Support Networks** – Ernie mentioned that this workshop is being held on January 22nd at the Accent Inn. Ernie will forward the details to council members.
- **CLBC Employee Info Flash** – Council members can receive the weekly CLBC Employee Info Flash. This is a weekly information bulletin that is circulated to staff.

3) CLBC update – John Davies

- **Strategic Planning discussed.** Child and Youth with Special Needs Strategy will provide better partnership with Education/Health.
- **Budget** – Exploring ideas on how to effectively deploy funds to those individuals that are on waitlist. At next council meeting the council will discuss further how to assist transitioning Adults.
- **Ruth-Anne Lesar** is the transition worker for Vancouver CLC office. She assists families that have children turning 19.
- **I.F. funds** will be available next fiscal year.
- **Kids Up-Front** – there is a facilitator at Vancouver CLC that is the liaison worker for Kids Up Front. Kids up Front provides free tickets to events offered in Vancouver.
- **211** – non-emergency social services phone number will be available soon.

4) Sub-committee reports

- **Community Rec. Committee** – John and Peter to meet with Presidents of the Community Centre Association on March 5, 2009 to discuss community recreation programs for our individuals. Peter exploring with Kitsilano Community Centre

programs for people with disabilities. Mara exploring programs through YWCA for people with disabilities.

- **PLAN Proposal – Nothing to report at this time**
- **Youth in Transition Committee –Ruth-Anne is the now the Vancouver CLC staff representative for this committee. The Vancouver CLBC transition document based on Delta's and Richmond's document has been forwarded to VSB for consideration.**

5) Future commitment to Council and suggestions for Nomination. Ken Wakeman and Natalie Marach will not be continuing for another term.

6) Family Meeting Debrief – Council to bring suggestions to the next meeting.

7) Advisory Committee – Council members reviewed the Advisory Committee terms of reference.

8) Community Council Annual Report is due in March. Council members will review mandate, terms of reference and our achievements and discuss at next meeting. Peter will produce a report and send to council members before the next council meeting.

Next council meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2009.

