



# NORTH ISLAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008

### CHAIR SUMMARY

This second year of the Regional Council might best be represented as movement towards consolidating our identity as a Council, establishing a structure within which to clarify our mandate, and chipping away at our North Island Work Plan, set last year.

### KEY INITIATIVES

#### BUILDING WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

Our Council membership continued to shift with 2 members having to leave their tenure early. Our present membership sits at 12, with the addition of 3 new members. Our hope is bringing the total membership up to its maximum of 15. Full membership would do two things, one it would spread out the work of the Council and secondly it would get at greater input from our constituents.

Our Council set out to meet 6 times per year and to run 3 Family Forums as well, one in Campbell River, Courtenay and Pt. Hardy/McNeill. We have met and surpassed that commitment meeting once a month, in an effort to clear backlogged items. We also managed to keep the promise of access that the 3 forums provide as well as attending a Vulnerabilities and Safeguards Workshop. This workshop took a lot of extra time for Campbell River Council members, Heather Cornfield and Stu Meldrum to organize and was a received very well with over 60 people attending.

Our hope with the larger Council is to shave the regular Council Meeting to 5 but to set a maximum of 6 meetings per year. We are also exploring having meetings supported by interactive multi person telephone conferencing. This would be a great advantage for the North when weather prevents Council attendance. All in all, Council members have been very busy this last year and my thanks are extended to everyone, especially given the busy world we live in.

#### ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Current and unfolding issues include the government's decision to remove children's support from CLBC and to return it to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Regional Council has signaled to CLBC that this transition should not harm either children moving or the adults who will continue to be supported by CLBC. We have no reason to believe that either group will be anything but safe, however until the transfer is occurred great forethought and vigilance is required. This is a part of our commitment to safeguarding the vulnerable people we support.

Another issue is that the Provincial Board of CLBC has requested that each Regional Council supply one member to meet provincially to ensure that input from the Regions is heard at the Provincial level. This level of consultation fills a gap and as such is a good idea.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

We have attempted to follow our plan as laid out in our Work Plan for 2008-9 as follows:

**Newsletter** – this edition marks our second in the promise of 2 per year, every year.

**Family Forums** – 3 per year, one in Campbell River, Courtenay and Pt. Hardy/McNeill. This will be our second cycle of consultations.

**Focus Groups** – the Council through a process of gathering input has decided upon three topics which people in the Regions will be invited to provide input. These items are School – School – Work/Community Transitions, Crisis Protocol and Communication with and within CLBC.

**Vulnerabilities and Safeguards** – Standing Committee established at the Council level and workshop offered in Campbell River last Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Self Advocate Support Group**- established in Courtenay and a standing item added to each Council Agenda. As well we have allocated a Council member to liaise with this group in an ongoing manner.

**Communicates Effectively with local and Regional CLBC Staff** – to this end the Council continues to meet once a year with all CLBC staff from all the offices in our Region. This has been our second cycle of consulting. Our aim here is to hear first hand what the issues staff perceive as important.

In addition, to this yearly consultation, the Regional Council is involved in regular communications with each of the Regional Managers on an emergent need basis.

**Filling Council Vacancies** – We hope to conscript 3 additional Council members in the near future, which will bring our numbers to a maximum of 15.

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## FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

**Transparency in Regional Budget**- Council has been working with our Regional Quality Service Manager, Mark Christie to produce a budget that Council can understand and thereby provide useful advice to CLBC. This is not necessary CLBC's problem as much as an education process for Council Members.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Council decided from the outset that we would open the first hour of each regular meeting to the public. To date we have met with and had presentations from the local Association for Community Living, Self Advocacy Groups, parents informing us of their specific needs and specialized programs wanting to update us as their new initiatives.

Our challenge as we go forward is to further enable a variety of individuals and groups to access us. As a Council we need to ensure that the broad community, including parents and individuals supported know that we exist.

### COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

| NAME   | COMMUNITY  | MEMBERSHIP       |
|--|--|------------------|
| <b>DOWLING</b> , Nicole<br><b>SAMARODON</b> , A.J.   | Courtenay<br>Campbell River  | Self-Advocate    |
| <b>CORNFIELD</b> , Heather<br><b>MELDRUM</b> , Stuart<br><b>MERRITT</b> , Karen<br><b>KEIL</b> , Russ<br><b>HISCOCK</b> , Evelyn | Campbell River<br>Campbell River<br>Campbell River<br>Courtenay<br>Courtenay | Family Member    |
| <b>BIEBER</b> , Diane<br><b>CROSS</b> , Jacqueline<br><b>TUTT</b> , Debby  | Campbell River/Courtenay<br>Campbell River<br>Courtenay                      | Service Provider |
| <b>PARKER</b> , Chris<br><b>HRUSHOWY</b> , Eugene  | Pt. McNeill<br>Courtenay   | Community Member |