

**Sunshine Coast Resource Centre Society
Annual General Meeting
August 31, 2016**

Annual Report – April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

2015/16 continued to be a year of **“Inform, Refer, Educate and Empower our Community”**. With the wrap up of the Progress Plan to the launch of the Senior’s Planning Table and Connecting Self Employed Women for Success, together with our ongoing programs, projects and services our Board and Staff were kept hopping. At The Resource Centre we work with a *community development approach* so that everything we do reflects needs that the community has identified.

Board of Directors 2015-2016

Anne Titcomb – Co-chair
Hilary Estergaard – Treasurer
Lucie McKiernan – Director (April – December)
Marj McDougall – Director
Pat Hunt – Co-chair
Sandy McBride – Secretary
Sue Elliott - Director

Internal Work of the Board

We continued to put processes in place internally to support our work.

- We continue to improve our financial administration processes. Thanks to our bookkeeper Connie Hill and careful management of our funds we are financially healthy.
- We introduced the use of Sync, an on-line filing system which allows us to share information more effectively.
- We rebranded – logo, colour scheme and changed the focus of our name to “the Resource Centre” to enhance our ever growing presence in the community.
- We created a more substantial web site to support Information and Referral on the Sunshine Coast for all. Thank you to Alison Taylor of Usable Website Designs - www.resourcecentre.ca. Thank you to the District of Sechelt and SCR D for their grant in aid contribution.
- The Board undertook a thorough Strategic Planning review, facilitated by Knowledge Philanthropist, Jane Gladman. We confirmed our three Strategic Directions:
 - Information and Referral
 - Volunteer Enhancement
 - Sustainability.

Programs:

Information and Referral

Our core service is funded by Direct Access (Gaming) with additional financial support from the District of Sechelt for support in promoting and improving I&R and bc211 and the Town of Gibsons for their grant in aid to host an I&R training for Gibsons & Area service providers. As we continue to build relationships and enhance our presence as **THE I&R HUB** in the community, our ability to provide effective I&R coast-wide and amongst service providers also improves. We keep an extensive database of individuals and service providers who have engaged with us in one of the many community events/dialogues we have hosted. We provide training and networking opportunities for I&R service providers and continue to find efficiencies and effective ways to share information.

Legal Information

By way of a grant from Legal Services Society, we were able to partner with Sunshine Coast Community Services Society to provide the Legal Information Program for seven hours/week. Many individuals were supported through their legal issues by this program, helping them when they need it most. We would like to pay a special mention to Julie Gibson.

Pro Bono

With our long-standing Pro Bono Lawyer, Alison Sawyer, stepping down this year, we have been actively trying to recruit another lawyer for this valuable service to the community, with no luck so far. This free legal advice program provides half hour appointments with a local lawyer on a variety of legal issues.

Money Skills

In partnership with and funded by the Sunshine Coast Credit Union, Money Skills provides a free educational opportunity to individuals in our community to enhance their financial literacy skills such as budgeting, banking, credit/debt and consumerism. This year beyond the community sessions, several targeted sessions were provided to elementary and home school classes, Elphinstone High school, Sumac Place and a train the trainer with the Welcoming Communities Program.

Home Alone

Thanks again to the District of Sechelt - Traffic Fines Revenue we were able to coordinate the Home Alone Program for 4 school classes (**grades 5-6**) and, in conjunction with the Seniors Centres, three older adult sessions. This year the SCRD emergency preparedness team joined the members of the local fire departments, police and ambulance to give short presentations, answer questions about their services and provide practical tips for planning, communication and staying safe at home and in their community.

Projects:

Progress Plan

After the very successful launch of the Progress Plan in March 2015, Co-Chairs Pat Hunt and Anne Titcomb made presentations to all governments on recommendations from the Progress Plan that would directly affect their organizations. We also had the opportunity to thank them for the part they played during the Progress Plan to ensure its success.

Seniors Planning Table

The first meeting of the Seniors Planning Table (SPT) was March 2015. With the Vision, Mission, Values and Priorities already established through a community development approach the SPT was off and running. Thanks to a \$20,000.00 grant from the SC Community Foundation we were able to hire a very well qualified Coordinator, Alison Leaney.

We hosted the Senior's Advocate Isobel MacKenzie two days after she released her report on Housing, *Affordable, Appropriate, Available*. Over 150 individuals came to that event held in the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre. We also held two 1/2 day Social Mapping Events, attended by more than two dozen agencies serving seniors.

As we continued on, more and more individuals and organizations became involved and Action Groups were created: Abuse of Older Adults, Homelessness and Standard Housing, Safety at Home, Dementia. Communications/Marketing and Sustainability.

Everyone is working hard to support the Seniors Planning Table and more importantly to support older adults in our community to ensure they are acknowledged as assets. **We live by our slogan "Compassionate Hearts Working Together."**

Connecting Self Employed Women for Success:

The Progress Plan identified that isolation was a significant barrier for self-employed women in their quest for success. We received 31 month funding from Status of Women Canada for the project "Connecting Self-Employed Women for Success". Cheryl McNicol, the program manager and her team are taking action to address this barrier as well as working with SD 46 to find a way to ensure that girls consider self-employment as a career option.

Staffing

On 20-25 hours per week our Program Manager, Christabelle Kux-Kardos does a fabulous job of overseeing the overall operations of the Resource Centre, programs/projects and staff. As well she implements the direction, policies and procedures which all support our mission and three strategic directions.

We were able to hire Sherryl Latimer part way through the year as our Program Assistant, four hours a week, to provide information & referral and support the work of the Resource Centre. She has proven to be an invaluable asset.

Each of our Programs/Projects is supported by staff and/or contractors and Board member(s) liaisons.

Each of the individuals who work for us or support us as volunteers or Knowledge Philanthropists, partners, organizations and funders deserve bouquets of flowers for helping the Resource Centre continue to offer excellent service. We wouldn't be where we are without this team.