



**BC Centre
for Ability**

Beyond challenges—the sky's the limit



Inspiring Transformation



2017/2018 Activities & Achievements

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OUR VISION

We share a vision of communities where every person is able to participate and contribute in all aspects of life.

OUR MISSION

The BC Centre for Ability provides community-based services that enhance the quality of life for children, youth and adults with disabilities and their families, in ways that facilitate and build competencies and foster inclusion in all aspects of life.

OUR VALUES

COLLABORATION: We work together, and with partners, clients and their families, to build on all our strengths and pursue the best possible outcomes.

EXCELLENCE: We aspire to do better, we create and apply new knowledge, and we lead, in order to contribute to the lives of those we serve, our professions and our communities.

INCLUSIVENESS: We celebrate diversity; everyone belongs, and all contributions are valued.

QUALITY SERVICE: We establish, achieve, and exceed performance targets based on feedback, evidence, and professional practice standards.

RESPECT: We strive to encourage, hear, and honour each voice.

Supported Child Development Program

“Our consultant meets regularly with my son’s daycare teachers, behaviour consultant, and behaviour interventionist ... provides tips and support to daycare staff, and helps make sure daycare goals are aligned with our home goals.”

Family

Community Brain Injury Program for Children and Youth

“I really liked how we received services in our own home, as this made it easier for our family dealing with a child recovering from an injury.”

Early Intervention Program

“We are super grateful for the help we had from our OT. She is so gifted in her role and passionate about her job. She helps us discern what we should be encouraging our daughter in developmentally.”

Stepping Stones Program

“We have received fantastic support from the Stepping Stones program. We’ve worked with two staff; the first is extremely knowledgeable and has helped us prepare for our IEP meetings and frame the social emotional learning goals for our daughter. She listens carefully and offers guidance and suggestions that have been very helpful. The other leads the Parent Networking nights brilliantly. We learn a lot and, most importantly, we connect with other parents, and we feel heard and acknowledged.”*

*Individualized education plan

Voices

Quotes from BCCFA
Satisfaction Surveys

OPPS Program

“It gave my life meaning again and allowed me to become a productive member of society once again. Thank you OPPS Fund and all the people at BC Centre for Ability! I can never repay the kindness enough.”

Key Worker Support Services

“The Cool Kids program is fantastic! It helped my child understand her anxiety and learn some coping strategies. And it helped me learn concrete tools I can use to coach her and also manage my own anxiety.”

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

UNITED WAY STEPPING STONES PROGRAM

100%

TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

Community participants gain new skills they can apply in their work setting

100% → 100%

Number of Parents/
caregivers served

972 → 1,493

54%

INCREASE

22%

INCREASE

Number of distinct
family groups served

762 → 927

43%

INCREASE

Number of Information
packages, newsletters,
brochures sent out

10,083 → 14,469

Counselling
sessions

408 → 527

29%

INCREASE

NORTH SHORE SCHOOL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Students make measurable progress toward their therapy goals:

100%

TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

Workshop participants learned
new strategies to support
students with special needs

100% → 100%

Workshop participants'
personal learning
objectives were met

89% → 95%

6%

INCREASE

EVEEMENTS [From 2016/17 To 2017/18]

EARLY INTERVENTION THERAPY SERVICES

6% Families achieve desired outcomes for well-being of child and family
INCREASE 88% → **94%**

FASD & KEY WORKER SUPPORT SERVICES

43% Program inquiries and consultations
INCREASE 14 → **20**

4% Families learned new strategies to try at home
INCREASE 89% → **93%**

Services delivered at convenient locations for clients and families
84% → **95%**

11%
INCREASE

OPPORTUNITIES FUND PROGRAM

24% Number of clients served
TARGET EXCEEDED Target: 224 → **Achieved: 278**

37% # clients employed or self-employed after completing OPPS Fund intervention
TARGET EXCEEDED Target: 134 → **Achieved: 184**



Delayne
Sartison

Message from our **BCCFA ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT**



Our clients' need for the services we provide at the BC Centre for Ability (BCCFA) is profound; they and their families experience some of the most difficult challenges present in our society. But our clients' inspiring spirit to succeed, combined with the high quality, evidence-based, integrated services provided by our wonderful team, leads to phenomenal progress in their abilities. This is what keeps us motivated to serve the amazing children and adults who come to us for support.

FUNDING INCREASE REFLECTS OUR SUCCESS

In the past year, I have been so impressed to see the fruits of years of advocacy lead to a significant increase in funding for our Supported Child Development (SCD) program. This increase reflects the high level of regard those in the community and government have for our services, not just the SCD program, but for the Centre's overall track record in serving our clients.

OUR PEOPLE ARE DEDICATED TO OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Although we were sad to see the end of Angie Kwok's long service as BCCFA Executive Director, we wish her all the best in her retirement and are grateful for her many contributions over the years.

One of the highlights this year is the way senior leaders pulled together to continue the high level of professionalism and success at the Centre, as we go through a period of transition to find a new Executive Director (ED). Our Board's Transition Committee worked with the senior team to develop an interim leadership plan, which involved:

- Appointing Rebecca Sun as our Interim Executive Director; she has been a BCCFA employee for more than ten years, most recently serving as Director of Finance and Building Management, and brings excellent financial management and organizational skills and deep administrative knowledge of the Centre's programs and operations to the position
- Sharing Executive Director duties among the Interim ED and other members of our senior leadership team

Going through a time of transition always involves challenges.

We have reason to be optimistic, given the outstanding quality of our leaders and frontline staff at the Centre. With their support and ongoing dedication, we haven't missed a beat; everyone has continued to stay on task, services have continued with the same level of professionalism, and the change has been seamless to clients.

ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

There is always room for improvement, of course, and the Board is entering a period of reflection to ensure the BC Centre for Ability continues to build on the strengths of the programming and infrastructure in place to grow the agency. I believe we are on the cusp of transformational change that will take us to the next level: becoming a provincial centre of excellence for a broader range of services that support an inclusive society.

I have always found the Centre's approach inspirational, with an emphasis on what people can do, rather than their challenges. Our name is apt—the BC Centre for Ability—which empowers people to work to their strengths and participate in society to the best of their abilities, from infants in early development to adults in vocational programs.

The more time I spend with the people in this organization, the more I come to recognize their commitment and calling to the Centre's work. So on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our leaders and staff at the Centre, and to recognize the people we serve for their awesome courage and commitment.





After 40 years with the BC Centre for Ability, former Executive Director Angela Kwok decided to begin a well-earned retirement in spring 2018. I had the pleasure of working with Angie for more than ten years, and would like to acknowledge her dedicated service to our clients, their families, and our staff team. Her leadership enabled the Centre to develop a continuum of compassionate services and strong systems we can build on for years to come.

STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVE WORKPLACES

BCCFA wrapped a successful three-year run for the Abilities-at-Work project in 2017, which we initiated to:

- Improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities in the transportation sector
- Foster a knowledge transfer network to share effective strategies for increasing capacity to build an inclusive workforce

Through the project, BCCFA supported our four partner employers—Seaspan, CHC Helicopter, Rocky Mountaineer and Vancouver Airport Authority—to establish best practices in inclusive employment.

ENHANCING CLINICAL CAPACITY



BCCFA was delighted to receive new funding for the Supported Child Development program for the first time in more than 10 years, which enabled us to reduce the waitlist and provide support for more children in Vancouver and Burnaby.

The Early Intervention Program has integrated a Rapid Response Feeding Team, piloted last year, into its service delivery model to promote safe feeding practices for at-risk children, based on the outstanding success of the trial run.

Our North Shore School Occupational Therapy Program created an Inclusion Library this year, with new technology kits for students with complex needs so they can participate in more school activities.

The United Way Stepping Stone program trained staff and volunteers at the Writers Exchange—which works with vulnerable children and youth in the Downtown Eastside—to promote participation in their programs.

And the Opportunities Fund Program—designed to help people with disabilities achieve employment goals—surpassed targets for the number of clients we see and the number who find employment after completing their intervention.

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

BCCFA also strengthened our infrastructure and created work efficiencies by:

- Renewing and upgrading our aging computers and hardware
- Introducing an integrated human resources system, which is a web-based application where staff can view and update their personal profiles, and retrieve T4s and pay statements

In December 2017, the Community Gaming Grants Branch of BC approved our capital grant proposal of \$75,000. Our facility at 2805 Kingsway was built in 1991 and had some deficiencies due to the age of the building. The funding will ensure the long-term sustainability of our building and enhance safety and security features, so we can continue providing a safe environment for our clients. The projects include a fire alarm system and panel upgrade, exterior painting, an intruder alarm system upgrade and expansion of CCTV, patio re-roofing and new window glass panels.

STAYING ON COURSE

The senior team at the Centre is collaborating with me to provide leadership during this time of transition. I would like to thank our staff and the BCCFA Board of Directors for their support and commitment, as we work together to sustain service excellence for our clients and families.



The Foundation was formed in 1987 to provide financing for facilities and ongoing financial support for the BC Centre for Ability. We are proud of our history in raising funds to build and maintain our Kingsway office. Our mandate also includes growing our Endowment Fund to provide long term financial support for BCCFA programs and services. Notably, our Program Enhancement Fund is aimed at providing start-up funding for new endeavours and innovation.

To better align the Foundation with changing needs in the community and at the Centre, we have initiated a strategic review of our mission this year.

A GROWING NEED

For instance, there is a growing realization that the people we support so well as infants, children and youth with disabilities face a distinct lack of services as soon as they become young adults. Support ends at 19, and young adults are suddenly expected to assemble resources for employment, therapy and daily needs all on their own, when it takes a tremendous amount of time and energy just to maintain a regime of care every day. These young adults have no one to assist them, which is a gap we aim to address.

Angie and Annie Kwok at Dining For Dreams



DINING FOR DREAMS

We held this year's gala, *Dining for Dreams*, at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in May 2018. Hats off to Angie Kwok, our retired ED, Rebecca Sun, Interim ED, and Centre staff for organizing the event so cost effectively, plus Annie Kwok, who secured strong support from connections in the hotel and travel industry to offer valuable accommodation and travel packages for both our live and silent auctions, and obtained good terms for our hotel venue. Annie has volunteered at the event for four years, and elevated the experience by coordinating the venue and menu details with senior management at the Fairmont.

Due to their efforts and generous contributions from our donors, sponsors and guests, we were able to net a higher return on the gala this year than ever before. From our lessons learned, we aim to make next year's gala even better, so mark April 25th, 2019 in your calendar. This will be the 20th anniversary of *Dining for Dreams* and the 50th anniversary of the Centre!





MEANINGFUL WORK

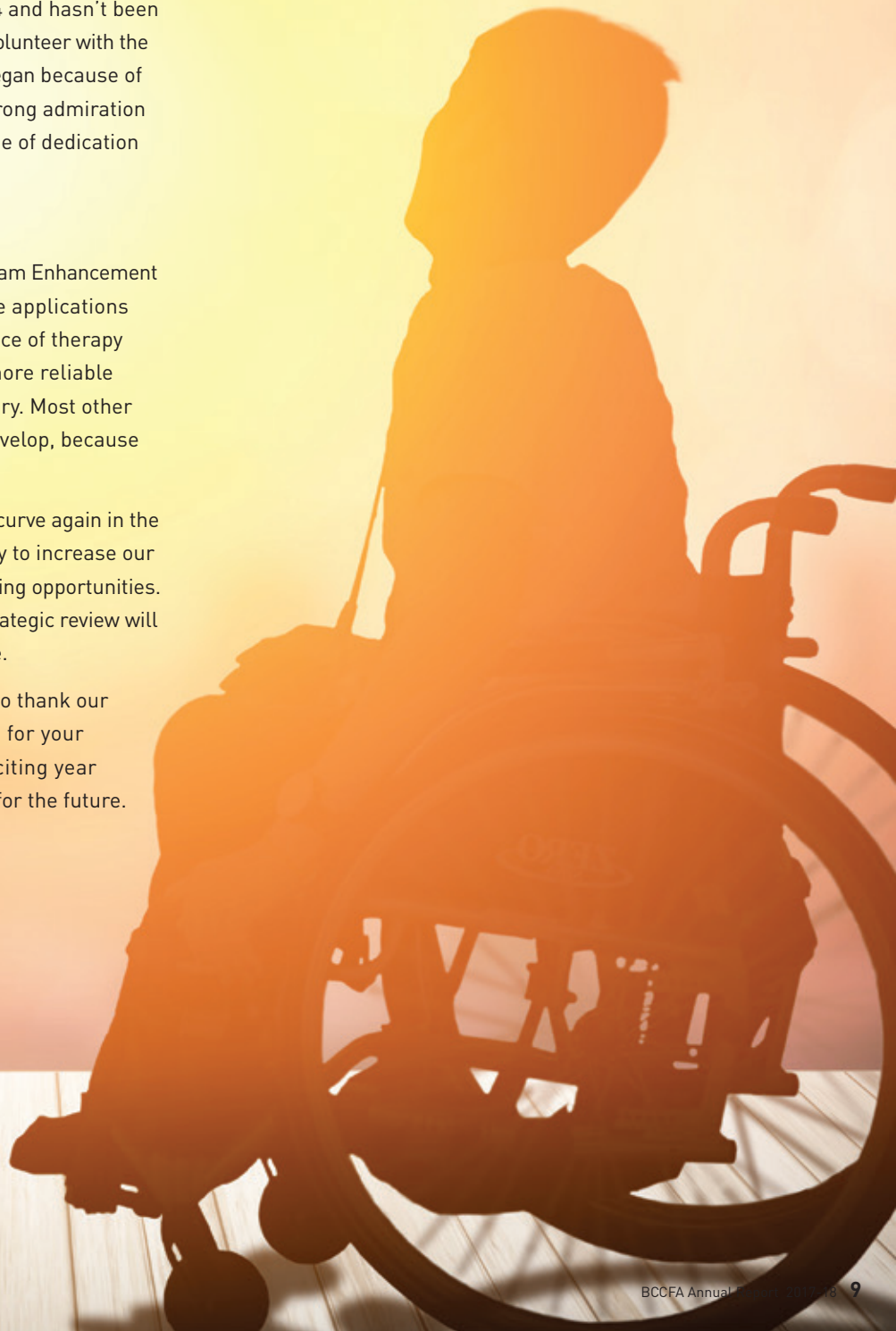
I believe strongly in civil society; as individuals, we have a duty to support our community. My personal involvement with the Centre began when my son received help for his physical challenges, starting when he was two years old. Now he's 34 and hasn't been a client for many years, but I have stayed on to volunteer with the Centre and Foundation boards. My participation began because of the help given to my son, but has evolved to a strong admiration for the people in the Centre and their high degree of dedication and professionalism.

GETTING AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Ten years ago, the Foundation—through the Program Enhancement Fund—took the lead in developing new software applications to set a higher bar for measuring the performance of therapy services at the Centre. Our approach gave us more reliable metrics for tracking and reporting service delivery. Most other associations now use the software we helped develop, because it's the best in the province.

My goal for the Foundation is to get ahead of the curve again in the coming year and beyond, so we have the capacity to increase our support for young adults and capitalize on emerging opportunities. We have the promise of a new patron, and our strategic review will assess new activities and initiatives we can shape.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, I would like to thank our donors, volunteers and everyone at the Centre for your exceptional support. We look forward to an exciting year ahead as we embark on setting a new direction for the future.





Sailor is an incredibly resilient and determined two-and-a-half-year-old who reaches for new heights every day. She has been diagnosed with Caudal Regression Syndrome and was born with multiple congenital anomalies. Despite many hospitalizations and physical challenges, Sailor has made significant gains in her gross motor development during the past year. She has a loving, engaged family and dedicated therapists at the Centre who support her. Her team never has to set goals, because Sailor sets goals for them. She is always one step ahead; her determination and resilience push her therapists and parents to keep up. Sailor was in a Bumbo on a Roomba before her wheelchair was ready, and climbed up chair cushions to get to her “big girl bed”. She’s in the pool, on the beach, on a surfboard,

riding a bike, and helping out in the garden, all at her request. As her parents have said, “Sailor is not disabled; she has a disability, but is not defined by her limitations.” Sailor is truly a born hero; she will challenge you to rethink what is possible.



Heroes of Ability

Arynn is a delightful four-year-old with myoclonic epilepsy and developmental delay. Our extraordinary care teams at BCCFA—physiotherapy, speech language therapy, occupational therapy and supported child development—have all been supporting her. Arynn also attends a Montessori Childcare Centre. With the support of her dedicated parents, skilled therapists and childcare staff, Arynn has made significant gains in all aspects of her

development, from having limited mobility and language skills, to being an active, expressive little girl who successfully participates in a wide range of daycare activities. Now she is riding a bike and enjoys having conversations with friends and teachers. Arynn is highly motivated, and always willing and determined to learn new skills, as she moves toward a bright future.



Amy is an 11-year-old, grade five student on the North Shore. She has Cerebral Palsy, a seizure disorder, developmental delay and visual difficulties. Amy uses a manual wheelchair and can walk a short distance with a crutch and caregiver assistance. Our school occupational therapist and the West Vancouver school-based team support Amy, as she continues to work on her self-care and fine motor skills. In spite of her challenges, Amy has demonstrated exceptional skill in making social connections; within months of moving from a school in Coquitlam to the North Shore, she made a positive impression on everyone in the school. On her last birthday, her classmates made a video to tell Amy what she meant to all of them, describing her smile, her laugh, her warmth and their closeness to her. Amy was chosen as a hero because of her positive approach to life and incredible ability to make connections with everyone she meets.



Serena developed headaches, nausea and vomiting in June 2016, and these symptoms progressively worsened over the following two months. A CT scan revealed she had a brain tumour and surgery was required to remove it. Following the procedure, Serena had significant hemiparesis in her left arm, hand and leg, and extreme fatigue. She was experiencing difficulties with mobility, balance and left-side coordination. After intensive inpatient rehabilitation, Serena was referred to our Community Brain Injury Program for Children and Youth, and achieved all of her occupational therapy goals. Now Serena is totally independent in self-care, able to carry out household chores, and can text with both thumbs. She returned to school full time in January 2017 and did very well, completing her Grade 11 French Immersion Program in spite of these challenges, getting mostly A's and B's. Before her injury, Serena was a competitive triathlete. Now she has begun to return to activities, participating in the school hiking club, rock climbing, trampoline and swimming. And she won a dressage competition after taking horseback riding sessions. Serena passed her driving test and now has her N licence. Her determination, hard work and positive attitude are truly remarkable. Her mom reports that people who meet Serena would never know she had a brain injury.

Rufo was determined to find a job in his field after immigrating to Canada, as he has a degree in civil engineering and over 20 years of experience as a project manager in the Philippines. But due to visual and hearing challenges and chronic back pain, he was only able to find an entry-level job in Vancouver. Rufo sought help at the WorkBC North East Centre, where BCCFA is a program partner, providing case management services for persons with disabilities. Rufo was supported with employment counselling, credential assessment, employment-related workshops and job placement services. We also provided funding support through the Opportunities Funds Program, so Rufo could complete project management training at Simon Fraser University. With his determination, hard work and enhanced employment skills, Rufo was able to land a job as project manager in the real estate industry in Vancouver.



Programs at a Glance

BCCFA PROGRAMS	SERVICES OFFERED
<p>Supported Child Development (Burnaby and Vancouver)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation • Extra staffing support • School transition support • Workshops • Toy lending library
<p>Early Intervention Therapy Program (Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy and social work support)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment • Consultation • Intervention • Counselling • Service coordination • Group therapy • Educational workshops • Casting and splinting • Equipment lending • Resource library • Toy lending library
<p>North Shore School Occupational Therapy Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment • Consultation • Equipment lending library
<p>Occupational Therapy Services at Spirit of the Children Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally responsive occupational therapy services for children of Indigenous background and their families, offered at Spirit of the Children Society
<p>United Way Stepping Stones Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group programs for children up to 12 years of age • Counselling • Promotion of social-emotional development
<p>FASD & Key Support Worker Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling • Group therapy support • Education • Support network
<p>Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational Training Plan • Wage subsidies • Financial assistance for vocational training
<p>Abilities-at-Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation • Training • Assistance to employers in the transportation sector to recruit qualified employment candidates
<p>Community Brain Injury Program for Children & Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term acute rehabilitation therapy intervention • Neuro-psychological assessment • Counselling • Transition planning • Service coordination • Education and resources on brain injuries
<p>Provincial Complex Medical Respite Support Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respite care • Summer Camp Program
<p>Case Management Services for people with disabilities, in the WorkBC Vancouver Northeast Employment Services Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Vocational counselling and planning
<p>Fee-for-service Social Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service coordination • Counselling

BCCFA Budget

Our Costs

- 54.35%** Supported Child Development
- 23.46%** Early Intervention Therapy
- 9.9%** Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities
- 5.7%** Community Brain Injury Program for Children & Youth
- 1.31%** Facility & administration costs
- 1.22%** Employment Program NE Catchment
- 1.05%** FAS/NAS Complex Behaviour Program
- 0.96%** Communications & resource development
- 0.87%** United Way
- 0.45%** Family Education & Resource Libraries
- 0.37%** Abilities at Work
- 0.36%** Social Work Respite

Our Funding

- 85.2%** Provincial government
- 9.65%** Federal government
- 1.43%** School Districts
- 1.32%** Other income
- 0.86%** BCCFA Foundation contribution
- 0.84%** United Way
- 0.59%** Gaming income
- 0.1%** Donations
- 0.01%** Fee-for-service

Supported Child Development Program

Burnaby and Vancouver Regions

Our Supported Child Development consultants help families with children who need extra support to access inclusive childcare. Team members work with families to design support for children’s individual needs, and consult with daycare, preschool, and out of school care programs to help them develop inclusive principles and practices that enrich all children’s experiences. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funds this program.

REDUCING THE WAITLIST – For the first time in more than 10 years, both the Vancouver and Burnaby SCD programs received new annualized funding. We used it to provide ongoing extra staffing support for 47 children on the waitlist: 43 in Vancouver and four in Burnaby. We also received one-time funding, which we used to provide short term support for 39 children on the waitlist: 21 in Vancouver and 18 in Burnaby.

HOLDING SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL CONFERENCES – We hosted training conferences for childcare staff in Vancouver and Burnaby this year, where Dr. Deborah MacNamara gave presentations on:

- Relationship Matters: What to Do with Children’s Feelings
- You’re Not the Boss of Me: Understanding Resistance and Opposition

160 participants attended the conferences: 100 in Vancouver and 60 in Burnaby.

PROVIDING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING – Our SCD Consultants trained childcare staff on social-emotional development in:

- Partnerships Training on Positive Approaches to Behaviour
- Pyramid Training
- Social Emotional Enhancement and Development (SEED) training

We also created more Social Emotional Resource Kits and new Social Thinking Kits for our library to lend to childcare staff.



Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved	
			Burnaby	Vancouver
Access to Services	Children referred to the SCD program have received a support guide and connections to required supports within three months of referral	100%	100%	100%
Efficiency	Consultants spend 50% of their time in direct client-related activities	50%	56%	56%
Effectiveness	Childcare staff report SCD consultants help increase their skills	80%	100%	96%
Satisfaction	Families report they are involved in determining goals and support strategies for their children	90%	95%	95%
	Families report they are satisfied with the overall services received from the SCD program	90%	87%	85%



Abdallah is a happy four-year-old boy who enjoys singing, dancing, reading books and being around his peers. He lives at home with his mom, dad and older brother. Abdallah was born in Libya and moved to Vancouver with his family in 2015. He was referred to our Vancouver Supported Child Development (VSCD) Program for delays with speech, social, sensory, behavioural and self-help skills, soon after his mom was accepted into a PhD program.

NEEDS

Social Emotional **36%**
Participation **36%**
Communication **11%**
Not Assigned **11%**
Mobility **3%**
Health **2%**
Other **1%**

LANGUAGES

English **65%**
Mandarin/Cantonese **13%**
Tagalog **3%**
Indo-Aryan Languages **3%**
Semitic Languages **3%**
Spanish **2%**
European languages **2%**
Japanese and Korean **2%**
Other **2%**
Vietnamese **2%**
Southeast Asian Languages **1%**
Farsi **1%**
Russian **1%**

GENDER

Male **75%**
Female **25%**

AGE

0–5.9 yrs **61%**
6–12.9 yrs **33%**
13+ yrs **6%**



When our SCD Consultant first met Abdallah at his daycare in September 2016, it was immediately clear he would benefit from extra staffing support, but funding was not available at the time, and Abdallah was placed on the waitlist. Then in January 2017, the daycare program reported they could no longer have Abdallah attend without extra staffing support. This was devastating news for the family, as his mom was a full time PhD student and his dad worked full time. Without childcare, one of them would need to stay home to care for Abdallah, as they were fairly new immigrants to Canada, and did not have the support of an extended family or friends. Our SCD Consultant met with daycare staff and planned to provide more frequent consultation visits and additional resources until funding became available.

In April 2017, Abdallah moved to a childcare program with extra staffing support, and flourished in the few months he was there. While the family was thrilled to see significant improvement in Abdallah's social and communication skills, the program's short operating hours—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—were difficult to manage with their full time schedules. His mom worried she would not be able to continue her studies or his dad would not be able to continue working full time. Luckily funding was approved, and Abdallah was able to move to a full childcare program, with individualized extra staffing and regular consultation visits from VSCD, in September 2017.

Abdallah has made tremendous progress during the last two years. Now he is now talking in full sentences, understands many concepts, and is able to enter and sustain play with peers with minimal support. There are very few behavioural incidents and significant improvement with transitions. Since meeting Abdallah, the SCD Consultant's routine includes reading him a story, but during the last visit, he insisted on reading one of his favourite books to her—and did a great job!

Abdallah's mom often says she's grateful for the support of the VSCD program, because it has allowed her to not only fulfill her own dreams, but also to "dream of a brighter future for my child, in the hopes he will get an education, have a career, marry and have children of his own".



Early Intervention Program

Our Early Intervention Program (EIP) team provides children with special needs, from birth to age five, with physiotherapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), speech language pathology (SLP) and social work (SW) support. We collaborate with parents and other caregivers to offer evidence-based assessment, treatment, groups, workshops, and family support at home and in the community to facilitate children's growth. Our aim is to help children achieve their full potential where they live, play and learn.

INTEGRATING OUR RAPID RESPONSE FEEDING TEAM –

Last year, we piloted a Rapid Response Feeding Team (RRFT) for children with at-risk feeding behaviours. Due to the overwhelmingly positive outcomes and feedback, we fully integrated the RRFT into our early intervention service delivery model to promote safe feeding practices, safeguard child health, and relieve caregiver stress.

DEVELOPING EARLY LITERACY GROUPS – Our SLP team received a grant from TD Community Relations to develop and implement early literacy groups for children and their parents, which is offered in Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, and on the North Shore. Parents learn early literacy strategies they can use at home with their child, and connect with other parents of children with special needs. Children are immersed in an environment that promotes language development and reading skills, and benefit from opportunities to socialize with other children.

PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY – Our Richmond team Social Worker received the 2017/18 Community Living Award for Outstanding Contribution to recognize her commitment to creating an inclusive community. Congratulations!

Plus, EIP staff collaborated with the MCFD Burnaby and Vancouver Infant Development Programs (IDP) to:

- Streamline referral processes between the programs
- Make it easier for families to transfer services from IDP to EIP

CONTINUING ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS – We continue to offer student training placements and accepted eight students from the University of BC in the past year: three in PT, three in OT, one in SLP, and one in social work. We hope their experience at BCCFA will attract new grads to work in the public sector.

In addition, our social workers presented a workshop at Capilano University: Working with Families with Young Children who have a Neurodevelopmental Disability.

ATTAINING NEW ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS – We would also like to recognize staff members who secured appointments in the UBC Department of Physical Therapy:

- Two new BCCFA physiotherapists appointed as Clinical Instructors (in addition to five from last year)
- Plus two physiotherapists participated as Teaching Assistants in UBC neurology and pediatric courses



NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED IN EACH REGION

525
VANCOUVER

278
BURNABY

273
RICHMOND

150
NORTH SHORE

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY DISCIPLINE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

857

Vancouver: 382 | Burnaby: 202
Richmond: 158 | North Shore: 115

PHYSIOTHERAPY

734

Vancouver: 326 | Burnaby: 170
Richmond: 179 | North Shore: 59

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

606

Vancouver: 241 | Burnaby: 151
Richmond: 138 | North Shore: 76

SOCIAL WORK

516

Vancouver: 228 | Burnaby: 126
Richmond: 78 | North Shore: 84

DIAGNOSIS

- Not Assigned/Unknown **31%**
- Other Developmental Delays/Disorders **24%**
- Autism Spectrum **21%**
- Syndromes **10%**
- CNS Disorders **6%**
- CP and Related Neuro **5%**
- NeuroMusc / PNS / Ortho **3%**



*13 children were seen in two regions, because their families moved from one region to another, so the regional total is 1,226

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Service	Families have an initial service plan for their child within three months of referral to EITP	75%	64%
Efficiency	EITP staff spends the majority of daily work in client-related activities	Therapists 80%	OT 76% PT 80% SLP 75%
		Social Workers 75%	SW 76%
Effectiveness	Children in the program make measurable progress towards their families' desired outcomes for them	75%	Posture and mobility 78%
			Play and learning 70%
			Self-care 73%
	Families of children in the program make measurable progress toward their desired outcomes	75%	Social emotional well-being 84%
Well-being of client and family 94%			
Learning and applying knowledge 91%			
Satisfaction	Service information given to families is relevant to their needs		95%
	Families are involved in determining goals for their child and family	90%	93%
	Families would recommend BCCFA services to a friend or family member		96%



Evelyn is a curious, eager, three-year-old with Down Syndrome. We have a full team supporting Evelyn and her family to guide her development, including a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech-language pathologist and social worker. Having fought through cardiac and respiratory issues, Evelyn now enjoys being active and continues to push herself to achieve more challenging physical skills. Evelyn's mom says, "It was baby steps at first, with her having to relearn how to do tummy time, then being able to transition from tummy to sitting on her own. Andrea and Fiona have been great, helping Evelyn correct her walking posture and lending us a walker that helped her transition from assisted walking to having free reign around the house."

Speech language therapy has focused on helping Evelyn use sign language, pictures and natural speech to get her message across. The occupational therapist focuses on increasing Evelyn's fine motor skills with play involving both hands. Her mom says, "Mimi and Amina showed us toys and role play to help Evelyn, like a kitchen set with forks and spoons. She now has rudimentary use of a spoon to feed herself, is able to grasp things with her fingers and hands, and her hand-eye coordination is slowly improving."

"Hedy helped our family so much with her knowledge of navigating government and support organizations. She counselled me on mental health issues I had after the birth of Evelyn. I was a lost soul on the verge of breaking and she connected us with programs right away."

"Thank you for all the help you have given us. With your continued support, we believe Evelyn will be able to learn all the skills she needs to thrive in school and grow up to be a productive member of society."

North Shore School Occupational Therapy Program

In North and West Vancouver, our occupational therapists support students with neurological, physical and/or developmental challenges, from kindergarten through grade 12. We work in consultation with students’ families, teachers and support staff to develop strategies that help achieve students’ educational goals. Our aim is to support students’ inclusion, participation, and independence in school and the community. MCFD and the North and West Vancouver School Districts fund this program.

PROMOTING SELF-REGULATION – In the North Vancouver School District, our OT participates in a specialized team that provides intensive support for the most complex learners, called CLASS, for Complex Learners and Autism Support Services.

In the West Vancouver School District, our OT is a member of the District Redesign Working Group, which supports students and staff with emerging needs by redesigning spaces to enable effective self-regulation. This group accepted 14 redesign applications from across the district; nine projects were approved and are currently in process.

CREATING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS – This year, we launched an Inclusion Library using technology kits from SETdirect, part of the provincial SET-BC program, which supports school districts with technology resources. We use the kits to enable students with complex needs to participate in school activities.

TEACHING AND LEARNING – One of our occupational therapists was invited to be on a five-person West Vancouver team that travelled to Portland, Oregon, as part of a delegation of 90 educators from the Lower Mainland. There were 89 teachers/administrators and one OT! We learned curriculum on the principles of “playful enquiry and cultures of creativity” and how to embed play as a guiding force in schools.

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Effectiveness	Students achieve their therapy goals	75%	Posture and mobility 96%
			Productivity/recreation/learning 81%
			Self-care 70%
	Workshop participants learned new strategies to help them support students with special needs*	90%	100%
Satisfaction	Workshop participants’ personal learning objectives were met when attending a workshop*	90%	95%
	Workshop participants indicate that the workshop they attended was very worthwhile or extremely worthwhile		98%

*4 or 5 on a 5 point Likert scale

We co-presented at the UBC Early Years Conference on: Ready or Not! A Practical Reframe of Readiness in the Early Years.

Also in West Vancouver, our OT and District Behavior Teacher provided grade two teachers at Cypress Park Elementary with an eight-week mindfulness curriculum. After eight weeks of practicing mindfulness exercises, three students created posters emphasizing mindfulness objectives:

- Your breath sounds like the waves going in and out
- When you walk mindfully, it’s like your feet are saying heel to toe
- We are slow motion warriors





Liam

Liam is an incredibly social and endearing boy who just finished grade one. He and his family have a “can do” attitude and strive to include fun and learning in every day. Liam draws, paints, sword fights with his

brother, and enjoys playing video games. He is keen to share in class; his hand is always up. He is a sought after peer at school, often the first picked for a partner. His smile, laughter, and good nature are magnetic.

Liam and his family have an integrated team to work with them that includes his BCCFA occupational therapist, Sunny Hill therapists, BC Children’s Hospital therapists, and an alternative augmentative communication (AAC) speech language pathologist from the North Vancouver School District.

The team’s focus this year was to optimize Liam’s SET-BC allocation, which provided him with a communication device that mounts to his wheelchair, a Unity AAC, that he calls his “talkie”. Our OT’s knowledge of Liam’s needs and physical capacity in the school environment helped inform collaborative team decisions on seating and mobility options, and mounts and modes of access for his communication device, that enable him to get the most out of his new talkie. The family graciously invites this team into their life, then run with the ideas provided in their own creative way.

Liam has had countless successes in school and at home this year. He is now able to independently reach for the talkie on his wheelchair, using his fingers to select picture symbols and create sentences, which the talkie’s voice output system says out loud. Then he can swing the device out of the way when not in use. Liam’s access to this technology is an exciting start to his learning career!

SCHOOL DISTRICT

North Vancouver **182**
West Vancouver **66**

AGE

5–7.9 yrs **28%**
8–9.9 yrs **22%**
10–12.9 yrs **25%**
13+ yrs **25%**



SERVICE LOCATION (1,337 HOURS TOTAL)

School (1,033 hrs) **77%**
Home (160 hrs) **12%**
Phone (91 hrs) **7%**
Tertiary Care (30 hrs) **2%**
Community (23 hrs) **2%**

SCHOOL BOARD FUNDING CATEGORIES)

Physical Disability / Chronic Health **39%**
Autism Spectrum **31%**
Learning Disability / Written Output **15%**
Dependent Handicapped **6%**
Moderate to Severe Intellectual Disability **6%**
Not Assigned / Other **2%**
Severe Behaviour **1%**
Deaf/Hearing Impaired **0%**

United Way Stepping Stones Program

We work with children with neurodevelopmental conditions, up to 12 years old, to strengthen their social and emotional skills and ability to manage at home, with friends and at school, in our Stepping Stones Program, funded by the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

We provide children with opportunities to develop social emotional competencies, such as identifying strengths, regulating emotions, handling stress and maintaining self-confidence. We educate parents and caregivers on social-emotional development and ways to promote their child’s learning. We offer training and consultation to schools and community service providers, so they learn how to promote social-emotional development in children with disabilities.

PROVIDING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

SERVICES – This year, we offered a translated workshop—Promoting Your Child’s Social-Emotional Development—for Mandarin-speaking parents and caregivers with children under six, who have neurological conditions (coordinated by the Avenue of Change Program and in partnership with Brighthouse Library).

We also offered translated training events on social-emotional development for seven to nine-year-old French speaking boys (coordinated by Anne Hebert School).

INCREASING COMMUNITY CAPACITY –

We participated in a variety of community activities this year:

- Hosted a social emotional learning booth at *Ready, Set, Learn*, a Vancouver School Board community education event for parents
- Presented an open house on pediatric mental health for children with neurodevelopmental conditions at the Child and Youth Mental Health Awareness Day
- Supported 13 children to receive wrap-around services for successful school continuation, or return to school after being suspended or expelled
- Gave a presentation on social-emotional development in children with neurodevelopmental conditions for all BCCFA staff



PEOPLE SERVED



CLIENT ACTIVITIES



Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Families report services were delivered in convenient community locations	80%	95%
Effectiveness	Families report they learned new skills and strategies to support their child at home	75%	99%
	Families report having opportunities to network with other parents	75%	86%
	Children/youth report gaining skills in managing their feelings and emotions	75%	89%
	Community participants report gaining relevant new skills they can apply in their work setting	75%	100%
Satisfaction	Parents indicate service quality met expectations	85%	96%

Each year, the Writers' Exchange works with more than 700 inner city children and youth, who benefit from developing social and emotional skills with support from the Stepping Stones Program.

Stepping Stones social workers teach our volunteer literacy mentors about child social-emotional development, trauma informed practice, and strategies and tools for giving kids the right kind of support. This is important because the children we work with have individual struggles our mentors can't always understand, which can lead to sudden changes in behaviour or emotional states. Through the training, volunteers learn why this is happening, particularly how the children's brains are processing the various factors in their lives and how stress can impact them. It's a very grounding experience for volunteers and sets up more realistic expectations of the kids. All of this learning helps the mentors in their goal: forming positive relationships and supporting the kids to be successful in their reading and writing activities each day and, ultimately, to boost their literacy skills.

Stepping Stones has also delivered training for our program staff to gain insight for real life situations. Staff identified recurring issues with children's self-regulation and social awareness. Once a month, our team met with Stepping Stones staff to troubleshoot solutions. These discussions enabled our staff to learn new strategies that benefit them and the children they support. Stepping Stones training is truly the most valuable professional development opportunity our staff have access to and, in turn, it helps create a more supportive, safe space for kids to attain better success while at the Writers' Exchange.

By Anastasia Forst, Managing Director, Writers Exchange

ETIOLOGY

- Autism Spectrum **35%**
- Unknown **33%**
- Other **19%**
- Syndromes **8%**
- Cerebral Palsy (CP) & Related Neurological Disorders **2%**
- Neuromuscular/Orthopedic/Peripheral Nervous System **2%**
- Central Nervous System (CNS) Disorder **0.4%**



GENDER

Male **70.0%** | Female **29.6%** | Transgender **0.4%**

AGE

Families of children 0-6 yrs **17%**
 Families of children 7-12 yrs **83%**

*The number of children who participated in activities exceeds this total, as siblings and children enrolled in other BCCFA programs can attend too.



FASD & Key Worker Support Services

Our Key Worker Support Services (KWSS) team in Burnaby works with children and youth with:

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD)
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
- Other complex developmental behavioural conditions (CDBC)

We offer individual support, group therapy and skill development programs for children and youth up to 19 and their parents and caregivers. We educate families, professionals and other service providers about the behavioural symptoms of these conditions, which can affect development, learning, mental health, and adaptive and social skills. We provide training workshops for parents and community service providers and networking opportunities for families. Our goal is to help children and youth:

- Reduce their vulnerability to social and emotional difficulties
- Minimize challenging behaviours that can hinder their participation in everyday life
- Develop skills so they learn how to achieve success

CREATING A NEW GROUP FOR PRE-TEEN GIRLS – We developed curriculum to encourage these girls to explore ideas about “myself,” enhance peer relationships and social skills, consider interests and differences, and build interpersonal relationships.

SUPPORTING YOUTH PROGRESS – Youth asked to learn more about how their brains work and how to explain it to their friends. So we provided a series of one-on-one sessions to help them better understand their brain function and facilitate stronger peer relations. As a result, the youth were able to improve communication, peer relationships, self-confidence, and their comfort level taking part in community activities.

RAISING FASD AWARENESS – Our program staff presented a workshop for UBC School of Social Work students: Social Work with Young People who have been Prenatally Exposed.

SUPPORTING YOUTH LEADERSHIP – Four youth involved in the program volunteered at *Dining for Dreams*, BCCFA’s annual fundraising gala, to gain skills and learn more about the Centre.

SUPPORTING YOUTH PROGRESS – Many youth spent one-on-one time with our Key Worker social worker, often at school over lunch, to figure out how to deal with challenges at home and school and plan how to progress based on their goals.



CLIENT ACTIVITIES

7
NEW INTAKES

8
CLIENTS DISCHARGED
FROM PROGRAM

20
PROGRAM INQUIRIES/
CONSULTATIONS

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Services were delivered at convenient locations for the child, youth and family	75%	95%
Effectiveness	Families report education and support has taught them new strategies to try at home to reduce stress and strengthen family relationships	80%	93%
Satisfaction	Families are satisfied with the program's quality of services	75%	94%
	Community participants gained relevant new skills they could apply in their work setting	75%	98%

DIAGNOSIS

- FASD/NAS **44%**
- CDBC **25%**
- FASD/NAS Query **14%**
- CDBC Query **12%**
- ADHD Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder **4%**
- Other **5%**

AGE

- 0-5.9 yrs **2%**
- 6-9.9 yrs **19%**
- 10-12.9 yrs **28%**
- 13-15.9 yrs **25%**
- 16+ yrs **25%**

GENDER

- Female **56%**
- Male **44%**



Joe first took part in our KWSS activities when he was 11 years old and in grade six. Now he's 17 and has been living in foster care for the past several years. Despite a disrupted home life, Joe has a keen, open and inquiring mind, has maintained good school attendance, and always strives to do the best he can.

After being an active member of our social-emotional development groups in his middle school year, Joe graduated into our youth group and became a youth leader and mentor. He helped with younger children affected by prenatal exposure to substances, becoming a valuable volunteer at our boys' camps.

Joe is now a young man with insight; he's shown great ability to be self-aware about his strengths and challenges, and has developed strategies to manage the difficulties in his life. He asked us about his challenges and, with support from program staff, came to understand how he has been affected by prenatal alcohol exposure and mental health challenges. He has sought support and advice on how to explain to peers the way his brain works differently and the difficulties this brings.

Joe is beginning to think about his future and is on the path to graduation next year. He knows he will no longer be able to live in a foster home after he turns 18. Although Joe has maintained a connection to his birth family, he is advocating for himself to live independently. He is working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, housing and school staff to begin a path toward his dream of independence.

With support from his Key Worker, Joe has learned about the right people to turn to for support when he needs it, and is trying to carve out a future that gives him the greatest opportunity for success in the years ahead.

Opportunities Fund Program

We help people with disabilities prepare for employment and self-employment, through our Opportunities Fund Program for Persons with Disabilities (OPPS Fund), to support diverse, inclusive workplaces. We provide financial support to help participants achieve their employment goals, with funding for:

- Training to develop employment skills, wage subsidies, and enrolment in self-employment programs
- Accommodations or adaptive equipment and tools participants may require for training or to access the workplace and perform duties

We support eligible participants in the Lower Mainland, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky corridor up to Pemberton, Fraser Valley up to Boston Bar and Hope, Vancouver Island, and the Gulf Islands. Service Canada funds this program.

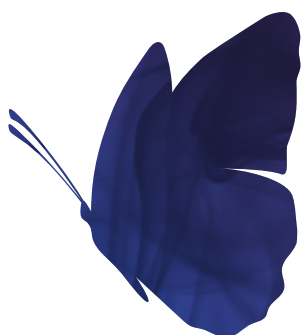


ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY

75.7% of OPPS Fund participants who completed skills development training were **successful in finding employment**.

Being part of the workforce contributes to:

- Improving clients' disability management
- Clients feeling like valued members of the community



Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Number of clients served	224*	278
Efficiency	Number of plans processed within four weeks	80%	100%
Effectiveness	Number of clients with enhanced employability	179*	243
	Number of clients employed or self-employed following completion of intervention	134*	184
Satisfaction	% of clients who have a positive response** to the following statements:	90%	A. 93%
	a. Overall I am satisfied with the OPPS program b. I would recommend the OPPS program to a friend or family member		B. 89%

* This year, we are reporting on targets for an 18-month contract that ran from March 28, 2016 to September 29, 2017. A new funding contract started on October 2, 2017, and reporting on targets for this one will be included in the 2018/19 annual report.

** Response of 3 or 4 on a 4 point Likert scale

DISABILITY (Clients may report more than one)

Mental Health **42%**
Developmental **13%**
Mobility/Motor Skills **11%**
Learning Disability **11%**
Physical **8%**
Other **7%**
Hearing loss **4%**
Neurological **1%**
Visual **3%**



INTERVENTION

Training **44%**
Wage Subsidy **37%**
Self-employment **3%**
Employability assistance services
(e.g. adaptive equipment) **16%**

AGE

16–19 yrs **4%**
20–29 yrs **24%**
30–39 yrs **28%**
40–49 yrs **25%**
50–59 yrs **18%**
60+ yrs **1%**

GENDER

Male **67%**
Female **33%**



Angus is a 34-year-old diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). His WorkBC Case Manager referred Angus to the OPPS Fund program, after he participated in career planning and job search workshops, job development services, and personal counselling for employment readiness. A supportive doctor's letter was included in the OPPS Fund application, with the note that Angus "should be able to work productively in society, if given the needed support to find a job that takes advantage of his strengths".

We provided funding for Angus to attend a three-month training program at Douglas College, in Teaching English as a Second Language. While Angus had been working in this field part time, we believed certification would help him secure full time employment. And with a young family to support, Angus was in search of short training that would lead to a structured job with a supportive employer, where he could effectively manage his ASD.

Starting with his impressive application—which included eight information interviews with employers and employees working in the field of his choice (only three are required)—Angus demonstrated professionalism throughout his involvement with the OPPS program. He was proactive when encountering difficulties, regularly updating and consulting his OPPS Fund Community Coordinator to explore options and strategize actions to address the challenges.

His coordinator and Angus met with the school to request accommodations during his training, which helped him successfully complete the program. With fresh credentials and a solid work ethic, Angus has achieved his dream of working full time.

"The Opportunities Fund gave me the means and chance to complete the TESL program. This enabled me to apply for and work as an instructor in post-secondary institutions. I am very grateful for the Centre's generous support. Thank you."

Angus C.





Abilities At Work

We completed the third and final year of the Abilities-at-Work project in November 2017. BC Centre for Ability partnered with Seaspan, CHC Helicopter, Rocky Mountaineer and Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR) in project activities, with the goals of:

- Removing barriers to recruiting, retaining and advancing the careers of people with disabilities
- Training personnel on best practices in attracting, interviewing, hiring and retaining qualified candidates with disabilities
- Hiring more qualified people with disabilities in the transportation sector

The federal program, Workplace Opportunities: Removing Barriers to Equity, has provided partial funding.

HOLDING AN ABILITIES-AT-WORK BUSINESS FORUM

– We organized our second business forum in June 2017 to share evidence-based best practice strategies, which can help employees successfully stay at work or return to work after an absence due to a mental health condition. Feedback from the session was excellent, and attendees spoke of using the information in their workplaces.

Two of our business partners presented on the project's success in enhancing employment equity practices in their workplaces and the resulting culture shift in their organizations. They described how Abilities-at-Work helped each business strengthen capacity to attract and recruit persons with disabilities.

HOSTING A DISABILITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP –

Abilities-at-Work hosted this workshop at Rocky Mountaineer, which was attended by 150 employees, the largest single group to attend a workshop with the project.

EXPANDING OUR TRAINING REACH – CHC Helicopter's subsidiary, Heli-One, will use the disability awareness training video provided by Abilities-at-Work staff to train every North American Heli-One employee.

“We are getting involved in customized employment and hiring more diverse individuals.”

Partner employer



THREE YEARS OF SUCCESS

RUNNING WORKSHOPS – Over the past three years, Abilities-at-Work staff facilitated 37 training workshops with our four business partners, with more than 700 attendees.

CREATING A TOOL KIT – Seaspán is developing a tool kit for all new external management hires and internal management training, based on resources provided by the Abilities-at-Work team.

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS – Staff with our partner employers gained skills in disability etiquette from Abilities-at-Work consultations, resources and workshops. HR staff members now feel more confident in recruiting, interviewing and onboarding persons with disabilities.

STRENGTHENING DIVERSITY – Two business partners set up diversity committees to guide inclusive practices in each

organization, based on information and guidance from our project staff. The other two used project resources to enhance activities in their existing diversity committees.

ENHANCING RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION – Our partners have increased success in recruiting and retaining employees with disabilities, “... using out of the box thinking and linking to external disability-focused groups.”

INCREASING CORE COMPETENCIES – All four partners have inclusive employment practices embedded in orientation and professional development processes, and accommodation policies and resources to provide accommodations in a timely manner.

FOUNDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE – Our business partners in the transportation industry have gained confidence in informing other organizations about the value of inclusive hiring.

Community Brain Injury Program for Children & Youth in BC

We provide short term, community-based rehabilitation services to children and youth with an acquired brain injury in BC, who do not have third-party funding, through our Community Brain Injury Program. We offer individual acute rehabilitation support, which may include occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, counselling, and service coordination to help children and youth regain as much functionality as possible to participate in school and their community. The Ministry of Children and Family Development funds this program.

FOLLOWING UP WITH YOUTH – We contacted 43 alumni youth to discuss their current service needs and future plans. We also provided follow up therapy support and accommodations for 31 youth who are transitioning to adulthood within two years.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – We created a summary report on the needs of youth with acquired brain injuries, who are transitioning to adulthood, for the provincial government to use in service planning.

TRANSLATING RESOURCES – We translated our program brochures into Farsi and Arabic, and the Consumer Handbook into Simplified Chinese.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING – One of our staff attended the North American Brain Injury Society conference in Houston, Texas, which focused on pediatrics.

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Children and youth receive services within 14 days of intake	90%	93%
Effectiveness	Families report the program helped them understand the impact of the acquired brain injury on their child's development	95%	96%
	Children and youth in the program achieve their desired outcomes	70%	Community participation and social life 75% Mobility 79%
Satisfaction	Parents articulate they are satisfied with the services received	85%	91%



CLIENTS RECEIVING SERVICE

100
ACUTE REHABILITATION
CLIENTS

31
FOLLOW UP CLIENTS

32
SCHOOL TRANSITION
CLIENTS



Brevin

Brevin was 17 years old when he underwent extensive brain surgery in January 2017, after an artery burst in his brain close to the right cerebellar region. The bleed resulted in a significant right-sided hemiplegia, ataxia, body weakness, poor balance and coordination, and decreased endurance.

After coming home from the hospital, Brevin was connected with our Community Brain Injury Program,

and we provided short term funding for an occupational therapist, physiotherapist and speech language pathologist. He has made tremendous gains with this support, working hard at the rehabilitation exercises and activities his therapists gave him.

Before the surgery, Brevin was a Junior B hockey player. He was very motivated to regain function and return to hockey as soon as possible, but first, his initial goal was to learn to walk again. He progressed steadily, starting with a four-wheeled walker, then using a quad cane, then two walking poles, and then a one-person assist, until he could walk on his own with confidence and balance. He continues to go to the gym six days a week to work on strengthening and coordination. Along with facing challenges in working memory, processing speed, problem solving skills and ongoing fatigue, Brevin has worked hard to gain the necessary hand strength and fine motor control to use a keyboard at school.

He has now returned to the ice to practice with the school hockey coach and physiotherapist. Brevin is a kind, caring young man with a great sense of humour. He is involved in community events and recently participated as a model in a fundraising fashion show. Since graduating, he has started working for the Knights of Columbus Community Centre, setting up for events and doing yard and building maintenance. To date, he has deposited three pay cheques and is happy to be so self-sufficient.

“My son has made an incredible recovery. He is going to graduate on time with his classmates and is currently walking with no aids. He still has a way to go, but has come so far from last year in March when we brought him home in a wheelchair.”

Janine, mother.

“Brevin is tremendously positive and a great person to work with. He always continues to try hard harder. I recently told some colleagues that this is a career highlight for me; I probably won’t have another experience like this again, to be involved with such dramatic change and progress in function for a single client.”

Brevin’s physiotherapist

ETIOLOGY

- Infection **19%**
- Accidental trauma **8%**
- Vascular **16%**
- Brain Tumour **15%**
- Brain Surgery **11%**
- Hypoxia/anoxia **7%**
- Other **5%**
- Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM) **4%**
- Non-accidental trauma **2%**
- Concussion **2%**

LOCATION

- Lower Mainland **54%**
- Vancouver Island **18%**
- Fraser Valley **11%**
- Okanagan/Interior **9%**
- North **4%**
- Central Interior **2%**

GENDER

- Male **64%**
- Female **36%**

AGE

- 0–4.9 yrs **11%**
- 5–12.9 yrs **38%**
- 13–15.9 yrs **23%**
- 16–18.9 yrs **28%**

Provincial Complex Medical Respite Support Services

We deliver the Provincial Complex Medical Respite Support Service, which provides additional respite support for families and children with complex health conditions. These families currently receive full at-home medical and respite benefits, but benefit from top-up respite due to the complexity of their child's condition.



The service offers overnight, out-of-home respite for 26 days a year, and a one-week summer camp program at Camp Alexandra in Surrey, with support from the Community Ventures Society. In 2017/18, 46 children accessed the respite program and 17 children attended camp.

The child's eligibility for the program is based on the following criteria:

- Non-ambulatory children under 19 years of age
- Dependent for feeding
- Not ventilator dependent
- Experiencing uncontrollable seizures
- At high risk for aspiration
- Needing complicated medication administration that requires specialized training
- Specialized equipment is necessary to physically care for the child
- Ongoing technology support and intervention are necessary
- Medically fragile condition requiring the support of specialized caregivers



The Ministry of Children and Family Development approves acceptance to the program and provides funding.

RESPIRE SUPPORT STATS

46 active in the program during the year
CHILDREN

43 carried forward from 2016/2017
CHILDREN

3 accepted into the program
CHILDREN

7 waitlisted for respite services
NEW REFERRALS

11 ANNUAL REVIEWS COMPLETED

2 discharged from the program
CHILDREN

17 attended camp
CHILDREN



The extra support has been well received by families; some provided feedback on their experience:

*"We are **very happy with our caregivers** who have been with our family for the last several years. We have a good relationship and trust them to care for our son very much."*

*"My daughter **loved camp** last year and would do anything to come again!"*

*"The respite has been going very well and we are **very grateful for the extra funding.**"*

*"My son loved coming to camp. He had **so much fun!** He is looking forward to coming again next year."*

*"My daughter has attended camp for a number of years and always has a **great time!**"*

*"Overall, things are going really well and we are **thankful** for all of the support we receive for our son."*

DONOR & FUNDER RECOGNITION

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, the BC Centre for Ability is able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people living with disabilities. Here we acknowledge donors who share our vision for inclusive communities and contributed \$500 or more to our cause in the last year. We sincerely thank you on behalf of the children, youth and adults with special needs we serve.



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 Philips, Hager & North Investment
 Management
 R.C. Purdy's Chocolates Ltd.
 Pythian Cerebral Palsy Committee
 RBC Dominion Securities Inc.
 Roper Greyell LLP
 Sunshine Escolarchua-BDO
 The Christopher Foundation
 The Deetken Group
 The Fahy Family Charitable Trust
 The Fairmont Hotel
 The Wolrige Foundation
 Trans Continental Textile
 Recycling Ltd.
 United Way of Greater Toronto
 Urban Impact Recycling Ltd.
 Vancity
 Vancouver Airport Authority
 Vancouver Foundation
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“My child’s team highly supported us and it made a huge impact on my family and our life.

Thank you!”





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2805 Kingsway
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