



Power of the human spirit

2016
2017
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.

Message from our

BCCFA ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT



Jennifer Baumbusch

I encourage parents, siblings and people with disabilities to volunteer for board work. Your voices are important to have at the table.

This past year has been my “bonus” year on the Board of Directors, bringing my term to an end, after six years as President and nine as a board member. As I reflect on this year and all of the years I have been on the BC Centre for Ability (BCCFA) Board, I am struck by the deep commitment of our board members and staff to ensuring a sustainable approach to family-centered services for clients and families with disabilities, across their life course.

UPDATING OUR GOVERNANCE

During the past year, we undertook a crucial task for a non-profit society board: we updated our constitution and bylaws to align with the new Societies Act, which came into force on November 26, 2016, to allow for more flexibility in how societies operate, while still protecting the public interest. Our role as a board is to provide governance for the organization; the constitution and bylaws are our guide for this work. Working with our lawyer on these updates was an interesting experience, in considering how these changes will provide a strong foundation for the Centre’s future.

SUSTAINING QUALITY OF CARE

Year after year, our programs provide excellent, evidence-informed services for clients and families. But we continue to work with limited resources, making it challenging to meet demands for service within the funding we receive. Despite these challenges, I often hear from parents about the high quality of services for their children once they move off the waitlist. My hope for the future is that our funders, primarily the provincial and federal governments, commit to eliminating service waitlists so all people with disabilities have timely access to the support they need and deserve.

EXPRESSING MY APPRECIATION

As I sign off from the Board, I have the deepest appreciation for our BCCFA community. Our Executive Director, Angie Kwok, continues to provide unparalleled leadership both internally and externally for the Centre. I also thank our leadership team and staff for their dedication to service excellence.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their understanding of my commitments to caregiving for my daughter, which often make volunteering on a board a challenge. Still, I encourage parents, siblings and people with disabilities to volunteer for board work, as it is very rewarding, and important to have the voices of clients and families at the table.

My gratitude also goes out to our clients and their families for their continued support for the BC Centre for Ability.

On behalf of the Association’s Board of Directors, we are honoured to support such an important community-based organization and look forward to another amazing year together.

Message from our
BCCFA FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT

With generous support from donors, volunteers and philanthropic foundations, our Foundation is able to support the BC Centre for Ability in providing therapies, social emotional development support, vocational opportunities, and more to improve quality of life for children, youth and adults with disabilities and their families.

REVISING OUR GOVERNANCE

Like the Association Board, a key focus for the Foundation in the past year has been a review of our constitution and bylaws, required under the new Societies Act. We had legal assistance from Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP for the review process and, we are pleased to report, the bylaw amendments have been accepted under the new legislation.

INSPIRING EVENTS

We hosted several successful events this past year:

- In November 2016, the Foundation held an open house to acknowledge our supporters. We officially unveiled the “Pillar of Ability” sculpture created by Kent Laforme, a Canadian sculptor who specializes in marble carving. The Pillar of Ability illustrates the BC Centre for Ability’s vision of an inclusive community that values the participation of all citizens, and nurtures the dreams and aspirations of people with disabilities to reach their full potential in life. The pillar was created with financial support from an anonymous donor, and input from a Design Committee comprised of our families, board members and staff.
- This year, we hosted an inaugural Hot Chocolate Run in Stanley Park in March 2017, with the support of Try Events, which raised awareness and support for BCCFA’s work.
- We were also delighted to be the designated recipient of a third-party event—Journeys with Heart (JWH), travel tours that also raise funds for charities—hosted by well-known chef John Bishop and sponsored by Travel Concepts. JWH raised \$11,000 for the Centre.
- And we held our signature event, Dining for Dreams, in May 2017 at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. We are truly grateful for the generous contributions of our donors, sponsors, foundations and guests, as well as the outstanding services and support from the Fairmont to make the event a smashing success.

LOOKING AHEAD

Although this year marks my last as Foundation President, I will remain as a board member to continue supporting the Centre’s vision and mission. I look forward to seeing growth in the Foundation’s capacity to support BCCFA in delivering leading edge services that ensure dignity and respect, strengthen inclusion, and help children, youth and adults with disabilities excel.

I would like to thank everyone for their unwavering commitment and generous contributions towards enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.



Virginia Angus

Message from our
BCCFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Angela Kwok,
MSW, RSW

We were delighted to exceed our targets for program outcomes at the Centre during the past year, because this accomplishment means better service for our clients. We broadened the scope of some services to meet growing needs, and continued to secure funding for our core programs to serve children and adults with disabilities. We also successfully renewed our Opportunities Funds Program with Service Canada, in both Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

RESPONDING TO EMERGING NEEDS

In 2016/17, we collaborated with our clients, their families, community partners, and service providers to identify emerging needs of children, youth and adults with disabilities. As a result, the Centre has implemented a number of additional supports to better serve our clients and build community capacity:

- Our Early Intervention Therapy team created a rapid response process for children referred with feeding problems or at risk of challenging feeding behaviour
- Our Stepping Stones staff created community wraparound sessions to support children with neuro-developmental conditions in successfully entering kindergarten, transitioning into high school, or re-entering school after being removed due to challenging behaviours
- Our Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Key Worker Support team provided leadership training for youth enrolled in the program, with opportunities to practice their new skills as youth mentors in group programs for children, facilitated by our social workers
- Our Community Brain Injury Program for Children and Youth expanded its service provider list; in particular, adding qualified clinicians in rural and remote parts of BC to better serve children and youth living in these areas
- Our clinical programs for children collaborated to increase family networking opportunities, by holding events like Family Fun Nights and our Family Picnic
- Our Supported Child Development staff revised the support eligibility criteria for children over 12 with significant, complex needs—with input from the Board's Executive Committee—in response to a lack of services for these children
- BC Centre for Ability—as a partner with MOSAIC at the Vancouver Northeast WorkBC Employment Services Centre—increased staffing in response to increasing demands for vocational case management services for persons with disabilities

STRENGTHENING PROGRAM OPERATIONS

It is gratifying to see our BCCFA clinical programs exceeding targets for effectiveness and satisfaction outcomes during the annual program outcome review. (See program details throughout this report.)

In line with our strategic directions for the Centre, we continued to build operational capacity to enhance our programs' efficiency and effectiveness, as well as client and family satisfaction with our services. This year, our capacity building actions included:

- Expanding mobile technology to staff, so they can access confidential program and client information in a secured environment, while providing outreach services in the community
- Strengthening monitoring protocols for the Supported Child Development program's In-Own-Home fee disbursement, which has improved our management of funding for extra staffing support
- Implementing Expertscan, scanning software we use to collate program survey results, which has greatly reduced administration time for data entry, and increased data accuracy for analysis
- Generating a monthly program output report, giving program managers accurate, current data on service delivery statistics to monitor outputs and plan for/report on programs
- Upgrading our computer server system to strengthen security features and ensure an uninterrupted power supply during short term power outages

COLLABORATING ON ADVOCACY

This past year, the BC Centre for Ability partnered with Inclusion BC, Family Support Institute of BC, the Association for Child Development and Intervention, Richmond Society of Community Living, and the Langley Association of Community Living to co-sponsor the Provincial Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Summit in Vancouver in November 2016.

Almost 100 professionals from across British Columbia—representing agencies that deliver early childhood services to children with special needs—gathered at the ECI Summit to:

- Address the mounting pressure to provide timely, responsive services for children with special needs
- Identify solutions to address service gaps, service wait times, and a lack of coordinated support for families
- Develop an action plan to support investment in early childhood intervention in BC

The ECI Summit led to the “Kids Can't Wait” campaign, which identifies key early intervention challenges and strategic solutions, plus a series of collaborative initiatives to advocate for increased funding and resources for children with special needs.

LOOKING FORWARD

We look forward to the coming year with optimism, as the provincial government has indicated additional resources and funding will be available for children and youth with special needs. In addition, our clinical teams will continue to refine services to respond to invaluable feedback from our stakeholders and address emerging needs.

I would like to thank our staff for their ongoing commitment to providing quality services. I also want to express my utmost appreciation for the guidance and support of our Boards of Directors and, in particular, thank Jennifer Baumbusch and Virginia Angus for their years of outstanding service. The coming year will be a time of transition for our Boards, with Jennifer and Virginia handing the leadership reins to the next generation. I know their leadership will leave a legacy to guide incoming board members.

As always, I feel privileged to witness the courage and resilience of the children, youth, adults and families we serve and I learn from them the power of the human spirit and the value of partnerships and collaboration in building an inclusive community.

NOTABLE ACHI

*“We believe
every person
has the ability
to succeed in
life on their
own terms.”*

SUPPORTED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Children receive connections to required supports within three months of referral

BURNABY
100%
VANCOUVER
100%
TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

Child care staff report SCD consultants help increase their skills

37%
INCREASE
67% → 92%
27%
INCREASE
79% → 100%

Consultants spend 50% of their time in direct client-related activities

22%
INCREASE
50% → 61%
46%
INCREASE
39% → 57%

UNITED WAY STEPPING STONES PROGRAM

10%
INCREASE

Number of distinct family groups served
692 → 762

454%
INCREASE

Hours of community wraparound sessions
63 → 349

14%
INCREASE

Counselling sessions
358 → 408

8%
INCREASE

Participants in social emotional development training
2,560 → 2,765

NORTH SHORE SCHOOL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

Students make measurable progress toward their therapy goals:

100%
FOR TWO YEARS!
Posture and mobility
100% → 100%

37%
INCREASE
Productivity/recreation/learning
70% → 96%

33%
INCREASE
Self-care
75% → 100%

Service hours
1010 → 1301
29%
INCREASE

School hours
778 → 953
23%
INCREASE

Home hours
58 → 120
107%
INCREASE

EVENTS [From 2015/16 → To 2016/17]

EARLY INTERVENTION THERAPY SERVICES

17%
INCREASE

Families referred to EITP have an initial service plan for their child within three months of referral **71% → 83%**

7%
INCREASE

Clients served
1121 → 1200

Children make measurable progress towards desired outcomes:

Posture and mobility
74% → 98%

32%
INCREASE

Play and learning
75% → 96%

28%
INCREASE

Self-care
72% → 96%

33%
INCREASE

Communication
72% → 96%

42%
INCREASE

FASD & KEY WORKER SUPPORT SERVICES

41%
INCREASE

Community participants gained relevant new skills to apply in their work setting
71% → 100%

Families are satisfied with the program's quality of services
90% → 93%

3%
INCREASE

COMMUNITY BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH IN BC

32%
INCREASE

Acute rehabilitation clients
87 → 155

Clients served
131 → 155

18%
INCREASE

Clients receive services within 14 days of intake
88% → 95%

8%
INCREASE

DINING FOR DREAMS *gala*

We had the highest turnout ever at our flagship fundraiser, the 18th annual Dining for Dreams Gala, in May 2017. Close to 300 guests attended the event at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel to show support for the BC Centre for Ability. And we celebrated five individuals, our Heroes of Ability, for their resilience and courage to overcome disabilities and inspire others to achieve their dreams.

"The Nass Rae Wealth Management Team was so proud to sponsor the Heroes of Ability at the Dining for Dreams Gala. The stories of each Hero touched us deeply and reminded us how important the work of the BC Centre for Abilities is to help those in need. Each story showed the courage, strength and determination to never give up. Once you choose hope, anything is possible."

"Thank you to the BC Centre for Ability for all you do to make what might seem impossible, possible. And congratulations to all the Heroes on their successes; we wish them continued progress in their recovery."

Alan and Sandra Rae
Nass Rae Wealth Management Team.

Clockwise from top: Dining room. Awards to heroes Cora, Gabriel, Christina, Viven, & Colton's parents. Auction tables. Speaker Alan Rae. "DREAM" light sign.





HEROES of ABILITY

Vivien

As an infant, Vivien was diagnosed with a rare heart disease and failed to thrive, so began receiving support from our Early Intervention Therapy program team at nine months old. With her determination, supportive family, and help from BCCFA staff, Vivien has overcome so many hurdles to reach extraordinary milestones. Three years after starting therapy with Centre staff, she was officially diagnosed with Kabuki syndrome, a rare disorder that affects multiple parts of the body, which enabled her family to proceed with a more tailored therapy program, giving Vivien the best chance at living a typical life. In true Vivien form, she welcomes each day with gusto, enjoys making friends and horseback riding, and continues to blossom with her cheerful outlook.



Gabriel

Better known as Gabby to his family and friends, he was diagnosed with a seizure disorder and developmental disability that affects his ability to regulate emotions, making it difficult to connect with peers and adults. BCCFA staff in the Stepping Stones Program helped Gabby and his family understand his strengths, interests and needs and access community services and supports. Staff developed targeted interventions and support, including social emotional learning strategies to regulate emotions and behaviours, starting when Gabby was six-and-a-half years old. Staff also tailored support to his learning needs, so Gabby could maximize his learning of academic and social emotional skills at school. Gabby is now in control of his emotions and enjoys spending time with his family and friends playing sports and board games and cooking meals. With his newfound, quiet confidence, he attends John Oliver Secondary School Life Skills program and continues to thrive. Gabby is working hard to build independent life skills like taking public transit.





Cora

Bright, funny, four-year-old Cora, lovingly called Coco, experienced a severe intraventricular hemorrhage inside the brain while in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, when she was born three weeks prematurely. BCCFA has been supporting Coco since she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy (CP) three years ago, with physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech language therapy and supported child development services. We also work collaboratively with Coco and her family, providing extensive therapy, social and emotional support, so the family can help give Coco the best opportunities in the days and months ahead. Coco has already defied so many odds and, together with her supportive family, she is set for a bright future.

Colton

His lifelong asthma was quite well controlled until a serious attack in 2015, when Colton was rushed to hospital. He experienced a cardiac arrest shortly after his arrival; reduced oxygen and blood supply to the brain caused an anoxic/ischemic brain injury, affecting his left sided sight and ability to move his left side. Colton faced challenges with his sight, expressive speech, mobility and dexterity, and with problem solving and processing speed. Our team in the Community Brain Injury Program for Children and Youth, including a physiotherapist, occupational therapist and speech language therapist, worked closely with Colton and his family to help him redevelop his speech, mobility and cognitive skills. As a result of Colton's strong inner drive and his hard working team, he has been able to return to his favourite pastimes like curling and participate in regular school activities.



Christina

On her last day of grade 11 in 2001, Christina was rushed to the local hospital. She was diagnosed with arteriovenous malformation (AVM), which causes bleeding in the brain and resulted in paralysis on her left side, plus homonymous hemianopsia, a visual impairment that left her seeing only the left side of the visual range in each eye. Christina worked tirelessly with her rehabilitation team and started walking just three months later. That year she graduated from Grade 12 with honours.

Unfortunately, four weeks shy of completing her first year of nursing school at the University of BC, Christina suffered a rare re-bleed of AVM, ending up back at square one with paralysis on her left side. She worked hard with our Community Brain Injury program to recover a second time. Unable to return to UBC, Christina had to look for alternative options and turned again to BCCFA and our Abilities-in-Mind vocational program. We coached Christina on resume writing and interview skills to help build her confidence and she secured a contract position. Today, Christina is working part time in an administrative role and looking for full time employment. She is an extremely capable, diligent and intelligent young woman, who is pushing the boundaries of expectations for people with disabilities; her life is focused on what she can achieve.



PROGRAMS at a GLANCE

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

OUR COSTS

54.16%	Supported Child Development
24.62%	Early Intervention Therapy
9.17%	Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities
5.02%	Community Brain Injury Program for Children & Youth
1.80%	Facility & administration costs
1.10%	Abilities at Work
1.08%	FAS/NAS Complex Behaviour Program
1.06%	Employment Program NE Catchment
0.91%	United Way
0.39%	Family Education & Resource Libraries
0.36%	Communications & resource development
0.32%	Social Work Respite & Fee-for-Service Children
0.01%	Vocational Social Enterprises

OUR FUNDING

84.74%	Provincial government
9.83%	Federal government
1.59%	School Districts
1.28%	BCCFA Foundation contribution
0.91%	Other income
0.90%	United Way
0.60%	Gaming income
0.09%	Donations
0.06%	Fee-for-service



Supported Child Development Program

BURNABY AND VANCOUVER REGIONS

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

Increasing effectiveness of SCD consultants

– We saw a significant increase in satisfaction among childcare staff, who reported the knowledge they gained working with a SCD consultant increased their ability to support children:

- Burnaby consultants saw an increase of 37% this year
- Vancouver consultants saw a 27% increase, bringing their results to 100% satisfaction

Promoting social emotional development

– Both our Burnaby and Vancouver consultants continue to focus training in childcare programs on social emotional development. We offer the recently updated Partnerships Training on Positive Approaches to Behaviour, Pyramid Training, Social Emotional Enhancement and Development training, plus other related workshops. We also created more Social Emotional Resource Kits for our Resource Library to lend to childcare programs.

Increasing satisfaction – Our parent/guardian survey results showed a significant increase in satisfaction in both Burnaby and Vancouver. In recent years, there had been an overall decline in satisfaction from Burnaby families, but the good news this year is an increase in all positive outcomes.



Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved	
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%	Burnaby	Vancouver
			100%	100%
Efficiency	Consultants spend 50% of their time in direct client-related activities	50%	61%	57%
Effectiveness	Childcare staff report SCD consultants help increase their skills	80%	92%	100%
Satisfaction	Families report they are involved in determining goals and support strategies for their children	90%	92%	97%
	Families report they are satisfied with the overall services received from the SCD program	90%	84%	82%



NEEDS

Communication **43%**
 Social Emotional **28%**
 Not Assigned **10%**
 Participation **8%**
 Mobility **7%**
 Health **3%**
 Other **1%**

LANGUAGES

English **60%**
 Mandarin/Cantonese **15%**
 Tagalog **4%**
 Indo-Aryan Languages **3%**
 Semitic Languages **3%**
 Spanish **3%**
 European languages **2%**
 Farsi **2%**
 Japanese and Korean **2%**
 Other **2%**
 Vietnamese **2%**
 Southeast Asian Languages **1%**
 Russian **1%**

GENDER

Male **76%**
 Female **24%**

AGE

0–5.9 yrs **60%**
 6–12.9 yrs **35%**
 13+ yrs **5%**

Jakob started attending Sunset Daycare in September 2016, with extra staffing support funded by the Vancouver Supported Child Development (VSCD) program. Initially, Jakob had very limited social, language and communication skills and was quite dependent on adults in all areas of his daily activities. VSCD Consultant Laura Dutton worked with Jakob's parents to set goals for him based on their priorities, and developed a Child and Family Support Plan with Sunset staff and several BCCFA therapists, which focused on:

- Peer interactions and social skills
- Participating in and following daily routines at the daycare
- Building his language and communication skills

One of Jakob's biggest challenges was participating in the lunch time routine. He initially refused to sit at the table with other children and was not interested in eating food provided by the daycare or his family. Sunset staff discussed several strategies with Laura, such as bringing toys to the table, sitting on a tactile cushion, and having an extra staff member at the table with him to encourage Jakob to sit and participate for longer periods.

Despite all of these strategies, Jakob continued to have challenges, and eventually the team decided to introduce a timer and one consistent staff member to sit with Jakob every day at lunch (this extra support came from SCD). Being encouraged by a consistent companion enabled Jakob to learn the expected routine in a group setting.

It took Jakob many months to become involved in meal times, but due to Sunset staff's diligent efforts, Jakob now sits at the lunch table independently and requires much less additional support in the daycare. He is also trying the lunch provided by the program and some days will eat his entire meal. For Jakob and his family, this is a huge success!

United Way Stepping Stones Program

In our 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. We give children group 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 how to promote their child's learning. We also offer training and consultation to schools and community service providers, so they learn how to promote social emotional development in children with disabilities. Brief individualized intervention is also available for children and their families. Our aim is to help children form close, secure relationships with adults and peers, and regulate and express feelings in socially and culturally appropriate ways.

BUILDING FAMILY CAPACITY – We facilitated a monthly parent networking and educational series to increase family capacity to support their child's social emotional development. This year, we had increased participation and extremely positive feedback from parents.

LAUNCHING A LEADERSHIP TRAINING PILOT PROJECT – We taught students who expressed interest in becoming inclusive leaders how to develop strategies, and facilitated inclusive participation for all children in school and playground activities, at Norquay Elementary School in Vancouver.

TRAINING AND CONSULTATIONS – We provided training and consultations for community partners on implementing social emotional learning strategies for children. Our partners are witnessing positive responses from children in the program as a result.



PEOPLE SERVED



CLIENT ACTIVITIES



*A dramatic increase in wraparound sessions—63 hours in 2015/16, to 349 in 2016/17—were support for children in transition:

- With neurodevelopmental conditions entering kindergarten or high school for the first time
- Children suspended or expelled (or at risk of this) to successfully re-enter school

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Families report services were delivered in convenient community locations	80%	89%
	Families report they learned new skills and strategies to support their child at home	75%	98%
Effectiveness	Families report gaining skills to advocate for their child with confidence	75%	95%
	Children/youth report gaining skills in managing their feelings and emotions	75%	86%
	Community participants report gaining relevant new skills they can apply in their work setting	75%	100%
Satisfaction	Parents indicate service quality met expectations	85%	97%

ETIOLOGY (# PERSONS)

Autism Spectrum (166) **35.2%**
 Complex Developmental Behavioural Conditions (125) **26.6%**
 Other (87) **18.4%**
 Syndromes (37) **7.8%**
 To be determined (37) **7.8%**
 Neuromuscular/Peripheral Nervous System (10) **2.1%**
 CP & Related Neuro (8) **1.7%**
 Central Nervous System (CNS) Disorders (2) **0.4%**



GENDER (# PERSONS)

Male (335) **71%** | Female (135) **28.6%** | Undisclosed (2) **0.4%**

AGE (# PERSONS)

Families of children 0-6 yrs (76) **16.1%**
 Families of children 7-12 yrs (396) **83.9%**

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

This year parents and children, who have both neurodevelopmental conditions and higher levels of anxiety, participated in our Cooler Kiddos Group, from October 2016 to February 2017. We ran concurrent parent/caregiver and children/youth sessions, both facilitated by Stepping Stones social workers using a best practice Cognitive Behavioural Therapy intervention model. Our key objectives were to:

- Inform parents about the impact of anxiety and worries on learning, behaviour and peer relationships
- Help children identify emotions and body feelings related to worries and unhelpful thoughts, and develop strategies to “push back” their worries

We conducted standardized assessments at the beginning and end of the group series. Results showed many of the children had significantly reduced their level of anxiety and were self-managing emotions in a productive way. Parents also reported strong networking benefits for themselves and many new friendships for their sons and daughters. Here are some comments from the parent satisfaction survey:

“The parent discussions were so helpful.”

“I liked the opportunity for my child to meet and play with other kids and relate together on how to deal with anxiety.”

“This was a really helpful group for both myself, as well as my child.”

“Excellent program: good pace, excellent information and practical strategies.”

“The facilitated parent group discussions were a helpful part of the learning.”



FASD & Key Worker Support Services

Our Key Worker Support team in Burnaby works with children and youth with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), and other complex developmental behavioural conditions (CDBC), and their parents and caregivers. These children and youth want to do well and need extra support to reach their potential.

We offer individual support, group therapy and skill development for children and youth up to 19. 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—with 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 participation in everyday life
- Develop skills so they learn how to achieve success

RUNNING CAMPS FOR KIDS – We conducted two kids' camps during spring break and summer holidays focused on enhancing social emotional development.

YOUTH CO-PRESENTING AT UBC – Of particular note, we had our first youth graduate from high school with a Dogwood Certificate. She also co-presented on FASD at a workshop for UBC School of Social Work students, called Helping to Understand Children Experiencing Challenging Behaviour. She took this opportunity to share some of her story and explored what others were interested in learning about young people facing similar challenges.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING – We offered interested youth leadership training and, as a result:

- Four youth volunteered as leaders for both the spring and summer kids' camps
- Youth organized and held a bake sale to raise funds for their youth program activities
- Youth volunteered at the BCCFA's 2017 fundraising gala, Dining for Dreams

RAISING FASD AWARENESS – We launched an interactive event with information booths and activities at BCCFA, on September 22, 2016, to promote awareness of the risks of prenatal alcohol exposure on annual International FASD Awareness Day.

CREATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS – We established new partnerships to educate and consult with school-based teams at some Burnaby schools we didn't reach the previous year.

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

6 NEW INTAKES

10 CLIENTS discharged from program

14 PROGRAM INQUIRIES/CONSULTATIONS

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Services were delivered at convenient locations for the child, youth and family	75%	84%
Effective-ness	Families report education and support has taught them new strategies to try at home to reduce stress and strengthen family relationships	80%	89%
Satisfaction	Parents indicate the quality of services received met families' expectations	75%	93%
	Community participants gained relevant new skills they could apply in their work setting	75%	100%

DIAGNOSIS (# PERSONS)

FASD (17) **38%**

CDBC (11) **24%**

FASD Query (7) **16%**

CDBC Query (7) **16%**

ADHD: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (2) **4%**

Other (1) **2%**

GENDER

Female (24) **53%**

Male (21) **47%**

AGE

0–5.9 yrs (2) **4%**

6–12.9 yrs (21) **47%**

13+ yrs (22) **49%**



This year, we made a concerted effort to keep youth aged 13-19 engaged in our program events and activities; we developed a deeper connection to our youth than ever as a result. We ran a youth group with up to nine youth coming on any given night to try something new or engage in a community experience together. The group gave youth an opportunity to challenge themselves to face fears or anxieties, and a safe space to develop confidence and extend these connections beyond the group in other areas of their lives.

Volunteering is another way to keep our youth connected and engaged. Throughout the year, we invited youth to volunteer at events based on their strengths and the nature of the role. One youth volunteered to sell raffle tickets and greet people at the Dining for Dreams Gala. Youth volunteered to lead activities at our family nights, starting soccer games and leading crafts, for example. Youth volunteered at our younger kids' camps, engaging children in activities, helping with trips in the community, and preparing snacks. It is truly wonderful seeing the younger children look forward to meeting up with these youth mentors throughout the year.

Many youth have been connected to our program for a number of years, allowing us to build strong, trusting relationships with them, which helps us stay connected during difficult adolescent years, when they strive for

independence and may push adults away. We value their presence, support and insight into our program and the amazing opportunity we have to be connected until they turn 19.

Early Intervention Therapy Program

Our Early Intervention Therapy Program (EITP) 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 offer evidence-based assessment, treatment, groups, workshops, and family support at home and in the community to help children achieve their full potential where they live, play and learn.

FAMILY NETWORKING – We offered families opportunities to network and learn from each other, at Family Fun Nights, the BCCFA Family Picnic, and parent support groups in Richmond, Vancouver/Burnaby, and on the North Shore.

CREATING A RAPID RESPONSE PROCESS – We set up a rapid response team—an occupational therapist and speech language pathologist—for children with at-risk feeding behaviours to promote safe feeding practices, safeguard child health, and relieve caregivers' stress..

FOCUSING ON STAFF DEVELOPMENT – We offered professional/personal development to meet staff needs, including stress management and burnout prevention; a two-day feeding workshop; and mobile technology for 90% of staff to improve efficiency when people work outside the office.

PROVIDING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN-SERVICES – We responded to a growing number of requests for in-services at preschools and daycares throughout the year, which reflects a growing awareness of our staff's specialized expertise in early childhood development.

ATTAINING POSITIVE PROGRAM OUTCOMES – We are pleased to report the families we support continue to experience positive outcomes and a high level of satisfaction with their EITP involvement.

ACADEMIC TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS – We continue to support student training from UBC, and see these academic partnerships as a professional responsibility and an opportunity to attract new grads to the public sector. We accepted seven students in the past year: three in PT, two in OT, one in SLP, and one in SW.

ACHIEVING ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS – We are also proud of our staff members who attained appointments in the UBC Department of Physical Therapy:

- Five BCCFA physiotherapists appointed as Clinical Instructors
- One BCCFA physiotherapist appointed as a Clinical Assistant Professor
- Our PT Director is also a Clinical Associate Professor and participates on the department's Admissions and Clinical Faculty Committees

HELPING DEVELOP A PROVINCIAL STRATEGY – We joined other community service providers at an Early Childhood Intervention Summit in November 2016, which led to a provincial strategy on early intervention for children with special needs, and the Kids Can't Wait campaign, which identifies key early intervention challenges and practical solutions.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED IN EACH REGION

524
VANCOUVER

277
RICHMOND

251
BURNABY

148
NORTH SHORE

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY DISCIPLINE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

865

Burnaby: 189 | Vancouver: 388
Richmond: 164 | North Shore: 124

PHYSIOTHERAPY

684

Burnaby: 150 | Vancouver: 300
Richmond: 173 | North Shore: 61

SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPY

575

Burnaby: 139 | Vancouver: 229
Richmond: 128 | North Shore: 79

SOCIAL WORK

561

Burnaby: 126 | Vancouver: 250
Richmond: 92 | North Shore: 93

DIAGNOSIS

Other Developmental
Delays/Disorders **28.5%**

Not Assigned/Unknown **24.5%**

Autism Spectrum **19.9%**

Syndromes **10.9%**

CNS Disorders **6.2%**

NeuroMusc / Peripheral Nervous System / Ortho **5.3%**

CP and Related Neuro **4.7%**



Our BCCFA physiotherapists have partnered with Pacific Riding for Developing Abilities for more than 40 years, starting with a referral. Then our consulting physiotherapist, with advanced training in Riding as Therapy, assesses the child for suitability, sets goals with the parent, and educates and coaches volunteers to help each child perform at their highest capacity.

"I want to let you know how grateful we are that Sammy (our daughter) was able to participate in the riding program. It was hugely beneficial for her, both physically and for her confidence. Thanks for all the work that goes into providing such an exceptional addition to our regular therapies."

"One of the exercises was learning to stand up in the stirrups. In the first sessions, Sammy had to hang onto the saddle or her pony's neck to get herself up. But by the final week, she was able to stand in the stirrups without hanging on, with her arms out like an airplane! It was really exciting to see such a tangible improvement in her balance, coordination and strength."

"Sammy rode an adorable pony named Lil' Prince, who tended to be skittish and would jump and kick a little bit. I think Sammy handled it like a champ; she was calm and kept her balance every time. It was great for her self-confidence to know she had a challenging pony and could handle him."

Sammy's mother

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Service	Families have an initial service plan for their child within three months of referral to EITP	75%	83%
Efficiency	EITP staff spends the majority of daily work in client-related activities	Therapists 80%	OT 83% PT 89% SLP 79%
		Social Workers 75%	SW 72%
Effectiveness	Children in the program make measurable progress towards their families' desired outcomes for them	75%	Posture and mobility 98%
			Play and learning 96%
			Self-care 96%
			Communication 92%
	Families of children in the program make measureable progress toward their desired outcomes	75%	Social emotional well-being 84%
			Well-being of client and family 88%
			Learning and applying knowledge 94%
Satisfaction	Service information given to families is relevant to their needs	90%	94%
	Families are involved in determining goals for their child and family		94%
	Families would recommend BCCFA services to a friend or family member		93%

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 high school. We work in consultation with students' families, teachers and support staff to develop strategies to 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 – We presented the self-regulation project we designed for the North and West Vancouver School Districts at the 2017 Pediatric Symposium in Vancouver. Our goal was to share this knowledge with therapists across BC, so they could begin implementation in their own school districts.

PARTICIPATING IN CLASSROOM REDESIGN – Carson Graham Secondary School piloted dynamic seating and stand-up desks in four classrooms—based on the original classroom redesign work from the previous year—to improve support for students with emerging self-regulation needs. With positive feedback from students and staff, the school will now implement these strategies in every class school-wide.

USING TECHNOLOGY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS – We took advantage of new technologies to enhance student inclusion and participation:

- Two students in the district are using eye gaze to access their computers
- One student is starting to communicate using eye gaze to create sentences

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Effectiveness	Students make measurable progress toward their therapy goals	75%	Posture and mobility 100%
			Productivity/recreation/learning 96%
	Workshop participants learned new strategies to help them support students with special needs*	90%	Self-care 100%
Satisfaction	Workshop participants' personal learning objectives were met when attending a workshop*	90%	89%
	Workshop participants indicate that the workshop they attended was very worthwhile or extremely worthwhile		93%

*4 or 5 on a 5 point Likert scale



SCHOOL DISTRICT

North Vancouver **185**

West Vancouver **75**

AGE (# PEOPLE)

5–7.9 yrs (77) **30%**

8–9.9 yrs (63) **24%**

10–12.9 yrs (60) **23%**

13+ yrs (60) **23%**

SERVICE LOCATION (1,301 HOURS TOTAL)

School (953 hrs) **73%**

Phone (164 hrs) **13%**

Home (120 hrs) **9%**

Tertiary Care (47 hrs) **4%**

Community (17 hrs) **1%**

SCHOOL BOARD FUNDING CATEGORIES (# PEOPLE)

Physical Disability / Chronic Health (91) **35%**

Autism Spectrum (76) **29.2%**

Learning Disability / Written Output (44) **16.9%**

Moderate to Severe Intellectual Disability (18) **6.9%**

Dependent Handicapped (15) **5.7%**

Not Assigned / Other (12) **4.8%**

Severe Behaviour (3) **1.2%**

Deaf/Hearing Impaired (1) **0.3%**



Tim is a little boy who attends grade one at his neighbourhood school and is bright and full of smiles. His family moved to Canada from Taiwan in June 2015. Tim was diagnosed with a rare degenerative disease that impacts the motor function of his whole body. At two years of age, he received a stem cell transplant as part of new treatment trial. He also recently underwent surgery for both hips.

Tim and his family work with a comprehensive team of health care professionals, including the BCCFA's school occupational therapist in the North Shore program. Over the past year and a half, Tim's family and therapists have worked hard to put equipment in place to support his independence.

As a result, Tim is now learning to use a specialized computer with touch screen technology for communication, and an iPad for early classroom literacy and learning. Most exciting, Tim is also learning to drive his own power wheelchair. From the first time he tried it at school, Tim was able to navigate the hallways and stop when he wanted. Now he explores the world around him using the power chair. Our School OT has played an integral role in:

- Identifying the appropriate, available technology
- Securing funding
- Training and supervising the equipment use in school and at home

Opportunities Fund Program

Our Opportunities Fund Program for Persons with Disabilities (OPPS Fund) helps people with disabilities prepare for employment and self-employment, creating diverse, inclusive workplaces. We provide financial support to help participants achieve their employment goals, which can contribute to feeling like a valued member of the community. We fund training to develop employment skills, wage subsidies, or enrolment in self-employment programs. We also cover 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 up to Pemberton, Fraser Valley up to Boston Bar and Hope, Vancouver Island, and the Gulf Islands. Service Canada funds this program.

SECURING EMPLOYMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS

71% of OPPS Fund participants who completed skills development training found employment.

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Number of clients served	209	244
Efficiency	Number of plans processed within four weeks	80%	100%
Effectiveness	Number of clients with enhanced employability	170	176
	Number of clients employed or self-employed following completion of intervention	122	125
Satisfaction	% of clients who have a positive response* to the following statements: a. Overall I am satisfied with the OPPS program b. I would recommend the OPPS program to a friend or family member	90%	A. 96% B. 100%

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

“Witness the courage and resilience of children, youth and adults with disabilities in attaining their goals.”



DISABILITY (# PEOPLE)

(Clients may report more than one)

Mental Health ⁽¹⁰¹⁾ **34%**
Other ⁽⁴⁷⁾ **16%**
Developmental ⁽⁴²⁾ **14%**
Mobility/Motor Skills ⁽²⁸⁾ **9.5%**
Learning Disability ⁽²⁸⁾ **9.5%**
Physical ⁽¹⁹⁾ **6%**
Hearing ⁽¹⁴⁾ **5%**
Neurological ⁽⁸⁾ **3%**
Visual ⁽⁸⁾ **3%**

AGE

20–29 yrs **26.6%**
30–39 yrs **25.8%**
40–49 yrs **24.6%**
50–59 yrs **16.0%**
60+ yrs **7.0%**

GENDER

Male **65%**
Female **35%**

INTERVENTION

Training **47%**
Wage Subsidy **34%****
Self-employment **3%**
Employability assistance services
(e.g. adaptive equipment) **16%**

** This year, we are reporting on a new one-year agreement with Service Canada, with 244 clients in all, compared to the previous three-year agreement reported on last year. The new contract allows a maximum six months of training, compared to the previous period of up to 24 months' training. For clients whose training exceeded the maximum, we sought work with existing skills and a targeted wage subsidy. We were also able to negotiate some higher subsidy rates for the first time. Traditionally, we could offer only a 50% break on wages, but this year had the ability to negotiate higher reimbursement levels, when the position was complex or the disability type increased on-the-job learning. We saw a spike in interest in wage subsidies for this reason. The combination of a stronger economy, more employers hiring, and greater client interest increased our targeted wage subsidy numbers, from 3% last year to 34% this year.

Allan has led a full, rewarding life, playing in a band with two top ten hits in the 1970s, becoming the youngest accredited chef in Canada, and working as Chief Executive Officer of several gold mining

operations in Africa. He has also experienced success as a published author and in television, film and video production.

Always on the go, Allan could not foresee how dramatically his life would change after contracting a heart parasite in Africa, which left him close to death. After a long, difficult journey back to wellness, Allan was finally ready to try returning to work. The OPPS Fund stepped in to help with upgrading his technical skills and providing occupational equipment to help him manage the disabilities he's had since surgery.

"I have been living on disability for the past three years since recovering from a serious illness. I had been trying desperately to find ways to supplement the small benefit I receive. This training has made me more employable and I will be able to earn more income, eat properly, and buy clothing as a result. Beyond the added ability to make money, it has also given my life a true boost, helping me with confidence and self-esteem."

"Being past 60-years-old in Canada makes it difficult for people to seriously consider you for employment. So I had been feeling irrelevant, though I consider myself a source of knowledge and experience that could be valuable in many ways. Having someone understand and help me bring this to fruition was life changing and I am very grateful. This is a government program that produces solid, quantifiable results."

Allan

SUCCESS

Abilities-at-Work

Abilities-at-Work is a leading edge, three-year project to enhance employment outcomes for persons with disabilities in the transportation industry. BC Centre for Ability created a consortium to partner with Seaspan, CHC Helicopters, Rocky Mountaineer and Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR). Our aim is to increase the transportation sector's capacity to build an inclusive workforce. Our activities include:

- **REMOVING BARRIERS** – We aim to remove barriers to recruiting, retaining and advancing careers for people with disabilities
- **PREPARING PERSONNEL** – We are training staff on best practices in attracting, interviewing, hiring and retaining qualified candidates with disabilities.
- **HIRING MORE QUALIFIED PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES** – We are increasing the numbers of people with disabilities working in the transportation sector.

The Abilities-at-Work program is now in its third year. This project was designed to foster a knowledge transfer network to share lessons learned and effective strategies to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities in the transportation sector.

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

BUILDING CAPACITY – We held our first business forum for the transportation industry on November 17, 2016. Representatives from each of our partners—Seaspan, CHC Helicopters, Rocky Mountaineer and Vancouver Airport Authority—attended the event, as did human resource staff from the Aviation Round Table, a group of aviation employers who meet regularly to discuss industry issues. Our partners shared new perspectives on working with people with disabilities, diversity hiring practices, and communication strategies for building an inclusive workplace. CHC Helicopters recommended using business forums and establishing networks to share knowledge. New businesses joined this forum to learn about making their workplaces more inclusive, including Cathay Pacific, Central Mountain Air, Jazz Aviation LP, and Vector Aerospace.





INCREASING WORKPLACE DISABILITY AWARENESS – CHC Helicopters worked with project staff to create a voice-over version of our Disability Awareness training for their online on-boarding process, making training more readily available for staff.

FACILITATING TRAINING – We have run more than 20 workshops for several hundred of our consortium members’ staff, with participants from all levels of management, line staff and human resources. We continue to provide workshops on Accommodations and Mental Health, Disability Awareness, and Recruiting Persons with Disabilities.

DEVELOPING PRACTICES TO ENHANCE RETENTION – We helped CHC Helicopters revise its accommodation policy to reflect the union’s roles and responsibilities in the accommodation process. And we helped CHC establish a process for managers to discuss their “duty to inquire” with employees who may require accommodation due to health related issues.

RECRUITING – Abilities-at-Work staff connected with potential new sources about recruiting qualified candidates with disabilities. Our project team also presented at the 2016 Disability Resource Network of BC’s annual conference. And team members met with hundreds of staff in dozens of disability-serving organizations in the past year to connect qualified job seekers with consortium members.

In addition, our team consulted with our four employer partners about hiring co-op students with disabilities, which led to changes in the recruitment criteria for co-op job openings. Before, potential co-op candidates were only considered if they were returning to school after the co-op placement. Now, employers will consider candidates who have just graduated, as well as those returning to school. As a result, a qualified candidate with disabilities who just graduated was recruited, creating a win-win situation for both the employer and the candidate seeking employment.

ENHANCING WORKPLACE ACCESSIBILITY – Vancouver Airport Authority held the first focus group on a ground breaking project—the first of its kind in the world—an accessible baggage cart for people with mobility issues. This project came about through collaboration among the YVR manager, line support staff, service providers from the disability community, and with input from our Abilities-at-Work team.

Community Brain Injury Program for Children & Youth in BC

Our program provides short-term, community-based rehabilitation services to children and youth with an acquired brain injury in BC, who do not have third-party funding. We offer individualized rehabilitation support, which may include occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, counselling, and coordinated services to help injured 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.

SHARING SKILLS – Program coordinators presented an informational workshop for staff in the Rehabilitation Department at BC Children's Hospital, and also spoke at the BC Brain Injury Association's Annual General Meeting on Children and Youth with Acquired Brain Injuries.

EXPANDING SERVICE SUPPORT – We launched a project to expand the Service Provider Database, with special efforts to identify therapists working in rural and remote BC communities.

IMPROVING CONTINUITY OF CARE – We worked intensely with a community partner to enhance their continuity of care procedures for clients transitioning to our brain injury program.

Program Outcomes		Target	Achieved
Access to Services	Children and youth receive services within 14 days of intake	90%	95%
Effectiveness	Families report the program helped them understand the impact of the acquired brain injury on their child's development	95%	97%
Satisfaction	Parents articulate they are satisfied with the services received	85%	97%



CLIENTS RECEIVING SERVICE



DEMOGRAPHICS FOR NEW REFERRALS (66 CLIENTS)

ETIOLOGY (# PERSONS)

Accidental trauma ⁽²⁰⁾ **30%**
Infection ⁽¹⁶⁾ **24%**
Vascular ⁽¹²⁾ **18%**
Brain Tumour ⁽⁸⁾ **12%**
Brain Surgery ⁽⁵⁾ **8%**
Other ⁽³⁾ **4%**
Vasculitis ⁽¹⁾ **2%**
Non-accidental trauma ⁽¹⁾ **2%**

LOCATION (# PERSONS)

Lower Mainland ⁽³⁹⁾ **59%**
Vancouver Island ⁽¹⁰⁾ **15%**
Fraser Valley ⁽⁶⁾ **9%**
Okanagan/Interior ⁽⁶⁾ **9%**
North ⁽⁴⁾ **6%**
Central Interior ⁽¹⁾ **2%**

GENDER (# PERSONS)

Male ⁽⁴⁴⁾ **67%**
Female ⁽²²⁾ **33%**

AGE (# PERSONS)

0–4.9 yrs ⁽¹⁹⁾ **29%**
5–12.9 yrs ⁽²²⁾ **33%**
13–15.9 yrs ⁽¹²⁾ **18%**
16+ yrs ⁽¹³⁾ **20%**



Harsimran is a 15-year-old girl who survived a massive brain bleed from an arterial venous malformation affecting her brainstem, with many serious complications. Going home from hospital, she had very poor manual dexterity and poor balance, and was able only to shuffle with a walker. Harsimran's goal, however, was to run and go to the gym, where she did regular workouts before the injury. She also wants to pursue her dream of being a dentist. Our Community Brain Injury team arranged home-based physiotherapy and speech language therapy for Harsimran to achieve the rehabilitation goals she and her family set.

After six months of rehabilitation services with our program staff, Harsimran could bend over and pick up small items from the floor and manipulate them in her hands. Although she doesn't have enough stamina to sustain ongoing running, she is now able to jog, hands free, up the winding staircase to her bedroom and follow a run-walk routine for a greater length of time. She has shown significant determination and perseverance to attain this level of function. Our program coordinator worked closely with her mother and school personnel to ensure Harsimran would be properly supported when she returned to school. Harsimran is now back at school and ready to address the challenges of being a student looking toward her future.

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 need more 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 2016/17, 45 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 uncontrolled 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.

RESPITE SUPPORT STATS

<div>45</div> <div>CHILDREN</div> <div>active in the program during the year</div>	<div>32</div> <div>ASSESSMENTS</div> <div>completed on children referred to the program</div>	<div>27</div> <div>CHILDREN</div> <div>accepted into the program</div>	
<div>4</div> <div>NEW REFERRALS</div> <div>waitlisted for respite services</div>	<div>25</div> <div>CHILDREN</div> <div>carried forward from 2015/2016</div>	<div>11</div> <div>CHILDREN</div> <div>discharged from the program</div>	<div>17</div> <div>CHILDREN</div> <div>attended camp</div>

The extra support has been well received by families; some provided feedback on having their children attend the summer camp:

“My son had a chance to have some summer fun, and we had a chance to take our other children on outings that are not suitable for him.”

“My son loved the camp and we are so grateful to the organizers and staff.”

“We really had time off for a few days!”

“The care and attention he got, the activities, and the location were all great.”

“The staff were awesome, friendly and accommodating to the needs of the children.

Our child brought a journal home so she could share her experiences and things she did during the camp.”

“We have been looking for options for respite care to spend some time away and the camp was a great solution.”

DONOR & FUNDER RECOGNITION

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

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Thanks!

“We learn the power
of the human spirit
from the children,
youth, adults and
families we serve.”

BCCFA Executive Director Angie Kwok



“Each Hero of Ability showed the courage, strength and determination to never give up. Once you choose hope, anything is possible.”

Alan Rae, Nass Rae Wealth Management Team



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