



November/December 2007 Newsletter

Board of Directors

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Valerie Nicol, Vice-Chair
Joanna Winter, Sec/Treasurer

Directors:

Mark Buchanan
Lexi Charlie
Mike Coleman
Patti Delisle
Gerry Giles
Anne Murray
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Debbie Williams

Farewell to SPC Board Member Terri Dame

Long term SPC board member **Terri Dame**, recently moved to Victoria. She assisted many non-profit organizations with her project development expertise and her understanding of community development. All the best in your new position Terri. We miss you already!

We'd like to welcome Board member **Valerie Nicol** as our new Vice-Chair.

Message from the Chair

As the end of the year approaches, it is a good time to reflect on the past and turn our thoughts to the future.

As a relatively small organization, I believe that we are accomplishing a lot. Thanks to funding from the CVRD, we were able to focus on several important regional initiatives, including the Affordable Housing Directorate and the Regional Childcare Task Force.

Directorate membership includes private individuals, non-profit agencies, elected government representatives and public organizations including VIHA - a broad base of people who live and work throughout the Cowichan Region. Despite our varied backgrounds, we all have a common interest in making life better with more affordable housing and childcare.

By bringing people together we can address issues such as these and create positive change. We can also identify gaps and duplication in services. In this way, Social Planning is an important link between government and the community as we work on the quality of life for all citizens.

On behalf of the Board of Social Planning Cowichan, I would like to wish you a Happy Holiday season – and a New Year that moves us closer to realizing a more healthy, vibrant and safe community.

Candace Spilsbury
Chair, Social Planning Cowichan

Advice from the Nanaimo Affordable Housing Society (NAHS)

(From a presentation by Executive Director **Jim Spinelli**, to the Social Planning Affordable Housing Directorate on November 29. NAHS provides affordable housing for people with disabilities)

- Developing affordable housing for people with disabilities takes time, patience, and partnerships.
- Plan on two to three years to open. It is a complex undertaking, cost being the largest hurdle. Financial and operational support is a must.
- Don't compete with other community organizations. Work together.
- Stay focused. Be very clear on your target population and priorities. (Needs of prospective residents).
- Dollar for dollar, affordable housing means huge savings for the health care system. This is well documented.
- Housing for vulnerable people should not depend on charity. It is a basic human right and the responsibility of governments and communities.
- Document numbers and need. Be prepared to move quickly when opportunities and funding sources arise.
- Read the Social Planning Cowichan Affordable Housing Report. It is a good place to start. www.socialplanningcowichan.org

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Ian Kalina Joins Board

Welcome to **Ian Kalina**, Executive Director of the The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island. Ian, who lives in Ladysmith, joined our Board last September.

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This newsletter is produced by-monthly by SPC. For more information contact Veronica Scott at verscott@telus.net Phone: 733-2441

Board Presents to CVRD

Board Chair **Candace Spilsbury** gave a presentation to the CVRD on October 24 requesting ongoing funding for 2008. The actual dollar amount will remain unchanged. Budget discussions at the CVRD are on-going. We will likely know in March 2008 whether we have been approved. In the meantime, SPC will continue to explore other funding sources.

Upcoming and On-going

Plans are underway to host the first meeting of the Regional ChildCare Task Force in mid-January. Terms of Reference will be formalized at the meeting. A key priority will be to work closely with other organizations to bring about improvements in the provision of childcare.

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Candace Spilsbury is serving on the 'Literacy Now Cowichan' committee as a representative of Social Planning Cowichan. The project gives leadership and support to the province's goal of making British Columbia the most literate province in Canada and a global leader in literacy learning by 2010.