



## Creston & District Society For Community Living

### Executive Director's Report to the Annual General Meeting September 27, 2010 *"New Challenges"*

The last year has been one of many challenges with new ones coming across the horizon.

#### **Highlights from the last year**

- We were saddened with the loss of a client who has been living at Purcell Place. He is missed by his roommates, friends and staff.
- One individual at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue has moved into Swan Valley Lodge due to health issues and is hoping to move into a facility closer to his family in the future.
- We have had two new clients; one in Supported Living who is living in the suite at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue and one who is currently living in Orchard House.
- CDSCL hosted the annual fall Kootenay Region Association for Community Living (KRACL) conference held in Creston along with Cresteramics. Although registrations were low, everyone who attended had a great time, especially rocking to the awesome band at the dance!
- The Recycling Program has over sixty customers. Clients continue to enjoy helping the community and the environment while earning a little bit of money in the process.
- We continue to contract with the Town of Creston to provide employment for three individuals who help with keeping the town clean during the summer and fall.
- We responded to recommendations from the Fire Department in regard to fire-guarding several of our buildings and renovating to provide safer escape procedures for clients in case of emergencies.
- We have continued to face the challenge of supporting individuals who are dealing with difficult issues while safeguarding roommates and staff. Although the number of incidents of aggression and staff injuries has decreased, employees are working with individuals who can be aggressive and therefore some injuries have occurred. All efforts are made to assess the issues and make changes to reduce further risk.
- The Steering Committee for Rebekah Manor have been meeting regularly with tenants at Rebekah Manor to discuss ways in which we can make their home a safe and relaxing place to live and have expressed their gratitude to have the opportunity for discussion and to voice their concerns.
- Surveys sent out to families, care providers, and other stakeholders have shown that we have a high satisfaction rate, substantiating that we provide excellent guidance, care and support to clients participating in our various programs.

- Inspections from Licensing and BC Housing have resulted in high scores and praise for our programs and facilities.
- We concluded the 2009/10 fiscal year with a slight deficit of 2.7% but have a net surplus of \$232,858. Our current asset position is \$499,081.
- We had an investigation by Licensing into incidents at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Licensing officer determined that CDSCL dealt with the situation appropriately but had recommendations regarding changes in policies on reporting and documentation, which have been put into place.
- The Collective Agreement expired March 31, 2010. Bargaining has been underway with no settlement at this time. The Collective Agreement remains in effect with no adjustments to salaries or benefits at this time. The Provincial Government has mandated a zero % increase for salaries and benefits over the next two years so there will most likely be no increases to staff in a sector that is already underpaid and undervalued.
- The biggest challenge that we will be facing in the near future is the unknown. Our primary funding agency, Community Living BC is in the process of dealing with a budget deficit and therefore has a mandate to review services to every client in the province with the goal of reducing the cost of services in order to meet their budget requirements and provide services to people on waiting lists. That combined with the direction away from support models other than staffed group homes, and the fact that we have several vacancies that have not been filled, indicates that some changes to the way clients are supported are looming. What this means for this organization, the clients we support and the number of jobs within the organization is unknown. Discussions will begin shortly. Any discussions regarding supports for individuals will involve Board members, CDSCL staff, advocates and family members. The best interests of the clients we support will be of utmost importance in these discussions as we discuss ways of addressing the financial pressures without compromising the level of service needed.
- We recognize that these uncertainties bring with them anxiety and concern to clients, family members, Board members and staff alike. However, this organization, through its employees and volunteers, will continue to do what it does best – provide excellent support to people in the community with developmental disabilities and other needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Feltham  
Executive Director