

The Federation of
Community Social
Services of BC



annual report

2015-2016



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC

Collaboration & Partnerships

- A unified voice for the sector
- New partnership with PARCA
- Working together on worker safety



Research & Reporting

- Media coverage and Op-Eds
- Contracts and "full funding"
- News clipping service



THE FEDERATION IN THE PRESS

- Budget an insult to vulnerable people of B.C. – 02/20/16
- Funding should go beyond Children's Ministry – 12/19/15
- Complex social issues require complex solutions – 12/09/15
- The Fed Applauds "Growing Up in B.C." Report – 06/18/15
- Recommendations to fix system that failed Paige – 05/15/15

Member Engagement

- Social Policy Forum
- Trauma Informed Conference
- New meeting format



Community Engagement

- Caregiver screening project
- Residential review implementation
- Youth Education Bursary



Innovation & Sustainability

- Sustainability initiative
- Pilot projects
- Membership funding sources



LEADERSHIP 2020 GUEST SPEAKERS 2015-16

Mary-Alice Arthur, Gerard Bellefeuille, Alberta Billy, Kathi Camilleri, Ian Chisholm, Chris Corrigan, Anne-Marie Daniel, Tim Dramin, Elango Elangovan, Al Etmanski, Caitlin Frost, Colleen McCormick, Carol MacKinnon, Stacie Prescott, Wedlidi Speck, Paul Lacerte, David Stevenson, and Annemarie Travers

OTHER LEADERSHIP 2020 CONTRIBUTORS

Kendra Gage, Ingrid Kastens, Stacie Prescott, Nanette Taylor, and Erin Brillon, and the Wachiyo Studio

Leadership 2020

- New Leadership 2020 cohorts
- Graduates and alumni engagement
- Indigenous focus program



Message from our Executive Director



Altogether better is more than just a slogan. It's a call to action that guides our work. It's what inspires events like our Trauma-Informed Conference last October. Federation members, allies, and MCFD colleagues spent two days brainstorming ways to improve communication and collaboration, mapping out strategies to build trauma-informed practice into our work, and planning exciting new ways that we can work altogether better. We accomplished a lot last year, but for me, it's those moments that reveal the promise of this Federation: the strength of our partnerships, continual shared learning, and a steadfast commitment to informed and compassionate social services.

Message from our President



The Federation is gaining momentum. Two years ago, our members said they wanted to be part of a movement and that is something we committed to in our strategic plan. This report maps the course our members have set us on, and I'm more sure than ever that it is the right course. We have established a new partnership with PARCA, launched community pilot programs focused on innovation and sustainability, and improved the ways in which we communicate with our members. I'm especially proud of our continued relationship building and the strong, unified voice with which we have responded to issues, brought attention to injustices, and called for the social change that this province needs and deserves.

Federation 2015-16 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE

David Young, Tanya Behardien,
Deborah Joyce, Shane Picken

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Renata Aebi, Jan Shumay,
Stefan Pavlis, Ann Kutcher, Dan Malone

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Caroline Bonesky, Sandra Bryce, James Challman,
Kendra Gage, Ingrid Kastens, Melanie Mendonca





Collaboration & Partnerships

“
Partnerships like this one help improve client services for people across BC and strengthen the collective voice of our two organizations.
 - Rick FitzZaland,
Federation Executive Director
 ”

One of The Federation's main goals is to achieve greater impact on social policy development and the delivery of community programs through collaboration and relationship building.

This year, The Federation and other members of the Provincial Roundtable group formalized this partnership and created 3rd Voice, a unified network of BC umbrella organizations working toward shared goals.

The Federation also formalized an agreement with the Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies (PARCA) to share information, resources, and access to research.

New pilot programs were also launched this year as part of our ongoing partnership with WorksafeBC, CLBC, and CSSEA to address issues related to high numbers of worksafe claims within the sector.

- The new partnership with PARCA grants their members access to the Leadership 2020 program and provides Federation members access to the National Youth Justice Network.
- Other founding members of 3rd Voice include organizations such as Inclusion BC, Realize Strategies Co-op, ASPECT, and Volunteer BC.

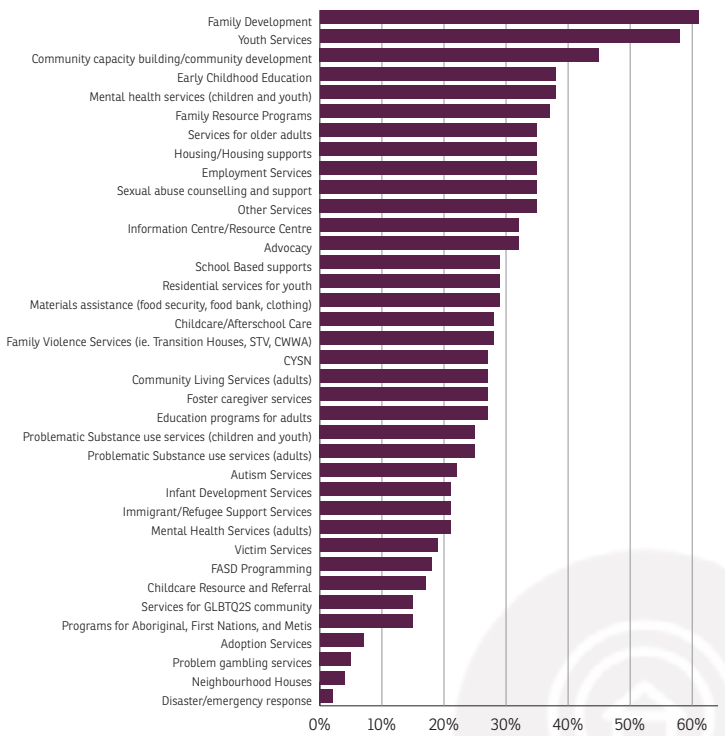
Research & Reporting

The Federation has also increased targeted media coverage and engagement over the past year as we work to shift public perceptions about social values and the importance of community social care.

A new format and schedule for the daily news clippings has made this popular service more thorough, accessible, and relevant to members. Weekly sector updates from Executive Director Rick FitzZaland are one of the other ways in which The Federation is continually improving

the ways in which we communicate with our members.

Challenges faced by members around “full funding” led to a survey and review of funding and contracting patterns among Federation members since 2009. The results were compiled with additional resources and compared with other jurisdictions to provide insight into the current health and sustainability of BC's community social services sector.



SERVICES PROVIDED BY FEDERATION MEMBERS

Member Engagement

In an effort to increase member engagement, The Federation's three annual meetings have taken on a new format. The Federation now hosts three annual conferences around the province focused on Professional Development, Social Policy, and Current Issues facing the sector.

October's Trauma Informed Conference co-hosted with MCFD brought together over 250 people to learn about and engage

with trauma-informed approaches to social work and community development.

In February, over 100 Federation members and allies took part in the first ever Federation Social Policy Forum. A day of Open Space dialogue led to the creation of 10 action groups which have challenged themselves to lean into social policy issues ranging from reconciliation to outcomes measurement.

- Workshop focused on reconciliation *Building Bridges through Understanding the Village* hosted as part of The Federation's Social Policy Forum.
- 10 Social Policy Action Groups launched in February with Federation support.
- The Trauma Informed Conference and the Social Policy Forum were both 100% sold out events.

“
Having the opportunity to network and meet other social sector partners was invaluable. We're about to embark on collaborative partnerships.
”
- Conference participant

“
I was fortunate to receive undivided attention and unconditional love from my youth workers and I want to be able to give that back.
- 2015 Youth Education Bursary recipient
”

In response to the new MCFD Caregiver Screening, members were provided with legal assistance to help align practices with policy and to address their many concerns (which were also raised with MCFD). Thanks to information sharing by Federation members, substantial changes have been made to the way the policy is managed.

Increased levels of community sector engagement over the past year have supported our implementation of

the residential review recommendations. This engagement has also improved our approach to working with MCFD and government operated social welfare programs on this important initiative.

In June 2015, a total of 17 bursaries were awarded to young people in care that are pursuing education in Human Services. Over \$18,000 was raised by Federation members and their communities to support these youth. We are honoured to have them join us in this work.

- Our members help and support families (89%), children (80%), youth (81%), adults (89%) and older adults (54%) in over 250 B.C. communities, on and off recognized First Nations territories.
- Since 2009 we've awarded 127 bursaries to young people in B.C.
- 6 webinars brought members and MCFD staff together for shared learning around policy and practice.

Community Engagement

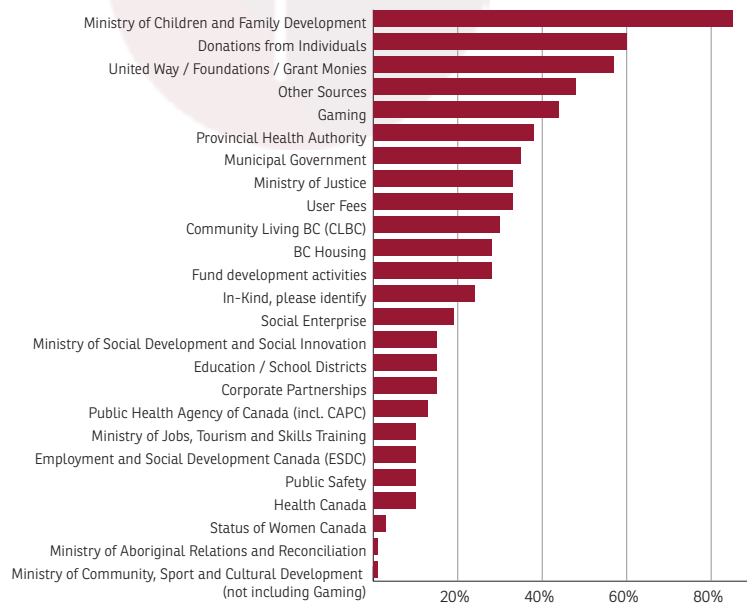
Innovation & Sustainability

The Federation continued its involvement in the provincial government's innovation and sustainability initiative over the past year.

This important work has been and continues to be focused on finding creative solutions to enhance the sustainability of the community social services sector within the context of increasing service demand, rising costs, and ongoing budgetary constraints.

The Federation has been supporting the innovation and sustainability pilot projects that have emerged from this process and we will continue to support these projects and focus on these issues over the coming year.

We believe it is of the utmost importance to ensure BC's social services organizations can continue to serve the needs of their communities in a sustainable manner.



FUNDING SOURCES OF FEDERATION MEMBERS

“
My leadership practice and way of working have been transformed. I now have a vision of what is possible and the knowledge, tools, and attitude I need to bring it to life.
 ”

This year, The Federation's Leadership 2020 program celebrated its fifth year of passionate and engaged leadership development for BC's community social services sector.

This year also saw the launch of a new version of the program called Leadership 2020 Online. This six-month program had over 100 participants that were challenged to engage with leadership practices and ideals in a more flexible manner.

Graduates of the various Leadership 2020 programs

all remain very engaged, hosting workshops for other graduates and stepping into leadership roles in their organizations—a number of Leadership 2020 graduates have been given promotions and special assignments this year.

The program's indigenous focus program has been equally successful, opening people's eyes to reconciliation while also validating and affirming their individual experiences, history, knowledge, and cultural teachings.

Leadership 2020

- First-ever Leadership 2020 alumni gathering took place in October.
- Two cohorts from the Blended program and one Indigenous program cohort all graduated this year.
- 2015-16 Indigenous and Blended cohorts launched with over 120 participants.
- Thanks to all of the guest speakers who generously give their time to the Leadership 2020 programs.

Join The Federation

The Federation includes over 140 social services organizations from rural, urban, and suburban communities throughout BC. By becoming a member, you stand with us and our work to improve the well-being of BC's children, families, and communities. If you want to review the many benefits of membership in The Federation, please visit fcssbc.ca/services/benefits. Interested? If you want to learn more about membership in The Federation or our Associate or Affiliate programs, you can visit fcssbc.ca/services/join.

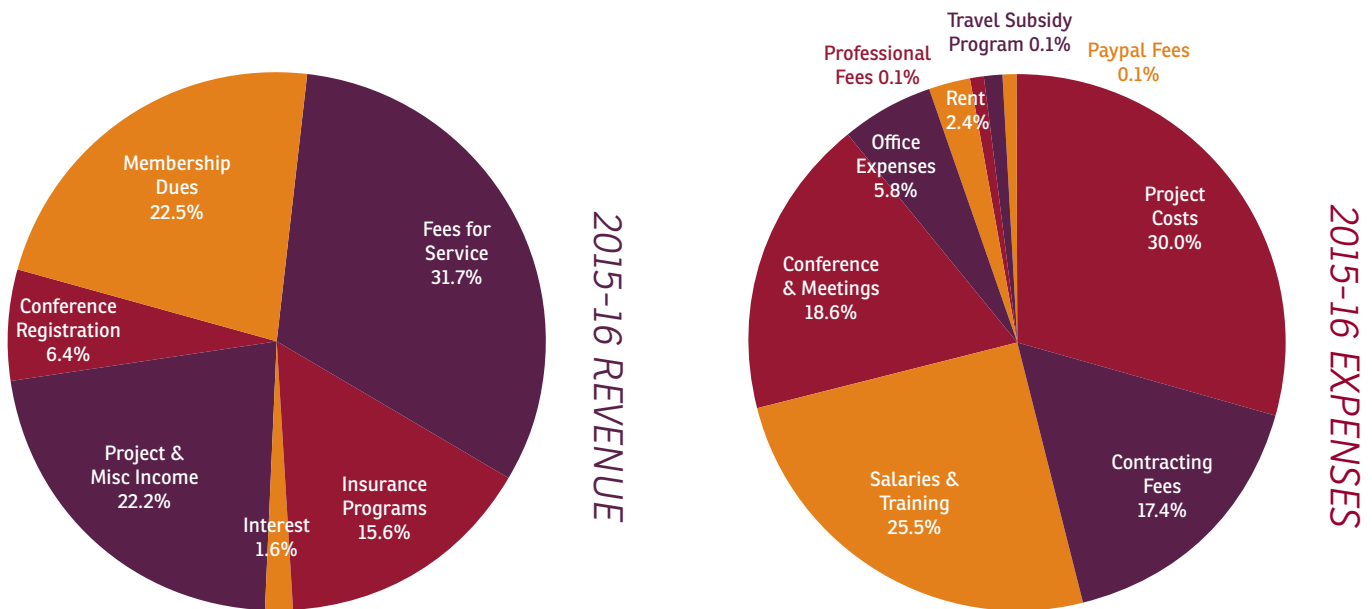
Youth Education Bursary

Donations to the Youth Education Bursary totalled \$15,300 in the 2016 fiscal year with an additional \$1,400 donated in April and May of 2016. A total of \$16,700 will be distributed to 11 successful bursary applicants.

Award for Excellence

The Federation awarded its 2016 Award for Excellence to Vancouver Island University (VIU) for the exemplary leadership VIU has shown in the creation and implementation of its Tuition Waiver Program to support youth in care.

Financial Reports for 2015-16



Acknowledgements

Our thanks to the **BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres**, the **Vancouver Foundation**, and the **Office of the Representative for Children and Youth** for their support of the February Social Policy Forum. We would also like to recognize **Schmunk Gatt Smith and Associates** and **Megson FitzPatrick Insurance** for their support of Federation conferences. And many thanks to the **Vancity Community Foundation** for their generous support of The Federation's Leadership 2020 program.



About The Federation

The Federation of Community Social Services of BC is a group of community-based social services organizations that influence decision-making to improve the wellbeing of communities.

We represent 140 member agencies offering 685 programs in 160 communities throughout BC. Our members employ more than 6,000 British Columbians and represent almost \$450 million of community investment in the social services sector. We are a catalyst for positive change in social policy development and implementation.

Our members support communities through a wide spectrum of services such as support for those with disabilities, employment programs, early childhood education, homeless outreach, and family programs.



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