

STAFF REPORT 2017-2018

Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society Annual General Meeting

*Northern women working in community advancing
the rights of women and families from a feminist
perspective*

Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society

The Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society (TWRCs) is a registered charity first established in 1979. TWRCs operates at the Family Place and hosts the programs Skeena Child Care Resource & Referral and Success By 6.

We are funded by the Province of BC, generous donations and other grants and are honored to be located on Traditional Tsimshian territory.

Who we are

- We are a non-profit registered charity, operating in Terrace since 1980.
- We connect people, especially women and families, with needed resources.
- We offer workshops in parenting, health and wellness, early childhood development, and much more.

In the past year Skeena CRR has been involved with several partnerships within our service area (the Nass Valley, Kitimat, Terrace and surrounding areas). We participated in community sponsored early child development family fairs in Terrace, Kitimat, Laxgalts'ap and Gitlaxt'aamiks. We also offered workshops for child care providers, such as felt story making, communications skills, book club, story time, ECEBC webinar and BCAA car seat training. We offered 2 sessions of a Responsible Adult Course in Terrace. We offered parent information and activities for children at community events such as Family Literacy Day, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day and Pre/postnatal Health Fair in Kitimat. We organized our annual Picnic in the Park in May as a celebration of Child Care Appreciation month and Christmas activities in the Skeena mall. We had the honour of hosting Minister Chen the Minister of State for Child Care as she toured the north discussing the province's new child care plans.

We had the honour of hosting the Minister Katrina Chen the Minister of State for Child Care as she toured the north discussing the province's new child care plans.

Many meetings were attended in Terrace, the Nass Valley and Kitimat surrounding the issues of early child development within those communities. Tara attended a regional conference in Smithers, along with Jenn after a huge storm in the northwest in November! As well Tara was trained this spring in Prince George as a Designated Trainer for The Psychology Foundation's Kids Have Stress Too! Program (Jenn also was trained). Gayle and I have been very busy keeping up with all the changes happening within the province surrounding the new child care initiative that officially launched September first.

From Oct 1, 2017 to Sept 30, 2018, we recorded 210 in coming phone calls and 404 drop-ins as well as 2,530 emails (albeit not all calls and drop-ins are always recorded). The CRR related phone calls and drop-ins dropped from last years' numbers but there was an increase in emails. We give these numbers just to show ourselves trends over the years. At one time this information was given to MCFD but a few years ago they stopped asking, but we kept it up as an internal measure.

Terrace Women's Resource Centre Programming and Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator

This was another busy and fruitful year at the Terrace Women's Resource Centre Society. Here are some highlights:

- Weekly groups and family activities include A Writer in Residence (Knowmadic), youth workshops on healthy relationships, Nass Valley Medicine workshops, breastfeeding cafés, life coaching, sexual and mental health, literacy roundtables, dialogues around Murdered and Missing Women, Making Connections: Support and Education for Women with experiences of Abuse, and much more.
- Awareness events included: Aboriginal Day, --June 21st, Riverboat Days first two weeks of Aug, FASD Awareness Day,-- Sep 9th, Take Back the Night, --Fall , Literacy project at the library for National Literacy Day/Month (Sept)—Why we love reading and FREE books; Women's History Month—October, Day of Remembrance --Dec 6th, Family Literacy Day --Feb, Health Relationships—Feb, International Women's Day—March 8th, and Consent is Cool Workshop – March 15.
- We continue to offer our space free of charge to outside user groups, such as Beginners' Knitting, a meditation group, Early Childhood Educators of BC, Nar-Anon, Women's Recovery Home Committee. In 2019 we may be also hosting an AA/NA group!
- Deb McCooley from Better Life Counselling has generously offered weekly individual counseling in our downstairs Board Room. Thanks Deb!
- With all our CVITP volunteers including Coco, Anne, and Darlene, we have filed over 250 tax returns.
- The *Imagination Library* was launched as a collaboration between our literacy committee and our Success By 6 programs, Jenn Dolen continues to promote and develop this initiative. Thanks Jenn!
- An updated TWRCS website is up and running and staff have been building social media/contacts—facebook, instagram, linkedin. Our social network is expanding!

The Women's Centre and Literacy is supporting new initiatives in town: Terrace Harm Reduction Committee during National Addictions Awareness Week, Women's Recovery House Committee, and aligning the Literacy Committee with current needs.

In 2017-2018, staff assisted women with challenges such as, but not limited to housing, job searches, relationships, separations, child subsidy, food, mental health, finances. We continue to provide public access to computer, phone, fax and copier.

For the future, the Women's Centre and Literacy are focusing on supporting new initiatives in town: Terrace Harm Reduction Committee during National Addictions Awareness Week, Women's Recovery House Committee, and re-orienting the Literacy Committee towards current needs.

Success By 6 Regional Coordinator (Northwest)

On June 22, 2018 it was announced that the Province will discontinue funding for community development of the Early Years. This includes both Children First and Success By 6 Initiatives. The announcement has been received with suspicion, fear and some anger in the communities as each community has guided their own unique support and will lose its funding. I have been working towards sharing community Early Years needs to our MCFD SDA in the hopes that funding for the direct services that Success By 6 and Children First supported will be able to continue.

At the Northwest regional table, Success By 6 Northwest funds coordination and projects at the community level and region wide over a large geographical range. Challenges and capacity priority include:

- Engaging aboriginal participation at community and regional planning tables. After inviting band office liaisons to the regional table with some success last year, I propose to include all HeadStart and Language Nest managers as well as First Nations Health Authority Community Coordinators in the Regional ZOOM Meetings that will happen on a monthly basis.
- Bringing together community ECD Coordinators, Lead Partners and regional and community partners to dialogue about the early years work being done across the region, collaborate with professional development opportunities in the region and increase potential partnerships and Aboriginal engagement. I propose to increase the meeting times from twice a year to 10 times a year using ZOOM technology and once a year in person.
- Retention due to increased workloads and funding cuts, decreasing community engagement due to fluctuating populations (loss of key players due to job loss and subsequent moving from community; influx of new families with overwhelming social needs and inadequate infrastructure due to housing shortages) as well as staff turnover pose a challenge. Continued support for the Community Coordinators at their tables as well as advocacy for staff wellness and benefits at service agencies will help reduce turnovers.
- Increase partnerships that flow organically weekly, almost daily with sharing an office with CCRR, ECEBC, Friendship Centres, Northern Health, the Credit Union, Northwest Community College, Children First, and other community agencies bring a lot of knowledge and resources together both at the table and into projects and programs.
- Continue to be active in partnership with Children First Community Early Years Tables in Terrace, Kitimat, and Smithers in developing resources, strategic planning and providing community events (State of the child reports, Early Years fair, National Child Day, etc) and to plan and present community specific campaigns and events that are also open and adaptable to the broader region.
- Support for and attendance at public awareness events at the regional and community level at Early Years and Health Fairs (eg Stewart Health Fair, Salmonberry Fairs, Kitsumkalum Health fair, Gitau Heath fair, Terrace Early Years fair, etc.) as well as continued advocacy for the Early Years to political and influential offices.
- Sustained Early Years Coordination in Nisga'a Territory, Stewart, the Stikine, Upper Skeena and Houston throughout the year as well as continue to provide support for contract funding and professional development for Early Years coordination and communities hosting projects within initiatives. Engage community partners through project funding to build community capacity toward a coordinated approach in planning and service delivery.
- Raising public awareness through local media and around child and family events and celebrations (eg National Child day, Family literacy day)

- Work with the United Ways representative in the area to raise public awareness for the Early Years from the aboriginal groups, the political powers and corporate identities.
- Share resources and dialogue throughout the initiative and the region through networking and training events
- Organize and co-fund at least one regional training opportunity, provide travel and accommodation support to other relevant regional professional development events
- Encourage and support research at the community early years tables

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Joan Conway, Amanita Coosemans, Catherine Michaels, Sabrina O'Connor, Lesley Winterhalt

*Northern women working in community advancing
the rights of women and families from a feminist
perspective*

Valued Volunteers & Donors

Our volunteers are artists, editors, writers, income tax preparers, carpenters, labourers, workshop facilitators, mentors, leaders, and so much more.

Thank you to Kim, Anne, Coco, Darlene, Katy, Avya, Adya, Ian, Louisa, Kara, Peter, Leticia, Iris, Francis, and many others throughout the year.

Thank you to TSCI who donate computer maintenance services, to José Coosemans for the wonderful piano, and to Deb McCooey from Better Life Counselling for offering free drop-in counselling every Wednesday.