

Regional Coordinator/Ringmaster. Both have already shown energy, passion, and skills as they jumped in and performed well with creativity and maturity.



Admin highlights include lots of “new”s: a new logo, carport mural, photocopier, and CUPE contract (to 2019)! But what is most important is how the year’s changes and challenges continue to translate into useful and

wanted service to our community. We were able to make a difference in one woman’s life by paying for her books to take an English course when she had no where else to turn. We worked in partnerships to bring expertise to share with others, make space for girls to speak their thoughts safely, and support other groups with complementary programs. And our work helped dozens of families recognize quality child care and where to find it in Terrace, Kitimat, and the Nass Valley. This was possible through continuing support from members, funders, and like-minded community agencies. Applause!

Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator

Terrace Community Literacy held a January Family Literacy Day filled with activities, coordinated meetings with literacy partners throughout the year, and presented literacy activities at multiple community events. The most recent initiative was partnering with Elections Canada and the Terrace Public Library on civic literacy displays and events. Our summer Outreach Literacy Worker, Cheyenne Edgar, worked together with our Girl’s Program Worker to bring new and updated activities to the Centre and at the Terrace Public Library.

A Short History of the TWRC



In 1979, a group of unemployed Terrace women were hired by the Terrace & District Community Services Society under a Canada Works grant to start up the Terrace Women’s Growth Centre to answer a community need for women’s programming supporting personal development.

At the end of the grant funding, the again-unemployed women started an unrelated social enterprise, the **Golden Spruce Transplant Nursery**, with 500,000 Sitka spruce seedlings, to grow and deliver to reforestation projects across northwestern BC—the profits being used to keep the Women’s Growth Centre open.

Their experiences – both positive and negative – of women starting a company impacted the wider community discussion about the need for an ongoing woman-friendly resource centre in Terrace. They realized that women who had been out of or never finished school, or who had social or economic barriers to entering the workforce, or who faced violence and other obstacles would benefit from shared access to technical resources, general information, and emotional support. This was the genesis of the Terrace Women’s Resource Centre.

TWRC was incorporated as a society and registered charity in 1980. The Secretary of State provided funding, and the group leased a City of Terrace building for \$1/year. Eventually the Society grew to own/operate a second building across the street as a drop-in centre (The Family Place) to house two long-term programs run by the Society: Skeena Child Care Resource and One Stop Access (for family information). A 1993 comprehensive community needs assessment had identified quality child care as a high area of need, touching all neighbourhoods and demographics but affecting women and particularly low income women, most often, and thus shaping TWRC's focus on quality child care as a women's issue. The Family Place was a pilot program funded jointly through the Canada/BC Strategic Initiatives Program, Human Resources Development Canada, and the BC Ministry of Women's Equality.



When Secretary of State funds dried up and the city lease expired (in 2007), the Women's Centre program moved into its The Family Place building, expanded for greater community use.

Since incorporation, the work of the Centre has focused on women helping women—with the belief that social and emotional development are integral to the development of women's lives. A community resource centre focused on women reduces poverty, increases confidence and community attachment, and improves the lives women and their dependents. To quote the first Women's Centre Coordinator, Frances Birdsell, from a 25-year anniversary address, who was herself one of the original Golden Spruce workers, **"We plan to be here 25 years from now. We want to walk in balance and make the world a better place for all."**

Success by Six Northwest

Success by Six Northwest is an initiative dedicated to ensuring that children ages 0-6 have access to resources and programs that support their healthy growth and development through building on community development at each Early Years table across the Northwest.

Although there was a change in coordinators this year, participation at Early Years community tables remains consistent. From Kitimat to the Yukon border, Terrace to Houston, Success By 6 supports the Early years with funds for coordination and projects like summer programming, parenting workshops, reading clubs, parent child drop in programs, literacy bags and auditory testing. Projects come from the Early Years community tables directed from Strategic Plans.

Administrative Highlights

The role of administrator in any non-profit is a circus act – walking a tightrope between openness with confidentiality, fund-raising with fund-spending, gung-ho forward movement with still reflection. And then there is the juggling ... and the clowning around (but hopefully no sword-swallowing). This has been a year of several staff movements that occasionally felt like all three-ring acts at once – but what a joyous result! We wish Coco Schau (June 2016) and Darlene Westerman (August 2016) well in their new roles: Coco as retiree/volunteer/wise woman and Darlene as full-time college employee and continuing friend to TWRC in her new role at NWCC. We welcome new staff Elena Kusaka (May 2016) and Jenn Dolen (August 2016) in their roles as well: Elena as juggler extraordinaire with responsibilities to CCRR, Community Literacy, and Women's programs, and Jenn as Success By 6

Skeena Childcare Resource & Referral

Skeena CCRR participated in early childhood development fairs in Terrace, Laxgalts'ap and Gitlaxt'aamiks. We led activities at community events such as Family Literacy Day, National Aboriginal Day, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day. We offered a varied selection of workshops for care providers, including Responsible Adult Courses in Terrace and Gitwinksihlkw and partnered with NWCC and ECEBC Local Branch to present the Northwest Regional Child Care Conference titled "Professionally Speaking...We are Educators". We set up and ran the Ultimate Children's Obstacle Course in George Little Park, and a Child Care Picnic in Terrace.

From Oct 1, 2015 to Sept 30, 2016, we recorded 724 calls and 837 drop-ins for a total of 1561 in-person requests for information, as well as 3,379 emails.



Terrace Women's Resource Centre Annual General Meeting November 3, 2016

The TWRC is located on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Tsimshian Peoples. We are grateful for the past and continuing generosity of the Tsimshian Peoples.

Agenda

- 7:00 pm Renew membership or join for first time
- 7:15 pm Annual General Meeting
1. Call to order
 2. Adoption of agenda
 3. Adoption of the 2015 AGM Minutes
 4. Old Business
 5. Chairperson's Report
 6. Financial Statements
 7. Appointment of accountant for next year's review
 8. Annual Staff Report
 9. Nominations / Election for the Board of Directors
 10. Appointment of signers for the Society
 11. Closing of the Business portion of AGM
- 8:30 pm Meet-greet-eat, find out about upcoming events, brainstorm ideas, pick up a t-shirt!

Terrace Women's Resource Centre

Board

Joan Conway, Agatha Jedrzejczyk (-Nov 2016), Theresa Hippiusley (-Nov 2016), Noreen Spence (-Nov 2016), Elena Kusaka (Oct-May 2016), Judy Bergman (Oct-Aug 2016)

Staff

Rosemary Craig, Gayle Holtom,
Tara Salavich, Coco Schau (-Jun 2016), Elena Kusaka (from May 2016), Darlene Westerman (Sept 2015-Aug 2016), and Jenn Dolen (from Aug 2016)

Summer Staff

Veronica Waechter and Cheyenne Edgar

Veronica Waechter has a diploma in First Nations Fine Arts, a love of teaching, and goals to earn degrees in both visual arts and teaching. She is currently a student at Emily Carr University.

Cheyenne Edgar has entered her final year in the Bachelor of Education program at the University of Northern British Columbia in Terrace. Cheyenne enjoys working with and teaching children.

Valued Volunteers

Current – Kim, Anne Peltier, Coco Schau
During the Year – Katy Carr

We continue to bring new and exciting ideas to fruition! We celebrated International Women's Day up at the Heritage Museum, and put on a lecture by local Women's Studies instructor Dina von Hahn for Dec. 6th National Day of Remembrance and Action. In August, we hosted a WAVAW workshop on Decolonizing Praxis. We have collaborated on youth activities, including Her Voice: A Gathering for Young Women and Emotional Sexual Health for Youth (up to 17 teens attended!). Recently we've started up the Tamarack Newsletter and seek to grow a volunteer editorial board.



The Centre hosted weekly groups and family activities, including Gingerbread Cookie Decorating, Fabric Arts, Meditation, and Monthly Brown Bag Lunches. Groups that

met here were our own Moms and Tots and community groups including a meditation group, La Leche League, Early Childhood Educators of BC, Terrace Daycare Society, and Skeena Pride Alliance.

With help from Valued Volunteers Anne Peltier, Darlene Westerman and Coco Schau, we assisted families file income tax returns this year. Staff assisted women with challenges around housing, job search, accessing education, relationships, accessing disability services and support for family members, separations, child custody, food, loneliness, parenting, family tensions, abortion, couch surfing, and pensions. We provided public access to computer, phone, fax and copier.