

Chairperson's Report
CCCABC AGM June 2012

I'm so happy this evening to be spending time with friends and supporters of the Coalition. I look forward to this small gathering of child care advocates – much of what we do is big and loud – and we so seldom get a chance to catch up with good friends.

As you know, full reports of our activities and accomplishments during the past year can be found on our web site. Tonight I just want to take a few minutes to mention a few highlights. It's been an extraordinary year!

I'll start with our project work: The Plan, The Rights and The Threat.

The response to our community Plan – sometimes being referred to as the Solution has had overwhelming response from every corner of the province and recognition nationally and internationally for its' innovation and "makes sense" content. The Plan is not the work of one individual, but rather a momentum created by many. However, AGM's give us a chance to acknowledge exceptional work and dedication. Sharon Gregson has worked so hard to promote our message and Plan. Not willing to wait until the "converted" came to us, she has taken every opportunity to proactively seek out possible supporters, spending hours on the phone, travelling to meetings and delivering our message with unbridled passion. I believe that the success of the Plan particularly over the past six months is largely due to Sharon's tenacity. Thank you Sharon.

Our work with our child Care is a Right project took us all the way to Geneva Switzerland. Lynell and I were so proud to bare witness to the world and expose Canada's shameful child care policy. The pride shared by front line workers across BC regarding the success of this project has been overwhelming. We will continue into September working with the rest of the Canadian delegation, and monitoring Canada's responses to our challenges.

Our work with the Women's Equity and Security Coalition resulted in standing at the Missing Women's Inquiry, but the lack of financial support made it impossible to truly participate. As the inquiry moved on, WESC joined with other groups, proclaiming the inquiry shameful, biased and ultimately worthless.

The Threat - Our serious concerns about the growth of commercial child care chains kept us on our toes. We investigated the viability of child care that is delivered through a speculative investment environment. We supported parents reeling from outrageous fee hikes and seeking affordable child care options and we considered reports of related quality issues.

We did numerous radio interviews, presented at conferences, presented at the provincial and federal standing committees on finance, wrote press releases, and two of us even registered as lobbyists. We attended forums, hosted 200 new advocates at our annual student advocacy forum, learned to tweet and sought legal advice. We celebrated with community partners, First Call, CCPA, ECEBC and particularly with Westcoast as we remembered 25 years together. We strengthened new partnerships like our work with the Poverty Reduction Coalition and the Union of Food and Commercial Workers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the following organizations for their continued financial and advocacy support: Vancity Foundation, Vancity Credit Union, BCGEU, Vancouver Foundation, CUPE, HSA, BCTF, First Call, and the City of Vancouver.

To the members of our Board new and old, including friends of, and consultants (especially Dianne and Avi Goldberg!) thank you, thank you, thank you for your dedication, spirit, wisdom and friendship.

We did good!

Respectfully submitted

Susan Harney
Chair