

Chairperson's Report

So I'm feeling a little nostalgia tonight. Two granddaughters graduating – one from high school and one starting high school in the fall. Gives me pause to think back over the past number of years – thinking of their accomplishments – things that went very right and some things that maybe not so much..... How some moments can be so significant – changing the course of the journey..... How some sure ideas “can't miss on this one” well, let's just say didn't work out the way we thought.....

So I'm thinking tonight about the past 30 years of this journey --- after one of, one might even say, our most successful years. What significant moments brought us to this place? What lessons learned from the sure ideas that didn't quite come off the way we thought? Maybe what's most significant is that for many of us we took this journey and continue to take this journey together. So the nostalgia wins out tonight. I'm going to mention a few of the significant pieces of work we accomplished together but, leave most of our time together tonight for chatting together, catching up, sharing new ideas..... after all, these kinds of social times are when some of our most brilliant ideas are born.

To say support for the \$10/day Plan grew significantly this year would be such an understatement. But I'm going to leave that report for Sharon.

The significant time and energy spent taking us into a whole new world of campaigning through social media, while I may not understand all the technicalities, have broadened our reach to many more folks. And, it's that reach to other grass roots advocates that will continue to build momentum and help us reach that “tipping point” where a campaign

becomes social change. I'd like to thank Cass Elliot for all the work he's done as our internet and social media guru.

In the fall, we shared ideas and looked for solutions to our national child care crisis with other child care advocates across the country at the "Child Care 2020" Winnipeg conference. Besides the camaraderie and inspiration we shared together, the conference provided time and space for experts outside the child care movement to share their work and experiences clearly supporting our call for a national child care strategy.

Last month (May) we joined with other advocates across in the country in a Spring Week of Action. Events happened in many communities across BC. In the Lower Mainland we held a Stroller Brigade (co sponsored with the BC Federation of Labour). Our Book launch for Lisa Pasolli's "Working Mothers and the Child Care Dilemma" was a huge success as was the Women's Labour leader's breakfast sponsored by the BCGEU and our Student Advocacy Forum, bringing students together from metro Vancouver inspired new advocates as well as rejuvenated some not so new champions.

With so much important work to do we have expanded our consulting team to include Sharon Gregson, Lynell Anderson and Cass Elliot. I can't begin to express how much we appreciate everything they do for the Coalition.

We continue to partner with many organizations including First Call, the Poverty Reduction Coalition, the ECD Roundtable and BCCEDAW. Sharon was also involved in a number of activities put on by the Broadbent Institute.

Two of our Board members Melanie and Yasmin, participated in the YACAN movement engaging with other young advocates from across Canada.

So many groups and individuals to thank who have supported the Coalition through this past year. Major contributors included Health Sciences Association, Vancity, CUPE Local 1936, CUPE Metro, BCGEU, BC Nurses Union, BC Federation of Labour and the United Food and Commercial Workers.

I know there are many, many others and honestly we appreciate each donation large and small. We could not do this work if not for you.

Which brings me to our fundraising campaign..... \$10 a month for \$10 a day. If you haven't done so already, please sign up on the \$10/day web site – and encourage as many of your friends to do so as well. Maybe 10 friends for \$10 a month for \$10 a day.....

Words will never express my appreciation, gratitude and amazement for the people who sit around our Board table every month. Their dedication, creativity, friendship and leadership inspire me every day. So thank you..... it continues to be my honour to be part of this wonderful movement.

Respectfully submitted by

Susan Harney

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