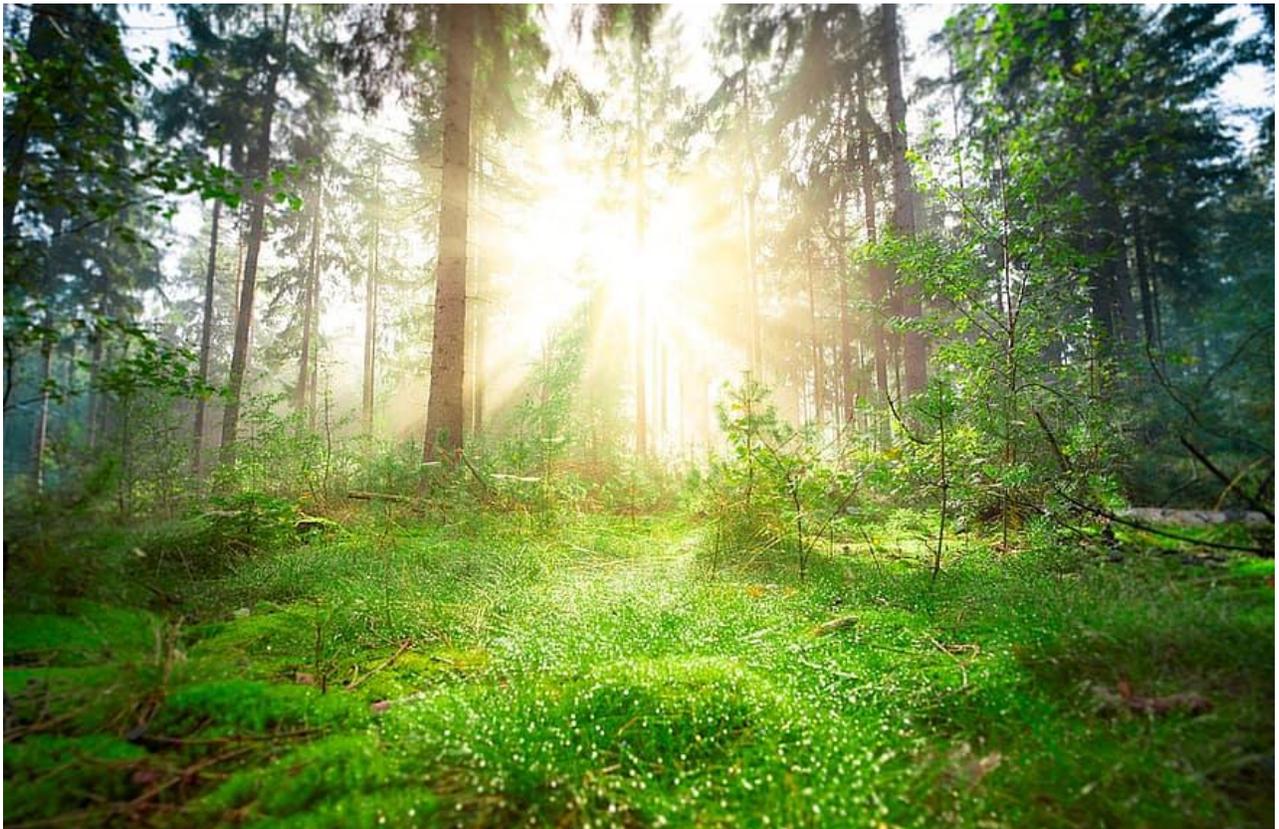


September 16, 2021

# Annual General Meeting

## Sooke Region Communities Health Network (SRCHN)

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## President's Report

Well this has been quite the year! Huge challenges, lots of work and some amazing rewards. I want to thank all the staff, volunteers, board and partnering agencies for all the work they have done to get us through it and to a stronger place in the end. Thanks to the board for taking leaps of faith and calculated risks so that SRCHN could step forward and do what the community needed. And thanks to our Vice President Rick Robinson for always having my back and his dedication and endless hours devoted to SRCHN.

This year started in the middle of the pandemic where we had to rethink how we could run some programs, where we needed to start new ones to meet the community needs and really examine what we need to do to make us a stronger charity that does more than “just make it” on yearly grants. We went from 2 main contractors to suddenly having a staff of over 20 and back to 2 main contractors.

With the opening and running of the COVID Emergency Homeless Shelter we found ourselves in new territory. Thanks to the Nicky Logins we were able to get the policies in place to manage this. The Human Resources committee was formed and used regularly to manage staffing issues and help with new policy development. Some of those policies will stay with us and some were only relevant to the running of the Homeless Shelter.

One of my main rewards was in seeing the strengthening of the Homeless Coalition and in the successful turn over of the shelter to Sooke Shelter Society in April. Sooke Shelter Society's hard work with us to make the shelter successful, now it has a permanent home at the Hope Center.

Although we were not able to have public gatherings or face to face meetings SRCHN was able to conduct 3 community consultations and produce some very professional reports that will be living documents within our community to guide the work around homelessness, food security and youth services. Our coordinator, Christine Bossi took on a new leadership role as the chair of the District of Sooke's community economic development committee.

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Thanks to the Governance committee and Don Brown our rules have been rewritten to come into alignment with our new work and the new Cooperatives regulations.

The board also took on the planning and development of a proposal for an Elders Drop in Centre with incorporated affordable housing for seniors. Thanks to the work of Andrew Moore, Rick Robinson and Carol Pinalski we developed a very strong model that can be used as a guide to support our elders so they can thrive in their own homes. A very positive relationship continues to be built with the District of Sooke and they gave us priority for a portion of the land on Lot A to build this complex and access to money to help in its development. Unfortunately we were not successful in our first application to BC Housing, but we are hopeful to get pre-development dollars from them to continue this work and get us ready for the next funding call.

Because of some of the new work we have been doing this year we changed the MOU of SRCHN to include the running of affordable housing and got the approval of CRA to include this work and to carry out fundraising for this purpose. The finance committee has worked very hard with the huge increase in funds and expenditures this year, has relooked at how we do things and is ready to update policies. Our treasurer left the board during this time and thankfully Anne Bell agreed to step into the position once again.

These new areas of work also highlighted SRCHN's need for more sustainable funding and new ways of thinking to keep us strong as we grow. Because of this Christine, Rick and myself took the Thriving Non Profits course and will have some ideas to present at our next strategic planning session. It also highlighted for us that we need to rethink our staffing models. This work has begun with the decision to make Christine Bossi our Executive Director and giving her the task to restructure the organization as needed and get us in a really good place to move forward.

In closing I need to repeat my thanks to all the staff, board and volunteers but I want to highlight one person who really stepped forward. Nicky stepped up and became an integral part of the finance committee and new HR committee. She dedicated hours of work in getting policies and procedures in place, advising on staffing issues, and pouring through our books to ensure our finances were in order. I am not sure we could have done

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everything we did without her. Nicky is choosing to leave the board due to other commitments and will be truly missed, but will still be called on for help!

## **Operations**

### **Sooke Region Volunteer and Resource Centre**

During the initial months of the pandemic, the office was closed. In October SRCHN moved its office from Sooke Child, Youth and Family Centre on Wadams Way to around the corner on Church Road, namely the new Knox Church housing building. The office was open two afternoons a week (Tues. and Thurs.) under controlled measures as per BC regulations.

### **Better at Home**

With the pandemic, the United Way funded Better at Home program was transformed into the “Safe Seniors, Strong Communities” program, where home visits were replaced by phone calls and volunteer grocery shopping was introduced, which also provided some socialization. Community members were asked to call BC211 to request services or volunteer. Criminal record checks were centralized with Volunteer Victoria.

By September, client levels reached 70, which was deemed maximum capacity for the funding allocated for this program. In the fall, a collaboration with Meals on Wheels was initiated to make sure that clients were getting warm meals.

Some numbers:

- 1841 check in/ friendly visiting services
- 775 meals were delivered to our clients
- 143 grocery shopping
- 107 housekeeping services
- 102 yard work services
- 97 non-medical transportations
- 23 small repairs
- 28 seniors are registered for housekeeping services
- 21 seniors participate in virtual phone visits
- 11 get their meals every week
- 12 gets for yard work
- 23 get taxi vouchers every month

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- 7 participate in our shopping program
  - 11 seniors are interested in group activities
  - 3 contractors for yard work and housekeeping.

## **Age-Friendly Committee**

This committee became the non-profit service provider community mapper of services and needs in the Sooke Region during the pandemic. It helped organizations to coordinate and new partnerships were formed. This mapping was shared with other coordinating bodies in the Westshore and Victoria. A new sub-group emerged to address food security, which was facilitated by SRCHN to include the Sooke Food Bank, the local churches and Meals on Wheels.

As of September, Age-Friendly resumed its regular meetings.

After the provincial "Accessibility" consultation (Nov. 2019), we applied for two grants to coordinate efforts through consultation and needs assessments, including developing innovative ideas. The two grants through UBCM and the Disability Alliance were unsuccessful. To be explored further.

The pilot project for seniors practical driving test has been an ongoing correspondence between the District of Sooke's Mayor's office and the Ministry of Transportation. A pilot was started but without much uptake. Through some local consultation it was discovered that the option to do the test in Sooke was not always communicated leading to an extension of the pilot.

The Sooke Multi-Belief Initiative's group participated in some of the meetings, where mutual concerns and potential collaboration goals were discussed. This group invited SRCHN to take part in a video series on Compassionate Sooke at a virtual international forum.

## **Sooke Region Lifelong Learning (SRLL)**

As of September 2020, SRLL made the switch to zoom for its speaking series. This turned out to be a great success where there were over 70 registrants. Bob Stamp, its founder, stepped down as Chair and Chris Moss became the new Chair.

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ElderConnect promoted the program along with sponsoring the zoom license. Membership was temporarily suspended and donations were encouraged to support the program.

SRLL was mentioned in Sooke News Mirror reporting on groups offering lifelong learning skills, which increased the number of registrants.

Links were made with the Victoria Brain Injury Society where there were expectations of a series of programs in spring 2021.

SRLL established their terms of reference.

The SRLL webpage:

<https://www.sookeregionchn.org/sooke-region-lifelong-learning>

## **Falls Prevention**

With some remaining funds from the Island Health community grant where falls prevention sessions were held in Shirley and Sooke, SRCHN decided to film the sessions to reach a wider audience. The facilitator is Anthea Browne, a recognized local yoga instructor, and the videographer is Michel Ingram from Cre8tive Photography in Sooke. The six part series is to be published in the fall of 2021.

## **Seniors Nutritional Cooking Class**

This class took place at EMCS' student kitchen during the weekend through UBCM funding. It was so popular that it was decided to make a video series with the same nutritionist facilitator, Melissa Morimoto. This series will be published fall 2021.

## **Mental Health and Addictions Working Group**

An online survey was released in June 2020. With the pandemic, it was felt that a new online survey be initiated to collect post-covid findings as it is feared that the pandemic has brought on a new series of issues that will have a long-lasting effect on clients and service provision. Client and family/caregiver interviews are scheduled for fall 2021.

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## **Sooke Region Elders' Complex**

In August 2020, the Board decided that SRCHN would take on the building and management of the Elders' Complex, including 79 affordable housing units and an Elders' Centre.

An MoU was established with the District of Sooke for SRCHN to lease a portion of the parcel on Lot A on Wadms Way next to the pending new library. \$50,000.00 from the District of Sooke reserve funds were allocated to the project. Landscape architect Small and Rossell and project architects Faulkner Brown, architects and surveyors McElhanney were engaged.

The BC Housing grant that was much hoped for as it would subsidize the housing portion, did not come our way in spring 2021. A BC Housing case manager is providing guidance on our next application. Other funding sources are being explored.

An Elders' Complex working group meets regularly, including the Seniors Drop-In Centre Society, a retired architect/Canadian Cohousing President, SRCHN's President, Vice-President, Executive Director.

Webpage of the Elders' Complex:

<https://www.sookeregionchn.org/sooke-region-elders-complex>

## **Sooke Shelter**

As there was no shelter in Sooke when the pandemic struck, it was deemed important to provide a safe space for unhoused individuals where they could have access to wrap-around support services. A temporary homeless shelter was established at Seaparc for the month of June only. Twenty one shelter staff were hired overall. A total of 38 unhoused Sooke residents were identified in March 2020, of whom 24 completed an intake for service, some were sheltered in Victoria while the remaining 19 were at the Sooke Shelter.

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The shelter moved on to Otter Point Road next to the Town Hall, where 17 beds were provided. 18 front line shelter staff were hired along with 1 case worker. Training was provided by SRCHN, AIDS Vancouver Island and St. Johns' First Aid. A number of clients received ID, birth certificates, medication, medical attention, placement on the detox waitlist, support around weekly probation check-ins to prevent re-arrest and a safe supply of drugs available. Local and provincial partners contributed to the wrap-around services and food provided.

A permanent shelter was established in April 2021 at the former Ma'Kola Hope Centre funded by BC Housing. The shelter is on the first floor, while the possibility to move into transitional housing when ready exists on the second and third floors. The transition from SRCHN to Sooke Shelter Society, now presently managing the program, went seamlessly in April 2021.

## **Community Consultations**

### **Sooke Region Homelessness Report**

Gemma Martin was engaged to do the consultation and write the report, which was published February 2021. Through the online survey, we were able to reach several that were only one paycheque away from homelessness. The Sooke Food Bank allowed their volunteers to do the paper version of the survey during food bank days. One-to-one non-intrusive interviews took place, including a single mother living with a toddler in a tent. Sooke Shelter accommodated a couple of interviews as well. The individual stories were descriptive, revealing and well-documented.

The final report can be found at:

<https://www.sookeregionchn.org/sooke-region-homelessness-report>

This report is the backbone of the ongoing strategic plan of the Sooke Homelessness Coalition.

### **Sooke Region Youth Activities Report**

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Contractor Dan McNeil was hired to facilitate the youth consultation with funds provided by the District of Sooke. Community youth survey was to provide information to the District of Sooke for their OCP exercise, EMCSS for their youth engagement and SRCHN for the Elder Complex. Youth service providers were mapped and consulted, contributing to the findings of the preliminary report, namely that youth service providers cannot sustain a youth centre operationally or financially and that inter-generational activities were encouraged.

Online and paper surveys were done with both the middle and high schools' students. Three focus groups took place where further questioning around inter-generational activities took place.

The final report can be found at:

<https://www.sookeregionchn.org/youth-activities-consultation>

This consultation encouraged youth service providers to meet on a monthly basis to explore coordination opportunities for youth in the region. This meeting is facilitated by Edward Milne Community School Society.

### **Sooke Region Food Security Report**

The consultation to explore food security from a poverty reduction perspective took place between January and March 2021. Public online surveys as well as paper surveys at the Sooke Food Bank, as well as one-to-one interviews held over the phone and zoom were the source of data. In the District of Sooke it was reported by Stats Canada that pre-pandemic there were around 16% of the population that were food insecure, whereas it is predicted through this consultation that that number is rising. Many seniors and children find themselves in that group. It was understood that food became a last priority and the amount and nutritional value of food consumed depended greatly upon the dollars remaining once the regular bills were paid.

The final report can be found at:

<https://www.sookeregionchn.org/sookeregionfoodsecurityreport>

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## Future Projects

- Fundraising for Elders' Complex
- Public consultation process to explore what to include in the Elders' Complex with programming, including participation from First Nations, individuals with visible and invisible disabilities, seniors, potential residents, youth service providers etc.
- Contributing to youth activities coordination
- Merge SRVC and SRCHN websites
- Publish mental health and addictions services inventory study
- Publish accessibility report based upon consultation in Nov. 2019
- Continue to be a standing member of the District of Sooke Community Economic Development Committee
- Provide online literacy for seniors
- Provide seniors activities online, by phone and face-to-face pandemic permitting
- Provide resource navigation for all vulnerable populations in the community
- Launch falls prevention and nutritious cooking video series

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# Financial Report (Year End April 1, 2020 - March 31st, 2021)

## SOOKE REGION COMMUNITIES HEALTH NETWORK COOPERATIVE

(Operating as Sooke Region CHN)

### Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended March 31, 2021

(Unaudited - See Notice To Reader)

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	2021	2020
<b>Revenues</b>		
Donations received from general public	\$ 6,338	\$ 1,747
Grants from federal government	-	21,667
Grants from municipal governments	158,352	52,135
Grants from other registered charities	77,107	74,246
Grants from provincial government	10,000	14,000
Membership fees	100	125
Other	12,490	5,285
Special Projects (Schedule 1)	835,028	-
	<b>1,099,415</b>	<b>169,205</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Advertising and promotion	4,916	10,767
Bank charges	371	249
Business taxes, licenses and memberships	753	327
Insurance	1,996	958
Office and general	22,147	9,279
Professional fees	5,533	948
Program coordinator fees	164,899	72,373
Program costs	37,923	11,806
Rental and occupancy costs	10,063	10,085
Repairs and maintenance	4,781	-
Special Projects (Schedule 1)	697,108	-
Training	-	789
Travel	2,444	7,368
	<b>952,934</b>	<b>124,949</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 146,481</b>	<b>\$ 44,256</b>

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