



Our Vision: Healthy thriving communities within the Sooke Region

Our Mission: To support healthy lives in healthy communities through innovative, collaborative development and improvement of services for everyone

Sooke Region Communities Health Network

Board Chair Report – June 14, 2017

While doing good works in our respective service areas the majority of non-profit organizations in Canada face a similar challenge – sustainability. Finding the funding that will support the ongoing administrative costs such as rent, insurance, equipment, and office supplies continues to be challenging. Grants that allow even a small percentage for administrative costs are increasingly rare. Although the organization is on sound financial footing as of this report, this will be an ongoing challenge for subsequent boards. We look forward this year to renegotiating our service agreements with both the District of Sooke, which funds our Sooke Region Volunteer Centre, and Island Health, which funds the Sooke Region Communities Health Network.

The volunteers that staff our Volunteer Centre continue to give back to the community by pitching in and doing whatever is necessary. Our new Sooke Region Volunteer Centre coordinator, Agnes Kossakowska, and her team have been instrumental in helping new volunteers find opportunities in many of the Sooke region's non-profit organizations. Agnes brings a wealth of relevant experience, particularly in seniors programming, and her enthusiasm is infectious. The Centre's volunteer tax preparation clinics that processed more than 200 tax filings this year for low income individuals.

Christine Bossi, the SRCHN coordinator, has once again provided guidance and support to help achieve our organization's goals. I want to especially mention



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Christine's volunteer leadership and sweat equity she provided for the CASA Community Garden. Through her hard work, the garden space has been revitalized and is ready for the growing season. Christine's grant proposal to the District of Sooke enabled replacement of gates, fencing, planting boxes, and a wheel chair friendly ground cover. The garden provides a tranquil space for the staff and clients of the Child, Youth and Family Centre and is also used by community members. Christine's expertise in writing grant proposals has been utilized by other organizations including the Pacheedaht First Nation and the Sooke Senior Drop-in Society.

As SRCHN continues to evolve, the strategy of collaboration and partnership is critical for our success. Engaging the public in identifying community concerns and partnering with organizations, service providers, and the public in finding new and innovative solutions will be even more important. Our Healthy Communities project in Port Renfrew which is a partnership with Healthy Communities BC, Island Health and the Juan de Fuca Regional District remains a work in progress. We are also partnering with the Sooke Senior Drop-in Centre Society and Sooke's Life Long Learners in providing new seniors programming through a New Horizons Grant beginning in September. We are supporting the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Abuse working group by partnering with the Sooke Transition Society and RCMP to provide public educational programming beginning in September. As was the case with Food CHI, we are providing support to the Sooke and Juan de Fuca Health Foundation as they do the work necessary to achieve charity status. We are supporting the District of Sooke's Primary Health Care Working Group that is currently engaged in obtaining an urgent care centre to be built in Sooke that will serve the region. We are embarking on a new collaboration with the Eldercare Foundation and Healthy Communities BC which will give seniors in Sooke or their family members a way to connect with resources to help



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them be well, be secure, be connected, and be enriched using a ‘one-stop shop’ online community hub and network of community volunteers that will help people navigate the aging journey.

I want to thank each of my fellow board members for their service this past year. Much of what has been accomplished could not have happened without their support, insight, and plain hard work. Jazlyn Mayhue who has been serving as the Board Secretary is leaving us to pursue her medical education in Ireland. We look forward to her return to Sooke as a family physician. She has helped to make these last two years as Chair much less onerous. On that note, I will be stepping down as Chair, but will remain on the Board to support the new Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Robinson