



BC Epilepsy Society 2016/17 Annual Report

Improving lives. Inspiring courage.





Message from the Chair & Executive Director

As BC Epilepsy Society moves into its 59th year, we've been reflecting on how much you've helped us accomplish. In almost 6 decades, compassionate donors like you have wanted to make life better for those who are struggling with epilepsy challenges.

You have made it possible for us to evolve to a new era of health promotion, social awareness and service reach. Because of your dedication and support, BCES programs and services remain free of charge to people living with epilepsy and their loved ones.

There will always be new challenges. We want to continue innovating our programs and services to make the best use of your donations and reach even more people. So this summer we'll be undertaking strategic planning to action how—together with your continued support—we can create even more positive impact for those living with epilepsy in British Columbia over the next five years and beyond.

From every one of us at BC Epilepsy Society, from the support workers on the front line, the operations staff working diligently behind the scenes, the Board, the Professional Advisory Committee, leadership team, and most importantly, from our clients, whose lives you make brighter each day, thank YOU for making a difference.

Dan O'Brien, Chair, BCES

Kim Davidson, Executive Director

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Annual Report

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HISTORY

The BC Epilepsy Society was founded in 1959 by pediatric neurologist Dr. Norman Auckland, who believed that the more people with epilepsy understand their seizure disorders the better they will be able to help themselves.

VISION

Improving Lives. Inspiring Courage.

MISSION

To empower, educate and support British Columbians living with epilepsy and their families, and support research to make their lives easier.

2016/17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan O'Brien, CPA, CA, Chair
Trevor Young, MBA, Treasurer
Steven Fruitman, LLB, Secretary
Katy Fairley, Director

Linda Huh, MD, FRCPC, PAC Co-Chair
Stuart Cain, PhD, PAC, Co-Chair
Carmen Ekelund, Director
Kim Davidson, Executive Director

STRUCTURE

The BC Epilepsy Society has a volunteer Board of Directors that develops and leads the strategic direction of the Society. The Board oversees several working committees that help implement strategic plans with the support of full-time staff.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our longest-standing committee is comprised of a team of professional experts who volunteer their time to assess and revise our resources, programs, and services to keep them current and accurate.

Stuart Cain, PhD, Co-Chair
Linda Huh, MD, FRCPC, Co-Chair
Mary Connolly, MB, BCh, FRCP(C), FRCP(Edin)
Anita Datta, MD, FRCPC
Chantelle Hrazdil, MD, FRCPC

Jing Tan, PhD, ABPP-CN
Sharon Peinhof, RN, BSN
Sherri Purves, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FAAN
Islam Hassan, MBChB, MMedSc, MPsych,
MRCP(UK), MRCPsych, FRANZCP, FRCPC

WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BC Epilepsy Society welcomes Kim Davidson as our new Executive Director. Kim brings 25 years of counselling, community building and executive leadership experience at local and provincial levels in three sectors; education, social services and healthcare. She has dedicated her professional and volunteer life to empowering and advocating for children, youth and families in a variety of contexts. Kim is a leader that possesses the 'lived experience perspective' of having epilepsy when she was younger.

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PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Partnership with BC Children’s Hospital Neurology Team

Our partnership with the neurology team at BCCH is now in its 13th year. The Society’s staff assist families in connecting with our services or finding the appropriate community support to meet their individual needs. We are proud to have assisted over 2,000 families on their journey with epilepsy.

Partnership with Vancouver General Hospital, Epilepsy Clinic

We have entered our 3rd year of service with the epilepsy clinic at VGH. Our staff provide a community presence and offer information on Society services, programs, and resources to patients living with epilepsy.

Partnership with Jimmy Pattison Outpatient Clinic at Surrey Memorial

This is our 1st year of service with the Jimmy Pattison Outpatient Clinic. Our staff provide and offer information, resources, and referrals to community and government services.

Partners in Teaching

Staff delivered 45 workshops to teachers, students, child care providers, disability support workers and others. Workshops focus on facts and myths about epilepsy, recognizing and responding to a seizure, and the psychosocial implications of living with epilepsy. Teachers’ kits are provided to each group. The program continues to grow.



Total number of workshops delivered: 45 Total number of participants: 755

Early childhood educators: 116
Elementary school teachers: 130
Secondary school teachers: 128
Education assistant program: 120
Camp staff: 23
Other community groups: 85
Student presentations: 153

Areas covered:

- Surrey
- Vancouver
- Port Moody
- Langley
- Delta
- Burnaby
- North Vancouver
- New Westminister
- Delta
- Aldergrove
- Richmond

Bursaries

Bursaries are awarded to youth with lived epilepsy experience. We have awarded 68 bursaries since 2007. BC Epilepsy Society Bursaries are awarded annually for youth to use towards an array of educational opportunities.



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Kids Up Front

This partnership of 6 years, allows us to offer families living with epilepsy the opportunity to access entertainment and sports events at no charge. Currently 50 families participate in this program.



Camp Subsidies

Camp subsidies give youth the opportunity to go to summer camp. This allows the youth to grow as an individual and gain meaningful connections.

Monthly Support Groups

Vancouver In-Person:

This group has been active for 14 years. A peer led vibrant community helping each other on their journey.

BC On-Line:

This is an option for people who cannot attend in-person due to location, health, or logistics. This group has been very well attended and continues to grow.

E-Newsletter

Now in its 10th year, we have changed the look and feel of our monthly newsletter and continuously strive to circulate to over 2,500 members.

Information Sheets

We have over 75 information sheets on a wide range of topics relating to living with epilepsy. They are updated at least every five years with the assistance of medical professionals at BCCH Clinic, VGH Clinic, Jimmy Pattison Outreach Clinic, BC Epilepsy Society office and on our website.

Epilepsy Friends Forever (EFF)

Epilepsy Friends Forever (EFF) was a new program introduced as a way for children and adolescents to have fun and relax with their peers, with whom they share common experiences. These 2 hour sessions provide friendship, understanding, education and support in a fun and creative environment for children and youth with epilepsy.



Kootenay Region Support Group

Kootenay Region Support Group is a new group structured with an on-site group facilitator to provide emotional support, allowing people to share their experiences and feelings, and learn from each other. Group discussions are focused around common experiences or concerns, and questions.



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Certificate of Gratitude

Your Support and Your VOICE made the difference.

Thank You

The BC Epilepsy Society is extremely grateful for the unrelenting and deeply rooted commitment of our Members, Board of Directors, Professional Advisory Committee, Donors, Volunteers and Staff.

Chalet Lights 2017

Thank you to the Ribalkin/Viau family for donating \$11,083.67 as part proceeds from their amazing light display of their home in North Vancouver. The project required many hours of labour and love on the part of the family.



I AM A
VOICE
FOR EPILEPSY AWARENESS





Donors, Funders & Sponsors



BC Provincial Government
Vida Spas

Kids Up Front

United Way Fraser Valley

CKNW Orphans Fund

Benevity Community Fund

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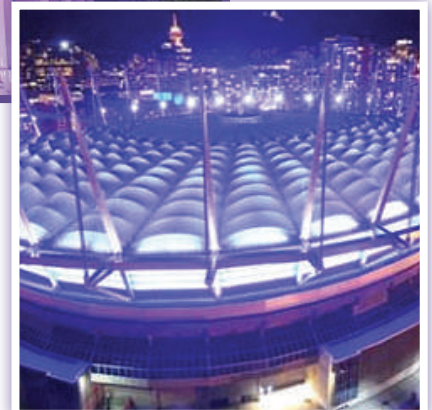
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Chalet Lights & Purple Day



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BC Epilepsy Society

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