

Tasha Buchanan

Subject: Grant Application attached re: Barriere Raise A Reader YCS program
Attachments: Barriere Literacy Grant Application 2024.pdf; YCS & BARRIERE Literacy (pg.22) Annual 2023 Report.pdf; Barriere Literacy Grant Application 2024.pdf

From: Jill Hayward <jill.h@yellowheadcs.ca>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Inquiry <inquiry@barriere.ca>
Subject: Grant Application attached re: Barriere Raise A Reader YCS program

To District of Barriere Mayor and Council;

Please find attached a grant application for \$500 to help with our Annual 2024 September Raise A Reader Fundraiser held each year.

I have also attached our YCS Annual report for 2023, as 2024 is currently being published. Information regarding the Barriere Literacy Program can be found on page 22.

All of the funds Raised in Barriere and the immediate area are used to support the Yellowhead Community Services Raise A Reader Program to benefit area youth throughout the year.

All funds raised are then matched up to 100% by the Province of BC.

Barriere Raise A Reader Funds are used for: Free Tutoring For Youth, the Annual Teddy Bear Picnic in January, Literacy Week events, Literacy Day Events, the annual Theatre Camp For Youth, Books For Babies, A New Book For Every Child, Barriere Blooms Youth Gardening Contest, plus ongoing literacy support for families with children - including learning about nutrition and cooking together as a family.

Of a special note, is that one of our young teenage learners actually filled out the attached grant application form.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  [Barriere Literacy Grant Application 2024.pdf](#)

Jill

Jill Hayward
Barriere and Area Literacy Outreach Coordinator

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"Promoting Healthy Communities, Families, and Individuals Through Counselling, Support and Education"

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DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
Grant Application – Organizations

Organization Official Name: YELLOWHEAD COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mailing Address: 4936 BARRIERE TOWN ROAD
BARRIERE B.C. V0E 1E0

Phone: 250-672-9773 Fax: _____ Email: jill.h@yellowheadcs.ca

Contact Person: Jill HAYWARD Title: LITERACY OUTREACH

Briefly describe your organizations purpose:
TO PROMOTE LITERACY & LEARNING FOR YOUTH WITHIN OUR BARRIERE CATCHMENT AREA.

Briefly describe how the requested grant money will be used: ALL OF OUR TUTORS ARE LOCAL. FUNDING WILL GO INTO OUR 'RAISE-A-READER' PROGRAM FOR AREA YOUTH. THIS PROVIDES FREE TUTORING, ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR PICNIC, THEATRE CAMP FOR YOUTH BOOKS FOR BABIES, A NEW BOOK FOR EVERY CHILD, & LITERACY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES.

What amount of Grant-in-Aid is being requested? \$ 500.00

Total organization operating budget for current year \$ 12,000.00
FOR BARRIERE LITERACY FOR YOUTH

Total budget for project the grant is being applied for \$ 12,000.00

Did you receive a Grant-in-Aid last year Yes No

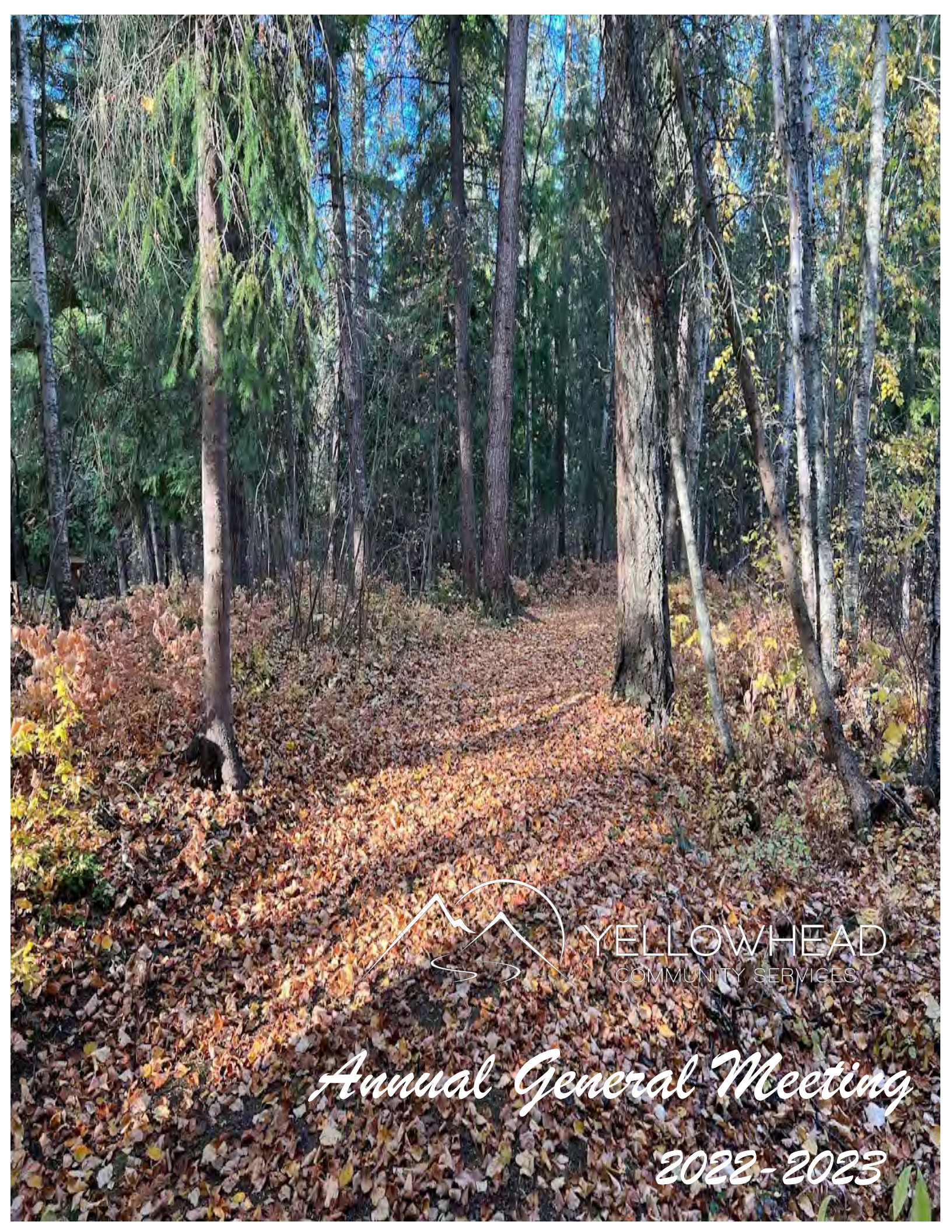
If **yes**, what was the amount of the grant? \$ 500.00

Attachments: Please provide the following to your application (if available):

Financial Statement, Current Year Budget, Project Budget
ANNUAL YES REPORT IS ATTACHED - W/ BARRIERE LITERACY ON PAGE 22

Please forward completed application by mail to: District of Barriere, Box 219, Barriere, B.C. V0E 1E0 or in person at "The Ridge Building" at 4936 Barriere Town Road, or by fax to 250-672-9708. Applications must be received by the first Monday of the month to be considered in that month.

INTERNAL OFFICE USE: Approved Amount Approved: _____ Denied



YELLOWHEAD
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Annual General Meeting

2022-2023



Annual General Meeting Agenda

September 21, 2023 – DLCC Multi-Purpose Room – 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order
 2. Adoption of Agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held Sept 15, 2022.
 4. Business Arising
 5. Financial Overview
 - Society financial status as at March 31, 2023
- (NOTE: 2023 Financial Statements will be posted on the YCS website)
- **Request for Motion** to maintain current lines of credit at banking institutions
 - **Request for Motion** to adopt the financial statements as presented
6. Appointment of Chartered Accountant - Financial Review for 2023-2024
 7. Reports to the 2022-2023 Annual General Meeting
 - Chair Report on behalf of the Board of Directors
 - Chief Operating Officer Report
 8. New Business
 - **Request for motion** to update Society Bylaws to add **21. Clarifications-21.1 Similar Purposes Dissolution** *To further clarify bylaw 20.1, the Canadian charitable organizations referred to in bylaw 20.1 shall have aims or purposes similar to those of this Society, that is, of providing affordable housing for low and moderate income households. The society will not alter or delete this bylaw without first obtaining the written consent of the British Columbia Housing Management Commission."*
 9. Nominating Committee Report
 10. Program Reports: Nikki, Leah, Theresa, Kerry , Alysha, Patricia, Michelle, Kathy
 11. Year in Review movie
 12. Members Feedback/Questions
 13. Notice of next Annual General Meeting: **Thursday September 19, 2024**
Please mark your calendars!
 14. Adjournment



*Yellowhead Community Services Society Annual General Meeting
Minutes of September 15, 2022 7:00 pm*

PRESENT:

Directors Joanne Stokes, Louise Weaver, Shirley Frost, Debbie Rainer, Jack Keough, Karl Rainer; and other Voting Members: Evelyn Warner, Leonard Warner, Carolyn Vezina, Annabelle Stevens, Bonnie Harms, Cheryl Thomas, Jackie Enfield, Antoon Houben, Jack Schaffer, Isabell Hadford, Ken Matheson, Turid Milton, Donna Meehan, Carolyn Venzina YCS Employees: Chief Operating Officer Nikki Vincent, Kathy Green, Dorothy Piton, Louise Lyons, Kristal Champion, Phil Janicki, Alysha Piva, Patricia Morin, Kerry Milner Cairns, Theresa Pelton, Michelle Wall

The AGM 2022 program information package and MNP-LLP accountants' financial package were distributed to the membership. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. in the YCS Dutch Lake Community Centre multi-purpose room. Acknowledgment that we are meeting together on the unceded territory of Simpcw First Nation by Board Chair, Joanne Stokes as she welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of Yellowhead Community Services Society.

MOTION: By Shirley Frost to accept the agenda as presented.

SECONDED: By Louise Weaver

CARRIED

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of June 24, 2021 were reviewed.

MOTION: By Debbie Rainer to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2021 Annual General Meeting as presented.

SECONDED: By Karl Rainer

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Our annual financial statements, reviewed by MNP, are included in your business package, with no significant issues raised and will be posted on our website after the AGM. A Statement of Operations has been added to give you a snapshot of our fiscal year revenue and expenses.

MOTION: By Debbie Rainer to approve that Yellowhead Community Services Society continue with the ability to set a line of credit with their financial institutions – currently held with the Royal Bank of Canada and Interior Savings Credit Union for \$50,000 and \$25,000 respectively - to assist with their ongoing operational needs as required.

SECONDED: By Jack Keough

CARRIED



Yellowhead Community Services Society Annual General Meeting
Minutes of September 15, 2022 7:00 pm

MOTION: By Louise Weaver that Yellowhead Community Services Society retain MNP LLP to provide our financial review for the fiscal year April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

SECONDED: By Shirley Frost

CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE BOARD:

Joanne spoke of her Chair report, enclosed in the AGM package, added to her report how the board really misses Director Lloyd Strickland, who passed away March 22.

REPORT FROM BOARD DIRECTOR JACK KEOUGH:

Spoke to his report adding as part of our transition plan from Executive Director to Board Director, his role would be to take a lead on special developments that may come along for the Society and training of our new CEO once hiring has been completed.

REPORT FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:

Nikki spoke to her report and the changes to her role with Susanne's move to Kamloops.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Jack Keough, shared that nominations for the Board of Directors was received from the nomination committee: Chair Jack Keough and Directors Louise Weaver and Shirley Frost, and are as follows: that we reinstate Shirley Frost and Debbie Rainer, both members in good standing for a 3-year term beginning at this AGM.

No other nominations were presented. Both have indicated their willingness to serve.

MOTION: By Jack Keough to accept the Nomination Report dated September 9, 2022.

SECONDED: By Louise Weaver

CARRIED.

Program Reports:

The Program managers introduced themselves to the membership and spoke to their reports included in the AGM package.

Nikki thanked the managers for attending, then added that it is wonderful to see that younger participants are attending the CLBC program and that youth aging out of the system are staying in our community. Roger from Tim Hortons has been very supportive and inclusive with the hiring of 4 Community Living BC clients. The passing of Danny Adams and his cheerful card playing company has left an impact on the program and his company is sadly missed. Nikki also wanted to thank Jenna and Bobbi for the hard work they have put in and their support as this program has been added to her role. Thank you for both for attending tonight.



*Yellowhead Community Services Society Annual General Meeting
Minutes of September 15, 2022 7:00 pm*

Movie - Year in Review

Dorothy Piton presented the annual 'YCS Year in Review' movie. A wonderful round of applause to Dorothy as she carries on the tradition passed on from Jamie who created many movies for all to enjoy.

MEMBERSHIP FEEDBACK:

Annabelle Stevens was so please and thankful to Jack and YCS for all the work happening in Lytton after the fires destroyed the town in 2021.

Donna Meehan wished to tank everyone as she has been coming to this meeting for many years and enjoys the inspirational feeling of community.

Jack Keough speaks to the success of our organization the various programs and services as shown in the mangers reports pertain to all separate contracts and that if we were in Kamloops this would be run by several organizations. To multi task allows us to deliver these services and integrate our programs extremely well and to bring more services to the communities we serve. Thank you to all the staff.

Cheryl Thomas and Antoon Houben are both glad to have so many programs services and thankful to all the people who contribute. It is a privilege to be part of the our communities!

NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DATE: Thursday September 21, 2023.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: By Jack Keough at 7:54 at pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Green

Recording Secretary for the Board

APPROVED AS PRESENTED:

OR:

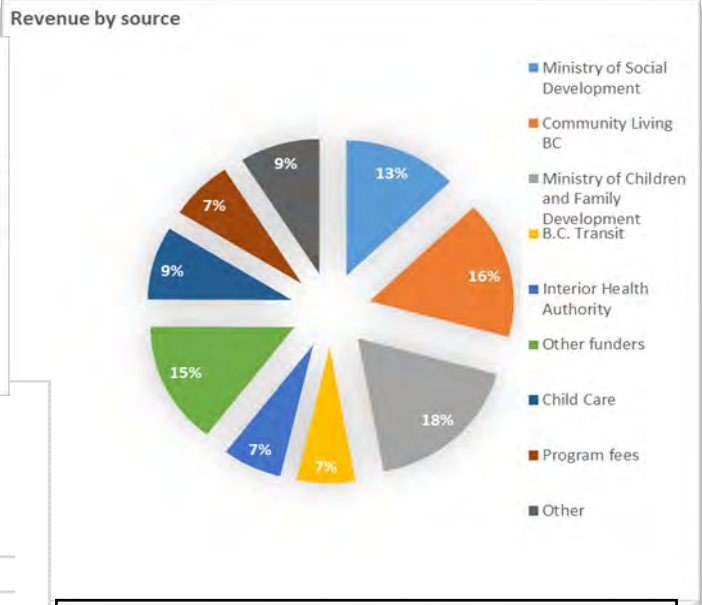
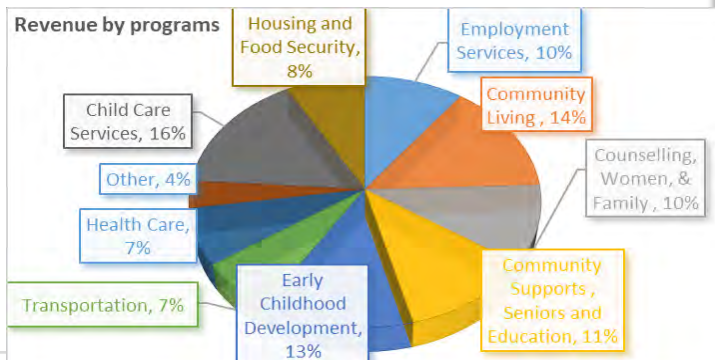
APPROVED AS AMENDED:

Financial Report

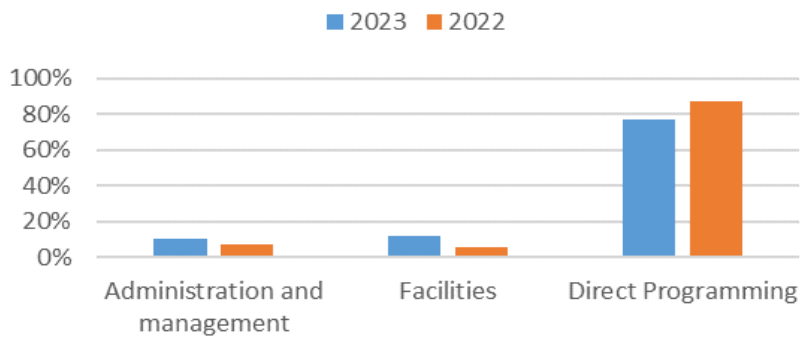
This year our fiscal audit by MNP was presented to the Board by Jordan Klemencic, CPA, CA and once again we managed to perform with a solid bottom line. We continue to work with our community partners and to offer support as demonstrated in the undertaking of our services to both the Clearwater Health Centre and Lytton consulting, after the fires of 2021. This has been a difficult year, as we wait for Unions to settle contracts and allow us to provide much needed lifts to our employees as well as our search for a Chief Executive Officer. In December we were pleased to welcome Christine Peterson aboard and look forward to many opportunities for our organization.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS for fiscal year ending March 2023.

Revenue:	\$	5,748,508	
Expenses:			
Direct Programming	\$	3,965,306	
Administration	\$	546,545	14% Of Direct Programming
Facilities	\$	610,067	15% Of Direct Programming
	\$	5,121,918	
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$	626,590	



Utilization of revenue



In conclusion I would like to thank Nikki Vincent, our Chief Operating Officer who held down the helm for the past several months, handling all of our contracts, funder requests and taking on additional programs and employees as our search began for a new CEO.

Sincerely

Kathy Green



Board Chair Report

Welcome to Yellowhead Community Services Annual General Meeting for 2023. I hope everyone had a great summer even with all the smoke from the local fires this year.

After many months of searching for a new CEO, we found the amazing Christine Peterson who started working for us on March 13, 2023. Christine brings with her many years of experience in the government sector and is a wonderful addition to the YCS team. She is busy learning all the different facets of her job and the many different programs and services that YCS provides to our communities.

On February 27, 2023, we lost our wonderful board member from Darfield, Lois McInnis who passed away from cancer. Although Lois wasn't on the board for long, she brought an enthusiasm to the board to make excellent decisions which benefited the YCS communities.

We are proud to announce that part of our ever-increasing services, we are now providing bus service to the community of Lytton to connect those residents to Lillooet and Ashcroft for services. Lytton residents can use the bus to go for groceries or appointments in the neighbouring towns while their town is still in the rebuilding stage after the fire in 2021.

Finally, we are moving forward out of Covid restrictions in the YCS offices, but in keeping with our contractual obligations our vaccine mandates will remain in place. Covid is still with us and cases are due to increase with the cooler weather, so please stay safe.

The YCS board continues to make the best decisions possible to add and improve services to the communities we serve. We are still working on building another housing complex, increasing our services, and looking at new ways to help support our citizens.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks our staff, management, and fellow board members for all their hard work and dedication and many thanks to our members at large for their belief in our society, supporting what we do at YCS. Thanks for coming to our AGM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Stokes, Chairperson





Nominating Committee Report

To: AGM

September, 2023

The following individuals have agreed to let their names stand as Directors for 3 year terms.

Jackie Enfield

Leslie Groulx

Joanne Stokes

Jack Keough

The Nominating Committee recommends these individuals to serve as Directors for a 3 year term.

Moved by: Jack Keough

Seconded by: Louise Weaver





Chief Operating Officer Report

As we gather again for another year, the theme of transformation and change continues to be prevalent as we grow as an agency and restructure our leadership model. It is these changes which brought Jack Keough back from retirement on an interim basis while a recruitment process was undertaken and I am delighted to welcome Christine Peterson who joined YCS in March of 2023. I am excited to work with her over the coming year as we continue to strengthen our existing programs and expand our categories of services in the various communities we serve.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has moved to an endemic stage, we are fortunate to continue to benefit from some Covid-19 related funding opportunities. These include the continuation of the Covid-19 Surge funding from the Community Acton Initiative for an additional two years. This funding allows us to provide an additional full-time counselor, increasing the capacity in the program to more closely meet the needs we see in the community. We were also granted an extension for our funding from the Women's Shelter of Canada to September 2023, allowing us to meet the increased demand for short term accommodations and support for women fleeing intimate partner violence.

We continue to work on our elevator project which has been a three-year project, utilizing government funds received through an Enabling Accessibility Grant in addition to one-time only funding from Community Living BC. We have an aging population and participants utilizing mobility devices access the lower level of the building through the back pathway which can be difficult in the winter months.

We continue to partner with United Way which funds our Better at Home Program for seniors. Over the last year, we applied for and were successful in obtaining two additional grants to support seniors in the communities in the North Thompson. The demand for services continues to outpace resources available and this is an area of continued focus for YCS.

We are pleased to see the expansion of 10 dollar a day child care with renewed funding for Riverside Childcare which was previously designated a prototype. In addition, Little Stars Child Care in Barriere and Building Blocks Daycare in Clearwater are now \$10 a day childcare sites.

Moving forward in the upcoming year, we have identified several areas that we will continue to focus on. These include advocating for additional funds to support services to seniors, increased access to affordable licensed childcare spaces, expansion of food security programs, increased programming in outlying communities and building more affordable housing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Vincent

Program Reports





YCS Health Centre

As you may be aware, YCS took over the administrative functions of the Clearwater Medical Center in the fall of 2021 and has taken initiative to make some much needed upgrades to the interior of the building as well as purchase equipment and supplies. This work has continued into 2022/2023.

We were pleased to have another physician, Dr. Phillips, join the practice in August of 2022. This brings the complement of doctors to one part-time and three full-time family physicians working in the clinic as well as at the hospital. Another physician is expected to arrive in the fall of 2023. As a result of increases in physician time, we have added to our medical office assistant team to meet increased demand for administrative support.

Upgrades to the center this year include the purchase, installation and set up of 18 new computers for patient rooms and physician offices. Updating this technology was imperative to ensure compliance with the College of Physicians as well as quality care and service provision to the residents of Clearwater and surrounding areas who access care at the clinic.

YCS continues to be a member of the BC Association of Health Centres which offers engagement, advocacy and support for Community Health Centers and looks to address wellness gaps in health care. We also continue to be a part of the Clearwater local Health Services Planning Table which is focused on a more holistic approach to health and improving pathways to care for residents in smaller communities. This ties in nicely with other services we provide through YCS.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all of our Medical Office Assistants working hard at the clinic, managing appointment schedules and physician availability to ensure patients are seen in a timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Vincent





Early Childhood Development

YCS provides a wide range of services that support family stability and positive parenting. The purpose of our programs is to encourage and support parents to be leaders and the main decision maker with regards to their own family goals and their child's development. We take a family-centered approach to service provision, recognizing that parents know their children best.

YCS Child Development Services are comprised of four main programs; the Prenatal and Early Years Home Visiting Program, Infant Development Program, Supported Child Development Program and, most recently, Autism Services.

Autism Services are provided to children and families who have received an ASD (autism spectrum disorder) diagnosis. Once diagnosed, families and/or caregivers connect with a Children and Youth with Special Needs Worker and can apply for funding. Children under 6 are allocated up to \$22,000 a year to use towards services and children 7-19 are allocated up to \$6,000 a year. Children and their families then choose the service provider that best fits their needs and use the approved funding to access services.

In order to provide services to children under six, service providers are required to work under the guidance of a Behaviour Consultant listed on the Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP) list. We have contracted with Cheryl Scaife, a certified Behaviour Consultant, based in Kelowna which allows us to work with children as young as four years old. Jenna Wilson is our Behaviour Interventionist and she works closely with families and Cheryl. Once we have provided services to families we submit monthly invoices to MCFD which are paid for out of the child's funding.



The remaining programs are funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and are free to families. We have provided these services through contracts that are renewed on a regular basis.

Supported Child Development is designed to promote inclusion in daycare and community programs for children with disabilities and diverse needs, ensuring they are able to participate to the best of their ability. Due to the high demand for services we were able to advocate and receive an additional \$21,194 annually to our contract. This funding has assisted us to minimize waitlists and increased the ability for families to access additional daycare hours for their child(ren).



Early Childhood Development

The Infant Development Program supports children 0-3 years of age with a disability, delay or at risk of delay. These children may not be reaching milestones such as sitting, playing with toys, walking or talking on a typical timeline. The IDP consultant is able to complete assessments, visit with the family in the home or office and offer support in group settings.

Although we have continued to see lower than expected engagement in services in 2022, we are seeing a slow increase in demand for services in the communities we serve in 2023.

Jenna Wilson, the Clearwater & Barriere consultant for IDP, continues to work hard to bring an awareness of services to the community and find creative methods to work with families.

Our services in Lillooet were suspended in the summer of 2022 due to ongoing recruitment challenges. In an effort to re-establish services in this community, we have negotiated with MCFD to bring in an experienced, itinerant consultant with the hopes to train and transition to a consultant in the community once we have someone identified.

The Prenatal and Early Years Home Visitor, Bobbi-Ann Strachan provides a range of services that help build parent capacity to support the healthy development of children from pre-natal to age six years. She does this by providing visits in the home, encouraging and supporting parents to attend community groups, strengthening social connections and linking to other resources such as counselling, as well as connection with other professionals.

The program also provides access to nutritional supplements for pregnant people and families with children under two years of age. In the spring of this year, we were once again able to host in-person prenatal classes for three sessions in the evening here in Clearwater. The class was well attended and we will be hosting another in the fall.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nikki Vincent



Safe Home & Second Stage Housing

The Safe Home Program provides 24/7 access to short term, safe accommodations and support to women, with or without children fleeing intimate partner violence. The goal of the program is to provide emergency stabilization and supports, enhancing safety while we engage women in longer-term planning. Part of the role of the coordinator is to provide connection to resources such as legal aid, access to counselling, transitional housing and/or financial supports to assist them in the next steps of their journey.

The Second Stage Program provides longer term, transitional housing for up to one year for women and dependant children under the age of 19 who wish to remain or reside in the community of Clearwater BC. Women who move into the second stage program meet regularly with the coordinator who provides planning and support in areas identified by women accessing services.

Over the last year, we continue to see increased volume of women accessing these services. This trend may be related to the following:

- Trans Mountain Pipeline which has increased traffic into and through the communities we serve
- Increased awareness in the community about the program
- Residual effects of the Covid-19 pandemic

Due to additional funding we received through a grant from BCSTH, we have been able to support concurrent requests for Safe Home services by accessing additional accommodations and allowing for slightly longer stays when there has been a longer than normal wait for transitional housing.

This year, we were pleased to welcome and participate in a training and information session hosted by Elizabeth Fry with regards to Protection Orders and have also received a dedicated one-time funding from BC Housing to be utilized for additional staff training over the next year.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Safe Home & Second Stage Coordinator, Kim Bridge and Relief Coordinator Margaret Neal who provide front-line support to women and their children accessing these services.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Vincent





Family Support Services

The **Family Support Services** program is open to school age children, youth and families residing in the North Thompson Valley from McLure to Blue River. Priority is given to referrals from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, but also accepts self referrals when there is capacity in the program. Some of the services we provide include parenting support, parent-teen mediation and family support which may include connection to other resources. We have Youth and childcare workers who provide mentorship and life skills training/development for children and youth with additional needs or who are aging out of care. As part of the program, we also provide supervised visitation access, however this is through direct MCFD referral only where child protection concerns exist.

This year, we continue to see a fairly even split with regards to requests for service in the communities of Barriere and Clearwater. Over the last year, we provided services to 33 individuals/families in our catchment area. We are seeing a significant demand for supervised visitation and support for older youth approaching adulthood who are moving towards or living independently in the community.

I would like to give special thanks to our dedicated team of Family Support Workers which includes Adrienne Pullen, Curt Osmond, Heather Birks and more recently Bobbi-Ann Strachan. Their ability to foster positive connections with the children youth and families and their commitment to quality service provision is commendable.

Drop-in Youth Program:

This year saw the return of Teen Night, which took a hiatus over the pandemic due to social gathering restrictions. Teen Night ran January-May 2023 on Friday nights from 7pm-10pm in Clearwater at the Dutch Lake Community Center. Teen Night, is a free drop-in program, accessible to all youth ages twelve to eighteen, but specifically targets at-risk youth. This program was well attended and teens participated in a variety of theme nights and activities such as Beach Party Night, Indigenous activities including bannock making in honour of MMIW day, karaoke, table top games etc. This year's facilitators from YCS include Beth Bachly and Lauren Kadlun-Jones. Through partnership with the District of Clearwater, we were pleased to have Kawiria Creed, Recreation, Culture and Events Assistant for the District of Clearwater, join us as a third facilitator.

This year, the program was funded by Government of BC Community Gaming Grants and with support from the District of Clearwater.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Vincent



Affordable Housing

Íwséltkten Place

Íwséltkten Place continues to be at full occupancy levels with a waitlist still in place. We did see some tenants move out of the building, but these units were quickly filled.

After some ongoing and continued issues with the cooling system in the building, the units on the roof were replaced as were the thermostats in the building. Thankfully, this issue appears to be resolved and we now have balanced temperatures in the common spaces. As in previous years the air-conditioned Amenity Room and Community Room were left open to all tenants to create cooling spaces during hot weather. Bottled water and games for children were made available.

Additional repairs carried out this year include: replacement of appliances such as stoves, microwave ovens, and dryers in some of the units. In two suites light fixtures in the bathrooms were also replaced. We had a bit of an ant infestation that required contracting an exterminator to come in and take care of the problem. Thankfully, this issue appears to be under control and general information was shared with tenants to ensure potential attractants are addressed to prevent future issues. We also had a locksmith in to ensure doors in shared areas such as the Community room and front entrance are functional and secure. As a result of a fairly gusty windstorm, we did have a couple of the soffits on the building blow down or become precariously attached. D&T Development refastened all soffits on the building as a precautionary measure and to ensure the continued safety of residents.

April Christensen has continued in the role of the YCS Property Coordinator and has done a fantastic job of managing the building and ensuring we remain in compliance with fire, maintenance, and elevator inspections. She communicates regularly with tenants and has been available when unexpected issues arise. April holds several positions at Yellowhead Community Services and we are very thankful for her care and thorough approach to operating Íwséltkten Place. Terry Cawley provides janitorial and yard maintenance services to keep the building and yard clean and tidy. He has been a welcome addition to the team as well and we appreciate the work he does.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Vincent





North Thompson Better at Home

The Better at Home Program supports seniors 65+ in the communities of Barriere and Clearwater. Services vary depending on community and may include light housekeeping, yard work, snow shovelling and minor repairs. These services are fee based but are subsidized according to individual seniors' previous years tax report. Grocery shopping, friendly visiting, check in phone calls and transportation to medical and social appointment are free services. We rely on a combination of paid staff and amazing volunteers to provide these supports. Over the last year, we provided a total count of 1,326 Better at Home services for 47 individual participants, including 93 volunteer services. Our waitlist for services, especially housekeeping, continues to grow. YCS continues to advocate for additional funding in this area.

This year, we were successful in applying for and receiving two additional grants from United Way. This includes a Food Security Targeted Funds grant, allowing us to utilize a meal delivery service in Barriere, purchase grocery vouchers, and increase service provision for grocery shopping. In addition to this, the Food Security Program continues to be a wonderful partner and frozen, left-over soup stored in microwavable containers from Soup Kettle was given to seniors who were interested over the winter months.

The second grant we received for Emergency Preparedness provides us with opportunities to support seniors to prepare for and manage extreme weather events such as heat domes and prolonged cold snaps. This funding has allowed us to start up a lending cupboard for items like snow shovels and space heaters in the winter as well as fans, cooling scarves and emergency kits for the summer months.

YCS provides Community Response Network services to Barriere, bringing awareness to elder abuse and linking seniors to support services. June 15th of every year is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). The last WEAAD event was hosted at the Barriere & District Senior Society Drop-in Center and was well attended by approximately 50 seniors who enjoyed a free lunch and/or giftbags. A special thank you to our guest speaker Marian Anderberg, the BC CRN Regional Mentor for Thompson, Cariboo and Shuswap area, for her presentation.

We are thankful for all our staff who go above and beyond as well as the volunteers who give freely of their time to provide friendly visiting for our seniors who feels isolated. We are very grateful to our wonderful active volunteers, Shirley Frost and Barb Pelton, who provide grocery shopping and transportation services.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Christensen



Community Living BC

Our Community Integration Services, which encompass our group program (Challengers), job skills and one to one support programs, continue to expand and grow. We welcome new individuals who have moved into the area and support young adults who are transitioning from high school into the adult world. We continue to be flexible and adapt to the changing needs of the individuals we serve as they move through the aging process or as support needs change due to personal and/ or health related needs.

Over the course of the last year, we have moved towards pre-pandemic levels of service provision and activities. We are welcoming larger numbers into our downstairs space for social activities such as arts & crafts, games etc. Some of the fun activities the Challengers group have participated in this year include: paddle boarding on Dutch Lake, attending a Blazer's hockey game in Kamloops, group lunches out at local restaurants, fishing in the hatchery pond, and shopping trips into the city.

Tim Horton's in Clearwater continues to be a Rock Star with regards to inclusive employment and has provided jobs to a total of four individuals throughout the year. We also have individuals who continue to clean our BC Transit buses, YCS vehicles, and take on odd jobs at our main office location. As in years past, we continue to maintain the 19 Forestry Recreation Sites in the TFL and have had new members join our work crew in addition to some of our seasoned crew. We continue to look for ways to increase employment opportunities in the community for the individuals we serve.

We continue to have a component of our population who is aging and/or use mobility devices to access community. In an effort to enhance accessibility to our program space, we have applied for and been successful in securing funding through the Enabling Accessibility Grant and CLBC to move forward with the installation of an elevator at our 612 Park Drive. This project was completed in July 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Vincent





Community Living BC

Home Share Program

The Home Share program provides a residential option for adults with developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible in the communities of their choosing. Home Share can look many different ways for different people. It can be more of an independent living situation, whereby an individual has their own suite and shares in some of the household and family activities as they choose. Some individuals in home share, especially those with complex health needs may require full care and support all day, everyday. Many individuals in home share also participate in other programs such as Community Inclusion or Job Skills which enhances independence, inclusion and overall quality of life. The Home Share program is funded by Community Living BC (CLBC).

Over the last year, we had a total of 4 Home Share providers, three in Barriere and one in Clearwater. One of our long-term providers has relocated to the William's Lake area and the individual residing within their home moved with the family as well, allowing for a continuity of care. YCS has received additional funding from Community Living BC in an effort to boost our time and commitment with regards to recruiting new providers in the North Thompson region. This will continue to be a focus over the coming year.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge all of our current and past Home Share Providers for their dedication and commitment to providing a high quality of care and enhancing the lives of the individuals they have welcomed into their homes and their hearts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Vincent





WorkBC

WorkBC Clearwater and Barriere team continue to offer a variety of free employment related services to assist individuals in their employment journey. We have many options for our clients to access a variety of services in person or virtually. Some of our programs include: Occupational Skills Training, Short Term Training, Short term Certificate Training, Wage Subsidy, Customized Employment Service, referrals for Self-Employment, referrals to other non WorkBC programs, as well as employability and life skills workshops. As we move forward, the ability to access services virtually as well as in person has proven to be beneficial for our rural area and has increased many opportunities for our clients.

The North Thompson Valley has proven to be a strong area of resilience and perseverance. We have experienced multiple changes in the last year and have moved forward with a confident outlook.

We provided an Ability Works Employment Fair in March 2023, with 9 Employers and 40 attendees.



Trans Mountain Pipeline Construction project has now completed in our area and the pipeline has moved on. Many employees have moved with the pipeline and others are looking for sustainable employment in other areas. We continue to assist clients to prepare and attend all employment and training opportunities.

We are continually connecting and creating sustainable relationships with local employers in the North Thompson Valley and providing information on our wage subsidy program and inclusive hiring/customized employment options.

We are meeting with Ashley Fitger, Administrative Assistant, and Education Coordinator to continue with building relationships and planning for future events. We are in the planning stages of an in-person Youth program and an Inclusivity program for both communities. We will be working in collaboration with Simpcw on these workshop programs for Barriere.



The Open Door Group posted this picture for Pride Month on their Facebook page

WorkBC attended Chamber meeting in February 2023 and provided a presentation for Employers on how we can support them with recruitment services, wage subsidies and other Provincial Funding options, inclusive hiring, pre-job training and certification.

Promotion of our WorkBC services and supports was presented at Eleanor Lake in Blue River, the Barriere Farmers Market, Clearwater Harvest Fair and a Health and Career Fair for Simpcw at Chu Chua.

The WorkBC Clearwater and Barriere Staff are committed to providing respectful, resourceful and personable services and referrals. I am confident in our team's superior approach to offering innovative employment assistance to all citizens of the North Thompson Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Pelton



Clearwater & Area Literacy Outreach

Clearwater and Area Literacy Outreach Coordinator – Kerry Milner Cairns

Program and Event Coordinator - Denica Kelly

Tutors – Kim Bridge, Laura Pickering

What an amazing year it was for the Clearwater Literacy Program! Through our many community partnerships we were able to provide literacy programs and services for all ages throughout the year. The Program and Event Coordinator, Denica Kelly organized and facilitated some amazing literacy programs and events for children and families in the community! The Youth and Adult Tutor Programs provided support to learners 6 years to 65+ years old! Learners were more comfortable returning to in-person sessions, and both programs continue to be fully subscribed, with the youth tutor program having a waitlist.

- Family Literacy week: There was a Magic show with over 100 people attending, a “Book Hunt” with books for all ages, Teddy bear picnic with 35 people attending, and a Meal Prep Box (a Berry Brunch Bake) was provided in partnership with the Food Security Program. Raft River Elementary participated in Family Literacy Week – unplugging and playing - and the class with the most participants received a pizza party.
- Winter Fest: a scavenger hunt was organized by the Literacy Program to encourage participation in non-tech activities
- One to One Reading Program - ran successfully from October to May with 9 volunteers and 22 students.
- Raise a Reader Day newspaper campaign, Raise a Reader Adult Team Spelling Bee, 2 Bingo fundraisers, Farmers Market photo booth, and Book Sale donation raised \$20,2207!
- PCMG ran in Clearwater & Barriere through a grant from BC Council for families
- Tumble Bumble ran from November to April in the Raft River Elementary Mini gym
- Community Adult Literacy Program (adult tutoring)
- Youth Tutoring Program
- Bright Red Bookshelves
- Blue River Play Group, Vavenby Playgroup and the Clearwater Playgroup support with activities and nutrition

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Milner Cairns





Barriere Literacy

Barriere and Area Literacy Outreach supports initiatives and events that contribute to the social and economic well-being of residents within our catchment area.

This year we continued to provide tutoring at no cost for people of all ages, while also helping to support other community initiatives that offered a learning and literacy focus.

We also worked closely with a number of service organizations within the community to extend our reach in bringing literacy and learning to our residents, and provided a program to assist seniors in how to safely navigate the Internet, and avoid the pitfalls of cyber fraud.

During the past 12 months we facilitated, supported or promoted the following programs within our area:

- Barriere Library StoryWalk which is permanently located in Fadear Park
- ABC Family Literacy Day with events, promotions, handouts, and virtual interactions
- Family Literacy Week events, plus free handout literacy packages for families throughout the week
- Partnered with Interior Savings in Barriere during Unplug and Play Week
- Provided drop in after school tutoring for youth
- Bright Blue Bookshelves
- Free Books For Babies
- The Annual 3-day Lions Club Gently Used Book Fair
- The “New Book For Every Child” Program
- The Annual Christmas Essay Contest for Youth
- The Cyberspace Senior’s Program
- The Barriere Blooms Garden Contest Division for Youth
- The Annual Indoor Teddy Bear Picnic held in January
- Attended the Barriere Volunteer Fair
- Attended Barriere Elementary’s Information Fair
- In September we participated in the Annual Raise a Reader fundraiser, and thanks to the enthusiastic help from local volunteers, plus generous support from area businesses, sponsors, and residents, we were once again able to raise earmarked funds for youth literacy initiatives within our area.





Ashcroft Literacy

Tutor Program – Trish Hoy

The Ashcroft Community Adult Literacy Program welcomed Trish Hoy as it's new Program Coordinator. Trish worked on developing relationships and partnerships in the community, and promoting the program to service providers and the public via:

- Jr/Sr high school
- Work BC
- Service Canada
- Community Futures
- Community Notice Boards
- Legion
- Anglican Church
- CATEC (First Nations) training and employment centre
- Desert Hills
- Library

Trish was invited to attend the Ashcroft WorkBC Employment and Education Fair, to meet potential clients, and promote the program in the community.

Tutoring is based out of the Ashcroft Hub with a small room being rented for the Coordinators office as well as being used as a tutoring location. The program is run for 10 hours per week. We look forward to the year ahead and continuing to grow the tutor program!

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Milner Cairns





Indigenous Programs, Early Years Service

- Connection Circles were offered in Clearwater, Barriere, Vavenby, and Blue River. They were held at various locations; Dutch Lake Community Centre, Barriere TNRD Library, Barriere Strong, Vavenby Elementary Early Years room, and Blue River Elementary Early Years room.
- Connection Circles are an Indigenous Early Years Family Drop-in program that are all are welcome to attend. The main focus is on cultural teachings through stories, song, drumming, language, craft, and traditional foods. Families dropped-in to participate in talking circles, Indigenous crafts (medicine bags, dream catchers), activities (Michif language colouring books), traditional food recipes, and drumming, and to connect with the Service Provider regarding information on Indigenous issues.
- Cindy connected with families through social media, telephone, and in-person in the community.
- As we moved out of Covid precautions, Crafts and information were provided to Clearwater and Barriere families, that they could do at home with their children as some families were not ready to attend in-person.
- Cindy was happy to be able to once again visit the Preschool, and host the Indigenous family play group in Barriere.
- Cindy was very fortunate to be able to spend time at Eagles Nest/Aboriginal Head Start several times a month, and have the children participate in various community cultural activities and ceremonies.
- Cindy also participated in the Barriere Baby party, a two-day online Early Years Conference, and visited the after-school program to share cultural information, and provide an activity about Orange Shirt Day.
- A special Family Gathering was held on August 27 at the North Thompson Provincial Park. Families were invited to share a meal, and participate in singing, drumming, storytelling, and games.
- National Indigenous Peoples Day. This event was held at the DLCC with support from our community partners; North Thompson Aboriginal Cultural Centre, and BC Metis Federation. The event was open to all families in the North Thompson valley.
- Orange Shirt Day and the 2nd National Truth and Reconciliation Day were honored and held at the DLCC.
- Clearwater Moose Hide Campaign was held at the DLCC, on May 12th
- MMIW/Red Dress Project was held at the information centre starting with a 5km walk on May 5th 2022 through the community, ending at the DLCC to singing and drumming, with sharing bannock.
- Helped cook meals for families through the Food Security and Soup Kettle Programs.
- Connected with Indigenous families through a partnership with the Cultural Centre, and informed Indigenous and non-Indigenous families of local support and services available in the N.T. Valley through social media, phone calls, and in person in the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Wilgosh



Clearwater Early Years

2022 Was a great year for Early Years programs. All programs resumed as normal, and families were happy to get out again. Regular playgroups with different themes were held every Tuesday and Thursday in Clearwater at the Dutch Lake Community Centre. Throughout the year, there were special activities field trips. They were trips to the Aveley Sheep Farm, the Clearwater Fish Hatchery, and food canning and gardening workshops.

The Mom and Baby walk continued all year round, getting families out and active during the winter. We were able to host playgroups again at the schools in Vavenby and Blue River, and welcomed new families in both communities.

The Babies of 2021 Welcome Party was held on August 28, 2022 at Dragonfly Splash park. The District of Clearwater kindly donated the park rental for the event. Babies who were born in the Clearwater area in 2021, were welcomed with a celebration picnic, games, and activities. Gift bags were given to each baby who attended.

The Kids Winter Clothing swap was hosted on October 13, 2022 at the Dutch Lake Community Centre gymnasium. This provided the opportunity for families to donate winter clothing items they were no longer using. Families were then able to come “shop” these donated items, and take what they needed at no cost.

On November 28, 2022, the Early Childhood Check-up Day was held at the Dutch Lake Community Centre with the following professionals; Audiologist, Child Development, Car seat specialist, and Dental. A variety of health information hand-outs were also provided. We successfully filled all appointments available for the event. We are very grateful to have such wonderful professionals who commute and donate their time for this event.

Respectfully submitted,

Denica Kelly





Barriere Early Years

Barriere Early Years services and programs were advertised to families through social media, and local bulletin boards. Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) stands were maintained in all identified locations; YCS, ISCU, and the Medical Clinic. ASQ's are administered in YCS childcare programs on a yearly basis.

On January 24, 2023, the annual Baby Party was held in the Multipurpose Room at the Barriere Ridge to celebrate Barriere's newest citizens born in 2021 and 2022. 23 babies and their families attended this celebration. Families enjoyed lunch and a birthday cake, as well as getting to know each other and visit informally with YCS Service Providers.

Early Years Playgroups were held at the Barriere Ridge once a week. This is a free 2-hour program for preschool children. Children enjoy stories, songs, free play, and snacks each week!

A "Ready, Set, Learn" event was held on May 31st at Barriere Elementary School gymnasium in partnership with SD 73. This free event focuses on providing resources, information, and support to parents and children ages 3 and 4. All families with children up to the age of 5 are invited to attend, and learn and play together! This event included guest presenters with booths set up including: Information and tools from Dental, Behavioural, and Child Passenger Safety Professionals. This event fosters healthy child development in the areas of nutrition, growth, safety, dental health, vision health, and readiness for kindergarten. 25 children with their parents/caregivers attended the event.

Early Years Service Provider – Adrienne Pullen





Lillooet Early Years

Early Years Service Provider -Ana Donoso

Early Years Service Provider – Tabatha Hecker

In late summer, we said Good-bye to Ana and wished her well in her new community. We were very happy to welcome Tabatha Hecker as the new Early Years Service Provider! Tabatha is a long-time Lillooet resident with a passion for working with children.

This year, many fun-filled activities were provided to families by the Lillooet Early Years Program. Some of the programs and services that were offered were:

- A walking group
- Teddy Bear Picnic – June 28
- Craft bags were provided to families displaced from other communities due to wildfire
- Hot lunches provided once per month which brought families together for food and conversation
- 2-hour Playgroup offered twice a week – various locations: YCS office, Lillooet Recreation Centre, outdoor playgrounds. Snack, songs, stories, free playtime and crafts were offered.

Tabatha is busy planning the annual Baby Welcoming Event which will be held in the fall of 2023.

We are thankful for our many successful partnerships, that allows us to reach more families in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Milner Cairns



Food Security

Clearwater Farmers Market: The immediate and future challenge for the market continues to be securing more farmer and producer vendors. This is indicative of the larger problem that affects all areas of the Province and an aging farmer population. Supporting young new farmers is crucial to a robust local food system. We continue our partnership with Community Futures. A marketing plan was created for the Clearwater Farmers Market and in 2023 we will be participating in an Economic Impact Study being undertaken the BC Association of Farmers Markets.

Nutrition Coupon Program: The Ministry of Health has committed to another three years of funding for this amazing program! We were able to take advantage of special funding to support an additional 10 senior households in Barriere and Clearwater. In total Clearwater supported 41 households and Barriere supported 25 households with \$28,512 worth of coupons to purchase health foods at the farmers markets!

Soup Kettle: 2929 bowls of soup were served and 189 hours of volunteer time was provided to help with soup prep, making buns, delivering soup and grocery shopping. We love soup!

Neighborhood Kitchen: Program space continues to be fully subscribed. This last year has seen an increase in participants that have special dietary needs and nutrition concerns so it has been a rewarding challenge to help support them to access the ingredients, recipes and hands-on skills they need to navigate these conditions.

Community Garden : Demand for garden plots has been consistent and we have been able to support everyone that wishes to have space with very little space unused. We have 17 plots in use with a variety of shared fruit trees and berry bushes.

Special Events, Fundraisers and Workshops

- Gleaning Program - 844 pounds unwanted produce picked and utilized
- Seedy Saturday – April 1, 2023
- North Thompson Community Seed Library – 229 pkg seed shared
- Lending Cupboard – new pressure canner purchased, 27 items borrowed
- Harvest Faire – September 17, 2022
- Cooking Connections for Seniors – July-August 2022
- Blender Bike made by the Men's Shed
- Canning Workshop – Applesauce
- Savvy Supermarket Shopping Workshop
- Bee Club support
- Family Meal Prep Boxes – Literacy Week
- BCAFM Conference November 2022
- Operation Holiday Boost – 32 households received \$2000 in grocery cards



Thank you to all of the funders, donors, and volunteers that make the Food Security program a success!



Counselling

The Yellowhead Community Services counselling program continues to provide a wide range of counselling through a variety of government contracts. Reflecting on the past year, there continues to be a significant demand for counselling. Our counselling team is able to provide flexible options to reduce barriers to accessing counselling in our communities.

Our counselling team continues to bring specialized skill sets to support our communities: MHSU Clinicians, MHSU Workers, STV and PEACE Counsellor, Community Counsellor, and Family Counsellor. Our team continues to grow our knowledge through training, for example, in the last year our counselling team participated in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) training facilitated by two counsellors through Response Based Practice. Furthermore, we attended Collaborative Care training and Naloxone training hosted by Interior Health.

As a counselling team we continue to meet with local physicians for clinical consults, collaborate with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and meet regularly for clinical group supervision. Additionally, we value our relationship with Simpcw First Nation as our services overlap in the Barriere area.

Adult Mental Health and Substance Use Counselling Program
Youth Substance Use Counselling Program
Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) Clinic Program



Funded by Interior Health

Adult mental health counselling services are available to service users with moderate to severe mental health. Adult and youth substance use counselling services are available to service users who experience substance use issues. Our counsellors that have experience working with youth continue to support students at the alternate school (FLEX program) for high school students. Our counselling team works diligently to build relationships with the teachers and students. The goal is to increase the number of youths accessing one-on-one counselling for substance use issues.

YCS has two Mental Health & Substance Use (MHSU) Clinicians, Glen Follweiler (Clearwater) and Phil Janicki (Clearwater). Our team would like to acknowledge John Kendrick (Barriere MHSU Clinician), who recently left YCS on July 13th, 2023 to pursue other opportunities. Our team is excited to announce that Marion Fallding will be the Barriere MHSU Clinician effective September 5th, 2023. We have two MHSU workers, Kim Bridge and Phil Janicki. Additionally, this year YCS supported the OAT clinic run by Dr. Marino and YCS OAT Clinic Coordinator, Kim Bridge. The clinic ran every second Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, up until the spring of 2023, as there was no longer a need for the clinic in the community.



Counselling

Community Counselling Program

Supported by the Community Action Initiative (CAI) and funded by the Province of British Columbia and The Community Action Initiative, in partnership with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health, awarded YCS a Community Counselling Grant. The project took place from November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2022, with renewal until March 31, 2023. The fund has been renewed for an additional two years to March 31, 2025. YCS continues to deliver counselling activities for adults ages 19+ and families in British Columbia who would not otherwise have access to mental health support, and who face inequity in access to health services. While in-person services are available, we offer virtual individual and group counselling services through an approved virtual platform and by telephone. The Community Counsellor is Michelle Kung.

This year, through the Community Counselling program, we offered a three-session self-growth workshop series on self-worth, self-awareness, and resilience. The workshops were a great success, with an average of eleven in-person/virtual participants. All participants who chose to complete a survey strongly agreed or agreed that the workshop was applicable, their comments were respected, they felt safe in the group, the material was organized, they would recommend it to family and friends, and they would be interested in attending follow-up workshops. The Community Counselling program plans to continue to offer counselling groups in the upcoming year.



Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling Program

Funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Crime Prevention Division, and supported by the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVABC)



Counselling

The Stopping the Violence (STV) counselling program provides trauma-based counselling and support for service users who identify as women and who have experienced sexual assault, violence in relationships, and/or childhood abuse. Additionally, our STV counsellor, Naomi Capostinsky provides information on and referrals to other community service providers, resources, and professionals as required. Naomi has been working towards building and maintaining relationships with stakeholders, service providers, and interest groups to understand the local barriers women who are experiencing forms of violence face in accessing services. In addition to one-on-one counselling Naomi provides community education and participates in events such as the Moose Hide campaign and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Awareness Walk. Furthermore, she works collaboratively with our local Police-Based Victim Services, Safe Home Coordinator, RCMP, and other related services to jointly coordinate interventions to promote a safer community.



Ministry of
Public Safety and
Solicitor General



Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment (PEACE) Program

Funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Crime Prevention Division, and supported by the BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH)

The PEACE program continues to provide counselling to children/youth and their caregivers who have experienced violence. Our PEACE counsellor, Naomi Capostinsky, provides counselling to children. The goal is to offer support in breaking the cycle of violence through one-on-one counselling. Additionally, this year to promote community awareness, Naomi and our Safe Home Coordinator, Kim Bridge, facilitated the Violence is Preventable (VIP) program in the Clearwater and Vavenby Elementary schools. The VIP program is a free, confidential, school-based violence prevention program for students in grades K-12. VIP presentations are delivered to increase awareness of the effects that intimate partner violence has on students while connecting those who are experiencing violence to the PEACE program and/or appropriate community resources.





Counselling



Ashcroft Family Counselling Program

Funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Family Counselling program continues to provide virtual services to the community of Ashcroft. Family Counsellor, Darren Jones, provides this virtual service weekly to support families with children to increase their safety and well-being. Services are broad, promote empowerment, and adapt to a family's unique needs. The Family Counsellor will support the family in developing a service plan and, as appropriate, collaborate with other community professionals and the family's support network.

Alysha Piva (Counselling Program Manager)

Phil Janicki (Clearwater MHSU Clinician)

Glen Follweiler (Clearwater MHSU Clinician)

Kim Bridge (Clearwater MHSU Worker)

Naomi Capostinsky (STV/PEACE Counsellor)

Michelle Kung (Community Counsellor)

John Kendrick (Barriere MHSU Clinician/Worker)

Darren Jones (Ashcroft Family Counsellor)



Respectfully submitted,

Alysha Piva





Family Group Conferencing

Family Group Conferencing Program Manager and Coordinator—Alysha Piva

The Family Group Conferencing (FGC) program continues to be vital in the North Thompson Valley and is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). An FGC is a culturally safe meeting of the family, children, and those that ‘feel like family.’ At a conference, the family and their supports come together to develop a plan to help solve worries and ensure that the children get the care and support they need. FGC referrals are received from MCFD social workers.



This year seven families have been served by the FGC program, and five FGCs have been facilitated.

Families have commented on the positive impact of collaborative planning. For example, all participants who chose to complete a survey after an FGC were very satisfied with how the decisions were made at the conference and the plan that was created from the conference. Comments included, “This was very useful, the instructor was great! Very collaborative.” Another participant said “Exceeded expectations. A lot of concerns were addressed.” And “Strengths-based, we reached a plan.”

In the future, Alysha continues to look forward to coordinating this collaborative and family-centered service in the North Thompson Valley.



Respectfully submitted,
Alysha Piva



Licensed Child Care

Over this past fiscal year, Licensed Child Care Programs have continued to deliver the highest quality of care to the communities of Ashcroft, Clearwater, and Barriere. Enrolment in programs is at an all time high, with waitlists in each center. This has brought our attention to how quickly our communities are changing and growing. The breadth of young families moving into our rural areas is higher than ever before, and we are noticing that prior to even securing housing they are putting their children on our waitlists. This speaks to the crucial need to expand programs, especially in Barriere and Clearwater. So far, Riverside Child Care has opened a new afterschool program in September of the 2022-2023 school year to accommodate the children on the Wells Grey After School Program waitlist.

Thank you to our staff!

Staff numbers in Licensed Childcare Programs are also at an all time high. Turn over in the past fiscal year was the lowest ever and we are proud to say that staff report that they feel supported and appreciated within the agency. With a total of 28 staff (an increase of 7 since 2021,) we are pleased to say that 25 of them are ECE Assistant and/or ECE Certified - most with the support of YCS and The Employer Training Grant.

We have welcomed Erin Douglas as the new Program Manager of Building Blocks Daycare! Michelle Baker has left the agency to set off on a new adventure.

We would like to acknowledge each and every staff member for their continued commitment to their practice, to the children and families they serve, and to YCS. Presenting our staff:

Building Blocks Child Care

Erin Douglas, ECEIT, (Program Manager); Stacey Hedman, ECEIT; Marine Schaller ECEIT; Kayla Fowler, ECE; Breanna Regier, ECE; Tien Nguyen, ECE; Tamera Thorpe, ECEA; Kristen Regier, ECEA; Khushpreet Singh, ECEA

Riverside Child Care

Denise Boden, ECE (Program Manager); Ronnie Gosselin ECEA; Reegan Yurkiw, ECEA; Gurpreet Saini, ECEA

Wells Gray After School Program

April Christensen, ECE (Program Manager); Kaylene Redman, ECEA; Amanda Kennedy, ECEA; Justine Hunt, RA; Kaley Jones, RA

Stepping Stones Child Care

Shayla Redman, ECE (Program Manager); Tiffany Adamski, ECEA; Rachele Page, RA



Licensed Child Care

Little Stars Child Care

Patricia Morin, ECE, (Program Manager); Chantelle Harrie, ECE; Jennifer Reid, ECE; Denise Howe, ECEA; Serena Wittner, ECEA; Faunne MacLaren, ECEA; Amanda Huber, ECEA

10aDay

We successfully applied for, and received, the 10aDay contract for Riverside Child Care in 2021. The funding has supported higher caregiver: child ratios, increased recruitment and retention, and lessened the high expense of developing and maintaining the program. In the last fiscal year, we are thrilled to announce that Building Blocks Daycare and Little Stars Child Care are now part of the 10aDay program! We are excited that the government is making a commitment to prioritize affordable child care for families as well as ensuring that programs and Educators are supported.

Early Learning and Child Care Collaboration

We have started building connection with the newly formed Ministry of Education and Child Care! Thus far, we have participated in meetings, completed surveys and started building a relationship with the new School District 73 Early Learning and Child Care Principal, Tanya Rogers. The Ministry recognizes that Yellowhead Community Services is a historical leader in the development of quality child care programs. They want to learn from us so that they can ensure the needs of all communities are met in the way we are providing to ours. We are excited to continue developing this new relationship and look forward to what this collaboration will bring to Licensed Child Care Programs in the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Morin





Clearwater & Area Transit

With the health and capacity restrictions behind us, I'm very happy to report our passenger counts have almost returned to pre-pandemic levels. We sincerely thank our Clearwater drivers; Alain Levassure, William Richardson, Bill Collison, Sherry Elliot, and Liana Beaudry. Our Ashcroft drivers; Simon Larkin, John Roberge, and Ross DeBoer. Our Lillooet driver Kevin Anderson and our Lytton driver Mel Patterson. As well, many thanks to the Administration Staff at YCS for their hard work organizing the bookings and assisting our passengers navigate the routes. We have a diverse ridership with many unique needs and each one of our staff continuously go above and beyond, getting everyone to their destinations in a safe and timely manner.

Clearwater and Area Service

This past year has been challenging, with a significant increase in highway closures due to accidents, especially during the winter months. Our drivers and support staff have all been very flexible, professional and accommodating when dealing with these unexpected changes and delays.

Ashcroft/ Cache Creek/ Clinton

This area experienced some cancellations and delays in Spring 2023 due to flooding. Simon Larkin helped some stranded evacuees get to the Kamloops Emergency Centre and temporary lodging. The flooding brought cancellations, then re-routing which turned to single alternating traffic while the damages were fixed. We continue our efforts searching for an additional driver in Lillooet. We have increased our advertising in the area and are hopeful we will fill this position soon.

New Lytton Connector Wednesday: Lytton to Lillooet Friday: Lytton to Ashcroft

In 2022 Jack Keough was instrumental in forging a new partnership between the Salvation Army, the Anglican Parish and YCS. This agreement brought a much-needed new bus route; connecting the Village of Lytton to essential services in Ashcroft and Lillooet. Discussions are underway to hopefully bring this route into our BC Transit fleet in the future.

New funding secured by the District of Clearwater added a "Special Event Saturday Bus" in the Clearwater area. This new service ran once in February and March 2023, and is expected to continue from May to September of this year. The route travels between Vavenby, Clearwater and Blackpool. Many thanks to the Seniors Coordinator and the Economic Development Office for all their hard work making this new Saturday service possible.

Our BC Transit fleet operates "Handy-Dart" ARBOCS. The buses in the Ashcroft and Lillooet areas are the newest in our fleet and continue to run with very little extra maintenance outside of the mandatory prescribed safety checks. The buses in the Clearwater area were scheduled for replacement in 2023, however this has been delayed. Increased break downs and disruptions to service with these higher mileage buses have been challenging. A recent update from BC Transit indicates we should have one replacement by the end of this year followed by two more in 2024.

I joined the team as Transit Manager in June 2022, and am so grateful for the guidance and assistance I've received. Transit is such an essential service to so many people in our communities. I love that we are able to bring some of the city comforts and conveniences to our rural areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Wall



Administration Report

The old saying it takes a village . . . well this is how I view Yellowhead Community Services Society! It starts with an amazing Board, who hire amazing Managers, who then get to search for amazing staff!

As presented by our managers the wide-ranging programs we provide for our communities requires a multitude of skills for Administration staff. They become the hub providing support for the staff and clients both virtually and in person as they multitask throughout their day.

This past year we welcomed Rylee back to administration in Barriere! Kim has moved to maternity leave and has since had an adorable baby girl! Rylee has implemented the smooth transition of the new counsellor and has supervised the updates to this office space.

Dorothy moves into her second year, managing various computer issues and has worked diligently to get our website back on line. The Health Centre received new computers and Dorothy worked with the computer tech to get those computers running smoothly. She has also spent many hours on hold sorting out cell phone plans for staff which, is a timely and often frustrating task, but she came out smiling!

Kristal was working casual for Kerry at our Dutch Lake Office and has joined the main office full time. She has taken on the organization of this event and continually trouble shoots office issues in a smooth, calm manner. Daily, I witness her professional and kind nature as she utilizes her problem-solving and people skills with both clients, visitors and staff which makes her a valued member of the YCS team!

Louise continues to provide support to the management team with her payroll and bookkeeping skills. As well, she jumps in to fill Barriere admin, answers phones or covers the front desk wearing many hats at the drop of a hat! I have so depended on her over the past 2 ½ years.

With all the talk in town now of Bears . . . I know they put up with this old Bear . . especially at year end! A day doesn't go by that I don't value and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Administration Team!

Sincerely,

Kathy Green

Finance and Administration Manager





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Acknowledgements

We are grateful for our supportive relationships with staff and government ministries, municipal governments and community agencies; for our individual donors – *both cash and in-kind gifts!* - and our amazing volunteers who serve with us. The support of the many services we provide, within the diverse program areas YCS operates, helps us make a difference in our communities - and there are just too many of you to name each one individually! So...

Below we list those who provided funding, cash donations and grants over the past year:

Core Programming:

BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach	Ministry of Forests
BC Gaming Commission	Ministry of Municipal Affairs
BC Housing	Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
BC Transit—District of Clearwater	Open Door Group
Community Living BC	Province of BC
Decoda Literacy Solutions	Provincial Health Services Authority
Interior Health Authority	Thompson Nicola Cariboo United Way
Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training	Thompson Nicola Regional District A & O
Ministry of Children and Family Development	United Way of the Lower Mainland
Ministry of Education and Child Care	Village of Ashcroft
Victim Services/Crime Prevention—Div. of the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General	

Grants, Subsidies, Donations & Partnerships:

AG Foods Barriere	Bee City Canada
Ashcroft Bakery	Beta Sigma Phi - Clearwater
Banister	Buy Low Foods - Clearwater
Barriere & District Foodbank	Buy Low Foods - Lillooet
Barriere Lions Club	Childrens Therapy & Family Resource Centre
Barriere Star Journal	Clearwater Secondary School
BC Association of Farmer's Markets	Clearwater Secondary School PAC
BC Community Response Network	Community Action Initiative Society
BC Council for Families	Community Links
BC Metis Federation	Desert Hills Ranch Farm Market - Ashcroft
BC Paramedics	Diabetes Canada
BC Society of Transition Houses	District of Clearwater



Acknowledgements

Grants, Subsidies, Donations & Partnerships:

District of Barriere	Olivia Duncan Photography
District of Lillooet	On Call Service Centre
EVA BC	Parents Legal Center
First Nations Health Authority	Pharmasave - Clearwater
Fraser Basin Council of BC	Postmedia: Raise A Reader
Horsting's Farm Market - Ashcroft	Public Health Nurses from all Communities
IDA Pharmacy Barriere	Raft River Elementary
Interior Savings & Credit Union - Barriere	Raft River Elementary and PAC
Interior Savings & Credit Union - Clearwater	School District #73
Interior Savings & Credit Union - BC	Sekw'el'was Band
Kaltire	Sid Scotchman Photography
Kamloops Child Care Resource and Referral	St' át'imc Nation
Kamloops this week	T'it'q'et Band
Kanuk'wa7sta'liha Family Services	T'it'q'et Daycare and Preschool
Lillooet Area Library Association	United Way
Lillooet Food Bank	Volt Auto Detailing
Lillooet Friendship Centre	Wells Gray Community Forests
Lillooet Interior Health	Wells Gray Outdoors Club
Lillooet Maternity Clinic	Women of St. Paul
Lillooet Quilter's Group	Women's Shelter of Canada
North Thompson Aboriginal Cultural Centre	Xaxli'p Band
North Thompson Communities Foundation	Xwisten Band
North Thompson Fall Fair	

To every member, community volunteer and supporter we have the pleasure of working with

OUR SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!



Have a great year!