

The McCreary Centre Society

Annual Report 2002-2003

October 2003



Report on Activities Conducted
October 2002 to September 2003.

Our mission is...

To foster wider understanding of the importance of youth health, increase knowledge about youth health needs and issues, promote a continuing commitment to youth health issues, and initiate and implement innovative projects which directly address unmet health needs of young people.

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Chairperson's Report

2002-2003

We have had a busy year but are already looking forward to the next one. This year's AGM is being held in the 5th month of our next fiscal year and we are already moving full steam ahead on a number of fronts. A lot has been accomplished and I will report on that aspect at the AGM. It is an exciting, sometimes draining time to be part of MCS.

Much of this year has been concerned with the conducting of the AHS III. Despite difficult times throughout the province we are able to report that more school districts and more students than ever were involved (in excess of 30,000). The participation rate was an amazing 79%. Congratulations and thanks to all who helped make it happen.

Our YAC continues to be active and their report is recommended reading. In particular their conducting of yet another highly successful B4 and the efforts of the "old guard" to address issues of succession, renewal, and strategic planning. Increasingly, they and MCS are seen as one of the more successful models of youth participation.

McCreary staff members and our products continue to be in demand in BC and beyond our borders. It is clear that the people and publications at MCS are a valued community resource in our province. In addition, our working relationship with the SFU student group and with other researchers such as Dr Elizabeth Saewyc at the University of Minnesota has brought added depth and creative energy to our research work.

It is clear that our staffing numbers can fluctuate considerably and that there are never enough hands (or time) available to get things done. We owe much to our core staff of Alison Liebel and Aileen Murphy and the financial administration of Nancy Sorensen. One of the challenges of the coming year will be to do a better job of staff recognition and personal development.

When the Board decided to create a full time position of Managing Director and appointed Aileen Murphy to it we foreclosed on the process of recruiting an Executive Director. I believe that time has shown this to have been a wise move. Aileen has certainly demonstrated that the Board's confidence in her was well placed. She has brought the administration of the Society's projects, resources, and finances under a clear and consistent management. In addition she contributes to

various presentations forums, committees, and advisory groups. She has increasingly become MCS's face and voice to the provincial community. We owe her a tangible expression of our appreciation.

The Society has played a key role in facilitating the work of the BC Consortium for Youth Health, the YAC, and the SFU Student Group. Much of the costs of this facilitation is absorbed as donated staff time or draws upon our Gaming funds. The BC Consortium, for example, is a virtual network with no funds of its own, no staff or Board and no office. Despite this it has helped keep youth issues alive and on the provincial agenda, has sponsored several conferences and has fostered the launch of the McCreary Youth Foundation.

I have enjoyed this past year as your Board Chair. It has been a great privilege and I have appreciated the constructive way in which we were able to function. I have felt supported by both staff and Board members and thank each of you for your contributions. In addition, I have been strongly supported by Carrol Tonkin and her passionate caring for all things McCreary. In my comments at the AGM I will outline my vision for the coming year as your Board Chair. Needless to say I look forward with optimism to what lies ahead for MCS.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Tonkin', written in a cursive style.

Roger S Tonkin, MDCM, FRCPC, OBC

Chair, McCreary Centre Society

Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year: June 1, 2002 to May 31st, 2003

As treasurer I wish to report to the Annual General Meeting of the Society the Review of Financial Statements as of May 31st, 2003 as prepared by the Chartered Accountant firm, Ellis Foster. It is noted that the Chartered Accountant firm of Ellis Foster is retained by the Society to review the Society's Financial Statements, but is retained to prepared an audit. Based on their review, the accountants are of the opinion that the financial statement are in accordance with accepted accounting principles.

The Statement Of Revenue and Expenses for the fiscal year shows that there is an excess of expenses over revenue \$57,183.00. This is due to a decline in the Society's general receipts of \$8,693.00 from the previous fiscal year and a decline in the project receipts of \$117,713.00. Off setting the decline in revenue the expenses for this fiscal year were less, showing a decline of \$46,521.00. When reviewing this statement, it must be noted that receipts for projects and expenses incurred for projects are not always received during the same fiscal year.

A better indication of the Society's financial health is the Balance Sheet which shows the Net Assets of the Society as \$1,136,152.00. Included in this total is the grant of \$1,000.000 the Society received under the Human Resources Facility Act for the purpose of assisting in the purchase and development of a facility. The Society has an accepted offer to purchase real estate premises located in Vancouver and has paid deposits of \$45,000.00 towards the purchase which is to close on December 31, 2003.

In closing I wish to thank Nancy Sorensen for her hard work and diligence in managing the financial affairs of the McCreary Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Eadie
Treasurer

Nominating Committee Report

Letters of Resignation have been received from Mary Paone, Grant Connell, Terence Lowe, and Grace Eadie.

The following individuals have indicated a willingness to stand for the Board for the year 2003 - 2004

Tim Agg
Faye Bebb
David Cox
Opreet Kang
Poonum Kang
Pat Mauch
Roger Tonkin
Cathy Still
Kim van der Woerd
Evangeline Zhou

Youth Advisory Committee Report

Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges (B4)

The annual Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges (B4), a weekend long youth lead conference, took place again this year during spring. The conference was held at Camp Howdy in Port Moody. The B4 conference brought youth from across British Columbia together to learn, network and develop new skills to take back to their communities.

YAC Development

The YAC development process is progressing with the assembly of the YAC Alumni, a group of members that feel they have grown out of the age bracket yet would like to continue to be involved with the YAC as YAC and/or Adult support figures. The YAC has also expanded their feedback process by again this year interviewing B4 participants six months after the B4 for a post-B4 review. As always the YAC continually works towards advancing group structure and organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Poonum Kang
Youth Advisory Council Member

Managing Director's Report

Adolescent Health Survey III has been a central focus for staff at McCreary this year. The staff team's efforts, tremendous work of public health nursing in administering the survey in schools, and the support of the Interministry and Advisory Committees contributed to the success of the AHS III data collection in the spring 2003.

Over the past year, McCreary continued to support the participation of young people within the organization and in conferences and projects. McCreary hosted two provincial youth conferences - *B4* and *Youth Participation- Today and Tomorrow*. The Society provided youth input and perspective to the Canadian Health Network. The *From the Inside Out* project involved McCreary in working at the community level to promote the healthy development of early adolescents.

Partnerships with academic researchers at Simon Fraser University, University of Minnesota and Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC continued in 2002-2003. The Society also collaborated with both the newly created *McCreary Youth Foundation* and *BC Consortium for Youth Health*.

In the spring 2003, McCreary received funds from the provincial government under the Human Resources Facility Act to purchase permanent office space for the Society. We are looking forward to moving later this year to our new home on East Hastings Street.

Projects

Adolescent Health Survey III

The third provincial Adolescent Health Survey was administered to BC students in February through June 2003. Forty-six of the province's 59 school districts agreed to participate and over 150 public health staff and nursing students were trained to administer the survey in classrooms. In total, over 30,000 BC students in grades 7 through 12 completed a questionnaire. The focus of the coming year will be to analyse the data and release the first set of provincial and regional results.

From the Inside Out: Promoting Resilience in Early Adolescence

From the Inside Out is a two year initiative focused on promoting resilience in early adolescence. Over the past year, McCreary's data sets were analysed and a report entitled, *Healthy Youth Development: The Opportunity of Early Adolescence*, was produced. This report highlights the health and behaviours of BC adolescents aged 12 to 14 years.

The second component of the project is an intervention strategy designed to enhance communities' capacity to promote the healthy development of their early adolescents. McCreary has been working with youth leaders and supportive adults in three BC communities – Moricetown, Anahim Lake and North Surrey - on a workshop series for young adolescents. McCreary is evaluating this model and will prepare a report that will share the learnings with others.

Canadian Health Network

McCreary, together with the Canadian Association for Adolescent Health in Montreal, Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto, Kids Help Phone in Toronto and Teen Net at the University of Toronto, is the Youth Affiliate for the Canadian Health Network. McCreary's role is to provide youth input and perspective. This has included developing and reviewing FAQ's, reviewing the resource collection, and evaluating the "youth-friendliness" of the website. McCreary is also responsible for promoting the CHN to youth groups in BC.

Youth Conferences

Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges (B4)

In March 2003, McCreary's Youth Advisory Council, with the support of youth staff, hosted the seventh annual provincial B4 conference. Eighty participants attended this energetic weekend event that focused on the theme of "Taking Action." Over the summer, two YAC members were hired to prepare a "B4 Scrapbook" and conduct follow-up interviews with B4 participants. The B4 continues to be a highly inspirational for-youth-by-youth conference.

Youth Participation – Today and Tomorrow

The Youth Participation conference brought together fifty BC youth leaders and adults with experience in youth participation to share successful models and discuss emerging issues related to youth involvement. The Youth Participation conference was held August 21-23 at the University of Victoria in conjunction with the *Promise Into Practice: International Child and Youth Care Conference*. Planning is now underway for a similar event next year.

Partnerships

University Partnerships

Over the past year, the Simon Fraser University graduate student research group met on a monthly basis, and several students completed research projects involving secondary analysis of the AHS data. Topic areas researched included Aboriginal

students' attitudes and performance at school, Chinese youth and emotional distress, bullying and victimization among youth in custody centres, and peer victimization among youth in school.

Elizabeth Saewyc and Carol Skay from the University of Minnesota continued to utilize the AHS to explore risk and protective factors among bisexual youth.

McCreary partnered with researchers from Children's and Women's Health Centre of BC on the *Transition to Adulthood of Adolescents Born at Extremely Low Birth Weight* project. Among the tools used to assess teens who were less than 800 grams at birth, was the Adolescent Health Survey. McCreary trained hospital staff to administer the survey and was responsible for analysing the results. Research findings will be disseminated in the academic literature.

BC Consortium for Youth Health and McCreary Youth Foundation

The *BC Consortium for Youth Health* is a virtual network of researchers, and community and government agencies with an interest in youth health. Over the past year McCreary supported the consortium by developing the consortium website, and supporting consortium events which included a graduate student research seminar held at SFU Harbour Centre on May 13, and *Getting Youth On the Agenda* conference held at the University of Victoria on August 20th.

The creation of the McCreary Youth Foundation in 2003 has created new opportunities for partnership. In the spring, the Society was contracted by the Foundation to conduct a literature review and inventory of stakeholders related to the commercial sexual exploitation of youth in BC.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Murphy
Managing Director

People Involved

MCS Board of Directors

Chairperson	Roger Tonkin
Treasurer	Grace Eadie (resigned Sept. 2003)
Vice-chair	Terence Lowe (resigned Sept. 2003)
Vice-chair	Pat Mauch
	Tim Agg
	Grant Connell (resigned Sept. 2003)
	David Cox
	Poonum Kang
	Mary Paone (resigned Sept. 2003)

MCS Youth Advisory Council

Golda Achampong	Terence Lowe
Alex Chin	Monica Pietramala
Herminia Diaz	August Ustare
Jesse Dostal	Laura Ward
Poonum Kang	Adria Wilson
Jaiminder Kang	Evangeline Zhou

MCS Staff

Managing Director	Aileen Murphy
Bookkeeper/HR Administrator	Nancy Sorensen
Communications Coordinator	Alison Liebel
Administrative Assistant	Jesse Dostal
Youth Participation Coordinators	Opreet Kang
	Ginger Gosnell
	Bernadette Amiscaray
Research Assistants	Minda Chittenden
Research Associates	Colleen Poon (consultant)
	Aviva Laye (consultant)
Summer Staff	Kilim Park
	Jaiminder Kang
	Alex Chin

Consultants

Dodie Katzenstein

John Collins

Legal Counsel

Anthony B.P. DuMoulin - DuMoulin and Boskovich

Accounting Consultants

Ellis Foster Chartered Accountants

SFU Psychology Research Group

Dr. David Cox

Melanie O'Neill

Dr. Roger Blackman

Avneet Sidhu

Sherry van Blyderveen

Jody Viljoen

Karla Jackson

Kim van der Woerd

Geoff Michell

Aviva Laye (UBC)

Project Advisory Committees

From the Inside Out: Promoting Resilience in Early Adolescence - Project Partners

Sharon Jagich
Surrey Youth Clinic

Lucy Glaim
Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council, Moricetown

Carmen Hance
Ulkatcho Band, Anahim Lake

Adolescent Health Survey 3 Advisory Committee

Bob Armstrong
Childrens' and Womens' Health
Centre of BC

Faye Bebb
Planned Parenthood Association of
BC

Reggi Balabanov
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory

Eva Cheung Robinson
Vancouver Foundation

Jenni Bard
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor
General
Community Programs Division

David Cox
Simon Fraser University

Mark Creighton
Ministry of Human Resources

Jayne Barker
Ministry of Children and Family
Development
Mental Health & Youth Services

Jane Crickmore
Ministry of Health Services

Moyra Baxter
BC School Trustees Association

Les Foster
Ministry of Children and Family
Development

Linda Bearinger
University of Minnesota

Nancy Galambos
University of Victoria

Rita Green
Statistics Canada

Liz Gurszky
Directorate of Agencies for School
Health

Andrea Henning
Ministry of Children and Family
Development

Nancy Hinds
BC Teacher's Federation

Craig Hjelmstad
Central Okanagan Boys and Girls
Club

Cathy Hull
Ministry of Health Planning

Catherine Jeffery
Sunny Hill Health Centre for
Children

Nadine Johnson
Public Health Nursing Managers
Council

Bob Lindsay
BC Principals and Vice Principals
Assoc.

Nadine Loewen
Health Officers Council

Chris Lovato
University of British Columbia

Roey Malleson
Children's and Women's Health
Centre of BC

Colin Mangham
Prevention Source BC

Alex Mann
Ministry of Education

Pat Mauch
Vancouver/Richmond Health Board

Heather Middleton
Prevention Division - WCB

Pat Mitchell
Vancouver School Board

Janice Nakamura
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal
and Women's Services

Mary Paone
Children's and Women's Health
Centre of BC

Michael Resnick
University of Minnesota

MaryLynne Rimer
Children's Commission
Irving Rootman
University of British Columbia

Marilyn Shinto
Ministry of Children and Family
Development

Michelle Stack
Stack Associates

Sharon Storoschuk
Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC
and Yukon

Hamid Taghavi
Population and Public Health Branch
of BC/Yukon Regional Office

John Woudzia
BC School Superintendents' Assoc.

Funding Agencies

BC Gaming Commission
BC Ministry of Children and Family Development
Canadian Health Network, Health Canada
Summer Career Placement, Human Resource Development Canada
Hamber Foundation
Population and Public Health Branch, BC/Yukon Region, Health Canada
BC Children's Hospital Fund
McCreary Youth Foundation

Publications List

(2002-2003)

Healthy Youth Development: The Opportunity of Early Adolescence (2003). Burnaby, British Columbia: The McCreary Centre Society.

Accenting the Positive: a developmental framework for reducing risk and promoting positive outcomes among BC youth (2002). Burnaby, British Columbia: The McCreary Centre Society.