

2016-2017 - Annual Report
To
The Board and Members
Powell River Brain Injury Society

Deborah Dee, BMT, FAMI – Executive Director

We have had another great year full of activities. We have worked with our Advisory Committee and have had some good successes. We now have a one day per week outreach position that Catherine has filled. The Tla Amin program did not get off the ground, despite our best efforts. We have taken those hours and put them to good use in the community. The Texada program is still going well, with the core group of 2 that Catherine assists. She does everything from help with daily management of life, to taxes, filling out forms, attending appointments, and providing a space and place where it is comfortable for these people to come and learn about how to better live their lives with brain injury.

We secured 2 days per week and Sandra has filled that position. She is invaluable as our tech person, as a level head for the clients to talk with and as support to the office in general.

Samantha is learning at break neck speed what it takes to run the Society. It is a huge learning curve for her and we are happy to have her here. She brings many excellent ideas and is always got something on the go.

We were successful in our pursuit of funding for the business plan. We now have 2 plans and 2 marketing strategies. The next step is the training, which will be undertaken soon by a grant from Service Canada. The Opportunities Fund contact that I have called last month to ask if we had a project that required funding. I am currently in the process of writing that grant.

We were also successful in obtaining a summer student grant for the first time. Samantha is a continuing student and has taken on that role for us. She will have 8 weeks of funding to continue her projects.

You ED has been busy with research and presentations. I presented to the Brain Injury Association of Canada last September and to the International Congress of Brain Injury this past spring. There were excellent networking opportunities available and I met many people who now know more about Powell River and what we do here. 2 of the networking contacts are the Unmasking Brain Injury art project that we will soon embark on, and the husband and wife team of Kara and Simon Paradis with their friend Joe Stanton, who will be coming to present her book Fallen. It is the story of Simon and his brain injury and the power of music.

This year, like many others saw us loose members of our brainiac family. Brett passed away from complications of yet another meningeal tumor surgery. We miss him. The donations that came in his name are enough to build cedar planter boxes and benches that will help us

memorialize all of the brainiacs we have lost over the years. These will reside in our garden. They will have names of the brainiacs and will be planted with favorite flowers. On August 20th we will be having a memorial celebration in the garden and adjoining grass area. It will be a pot luck picnic, please plan on joining us from 11 to 3. There will be music and games and food and friends.

Our focus for the coming year, in addition to supporting our population as they need us to will be the funding for the business plans. I am looking to find \$300K each year for the next 3 years.

It is still my plan to retire on or before March 31st 2022. I am hoping for a year earlier, it all depends on the timing of the funds for the businesses. I want to ensure their success and that I leave the Society in a healthy place moving forward.

We will be continuing on with our Advisory Committee meetings in the fall. I have been working with Joanne Solmundsen on the requests that VCHA has put forth regarding counting numbers. There are a lot of requirements and detailed figures that they have requested and we are going through these to determine the who, what and why are we counting these. If it makes sense and we come up with a rationalization for the details, we will continue.

As always, our clients are the main priority is our clients. We work on a Client centered model of Whatever it takes. And lots of times it takes patience, and creativity and always and above all, a genuine caring and compassion for the issues each individual is facing on a daily basis.

This report could never truly give the whole picture, as you know. However, I hope it has provided a snap shot of the work we are doing. We all love this work, it is a pleasure every day to come in and work with an amazing group of people; staff, volunteers, clients, and family members included.

I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to everyone who comes in and continues to make this Society a vibrant and successful place. The volunteers, who we couldn't do without. The board of directors, who continue to put up with me 😊 and lead and govern our Society. The staff, who go above and beyond on a daily basis. And the Brainiacs...the life blood of our work. You continue to amaze and astound me with your resilience. Thank you to all for yet another amazing year.

Thanks also goes to our funders. Vancouver Coastal Health, Community Gaming Grants, The Brain Injury Alliance, the Province of BC, Service Canada, and all the others who contribute to our success. I also want to thank the donors. Donations are always a welcome addition to our bottom line. For people to give us their hard-earned money is very rewarding for us. It means we are trusted to do the right thing with these funds. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Respectfully Submitted: June 26 2017-06-26
Deborah Dee, BMT, FAMI - Executive Director