

*Westcoast  
Child Care  
Resource Centre*



*The year in review:  
2006-2007  
Celebrating our 20th  
anniversary!*

## **Westcoast Annual Report 2006 -2007**

### **Contents:**

<b>2</b>	<b>From the Westcoast Board</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Westcoast Information and Westcoast Library</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Westcoast Training</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Vancouver Child Care Resource and Referral (VCCRR)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Westcoast Family Information (FIR)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Westcoast Mobile Lending</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Safe Spaces</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>#1 Kingsway Child Care Centre</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Accreditation</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>ECEBC Endowment Fund</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Child Care Advocacy Forum</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Westcoast Awards and Gala Dinner</b>

### **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre**

2772 East Broadway  
Vancouver, BC, V5M 1Y8  
*Phone:* 604.709.5661  
*Toll Free:* 1.877.262.0022  
*Fax:* 604.709.5662  
*Email:* [info@westcoast.ca](mailto:info@westcoast.ca)  
*Web:* [www.westcoast.ca](http://www.westcoast.ca)

## From the Westcoast Board

Greetings from the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre Board of Directors, and welcome to Westcoast's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday party! I am pleased and proud to share with you some of Westcoast's many accomplishments of the 2006-07 year.

The most significant outcome of the 2006-2007 year is that Westcoast has survived! We have not only endured a monumental blow, but we have prevailed! This year's Annual General Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and official opening of our new premises bear eloquent witness to that fact.

Westcoast continues to offer exemplary information, referral and training services to families and the child care community. For now, Westcoast is smaller, and we are limited in our geographical reach, but over time Westcoast will once again flourish, and extend our services to all of British Columbia.

The Westcoast Board of Directors wishes to express our deep appreciation to the many funding bodies who have continued to demonstrate their confidence in the work of Westcoast:

- The City of Vancouver
- United Way of the Lower Mainland
- Success By 6
- National Crime Prevention
- University of British Columbia
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers
- Ministry of Children and Family Development

We express our utmost appreciation to the dozens and dozens of individuals and organizations who have helped sustain the vision of Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre through the Westcoast Investors Circle, our Birthday Card campaign and the purchase of services. Together, community partners, funders and donors will sustain Westcoast as a province-wide service that meets the needs of children and all those who care for them.

Westcoast's accreditation process with the Council On Accreditation (COA) was understandably delayed given the other demands of recent months. However, accreditation is once again back on track, and we are looking forward to a successful conclusion in November of this year.

As out-going Chairperson of the Westcoast Board of Directors, I wish to express my utmost admiration for my fellow Board members and Westcoast staff for their vision, their energy, their tenacity and sometimes downright stubbornness in the face of what has seemed at many times to be insurmountable odds over the past year. My hat is off to all of you as Westcoast strides into our 21<sup>st</sup> year.



Christine Hibbert  
Chairperson  
Westcoast Board of Directors

## **Westcoast Information and Westcoast Library**

*Principal Funders:* Ministry of Children and Family Development, City of Vancouver

Westcoast Information continued to respond to the needs of individuals, service providers and communities for resources, information and consultation related to child care research, policy and practice. Highlights include:

- Individual telephone, email or in-person consultations with service providers through out the province
- Circulation of more than 21,000 Library items to Westcoast subscribers across BC
- The development and distribution of a number of print resources, available for sale and some for free download on the Westcoast website
- The revision and reprint of the valuable Westcoast INFORM Guide
- Production and distribution of 6 issues of the CCRP provincial newsletter
- Regular consultation sessions with CCRP Regional Coordinators
- Production and distribution of 3 issues of the Westcoast Post magazine

## **Westcoast Training**

*Principal Funders:* Ministry of Children and Family Development, City of Vancouver

With the Grant from the City of Vancouver, Westcoast offered a wide range of training options to child care providers and parents over the course of the year. More than 370 Vancouver parents attended one of 20 Choosing Child Care sessions to learn about child care options and how to identify quality child care. Westcoast staff also presented 4 diversity workshops to 60 staff of Vancouver child and family serving organizations, and provided diversity demonstration teaching sessions involving more than 300 children from 8 Vancouver child care centres. More than 200 child care practitioners participated in 10 other workshops designed to support their efforts to provide quality child care for young children.

With provincial funding, Westcoast delivered 20 workshops to nearly 400 child care providers and parents at conferences and regional gatherings in 14 different BC communities. In addition, Westcoast trainers developed 4 new curriculum packages to support the training efforts of Child Care Resource & Referral programs throughout the province.

Westcoast also provided 18 additional workshops for more than 300 parents and practitioners in 12 different communities on a fee-for-service basis.

## **Vancouver Child Care Resource and Referral (VCCRR)**

*Principal Funder:* Ministry of Children and Family Development

VCCRR Services included neighbourhood-based consultation, support and toy and equipment lending services for family child care providers, workshops and networking opportunities for child care providers and parents alike, as well as registry for license-not-required care providers.

More than 500 care providers and parents participated in any of 36 workshops provided through VCCRR. Introduction to Family Child Care Courses were offered in 5 languages to 120 family child care providers.

VCCRR parent outreach coordinators assisted 2,473 families obtain subsidy information and complete their subsidy applications.

As of March 31, 2007, 110 license-not-required care providers were registered with Vancouver CCRR. Over the course of the year, VCCRR staff made nearly 1,400 home visits to Vancouver family child care providers; caregivers and parents attended more than 360 drop in sessions and networking meetings; and family child care providers made at least 700 visits to borrow from the VCCRR Lending Library.

## **Westcoast Family Information and Referral (FIR)**

*Principal Funder:* Ministry of Children and Family Development, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Foundation and Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Westcoast Family Information and Referral responds to families' inquiries about child care options and child and family support programs in Vancouver. FIR offers information about indicators of quality in child care settings and provides referrals to families seeking child care. FIR maintains an extensive database of approximately 600 licensed and registered child care facilities in Vancouver. In the past year FIR has responded to 7022 calls from Vancouver families. This year the FIR annual fee survey of child care programs transitioned to an online format rather than a mail out. This streamlined process was very successful with over 80% participation rate in the survey.

FIR also provided child care information and referral for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers in the Greater Toronto and Vancouver areas. This contracted service helps families identify suitable summer care for school-aged children and administers the CUPW subsidy for eligible families. The service was expanded this year to include the winter and spring break period in addition to summer care.

## **Westcoast Mobile Lending**

*Principal Funders:* United Way of the Lower Mainland Success by Six, Ministry of Children and Family Development, BC Gaming

Westcoast Mobile Lending is designed to assist parents learn more about child development during the early years and to support their efforts to encourage the healthy physical, cognitive, social and language development of young children. The Mobile Lending Vans bring parenting books and videos as well as child development books, games and specialized learning kits to families in their local communities. Over this past year more than 600 different families with children under the age of 6 borrowed almost 1,700 items from Mobile Lending in the City of Vancouver and other GVRD communities.

## **Safe Spaces: Bullying Prevention for Preschool-aged Children**

*Principal Funders:* Success by Six United Way of the Lower Mainland through National Crime Prevention, Ministry of Children and Family Development

Westcoast's unique bullying prevention program *Safe Spaces* is designed to promote emotional literacy and pro-social attitudes and behaviour amongst preschool-aged children. Preliminary findings from research conducted by UBC indicate that Safe Spaces is effective in helping young children develop emotional literacy, empathy and the language skills that lead to development of prosocial attitudes and behaviours that prevent bullying in later childhood and adolescence. Over the past 5 years Westcoast has trained staff from many programs in communities across BC to implement the Safe Spaces approach in their early childhood settings. Over this past year Safe Spaces training was provided to an additional 275 child care practitioners in 15 BC communities.

## **#1 Kingsway Child Care Centre at the Mt. Pleasant Civic Centre**

*Principal Funder:* City of Vancouver

Westcoast is the operator of the 49 space child care centre at the Mt. Pleasant Civic Centre at #1 Kingsway, currently under construction. The Child Care Centre will provide care for infants, toddlers and children ages 3-5. The Civic Centre, now projected to open in summer of 2008, will house a community centre and library. Market housing located in the Civic Centre will include two specially designed units for licensed family child care. As part of the Mt. Pleasant Child Development Hub, Westcoast coordinates a consortium of neighbourhood agencies that serve children and families including neighbourhood houses, schools, child care programs, family centres and others.

## Accreditation

Westcoast began the process to achieve Accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) in 2005-06 fiscal year. The site visit originally scheduled for February 2007 was postponed due to funding reductions announced by the Ministry of Children and Family Development in January 2007. The work on Accreditation continues and the site visit is now rescheduled for November 2007.

## ECEBC Endowment Fund

In January 2007 Westcoast and ECEBC joined in an agreement to enhance professional development opportunities for Early Childhood Educators in BC. Westcoast and ECEBC are cooperating to develop and implement new ECE and child care professional development and public education activities and tools through the ECEBC Fund, administered by Vancity Community Foundation.

## Child Care Advocacy Forum

Westcoast is a member of the Child Care Advocacy Forum: an alliance of six provincial child care organizations that brings together individuals, groups and child care providers in BC to advance a Common Vision and Agenda for Child Care in BC. In 2006-07 funding was received by Westcoast on behalf of the Forum from Vancity Community Foundation to develop the “Child Care is a Solution” project.

## Westcoast Awards and Gala Dinner

Our annual Westcoast Awards and Gala Dinner was held May 12, 2006 at the Best Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre in Richmond, BC.

These Awards honour individuals or groups who have demonstrated exemplary commitment and passion for young children in British Columbia, and who, through their innovative work and persistence, have gone above and beyond the norm for the benefit of children in their communities.

The Westcoast Kite Award Recipients for 2006 were:

- Heather Northrup, Vancouver, BC (High Flyers)
- Sabine Tanasiuk, Vancouver, BC (Finding the Way)
- Richmond Carefree Society, Richmond, BC (Finding the Way)
- Rob Degros, Victoria, BC (Our Natural World)
- Peter Turje, Communities Plus Architecture Inc., Vancouver, BC (Builders)

We would like to thank our award sponsors for 2006: *Weyerhaeuser* who sponsored Our Natural World Award and *Murray Pontiac Buick GMC* in Abbotsford who sponsored the Finding the Way Award.