

CHILLIWACK RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CHAIR STATEMENT

It is my distinct pleasure as Chair of the Board of Directors to say a few words reflecting on the 2019 – 2020 year. Chilliwack Restorative Justice has successfully operated in the Chilliwack and neighbouring communities for over 20 years. We continue to provide relevant and timely restorative services to the communities of Chilliwack, Hope, Boston Bar and Agassiz.

First and foremost, I need to acknowledge how Covid 19 has impacted our program and more importantly, our staff and volunteers. We are a “people” organization and the challenges that the virus presented us with have caused our staff and volunteers to alter our service delivery while ensuring the safety of both our clients and staff/volunteers. I am extremely impressed how everyone has kept a positive attitude and worked towards altering our service delivery methods to ensure both an effective outcome while maintaining Covid safety protocols. Well done!

The Board has undergone changes again this year and I would like to acknowledge some of these changes. I would like to recognize the service of Mike Straiton and Dan Coulter for their time and dedication to our organization while serving on the board.

Our staff is to be commended for their professionalism and commitment during these trying times. Amanda, our Executive Director and staff Rose, Sara and Rylee have accepted the challenges and are doing an admirable job.

We remain focused on enhancing our community profile through our web page and Facebook. Due to the restrictions imposed upon us by Provincial health orders, we were unable to hold our normal spring and fall bike auction, but our staff were instrumental in offering the bikes for sale via an auction on Facebook. So far this year we have raised approximately \$4700!!

CHAIR STATEMENT CONT'D.

We were fortunate to be provided an opportunity through the United Way to participate in a year long training course that will allow up to formally evaluate our program on an ongoing basis to determine how our program has impacted our clients and if necessary, allow us to make modifications, in pursuit of continual improvements for our organization.

I want to thank our volunteers, including my fellow board members for the countless hours they have provided to ensure our community receives the best service we can provide.

It has been my honour to work on the Board for the past year and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Sincerely,
Jim Simmill



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

In reviewing my report from last year, we were having some stressful times within the agency. However, we were going along with restorative cases and working in Little Mountain Elementary for Classroom Conversations. The new year came, and we returned to Bernard and Central Elementary to continue our work there.

But with the new year came an absolutely unforeseen set of challenges. Our offices shut down in March, and we were uncertain as to when they would reopen. We reopened in mid-May/June, with referrals slowly starting to come in and gaining more momentum around September/October.

During this time, our school program obviously came to an abrupt halt after Spring Break. It's been just this month that we have returned to schools: 2 circles being held at the request of Sardis Elementary's principal and counselor due to classroom issues. We will be finishing this the first week of December. Sara was also invited out to Hope, where we may be seeing interest in the program beginning there.

During this time, we've found that we have other items we can focus on. Sara had the excellent idea to revamp our website, which looks amazing. She is also the driving influence behind our new newsletter as well. Rose's Communities Without Borders idea was a huge success through the Senior's Centre as well. I have begun interviews with other RJ related agencies which have been put up on our YouTube channel. Earlier this month during Restorative Justice Week, I presented the concept of Restorative Justice First (which was shown to you during the 2019 AGM). We have also been in contact with many other agencies in BC and beyond as to how either set up or improve their own programs. It's encouraging to see this interest in RJ outside of our own area, and is an opportune time given the political climate to advance this cause.

I would like to give a special thank you to Edna, Jim, and Sherry for joining me for Project Impact through United Way. We were taught program evaluation methods to improve our programs, and our pilot program was published with the findings of the rest of our 11 cohort members. I am very proud of the work this agency does, and am very happy we can share it with others.

We have also been working on further our training, with all of our training moving to online courses this year. The scope and variety was more than we could have gotten in-person, and happened to come through at just the right time.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The last item to cover for the year is our fundraising. Rose, Sara, Jim, Dick, and Tom have been doing the literal heavy lifting to keep this fundraiser going. We moved the fundraiser online, and have had the best year ever in terms of results. We are currently standing at almost \$5,000 with more to come. This is especially heartening with so many charities of our size, or larger, at risk of shuttering. Nearly a quarter of charities in Canada may not make it out of the pandemic with losses of \$9.5 to \$15.7 billion nationwide in fundraising, memberships, and social enterprise. We have managed to keep our doors open and staff unchanged; this is certainly our goal moving forward.

We are hoping to expand further into our more outlying communities once the world begins to open back up. We will be taking this time to understand how to best serve the citizens of our catchments, to best represent the voices and needs of victims moving forward, and to build the best relationships with our partners and stakeholders as possible including our newest, Oceans and Fisheries.

I am incredibly touched by those who are continuing to help us with our work in the light of all the uncertainty and upheaval, not only in the world but certainly in their own lives. It's a trying time, and the urge to hunker down and wait until it passes is strong, not to mention very human. But as always, you continue to show up, do what needs to be done, and do it well. Thank you for your time and talents. Rose and Sara, this year would have been impossible without you both. Thank you also to my board: those still here and those who have had to leave us. Your guidance and patience have made my job simpler.

I look forward to continuing this most vital work with you all.

Thank you,

Amanda Macpherson
Executive Director

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