

## Report from the President

As the 2007/2008 year winds up and I reflect on all the activities and all of those involved, I feel proud of the work that has been accomplished and I feel excitement about our future as we expand our employee base and services in order to reach even more children and families. Although it was a challenging year at times, through the perseverance of our staff, management and board members we have overcome and moved forward with renewed energy and visions of the future.

We have two devoted Board Members who will be moving forward to other ventures. Deb Huber is very dedicated to her work with the Skills Society and will continue to do so. We could always rely on Deb's unwavering steadiness and professionalism and I know that our paths will continue to cross. We all wish her well. Pat Semeniuk, serving as our Past President, was instrumental in leading us through some challenges in the last year. Her leadership, humour and thoughtful manner will be missed by all and we wish her well as she continues her valuable work with children and education.

In addition to our regular 10 meetings we held two retreats and were joined by Toni Lashbrook and Kelly Sloan who assisted us in moving forward with our mission of 'Strong Families for a Strong Community'.

This past year, we welcomed aboard, Margaret Golberg, as our new Executive Director. Marg brings with her a wealth of education and experience in the area of childcare. She is well known and well connected within this community. To date she has been extremely busy hiring new staff for key positions, locating new funding sources and commencing a new and exciting play school program. We look forward to a long and healthy relationship with our new executive.

One of the Boards goals is to expand its member base. To that note I would like to welcome Heather Kennedy-Plant as our newest member and we thank her for her contributions to date.

As President I would also like to thank my fellow board members for their dedication and loyalty as we experienced our growing pains of the last year. Your efforts will ensure that Community Options continues its valuable work with Children and their Families.

It was our decision this year to hold our Annual General Meeting within the community we serve, in hopes that more families would join us in celebrating the past year and in supporting our vision for the future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank the staff and management of Community Options for their valuable contributions over the past year. We look forward to another year together as we move forward with our new leadership.

Regards

Maureen Whitesell