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COMMUNITY OPTIONS – A SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 26th, 2010 at 6:30p.m.

Inglewood Community Hall

Reception from 5:30pm – 6:30pm

The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall be as follows:

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Introductions - Guest speakers: Doug Elniski, MLA for Edmonton Calder
Glori Meldrum, Founder/Chair, Little Warriors**
- 3. Reading of minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting**
- 4. Reports of Officers and Committees**
- 5. Report of the Nominating Committee**
- 6. Election of the Board of Directors**
- 7. Unfinished Business**
- 8. Appointment of Auditors**
- 9. New Business - Awards to Staff**
- 10. Adjournment**

COMMUNITY OPTIONS – A SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Community Options Auditorium
12345- 121 Street
MAY 27, 2009 6:30PM

(5:30-6:30 PM Reception)

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order, Welcome and Voting procedure:**

President, Maureen Whitesell called the meeting to order at 6:36PM and thanked everyone for attending. President Maureen went over the voting procedures and the cost of a membership- \$1.00 per family if you utilize on our programs and \$5.00 for all others.

2. **Introductions:**

Maureen Whitesell introduced current Board Members- Tom Lee, Sandra Black, Jeanine Alexander, Heather Kennedy-Plant.

Executive Director: Margaret Golberg
Special Guests: Doug Elniski, MLA Edmonton-Calder
Dr. Sue Lynch, University of Alberta
Anne Fitzpatrick, City of Edmonton

Margaret Golberg introduced our Guest speaker- **Dr. Sue Lynch** who spoke on the Early Childhood Development Mapping Project that will be taking place over the next five years.

Maureen Whitesell thanked Dr. Lynch for coming out and speaking on the project and then introduced **Doug Elniski**, MLA for Edmonton-Calder who spoke to the membership about happenings in the Community.

3. **Reading of the Minutes of the May 27, 2008 Annual General Meeting**

Tom Lee reviewed the minutes of May 27, 2008 and then asked for a motion

MOTION: To accept the minutes of May 27, 2008 Annual General Meeting as printed in the Annual Report.

MOVED BY: Sandra Black

SECONDED BY: Maureen Whitesell

VOTE: CARRIED

4. **Reports of Officers and Committees**

4.1 Maureen Whitesell read the President's Report and advised everyone that it was in the Annual Report on Page 5.

4.2 Sandra Black gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report circulated in the Annual Report. Sandra advised that the audited financial statements would be made available upon request.

5. Report from the Nominating Committee

Sandra Black presented the Nominating Committee Report that was circulated in the Annual Report. Sandra read the report and thanked Heidi Oshry and Jeanine Alexander for their contributions and expressed best wishes on behalf of the Board. Sandra advised, and confirmed that the following Board Members have expressed their intent to remain on the board.

Maureen Whitesell Tom Lee Sandra Black Heather Kennedy-Plant

Sandra also highlighted the board’s attempts at recruiting new members, and stated that there are four people willing to let their names stand for election; Lana Buoy, Tom Vandevalk, Brian Leonard and Bridget Conroy. And there are two more hopeful Board Member Candidates that expressed their interest in joining the Board-one of whom is here, Trisha Khan-and we will update everyone as the status changes.

Maureen Whitesell then called for a motion accepting all the reports as presented.

MOTION: That all the reports be accepted as presented.
MOVED BY: Sandra Black **SECONDED BY:** Tom Lee
VOTE: **CARRIED**

6. Election of the Board of Directors

Maureen Whitesell called for a motion to accept the list of Board Members in the Nominating Committee Report.

MOTION: That the proposed slate of board members be accepted as presented.
MOVED BY: Tom Lee **SECONDED BY:** Darby Brewer
VOTE: **CARRIED**

7. Unfinished Business

Tom Lee asked if there was any unfinished business. There was no unfinished business brought forward at this time.

8. Appointment of Auditors

Maureen called for a motion for the appointment of auditors

MOTION: That Darryl Borle, with the firm of Darryl Borle Professional Corporation be appointed as the Society’s Auditor for the 2009 to 2010 fiscal year.
MOVED BY: Sandra Black **SECONDED BY:** Tom Lee
VOTE: **CARRIED**

9. New Business

9.1 Awards to Staff

Maureen Whitesell called upon **Executive Director Margaret Golberg** to present the staff awards. Following the award presentation Margaret thank the staff for all their hard work and dedication to the Society.

9.2 Presentation to Departing Board Members

Maureen Whitesell thanked all the Board Members for their hard work and dedication as well as outgoing Board Member- Jeanine Alexander.

9.3 Presentation to Executive Director

Maureen Whitesell also did a tribute to Margaret Golberg and thanked her for her dedication and accomplishments the past year.

10. Adjournment

Maureen Whitesell called for a motion to adjourn

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM. **MOVED BY:** Sandra Black **SECONDED BY:** Tom Lee
VOTE: **CARRIED**

Mission Statement:

**Community Options is a leader in the provision of inclusive,
quality programs and services.**

Our priority is the well being of children, families and the community.

The Objects under which Community Options is incorporated are:

- To promote Strong Families for a Strong Community.
- To maintain a values-based organization and programs which serve the community with integrity according to standards, policies and an Organizational Code of Ethics.
- To maintain and promote the Society's values-based model of governance, focusing on responsibility and accountability to the community.
- To develop and provide non-profit child and family services as needed in the community through a model that strengthens and supports the role of the family as primary caregiver for the child.
- To provide a high standard of care for children.
- To serve as a model program of the highest standards of group child care in the City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta.
- To provide Inclusive Child Care, and sound educational and therapeutic programs for preschool children with disabilities.
- To ensure that all of the Society's services address the intellectual, social, emotional, and developmental needs of the child.
- To provide options and advocacy to families seeking services for their children.
- To serve as a resource to the child care community and the community at large.
- To serve as a resource for the educational community in the placement and training of students in a variety of disciplines, including Early Childhood Development, child and youth care, rehabilitation services, social sciences and services, education and family studies.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

Maureen Whitesell (Past President)

Maureen joined the board in 2004 and has sat as Secretary, Treasurer and finally as Chair from 2007 to 2009. Maureen's employment history has been in the field of business management and that of supporting children with disabilities in a variety of ways, including involvement with the YWCA of Edmonton for the past 7 years as a Coordinator and a Contractor. She is currently self-employed in this field. Due to her own personal experience in this area, Maureen is a strong advocate and is constantly seeking innovative ways to provide support to children with disabilities in order for them to attain their full potential. She is also the liaison between Community Options and Edmonton Regional Coalition for Inclusive Education (ERC) who has made significant gains towards integration. Maureen believes very strongly in the Mission and Vision of Community Options and is dedicated to completing another term on the Board of Directors along with her valued colleagues.

Tom Lee (President)

Tom served as chair of the Hearts of Blue Charity Committee (Alberta Blue Cross' employee charity committee). He originally got involved with Community Options as a supporter of their Hot Lunch Program at Inglewood School. He is quite passionate about volunteerism. As a father of two young boys, he is especially interested in organizations advocating for children and their family's needs. Currently, Tom is employed with Alberta Health Services as a Systems Analyst. Tom joined the board in 2005.

Trisha Khan (Secretary)

Trisha Khan is a graduate student pursuing her Master's Degree at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. She graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Recreation and Leisure Studies degree in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, and her area of interest is recreation and leisure programming for children and youth. Trisha has worked in municipal recreation for the last 8 years (6 years part-time, 2 years full-time) coordinating, facilitating and supervising various programs for children and youth such as summer day camps, March Break day camps, a Girls Night Out program, Youth Leadership Development Program and Youth Councils. Trisha's thesis research will explore the nature of the relationship between recreation and leisure experiences, and the perceptions of managing the acculturation process of Chinese immigrant youth. She hopes to discover whether or not recreation and leisure has a role to play in managing the challenges of adapting and adjusting to life in Canada. If not, she hopes to learn why not, and what can be changed or implemented to develop recreation and leisure opportunities that will be significant to these youth. If so, Trisha hopes to begin to develop some best practices applicable to developing meaningful programs and experiences not only for Chinese immigrant youth, but also for immigrant youth of other ethnicities. Trisha joined the board in 2009.

Sandra Black (Treasurer)

Sandra is passionate about children and has made a career working with children with disabilities through various roles. She has collaborated with Community Options over the years and came to the Community Options Board while on maternity leave from Services to Children with Disabilities (now FSCD). Sandra strongly believes in the core values, mission and vision of Community Options and is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the team. Sandra joined the board in 2004.

Heather Kennedy-Plant (Member)

Heather is a passionate community and family advocate. She believes that building strong communities is essential and important work along the path towards transforming the social and structural barriers which interfere with the well being of our children, youth, and families. Heather has worked at the University of Alberta as an advisor and administrator since 1999 and currently holds the position of Cooperative Education Coordinator at the U of A School of Business. She formerly held positions with the University's Faculty of Education and with the U of A International Education Abroad Program. In addition to a Bachelor of Arts Sociology degree from the University of Alberta, Heather has a diploma in Child Psychology, Supervisory Development Certification from the School of Business, and is now working towards a Masters Degree in Educational Policy Studies at the U of A. Heather joined Board in 2008.

Lana Buoy (Member)

Lana, has a B.P.E, a degree with emphasis on children and youth with special needs and behavioral challenges. She has over 20 years educational experience that has provided her the blessing of working with diverse groups of children and their families, many of whom experienced traumatic life stresses such as poverty, mental illness, behavioral challenges and abuse. Recently Lana completed a year experience as a treatment facilitator for children and youth at-risk. She has graciously implemented the program she created - A Life in Pieces - into the lives of many of the children and youth she has worked with and has seen and experienced so much success from its process. Along with creating and implementing her program, Lana also presents its philosophy to child-centered institutions, treatment homes/agencies, First Nations and she has expanded the message of A Life in Pieces globally as a presenter at the International Peace Conference 2008 and the Global Youth Assembly 2009. Lana is the author of the book *A Life in Pieces: A Piece -by-Piece Guide to Realizing Harmony in Families, Schools and Communities*, a message promoting lasting peace and healing through the simple act of loving the world's children. A Life in Pieces has opened her life experiences as she has expanded it to death and dying and also into growth for marriages/families. Lana is looking forward to being a part of Community Options Board of Directors and bringing her thoughts and techniques together for the children and their families. Lana joined the board in 2009.

Brian Leonard (Member)

Brian recently retired from his position as a Children's Advocate with Alberta Children's Services. He is interested in dedicating some of his interest in supporting children to being a Board member for Community Options. Brian joined the board in 2009.

Tom Vandevalk (Member)

Tom has been a member of the RCMP for over 20 years and is a Corporal assigned as an Auditor/Analyst to the Canadian Police Information Centre, (CPIC), Field Operations Section, Alberta/N.W.T. He is a proud non-custodial father of a 15 year old daughter and 8 year old son. Thomas's own experience with dealing with ADHD and learning disabilities, and being a father with a child with early speech difficulties, has furthered his belief in children and community. He is looking forward to serving on the Board, to assist in the development of policy that will guide Community Options in the future while building on the strength of the past. Tom joined the board in 2009.

Report from the President 2009-2010

It is with great pleasure as the President of Board of Directors to welcome you to our 33rd Annual General Meeting.

We have proudly served our community for the past thirty three years and within that time our accomplishments have been many. Community Options has evolved and grown from its early years but one thing remains the same. That one key factor that drives our organization is our dedication to serving the needs of our families and our community. Our mission of striving to be a leader in the provision of inclusive, quality programs and services enables us to continually provide the highest quality of services. We understand that great work is never accomplished by an individual or a single entity. It is the collaborated work and efforts of many and this is very evident in Community Options.

This past year was a year of rebirth and change. We were busy in the summer of 2009 with a change of location of Community Options. The relocation of our office had many challenges but it made us more efficient and more visible within our community. Our Positive Learning At Youngstown Program also relocated to the Inglewood Elementary School. Again, this move has been extremely positive for the program in enrollment. The Community Preschool Education Program made positive changes this school year and recognition of those changes can be seen in the families it serves and the staff that supports those families. We also experienced the addition of new Board members with diverse backgrounds and expertise. I look forward to working together with them and strengthening our Board.

As a board we have had twelve regular or special Board meetings along with a fall and spring retreats. The Board made significant efforts in developing a strategic focus and policy governance. We will continue to develop a Strategic Plan for the Society in the upcoming year. We have revised the Community Options' Bylaw to ensure effective organizational structure and to allow balance and flexibility for future changes and growth with strong, comprehensive bylaws. I would like to thank the members of the Board for their countless hours of work and dedication.

In November of 2009, Community Options hosted its first annual Silent Auction on its own to increase our funding raising efforts. The event was a huge success which we hope to continue and build on for years to come. Volunteers, donors and supporters are such a vital part of making this type of event successful and I would like to thank all of you. To effectively and responsibly ensure the financial security of Community Options, the Board adopted a Funding Raising Policy and Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code to the Board Policy.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the Community Options team for your dedication, expertise, energy, strength and for the compassion you show the children and the families that you serve. We could not be the leaders in our field and support and promote "Strong Families for a Strong Community" without you.

Sincerely,

Tom Lee
President

Report from the Treasurer

For the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2009

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the financial results of Community Options – A Society for Children and Families for the year ended December 31, 2009 as reported in the audited financial statements. The audit for 2009 was completed by Darryl Borle Professional Corporation and was stated in his opinion, the financial position and the operations of Community Options – A Society for Children and Families, as of December 31, 2009 was presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Community Options ended the year in an overall operating surplus position of \$102,634 which favours comparably to the prior year position of \$29,518. 2009 was a positive step in generating a surplus, the Society is continuing to take steps to monitor the operating costs of all programs and to search for new sources of funding to help reduce the operating shortfall and to continue to provide the expected services for our programs operated by the Society.

We realize that the Society must still remain on a cost reduction objective in order to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the Society and its objectives.

What follows is a summary report with figures in this report taken from Community Options' Combined Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2009. Our Society operated programs with two separate fiscal year ends: August 31 For Community Preschool Education and December 31 for all other programs.

Funding

Community Options received about 87.26% of its revenues from a variety of government funding. This is primarily Government of Alberta funding for Community Options' two programs for children with disabilities and their families: Community Preschool Education and Early Childhood Options.

Parent fees and fee subsidies provided additional revenues along from the City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services program. Donations and grant monies provide additional support for programs. Program participants, volunteers, Board members and staff took part in a range of fundraising activities during the year. We appreciate their efforts and offer them our sincere thanks.

Revenues	2009	% of gross	2008	% of gross
Government Funding	\$3,185,450	87.26%	\$ 3,187,760	85.81%
Province of Alberta	\$ 2,857,260		\$ 2,921,174	
City of Edmonton FCSS Grant and Fee Subsidies	\$ 295,832		\$ 241,197	
Salary Funding	\$ 27,152		\$ 18,591	
FSCD Fees for Service (Family Supports/Children with	\$ 5,206		\$ 6,798	
Parent Fees	\$ 401,061	10.99%	\$ 385,378	10.37%
Grants, Fundraising, Donations, Fees for Service, Other	\$ 60,455	1.66%	\$ 134,396	3.62%
Interest Income	\$ 3,533	0.09%	\$ 7,440	0.20%
TOTAL Gross Revenue	\$3,650,499	100%	\$ 3,714,964	100 %
TOTAL Net Revenue	\$3,650,499		\$ 3,794,964	

The majority of expenditures were for the provision of programs for children and their families. The remainder is for rental and maintenance of facilities.

Expenses	2008	% of gross	2008	% of gross
Program Provision	\$ 3,238,219	91.54%	\$ 3,386,532	92.15%
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,340,245		\$ 2,335,967	
Program funding	\$ 814,536		\$ 950,525	
Program supplies	\$ 77,731		\$ 83,110	
Program and Parent Services	\$ 4,009		\$ 1,448	
Program Activities	\$ 1,698		\$ 7,741	
Facility/Operations (Rent, Repairs, Utilities, Janitorial, Insurance)	\$ 157,917	4.46%	\$ 171,533	4.67%
Other (Office, staff & Board training & expenses, Professional Fees,	\$ 141,254	4.00%	\$ 117,044	3.18%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,537,390	100%	\$ 3,675,109	100%

COMBINED FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2009

Assets	2009	2008
Current		
Cash and Term Deposits	\$ 64,062	\$ 118,203
Accounts Receivable	\$ 84,864	\$ 86,383
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 4,200	\$ 14,000
Subtotal	\$ 153,126	\$ 218,586
Capital Assets	\$ 36,291	\$ 51,995
Total Assets	\$ 189,417	\$ 270,581
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts Payable	\$ 127,838	\$ 211,6555
Deferred grants	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Deferred Revenue	\$ 73,152	\$ 166,405
Subtotal	\$ 200,990	\$ 379,5604
Deferred Contributions related to Capital Assets	\$ 19,649	\$ 24,879
Total Liabilities	\$ 220,639	\$ 404,439
Net Assets		
Net assets invested in capital assets	\$ 16,641	\$ 27,116
Net assets restricted for government purposes	\$ 2,293	\$ 6,923
Endowment Fund	\$ 11,242	\$ 11,242
Unrestricted net assets(deficit)	\$ (61,398)	\$ (179,139)
Total Net Assets	\$ (31,222)	\$ (133,858)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$189,417	\$270,581

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Black, Treasurer

Report from the Executive Director

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Golberg, Executive Director

The year of May 2009 to May 2010 has been a time of rejuvenation for Community Options. All of our programs have grown in capacity to serve children and families.

In September 2009, we moved our new playschool program from the Youngstown neighborhood to Inglewood School. This has been a very positive move. It has furthered our partnership with Inglewood School and Community League, given greater access to the program for more children and families and has facilitated strong collaboration between the 3 programs that are now housed in the Inglewood Neighborhood.

FCSS funding enabled us to provide the preschool program at minimum cost to families, enabled the provision of family supports in our child care program and facilitated volunteers through the position of Director of Resources and Volunteers.

We were very proud to have 2 staff named as finalists for the Alberta Child Care Professional awards of 2010. Congratulations go to Jiaman You at Edmonton Northwest child Care and Andre Davis at Edmonton Northwest Out of School Care.

Generous donations from Churchill Retirement Community, Cosmopolitan Club, Daughters of the Nile, BMO Foundation and individual donors were received, to support nutrition needs of low income children attending Inglewood School. We truly appreciate this recognition of the needs of young children for healthy food to support healthy development. Through this funding, we can provide food for any child in the school: children who come to school hungry are sent to our out of school care program to get breakfast, lunch or a snack as needed.

Donations from individual donors supported our application and receipt of a Community Spirit Grant of \$7991 in April 2010.

Alberta Education funding is based on the needs of the individual children we serve in our Community Preschool Education program. We appreciate this funding from Alberta Education which helps build the foundations of success for the children and families served in this program. This program has grown significantly in numbers of children and families served during the 2009-2010 school year. Services to families were expanded and staff were provided more focused in house training.

The Board of Directors should be commended for their commitment to our organization and the future of our community. During this past year they have accomplished so much. A new personnel policy was approved, they participated in training in roles and responsibilities, they began work on a new strategic plan and they revised the bylaws. Their work as volunteers has been invaluable in keeping the agency focused on the vision of "Strong Families for a Strong Community".

Our big priority of last year was to find a new office space for our agency. In July of 2009, we moved to our new location which though smaller is so much brighter and inviting than the previous location. It accommodates the work we do just perfectly and we are happy to be at #200, 15824 -131 Ave.

*Let us not be blind to our differences,
But let us also direct our attention
To our common interests...
In the final analysis,
Our most basic common like
Is that we inhabit the same planet,
We breathe the same air,
We all cherish our children's future.*

John F Kennedy (1917-1963)



We cherish our children's future through respecting the uniqueness of each child, the strength of families and the professional knowledge of all our staff. Thanks to each of our staff who direct their work toward a better world for children and families.

**Margaret Golberg,
Executive Director**

Years of Service Awards 2010

Thank you to our dedicated team. Without your skills, spirit and compassion Community Options could not provide the high quality child care, family support and educational services we are known for to families and communities across Edmonton Region.

1 Year

<i>Ann Cherie Korbut</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Shelly Maposah</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Adrian Merrick</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Cathy Monsson</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Tamara Chanski</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Harbin Sangha</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Rachelle Viray</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Chandima Semasinghe</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Cara Lynn Landreth</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Aatifa Shiviji</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Jill Vandertas</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Marina Storey</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Brandi Hewitt</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Cory Vande Cappelle</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Kelly Penner</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Kymerly Varro</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Danielle Brousseau</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Laura Wall</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Olivia Clarke</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Tyler Wetter</i>	<i>EA</i>
<i>Chris Moo-Young</i>	<i>CPE</i>	<i>Chandra Smith</i>	<i>OOSC</i>
<i>Ashley Rose</i>	<i>CPE</i>		
<i>Emma Zacharias</i>	<i>CPE</i>		
<i>Pamela Acheson</i>	<i>CPE</i>		
<i>Lynn Peden</i>	<i>CPE</i>		
<i>Maria Boonstra</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Heidi Brett</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Deanna Brooks</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Lasha Campbell</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Candis Chambers</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Jane Dunbar</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Terran Dymichkowsky</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Milva Duodu Sarpong</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Soad Elbenhawy</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Sandy Friesen</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Eric Giang</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Michelle Hardy</i>	<i>EA</i>		
<i>Rashmi Kirkie</i>	<i>EA</i>		
		<u>3 Years</u>	
		<i>Andrea Kwasnycia</i>	<i>EA</i>
		<i>Holly Reeve</i>	<i>CPE</i>
		<i>Donna Sledz</i>	<i>CPE</i>
		<u>5 Years</u>	
		<i>Nicole Parent</i>	<i>EA</i>
		<i>Monica Wetzstein</i>	<i>EA</i>
		<u>8 Years</u>	
		<i>Rukshana Juma</i>	<i>CPE</i>
		<i>Sandra Sookermany</i>	<i>DC</i>
		<i>Rolf Wagner</i>	<i>DC</i>
		<u>10 Years</u>	
		<i>Barbara Wolff</i>	<i>DC</i>

ADM	Administration
CPE	Community Preschool Education
DC	Edmonton Northwest Daycare
EA	Educational Assistant- CPE Program
OOSC	Edmonton Northwest Out Of School Care

Nominating Committee Report May 16, 2010

Currently there are eight Board members and eight potential Members. There will be three members remaining and seven openings for June 1, 2010.

Maureen Whitesell (Past President) completes her **third term** May 31, 2010. **Tom Lee** (President) is in his **third term** that continues until May 31, 2011. **Sandra Black** (Treasurer) completes her **third term** May 31, 2010. **Heather Kennedy-Plant** completes her **first term** May 31, 2010. **Trisha Khan** (Secretary), **Brian Leonard**, **Tom Vandervalk**, and **Lana Buoy**, are in there **first term** to be completed May 31, 2011; with the exception of **Trisha** and **Lana** who are leaving to pursue their careers.

We are pleased to announce that the following people are potential members or have agreed to let their names stand for election, Jim Want, Larissa Russell, Ameer Barber, Jose Sanchez, Haidong Liang, Doug Russell, Camille Dube and Min Yao.

At this time the remaining Board members will be Tom Lee, Brian Leonard and Tom Vandervalk.

Sandra Black
Treasurer

Thank you to all our Silent Auction Donors-November 2009

Parlee McLaws Barristers & Solicitors
George Plant
Tom Lee
Liliana's Boutique
Maureen Whitesell
Trisha Khan
Jerry Xing
Hole's Greenhouses
Gail Fergusson
Sandy Cross
Tailz Services Inc
Patricia Khan
Marianne Blassman
Royal Alberta Museum
Snow Valley
Avanti Salon Spa
City Of Edmonton Community Services Dept.
Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
ENCON
Laugh Shop Comedy Club
Darryl Borle
Telus World of Science
Minister Janis Tarchuk
Golden Bears
Minister Lindsay Blackett
Mayor Stephen Mandel
Cookies By George
Java Jive Coffee Factory
M & M Meatshops
St. Albert Goldsmith
Klondike Cycle & Sports
Benefex Consulting
Elizabeth Golberg
Tony Roma's
Modern Urban Designers Hair & Body Studio
Auto & Nostalgia Art
Marvel College
Councillor Linda Sloan
Councillor Karen Leibovici
Education Station-Northside

Servus Credit Union, Inglecroft
Jamie Platz YMCA
Edmonton International Raceway
New Asian Village Restaurant
Coiffure 2000 Hair Salon
Boston Pizza-WEM
Jubilations
Muscle Matters
Ilona Cardinal
Schanks
Sears Kingsway Hair Studio
McBain Camera
Boston Pizza- Kingsway
The Lingnan
Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation
The Citadel Theatre
Purdy's Chocolates
Melanie Tkachuk
Earl's-Bourbon Street WEM
Carol VanDerVeldf
CPE Staff
Day Care Staff
Carrie'L Salon & Spa
Beverly Dairy Queen
Earl's-Calgary Trail
Lucy & Roy Mah
Ricci Hair Company
Deb Huber
Peggy Wenzel
Karen Parry
Donna Worthington
United Cycle
Elephant and Castle Pub & Restaurant
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Theatre Network
Lux Steak House
Heather Kennedy-Plant
The Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel
Executive Royal Inn-North Calgary
Bill Gilroy-Lone Pine Publishing

Thank You To All Donors Who Donated To The Lois Bredo Memorial Library

Burgess Bredo Architect Ltd

Janice Snyder

Thank You To All Our Donors

Cosmopolitan Club of Edmonton
Margaret Golberg
124th Street Drop In Association
Karen Baretta
BMO Fountain of Hope-Alberta/NWT
Heather Kennedy-Plant
Pretty Mean Stampers
Marjorie Cooper
Heather Innes & Lyle Markovich
Maureen Whitesell
Public Service Alliance of Canada-Human
Rights Committee

Rona-West Edmonton
Walmart-Edmonton West
Churchill Retirement Community Chapel
Ellen Bruseker
Prairie Dustyhorn
Debbie Wald
Rarder & Kultar Roy
Greg Brentnall
Intuit Canada
Bill Gilroy-Lone Pine Publishing
Home Depot-Westmount Shopping Centre

Community Options 2010 Annual General Meeting Door Prize Donors

Heather Kennedy-Plant
Cheryl Brewer
Bill Gilroy-Lone Pine Publishing

Edmonton Northwest Preschool Annual Report 2009-2010

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Wood, Program Director

Our Philosophy:

We believe that children's programs should provide *experiences* that foster each child's growth and development as a total human being. We address enhancement of skills in all areas of development - social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional. Programs should create an environment that helps a child establish wholesome patterns for feeling and behaving.

Children learn best by doing, seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling the objects, people and events in their environment. Children learn firsthand about the world they live in. We believe that each child learns a positive sense of him/her and others by supporting the development of friendships, problem solving skills and opportunities for self-awareness and self-expression.

Our teachers are learners alongside the children. We provide materials and time for the children to explore, while documenting the children's learning for them to revisit and for parents to see. Our teachers will spend a great deal of time observing the children and recording their conversations and interactions. We will use this information to plan small group projects with the children and continue documenting the process as ongoing learning takes place.

The environment is the third teacher; therefore we spend a great deal of time and put a lot of thought into setting up our room. As the year passes we will be making changes as the needs of the children change.

We also follow the Community Options inclusive philosophy, which allows the opportunity for all children to participate to their full potential in the program, regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin, family status, or physical or developmental ability.

Edmonton Northwest Preschool is finishing up its first year in its new location at Inglewood School. We share space with the younger portion of the Edmonton Northwest Out of School Care. It's been a great partnership and we are happy for the shared resources and support!

We run two classes, a morning class from 9:00 – 11:15 and an afternoon class from 1:00 – 3:15, four days a week for children 3 and 4 years of age. Staff members include Chandra, Bernice and Deborah.

I, Deborah Wood came to the program February 1st. I have been focusing on helping the children develop their individual and group conflict resolution skills. They are doing very well and sometimes amaze me with their abilities to resolve their own conflicts. Sometimes they forget everything they have learned and problems get solved in the traditional, more physical way. Still, when we consider that the people of Planet Earth have had access to alternative means of resolving conflict and many continue to use violence, I think we're doing pretty well.

We continue to work on developing an emergent program based on the interests of the children and inspired by the early childhood programs in the Italian region of Reggio Emilia. One of the key people behind the Reggio programming, Loris Malaguzzi, believed that 'children are self-motivated learners actively seeking to understand the complex world in which they live. Children learn best by construction rather than instruction. Children need many opportunities for hands-on, multi-sensory experiences and children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves. Learning should make sense from the child's point of view.' Our program is inspired by this philosophy and hopes to incorporate ideas from Reggio as we go. From attending workshops, we have learned that it will take years to fully implement a Reggio Emilia program; however, we will continue to work in that direction.

We have 40 children enrolled, including two children who attend with support staff from other programs and a total of four children who have been assessed as having special needs.

We are developing prop boxes in an attempt to help us respond more quickly to the ever changing interests of the children. So far we have programmed around the Hair Salon, Camping, Jail, Dinosaurs, Hospitals and Doctors, Bugs and Swamps as well as focusing on increasing our “emotions” vocabulary and doing some additional work on helping children cope with divorce. A lot of energy has gone into developing a song and finger-play file. The children continue to play extensively with the blocks and we would hope to be able to purchase more in the upcoming year. We have implemented a cooking program for the children which we hope to build on for next year.

Deborah Wood
Program Director,
Edmonton Northwest Preschool

Deborah has been working on getting the preschool kids to understand and describe their emotions.

When Malachi’s Mom picked him up one day, she asked him how his day went. He said: “Well, I had a good day and I had a bad day. In the morning at daycare, I felt frustrated because my friend wouldn’t play with me. In the afternoon at preschool, I felt angry because my friend stole my toy, but then he said he was sorry, so I was satisfied. And now I feel disappointed because I am very, very hungry.”



Edmonton Northwest Out of School Care Annual Report 2009-2010

Respectfully submitted by Andre Davis, Program Director

Children served in 2009: 44

Our Program's Philosophy

We believe that children's programs should provide experiences that foster each child's growth and development. We believe that children's programs should create an environment where friendships are encouraged and each child learns a positive sense of him/herself.

The philosophy of our program is that children learn best when they have a stimulating environment, where they are able to be creative and make decisions. The staff plans activities on a weekly basis as well as having a variety of activity centers available for the children to choose from. The children's time is scheduled for them at school, so here we give them many opportunities to decide how they want to spend their time. For example, children may choose between indoor and outdoor play, planned activities or centers, group activities or time by themselves. When school age children are able to make these types of decisions, they learn to take responsibility for the choices they make.

The Out of School Care follows the Society's inclusionary philosophy, which allows the opportunity for all children to participate to their full potential in the program, regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin, family status, or physical or developmental ability.

Our Program

Edmonton Northwest Out of School Care (OOSC) is located in Inglewood Elementary School in Rooms 9 and 11. This past year has been exciting to say the least. In September 2009 we expanded into two rooms. Our license was for 20 children, now it allows us to serve 40 children. We have school children aged 5-12 years.

In August we all began the huge task of setting up our second room. This included first emptying the school storage room. It was a lot of work but we did it.

We are happily sharing Room 11 with EDMONTON NORTHWEST PRESCHOOL. The staff and especially the children work collaboratively to make sure both programs are successful.

Our Accreditation process started several months ago and will be an ongoing process. This process involves meeting five quality standards which include:

- Respectful relationships between children, staff, families and the community to support positive outcomes for children.
- Programming demonstrating a framework of activities by accommodating planned and spontaneous experiences.
- Activities are offered in an inclusive environment through opportunities and choices.
- The physical environment provides children with opportunities to explore new interests and physical activities in a safe and supportive setting.
- The administrative structure supports quality program delivery.

The children are more involved in the day to day running of the OOSC. For Example: This past summer and spring we had to hire new staff. The children read over the resumes that were sent in and put a happy face on the ones they liked. Those individuals were interviewed and a few were hired.

The OOSC children made the centerpieces for the annual Festive Meal, helped out at the garage sale and ran the concession stand. Recently, they had their own Lemonade Stand. Proceeds from the concession stand and the lemonade stand will be used towards the cost of summer field trips.

Summer Programming

Summer 2009 was very busy. The children raised money themselves for summer activities by having three lemonade stands and cashing in our pop and juice containers We took part in many festivals and went a number of field trips:

Capital Ex. Parade

Edmonton Queen Riverboat for a boat ride

Muttart Conservatory

Tour of TELUS baseball field and club

John Janzen Nature Center

Edmonton Zoo

Coronation Pool

Kinsmen Sports Center

Edmonton Fringe and KIDS FRINGE

Legislative Grounds for picnics and swim

Swimming at City Hall wading pool

Street Performers Festival

A movie at the downtown Empire Theatre

Emily Murphy Park for a hot dog roast

Visits to the Downtown Library and Woodcroft Library

Woodcroft Library for a video game demonstration

Woodcroft Library also came to the center for a reading session with the children

Westmount Splash Park

Hawrelak Park for fun day and

Tobogganing Field Trips

Donations

We received a generous donation from the WESTMOUNT HOME DEPOT. Each child had their own HOME DEPOT apron, a bird house kit, a bookend kit and a race track kit. We were also given a tool box filled with all sorts of child appropriate tools and safety goggles. We all spent many hours building.

Rona Home and Garden gave us a \$100.00 gift card. The children used this to purchase items for our go-kart/soap box racer which they built.

The Edmonton Queen River Boat gave us a ride on their boat and only charged the minimal fee for staff and children.

Empire Theatres donated movie tickets to all the children. We used them in August and enjoyed a movie at the downtown location.

Volunteers

Candace, Jared's Mom is our Thursday volunteer .Candace has painted many faces, applied many temporary tattoos and played many songs on her guitar. Thank you Candace!

Ellen, Elizabeth's Mom helped with the Silent Auction, Festive Meal and Garage sale. Thank you Ellen!

Staff

Andre Davis Director, Ashley Smith Assistant Director. Ashley left in October to have a baby. Chandra Smith is now the Assistant Director.

There has also been a couple of staff doing a one-one position for a child who receives special funding.

In July and August 2009 we received a Canada Summer Job Grant. We hired Andrea Sumner for that position, which brought our staff numbers to four.

Congratulations to Andre Davis who was selected as a finalist in the Alberta Child Care Professional Awards of Excellence 2010.

All staff attended the annual Child Care Conference at Grant MacEwan in March 2010.

Other workshops/conferences/groups etc. staffs have attended in the past year include:

ARCQE Accreditation Workshop

Annual AUTISM Workshop

The Reggio Emilia Workshop

Safe and Caring Committee

CAFRA-Childcare Association for Administrators

Volunteered at Inglewood School for KIDS ON TRACK, plus helping out at school functions such as Sports Day, Winter Fun Day

Inglewood School

Our relationship with Inglewood Elementary School continues to be positive and is stronger than ever. The OOSC has access to the school gym on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, all summer and on rainy or cold days.

A big thanks is due to Mrs. Gordey who nominated Andre Davis for the Alberta Child Care Professional Awards of Excellence and has positively promoted our program to school parents and the community.

Looking Forward

We continue to support the families in our care while building strong relationships within the community. The many changes we all faced this year were a learning experience and at times a challenge. This year new challenges are already upon us. For instance we are hoping to raise enough money to have both rooms painted.

We are looking forward to another fun filled year at Edmonton Northwest Out of School Care.

**Andre Davis,
Program Director,
Edmonton Northwest Out of School Care**

We have two siblings (a girl aged 9 and a boy age 5) that attend OOŞC who dyed their hair pink and participated in this year's Hair Massacure Event. They went to the neighborhood mall, shaved off all their pink hair and donated it in order to make wigs for children battling cancer. They also raised almost \$1000.00 in pledges!

After the Hair Massacure Event, a few of their friends in OOŞC asked us if they could sell some items and donate the proceeds in support of their now "bald" friends. With encouragement from the staff, they set up a store on the corner of the block and sold cookies, candies, juice, bananas and apples. Prices ranged from five cents to twenty cents.

Before we knew it, two older children walked up and down the school hallway and started advertising the fundraiser! Because it was on a Thursday and school has early dismissal, they waited until 2:00pm to catch some of the parents and other students as they were leaving. Even many children who do not even attend OOŞC came down and bought some stuff.

A father of one of the students gave a \$5.00 donation. The unselfish efforts of our children brought tears to this man's eyes. His son noticed how emotional this made his Dad and so he asked him why? Dad said, "I think you have good friends", and then told his son he was very proud of him.

The sale lasted for about 90 minutes and in that short time, the children raised almost \$19.00!

Three years prior to this amazing support from a group of caring friends, the siblings who dyed their hair for the cause did so for their brother, who sadly, lost his battle with cancer.



Edmonton Northwest Child Care Annual Report 2009-2010

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Rickett, Program Director

Staff Hours worked: 17,778
Children's Hours attended are: 79,871
Families receiving subsidy (average): 18

Re-Accreditation:

Our Program was re-accredited through the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services in March 2009. We have been working on specific goals that were outlined in our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and set some additional goals for 2010.

Quality Enhancement Funding

We were able to purchase some new toys, equipment, and materials with the Quality Funding Grant (\$7500.00) from the Alberta Child Care Accreditation Funding Program. A new computer was bought for staff to use for program planning.

Professional Development Funding

Our staff has used their annual Professional Development Funding Grants from the Government to attend Professional Development courses, workshops, and childcare conferences. In addition to that our Daycare cook has renewed her Food Safety Level 1 and 2.

Building Maintenance

Our Daycare had new windows installed at the beginning of the year. Our yard has also been re-graded in 2009. Some additional renovations have been completed inside of the Daycare (some of the lofts have been removed, linoleum has been added, some of the walls have been painted). In addition to that the floors have been waxed and the rugs have been professionally cleaned. A new metal shed has been built in the back yard of our Daycare Centre to replace the old one that was broken.

Enrollment

Our Daycare Centre has been full throughout the entire year. We continue to have a long waiting list, mostly for infant and toddler spaces.

Staffing

We had to say Goodbye to some of our staff in 2009 and several new staff members have been hired throughout the year. Our Daycare staff consistently strives to provide high quality care to the children and families at our Centre through weekly staff meetings, planning meetings, workshops, conferences, and advocacy meetings. Three students from the Early Learning and Care Program at Grant MacEwan University have completed their practicum at our Daycare Centre in 2009. We also employed three summer students through CSJ (Canada Summer Jobs) and S.T.E.P. (Summer Temporary Employment Program) offered by the Government of Alberta.

Fieldtrips and Parent Functions

We were able to take the children on many exciting fieldtrips throughout the year, such as Valley Zoo, Fort Edmonton Park, Hawrelak Park, Coronation Park, Woodcroft Library, Muttart Conservatory, and Telus World of Science. The children also went to many places in the nearby community. Parents, children, and staff attended several functions (Family Picnic, Fall Party, Festive Dinner) in 2009. Our Fundraising Events (Book Sale, Silent Auction) were successful and helped to raise money for the Community Options Programs.

Reggio Emilia

We have continued to incorporate the Reggio Emilia philosophy into our Daycare planning and programming. Many natural (and neutral colored) materials, shelves, bins, and toys have been purchased and added to our play rooms. The teachers have implemented new ideas from the Reggio Emilia workshops that they have attended.

Seeds of Empathy

Once again we had the opportunity to participate in the *Seeds of Empathy* Program at our Daycare Centre. Some of our staff members in the Lower Room have been trained as SOE Literacy Coaches and SOE Family Guides.

**Kathy Rickett,
Program Director
Northwest Edmonton Daycare**

Shortly after the Sunshine Room teachers had planned an exciting "Princess Party" for one of the summer activities at our Daycare Centre, one of the Kindergarten children in the Lower Room left the following note on the desk at the Daycare office.

We all thought this was very cute, especially because this young girl put so much effort into spelling and printing her "special note".

Dear Kathy
PLEASE WAIT FOR US
TO COME BACK
FROM MONTAGN
FOR THE PRINCESS
PARTY-
♡ ELIZABETH

Community Preschool Education Annual Report 2009-2010

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Brewer, Director of Programming

Over the past year, Community Preschool Education (CPE) has changed some key work practices to ensure best services are being provided to children and families. The new performance focus, in combination with a new location has produced a fantastic working environment where the staff has exceeded expectation.

Financials

Holly Reeve (Family Manager) and I have been working hard to increase community connections and improve access to our program. In spite of inoperable telephones/fax for part of July/August, and confusion over closure of the Inclusive Child Care program, CPE is thriving with record breaking intakes and a reputation as a leader in Early Intervention. Intakes have increased by 102% for September start resulting in an extra \$325 000.00 available to the budget. Our application this year was based on an enrolment of 96 children with Program Unit Funding, ECS Funding, Transportation Grants, AISI, and Basic Instruction totalling \$2 652 829.00 Alberta Education Revenue. We based our budget on 92 children \$2 498 341.37 and will be under budget at this year's end. This is a difference of approximately \$1 050 000.00 in available funds compared to 2008/09 school year. In addition, higher intakes in September will increase AISI (in-house professional development funds) for 2010-2011. We utilized Scholastic Books for purchasing holiday gifts and therapy books. We have earned \$500.00 in free merchandise this year. We were able to Update our server, computers, and telephone system, as well as, purchase many supplies and testing kits for therapy use.

Staff

Currently we have 6 Teachers, 8 Speech Language Pathologists, 4 Speech Language Pathologist Assistants, 5 Occupational Therapists, 1 Physical Therapist, 4 Family Workers, 6 Administrative, and 69 Educational Assistants. Our focus is on the child and the family. Our families are more complex than in prior years. I found it necessary to hire social and mental health workers to help alleviate the case loads and to assist in the office managing of our Educational Assistants. The office is set-up wonderfully for off-site programs and is working great. All our resources, including the Lois Bredo library, have been catalogued.

Training

In keeping with the mandate of educating and supporting our front-line staff we had a full-staff Orientation Day, 2 Educational Assistant Conferences, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training, and Child First Aid Training. Our certified staff attended a number of therapy specific professional development conferences in addition to our own 2-day Behaviour PD and the Autism Conference. The feedback from staff has been positive and they are looking forward to next year's conferences.

Trends

In the industry: Edmonton Public School Board and Edmonton Catholic Schools are providing programming in some preschools and daycares this year, increasing the competition for off school-site services.

As a result, we have heavily marketed our program this year. Marjorie Cooper has been busy marketing at a variety of events and I have created newsletters and mini-promotional packages for a variety of venues. I, also, presented at the Literacy Day conference and Child Care Conference which gave us the opportunity to promote CPE to a wider audience. I will be sitting on the Early Learning Leaders Caucus (ELLC) for Alberta Region with Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association and Alberta Child Care Association beginning late 2010 to keep-up with changes in Alberta.

Comment

It has been a challenging but rewarding year as CPE staff comes together as a cohesive unit ensuring integrity of the program and its goals through resources and training. I am proud of the accomplishments the CPE staff has achieved in such a short time. There is a strong sense of team work and pride on our collective focus on the **child**.

**Cheryl Brewer,
Director of Programming,
Community Preschool Education**

Child's First Bite...At Three Years Old

We have a wonderful young girl attending our program that is blind and globally delayed. Born to a young Mom, she had feeding and swallowing issues that further complicated her diagnosis and consequent growth. She was always unable to eat the same foods as her friends. With the help and support of our lead Occupational Therapist and Educational Assistant, she was able to take her inclusive first bite at daycare. All the kids cheered as they witnessed her chew for the first time due to the OT's commitment to ensure this little girl was included in all activities at the daycare. It was a monumental experience that brought our team to tears.



Volunteer Development Program Report 2009-2010

Respectfully submitted by Marjorie Cooper, Director of Resource Development & Volunteers

Volunteers are vital and valuable to achieve:

Program Vision: “STRONG FAMILIES FOR A STRONG COMMUNITY”

Community Options is a leader in the provision of inclusive, quality programs and services. Our priority is the well being of children, families and the Community. This can only be achieved with the help and support of volunteers. We believe voluntarism is inherently valuable in that it allows us, as citizens, to contribute directly to our community, which in turn is linked to positive outcomes for individual volunteers.

In 2009 Community Options had 125 Volunteers with a total of 2141.50 hours. (According to the guidelines from the Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Program our volunteer contribution in monetary value was a savings to the agency of \$45,375).

A big bouquet of thanks goes out to all the Board Members, Parents, Staff and Community Members who took the time to volunteer. We would especially like to thank Intuit Canada, Globex Foreign Exchange Corporation, Public Service Alliance of Canada-Edmonton Human Rights Committee and YOUCAN-Edmonton for providing volunteers for our different events and in our childcare programs.

The big events held in 2009 were the Silent Auction in November which we raised \$6800 for our children’s programs and our annual Festive Meal in December where we served 400 people a traditional turkey dinner.

Two new initiatives we have done so far in 2010 and were very successful- in March we held six “Make Tax Time Pay Clinics” for Low Income Individuals and Families in our programs and members of the Community. With the help of 15 volunteers we did taxes for 90 Clients. We would like to extend our thanks to Revenue Canada’s Community Volunteer Income Tax Program and E4C for the training we received and Inglewood Elementary School for providing us space and computers to use.

In April we held a Garage Sale/Clothing Exchange and Raffle. With the help of 15 volunteers we raised a total of \$1970.32 at the garage sale and with the raffle we raised \$1475.50. Items left over from the garage sale were given to another organization called “Basically Babies” as they were doing a garage sale at the end of April and were happy to receive all the donations left over.

Again thank you to all our volunteers for making a difference in the lives of our children and their families.

Marjorie Cooper
Director of Resource Development & Volunteers

*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart-*

~Elizabeth Andrew~