

... gather, grow, and build a spirit of community

2019 - 2020 Annual Report

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City of Surrey, Peace Arch Hospital Foundation, Province of BC - Community Gaming Grants, Ministry of Children & Family Development, Government of Canada – Service Canada, United Way Lower Mainland, Vancouver Foundation, Soroptomist International of White Rock, Taking it Global

In 2019-2020 ...

Alexandra Neighbourhood House

- engaged 81 children at one of the Province of BC's Universal Childcare Prototypes at Kensington Prairie Children's Centre
- had 72 children participate in early learning activities at our Crescent Beach Children's Centre, benefiting from daily outdoor play at the beach
- offered UWLM School's Out Programs in 3 Cloverdale schools and Katzie Elementary in Clayton Heights
- connected more than 50 youth leaders with the Youth Space project. Hundreds of youth have now lead and participated in cultural family dinners, the OG Queer Prom, wellness workshops and social gatherings! *(Supported by Peace Arch Hospital Foundation and City of Surrey)*
- guided the LOVE Community Response Network for Queer older adults
- worked with 20+ youth participants to build their employment skills at the Skills Link KRU program
- hosted 42 community engagement sessions
- engaged 325 older adult participants in community meals and activities
- enjoyed the contributions of 250+ volunteers, who contributed 3,629 volunteer hours

1,450 participants engaged with Alexandra Neighbourhood House, with 600 new community members participating in neighbourhood house activities in 2019-2020!



ALEXANDRA neighbourhood HOUSE 2019 -2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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*We acknowledge the financial support of the
Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada.*



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2019-2020

*...what resonates for me today
is the importance of difference...*

As I reflect on the past year I am reminded of a quote that a colleague shared with me as I began my journey into Neighbourhood House work:

'It is not a case of one set of people giving something that another set receives; it is a pooling by all of us of the best we know how to share. It is a living and sharing of life.'

Anonymous circa 1890

While the origin of the quote remains unknown, what resonates for me today is the importance of difference. The idea that we are strengthened by our differences, instead of weakened, and that regardless of one's place in society, we are all seen as contributors in the Neighbourhood House movement.

As a learning organization we recognize the importance of understanding where we have come from,



and like the rest of Canada we know we have not always been on the right side of history. Over the past few years our Community Board and Alex NH Team has committed to looking at our work in light of Truth and Reconciliation, and our role in the oppression of Indigenous people. As neighbourhood houses we are grounded in the settlement movement, which in Canada was anchored on colonizing principles. We must do the hard work of learning our own history and understanding how we continue to benefit from colonization, while working towards decolonizing our practices. Only by doing this work, and making the necessary changes, will we truly be able to walk side by side with our Indigenous neighbours.

*...like the rest of Canada we know
we have not always been on the right side of history...*

We are still early in our learning, and look forward to working with you, our neighbours, to contribute to a 'vibrant, inclusive, and caring community'. We hope you will join us as we bring an anti-racism lens to our work, embedding an anti-racist approach in everything we do.

We ended the past year with learnings and insight that will guide us in our work with our community. Today, and always, we stand in solidarity with those that are fighting for their rights, and the rights of others.

Coupled with the emergent needs stemming from a global pandemic, we work to understand the gaps and opportunities that come with a new way of being.

We look forward to connecting with you as we all navigate a post-Covid world.

Respectfully,

Penny Bradley, Executive Director
Laurel Tien, Community Board Chair

*We acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional occupied,
ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish Peoples;
locally the Semiahmoo First Nation.*



Thank you to our Alexandra Neighbourhood House Community Board members who are continuing their journey with us:

- Kate Hammer
- Holly Kovach
- Kiko Kung
- Derek Lacroix - Treasurer
- Jennifer Moule
- Rableen Nagra – ANHBC Rep
- Adam Vollet

Thank you to Cheri Monteith and Navneet Suhi for their contributions over the past term!

And a big thank you to Laurel Tien, Chair/ANHBC Rep and Annika Lofstrand for their considerable contributions to our community over the past six years - we have grown with their leadership and support.

We are grateful for the insight and wisdom that our Community Board members bring to Alex House.

*Today, and always, we stand
in solidarity with those
that are fighting for their rights,*