



Transforming Trauma Into Hope  
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**Annual General Report  
2014 - 2015**

Presented at the AGM  
September 23, 2015



# History and Mission

The roots of ACT 2 go all the way back to 1980 when our two founders, Vi Rodin and Charmaine Atkinson, who were working for another social services Agency at the time, identified a need for specialized services for individuals involved with the correctional system, both in the system and as they moved back to the community. They also identified the need for youth residential and social housing programs. On June 4, 1980, ACT 2 - Assistance in the Community Today was born. Initially the 'II' was added because there was already another organization with the acronym ACT. Over time though, the 'II' or '2' became more significant as the Agency came to understand its role in assisting people as they entered or worked through a second chapter or ACT 2 in their lives.

Through the 1980's the services of ACT 2 became further specialized to counselling, therapy, residential, education and support programs. ACT 2 became recognized for its expertise in working in the areas of sexual abuse, sexually intrusive behaviour intervention, and other forms of trauma experience—including expertise in working with the impact on children and youth and also with their families and with adults—as well as for programs for women and their children leaving abusive relationships, residential programs for youth and education programming.

In the early 1990's it became clear that the name of the Agency did not accurately reflect the nature of its services and in August of 1992 the name changed to ACT 2 Child and Family Services. Through the 1990's our reputation as a leading expert service provider in the area of trauma response—particularly in the areas of sexual abuse and sexually intrusive behaviour—transition programming and parenting education and intervention for families at high risk of having their children permanently removed, continued to grow.

During a period of service contraction in the late 1990's, Act 2 was unable to maintain the residential youth programs but continued to be recognized for its specialized expertise in working with clients suffering severe trauma or in high risk situations.

To the present day, ACT 2 Child and Family Services remains committed to its mission to provide transition housing, education, support, and counselling to adults, children, youth and families in need, many of whom have experienced oppression and/or trauma in their lives and to promote and enhance the well-being of at-risk children, youth, adults and families through the delivery of the highest quality services possible.

In 2009, ACT 2 undertook a thorough review of its mission and vision and established its mission statement as:

***A tradition of transforming critical trauma into hope.***

# President's Report, 2014 - 2015

*Act 2 Child and Family Services* provides tremendous depth of expertise across multiple niche services supporting families in need throughout the Lower Mainland. We have earned a reputation for excellence and collaboration through our three core programs and, in the last year, was appointed to service a new program supporting sustainable housing.

Throughout our thirty-five year history, we have partnered with the *Ministry of Children and Family Development* and *B.C. Housing* to support our growing and dynamic communities. We are committed to collaborative, productive and positive working relationships with our contracting partners, alongside fellow community partners.

Earlier in this fiscal year, our agency was faced with funding uncertainties and challenged to provide a sustainable services relative to inflation, which resulted in continued deficits. We are grateful to our contracting partners in their recent support through one-time funding adjustments to address budgetary shortfalls. We believe openness and transparency are important to maintaining the confidence of our partners in our service efficiency.

We also experienced some changes in our facilities recently. While we have enjoyed longstanding tenancy relationships, we have found the need to move our Maple Ridge office this last summer and we will be moving our Surrey office in the near future. While the new locations are more expensive based upon current rental rates, we acknowledge that we have enjoyed lower than typical rates to date, which historically helped to contain deficits.

*Act 2 Child and Family Services* is successful because of the dedication and care of our staff members. They bring a tremendous depth of expertise; a commitment for collaboration and service quality; and enthusiasm for lifelong learning that forms the cornerstones of our excellent reputation.

*Thank you* to our staff, management, volunteers, Board and partners, and to all members of Act 2, for your ongoing support. It is a privilege to be part of ACT 2, and I look forward to a strong and positive 2015-2016.

Respectfully,

Deborah Best  
President

# Executive Director's Report, 2014 - 2015

Our mission is to *transform trauma into hope*. A worthy mission to be proud of and that infuses all of what we do.

In our Clinical Counselling Programs we work with children and youth (and their families), who have been sexually abused or experienced other serious trauma. A quick and easy description. What this actually means though is, on a daily basis, some of the children we see have been violated in horrendous ways often by people they should have been able to rely on, who they should have been able to trust to protect and provide for them. Others we see have been traumatized by witnessing extreme violence or even the death of a parent, and other terrible situations difficult to imagine much less experience. Our gifted and skilled counsellors help them piece their lives back together, perhaps help them to be able to trust again, to be able to sleep at night, to be less fearful and more able to go forth into the world more confidently once again.

In our Family Program virtually all the families we see have already had their children removed from their care. It is hard to imagine a more emotionally charged and sensitive circumstance within which to work. The state is about to permanently take your child away and you may never see him or her again. Our skilled and determined parent educators work with the parents to help parents identify potential areas of change, to learn the skills they may need to work on and provide a safe and supportive environment for the parents to practice those skills with their children. The end goal being that the parents may be able to demonstrate sufficient change and skill development so they might be able to keep their children. Let me say that again. So they might be able to keep their children.

Our Safe Choice Transition House provides program enhanced, supportive housing for women and their children fleeing violence. These are families who often arrive at our program with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. They are beaten, metaphorically and literally, and completely at the end of their rope. Our caring and compassionate staff help them re-establish themselves; help them develop the skills and confidence to move back into the world and forward with their lives. Ours is one of the first homes to accept adolescent boys with their mothers and, now, transgendered individuals.

This year has also seen the addition of our Homeless Prevention Program. This program is a housing support program aimed at people who are Absolute homeless or at very high risk of homelessness. The program provides short-term and one-time assistance to maintain housing. People who for lack of a security deposit or a bed or some other small shortfall would be homeless.

I have noted before that demand for our services continues to increase and resources to meet that demand continue to dwindle. That has been the case for so long now that it really has become the norm but this year demand hit, again, an unprecedented peak and looking forward we can only expect that to continue. Nonetheless, as you can see in the Program Reports further on in this document, we continue to deliver high quality services recognized and appreciated by clients and other stakeholders alike.

And that is what we are all doing here. Very important and meaningful work indeed.

It is the people that make an agency and ACT 2 is so very fortunate to have outstanding people doing outstanding work. And I, for one, am proud to be a part of this team.

Respectfully,

Brad Watson  
Executive Director

# Treasurer's Report, 2014 - 2015

First and foremost Act 2 continues to be in good financial shape. Additionally, for our year ended March 31, 2015 there are a number of items worth mentioning:

1. You will notice that the Independent Auditor's Report is very different than past years. This is due to changes in audit standards and means primarily that our Auditor has to do more work at greater cost.
2. Our audited financial statements are reproduced in this report on pages 13 – 20. On page 14 the Statement of Operations shows, before special allocations, that we had a surplus of \$1,998. After that there were disclosures of \$68,585 in fund transfers. We see this again in the Statement of Changes in Assets where we put \$32,902 into a Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund for our transition house and the \$35,683 represents the mortgage principle paid for that building. Other internally restricted funds are held for contingencies such as severance.
3. On page 20, Schedule 1 – Direct Program Expenses, you will note a jump in salaries and benefits costs from the previous year. This reflects the fact that benefits costs continue to rise and after many years of flat wage rates, many of our employees had a much deserved increase in salary. These increases were the result of the efforts of the Board and Executive Director and with the cooperation of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

There are some significant items to take note of in our current fiscal year as well.

1. We have had a terrible experience with our Maple Ridge premises where, despite steps taken to renew our lease and, we believed, the agreement of our landlord to a renewal, we were evicted on very short notice. And a judge ruled against us based on the premise that we were the ones least impacted. So while it was a scramble we found space to relocate to, but the rent is virtually double what we were previously paying.
2. And if #1 wasn't enough our Landlord of 30+ years for our Surrey Family Program listed the building for sale and, unfortunately, did not accept our offer to purchase the property. Sale to a new owner is in progress and our continued tenancy is uncertain at best. Because of our long occupancy of our current location, on very favourable terms, and the current market rent rates, we know that when we do move the rent we pay to house this program will increase significantly.

Respectfully,

Steve Lake, CA  
Treasurer

# Program Reports, 2014 - 2015

## Family Program (Surrey)

### Program Information

The ACT 2 Family Program provides short term (14 weeks) assessment, intervention and education services to parents of children under the age of 6 years where the children have been abused or neglected or the parents have been identified as being “at risk” of abusing or neglecting their children by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). The program provides parents with an opportunity to receive information, learn new skills and practice techniques and skills with their children under the supervision of staff in a safe environment. Parent Educators focus on providing support, resources, intervention and education around parenting issues focusing on meeting basic needs, positive parent-child interactions and positive discipline.

The program continues to work collaboratively with community partners and MCFD. Act 2 continues to be part of the Surrey North Family Service Center (Hub) as an off-site partner. In addition the Program remains connected to the Surrey CYC, Make Children First, Surrey Early Childhood Mental Health Collaborative and the Surrey Family Connection Collaborative tables.

### Program Highlights

The 2014-2015 year was a stable year for the Family Program team. We have been working more closely with our MCFD liaisons and have made efforts to become increasingly connected to the MCFD teams we work with. In sad news our long time landlord, Christel Sundermeier passed away in March. Christel and her husband, Fred, had been our landlords for almost 30 years and had been very generous to our program as well as extremely proud to be a part of the work we do with families.

### Outcome Data

The program provided service to 51 families this year (61 adults and 62 children) and received 58 new referrals. Approximately 72% of clients demonstrated progress towards individual goals while at the Program while 92% of client’s surveyed report increases in skills and knowledge regarding parenting. In addition 100% of social workers report satisfaction with services. The client population of the program continues to be a challenging one. Clients often experience multiple barriers to positive outcomes such as mental health issues, addiction, abuse, domestic violence, cognitive deficit, trauma and poverty related issues. The team continues to work hard to adapt materials and service to best meet the need the individual needs of all clients

### Satisfaction

Results from our Satisfaction Surveys which are continuously distributed throughout the year were above targets with 89% of clients and 100% of social workers reporting being satisfied with our services. Some comments included in surveys were:

- ❖ I liked that I was directed always in a positive way. I liked the information I was given regarding child development strategies and tools to become a better parent. I like how developing a routine makes everything flow smoother. I like how the services gave me a chance to build a bond back with my child
- ❖ The program is “AAA”. They are the best of the actual best. They are a god-send in my books
- ❖ I feel very supported in ACT 2 with how to have the most substantial impact with and to my daughter for full development and learning. I feel supported as a young mom and I feel like I’m listened to and understood by staff. I can learn well when things are explained well.
- ❖ Progress and program is client focussed. Identify strengths, challenges and recommendations- good format. Staff very good at presenting progress
- ❖ I always use ACT 2 for my clients who have pre-school children. Very satisfied

Sheri Mills  
Program Coordinator

# Ridge Meadows Clinical Counselling Program

## **Program Information**

The Clinical Counselling Program (CCP) provides counselling and therapeutic intervention for children, adults, and families, who have been impacted by sexual victimization or other forms of abuse, neglect or traumatic events. The Program encompasses treatment for sexualized behaviours as well. At the core of the Program is a counselling and administrative team dedicated to helping others and inspiring hope. The philosophy of our counselling team respects and supports client culture, values, religion and strengths to guide service delivery. Treatment is engaging and individualized, and conceptualized within the cultural and social context of the family. Counsellors are skilled and collaborative, and able to address the multiple and diverse issues that families bring to the program. The Ministry of Children and Family Development is the sole gatekeeper of our services. Children and youth who have a history of sexual trauma, however, may receive counselling without the involvement MCFD.

## **Highlights of fiscal year:**

The Clinical Counselling Program was the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the TELUS Community Action Team which allowed children, youth and families timely access to our service. The counselling teams were involved in the planning and training components of Act 2's Annual Training Day. We received excellent feedback for our level of involvement which included a training piece on Cultural Competency. Our program joined with MCFD and hosted various staff functions such as Potluck Luncheons and a Pancake Breakfast, to recognize all staff for their devotion to their work and the community. Our assistance in the development of Alisa's Wish Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, which offers centralized child and youth friendly wrap-around service for children and youth who are victims of abuse and/or witness to violence, allowed us to remain active in managing the Centre and its activities. Through Alisa's Wish, we organized a successful workshop for service providers that introduced the application of trauma-informed services.

The program continues to maintain strong connection and visibility within the Ridge Meadows community through participation on various committees such as Alisa's Wish Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, Middle Childhood Matters, the Early Childhood Community Network, Sexualized Behaviour Treatment (SBT) Professional Group, and the Community Network.

## **Outcome Data/Client Satisfaction:**

The Ridge Meadows clinicians continue to provide critical and effective services to the community. Annual statistics on our client demographics indicate that our most referred clients are adult female parents (23%). The majority of clients are Canadian (85%). Aboriginal clientele make up 9%. Feedback from both clients and other agency personnel indicates that the clinical team is well respected in the community for providing exceptional counselling service. A substantial percentage of clients that fully engage in counselling services achieve all or most of the goals which were developed in their individualized service plan (81%). Results from our Client Satisfaction Survey are outstanding and included comments such as:

- ❖ Counselling at ACT 2 changed my life and I love it here.
- ❖ Thanks for helping my family.
- ❖ Being able to talk about my problems & knowing that a lot of what has happened to me was not my fault, I now have a huge weight lifted off of my shoulders. I feel like I'm a better person. So I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your amazing services.
- ❖ Thank you. I don't even want to imagine where I would be now without you.
- ❖ I am so grateful for the counsellor and ACT2 for helping me cope and understand why my marriage failed and how to move on from that.
- ❖ Thanks for assisting my child to deal with grief and loss. It has been a real help to her.
- ❖ This is an amazing place and I loved every day I came here.
- ❖ All my goals were met quickly and efficiently.
- ❖ I feel accepted and open. I don't have to hide or be ashamed of anything and each session helps me significantly.
- ❖ The counsellor is so positive and I feel confident my life will improve and change with her guidance.

Vicky Tedesco  
Clinical Counselling Team Leader

# Tri-Cities Clinical Counselling Program

## **Program Information:**

The Clinical Counselling Program (CCP) provides therapeutic services to high risk, complex, multi-problem families, children and youth who have experienced or witnessed trauma. As part of our contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, we also offer standardized treatment to children who exhibit sexualized behaviours. The Counselling Program educates other professionals through the school system and otherwise who are most likely to witness such inappropriate behaviours. The Ministry of Children and Family Development serves as the gatekeeper for our counselling services. Children and youth with a history of sexual abuse, however, can access our services without ministry involvement; the caregivers and siblings of these children are able to receive counselling as well. The program has become increasingly richer in breadth and scope as a result of the high complexity and severity of referrals.

## **Highlights of fiscal year:**

The Clinical Counselling Program was the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the TELUS Community Action Team which allowed children, youth and families timely access to our service. The counselling teams were involved in the planning and training components of Act 2's Annual Training Day. We received excellent feedback for our level of involvement which included the training piece on Cultural Competency. The counselling team also successfully provided group therapy with parents of youth who self-harm. We provided a training event to the Provincial Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services on the developmental impacts of trauma. Our team also received in-house training on Filial Play Therapy, as well as other topics through Kelty Mental Health.

The program continues to maintain strong connection and visibility within the Tri-Cities community through participation in various activities such as the Refugee Trauma Community of Practice, Sexualized Behaviour Treatment (SBT) Professional Group, and the Complex Case Committee. Team members also participated in a community networking event that was well attended and effective for establishing new relationships in the professional community.

## **Outcome Data/Client Satisfaction:**

The Tri-Cities clinicians continue to provide critical and effective services to the Tri-Cities region. Annual statistics on our client demographics indicate that our most referred clients, similar to last fiscal year, are within the 7 to 13 age group (44%). The majority of clients are Canadian. Aboriginal clientele make up 14% of our client population. A substantial percentage of clients that fully engage in counselling services achieve all or most of the goals which were developed in their individualized service plan (88%). Feedback from both clients and other agency personnel indicates that the clinical team is well respected in the community for providing exceptional counselling service. Results from our Client Satisfaction Survey are outstanding and included comments such as:

- ❖ I am very grateful to have this opportunity to be involved with ACT 2.
- ❖ Having someone compassionate and understanding to talk to is what I most like.
- ❖ I really enjoyed my counselling. I feel that I have made lots of progress and will continue to heal and grow in my life.
- ❖ I thank ACT 2 for being here for our children and for caring about them. We appreciate all of you.
- ❖ Your counselling skills are most helpful. My kids are happier after each session.
- ❖ Everyone is friendly and makes you feel welcome when you are here.
- ❖ I feel my counsellor really cares about me and wants to make a difference.
- ❖ The best part is that it doesn't feel like I need to come, more like I want to come.
- ❖ The counsellor totally connected with my daughter making her feel valued and respected.
- ❖ Counselling has given an opportunity for the children to have a voice and feel more people care about how they feel. It also gives me an opportunity to voice things I'm going through and get help.
- ❖ I appreciate that your staff are able to engage my child which made coming here weekly easy with no difficulties for my child.

Vicky Tedesco  
Clinical Counselling Team Leader

# Safe Choice Transition House Program

## **Program Information:**

The Safe Choice Program provides service-enhanced housing for up to ten women and their dependent children who have recently fled family violence. Safe Choice is a second-stage transition housing program that has provided service since 1985 and is located in Vancouver and funded by BC Housing. Most applicants apply from first-stage transition houses; however, we do take referrals from shelters, the Domestic Violence Unit of the Vancouver Police Department, or Stopping the Violence counselors or self-referral. The stay at Safe Choice is for up to 12 months while the women develop and follow through on a plan for their long-term independent living, free of family violence. Some of the services we provide are crisis intervention, ongoing support, safety planning, parenting support, life skills training, referrals to other resources and advocacy.

## **Goals of the Program:**

- ❖ To provide safe and affordable short-term housing with support services
- ❖ To help participants maintain personal health and safety
- ❖ To help participants learn practical life skills
- ❖ After residential support has ended to continue to provide service to these families as needed to resolve crises as they integrate into the community and live independently.

## **Program Highlights:**

It has been a busy year at the Safe Choice Program as we have maintained almost a 100% occupancy rate over the past year. With each vacancy we post we receive a tremendous amount of interest from women wanting supportive living arrangements. Our program also continues to see an increase in challenging and complex cases. Last year it was highlighted that many of our women were having difficulty accessing affordable housing. This year Lindsay Wilde spent time building and maintaining strong relationships with community partners. This included developing a relationship with Entre Nous Femme Housing where we have been extremely successful in finding our residents permanent housing. We are exploring opportunities to provide joint workshops together including topics around financial literacy and the Ready to Rent Program.

Safe Choice has begun exploring ways to measure outcomes to help support women for when they leave the program and transition to living in the community.

## **Program Trends:**

We have seen more transgendered referrals this year along with single women. We are one of the few Second Stage Transition Houses that have apartments for single women. We have seen more women coming into the program with very little resources and poverty related issues continued to be an issue for the women and children we serve. The lack of or little Legal Aid provided continues to be an ongoing challenge for the women as well.

## **Outcome Data/Client Satisfaction:**

This year 65 women and 90 children were referred to the program. We were able to house 16 women throughout the year and 13 children. We provided 436 hours of outreach support.

Results from our Client Satisfaction Survey which is distributed throughout the year were outstanding and included such comments as:

- ❖ I was so nervous when I came to the program but staff were very caring and kind
- ❖ My children love spending time with the Parent Support Worker, she's so gentle and patient, she taught me a lot about parenting
- ❖ My child has stopped having nightmares, there could be no greater gift
- ❖ They never judge me or my decisions, just offer support and options for me to explore
- ❖ I wish I could stay long-term as I feel safe and never alone
- ❖ The staff are really good at showing you all the resources in the community and how to access them
- ❖ I love the house meetings, it's a good way to connect with other women
- ❖ I never worry when referring to Safe Choice as I know the clients will be well taken care of
- ❖ When I moved into my apartment it was nice and clean, I really like that
- ❖ Kind staff and manager they really go the extra mile
- ❖ I came at my most vulnerable time and it was a safe place for me to heal

Leslie Lewis  
Program Coordinator

# Homeless Prevention Program

The Homeless Prevention Program focuses on the prevention of homelessness by targeting individuals and families who are Absolute Homeless or At Risk of Homelessness due to crisis or transition and providing one-time or short-term rent support. The program is targeted towards the following individuals:

- ❖ people leaving corrections and hospital systems;
- ❖ women who have experienced violence or are at-risk of violence
- ❖ youth, including those leaving the care system; and
- ❖ people of Aboriginal descent.

This is a new program funded through BC Housing which started in January 2015. We are very pleased to welcome Lina Barrera as our Homeless Prevention Worker. Lina has been leading the new HPP Program and has shown herself to be a strong asset to the team.

Outcomes of the program include:

- ❖ directly engaging clients where they are situated
- ❖ engaging visibly homeless clients
- ❖ engaging hidden and those at-risk of homelessness
- ❖ increasing the number of clients who have obtained and/or maintained stable housing
- ❖ clients will have developed Case Plans and personal goals for housing, employment/income, health and well being
- ❖ increase the number of clients who are referred to support services.

BC Housing is currently has contracts to provide the program in six communities with the intention to grow to over 30 communities around the province.

Leslie Lewis  
Program Coordinator

# Recognition of Long Service Staff

ACT 2 is very fortunate to have a great team of highly skilled and dedicated staff. Some of our staff have been diligently serving our communities with the agency for a long time and we want to recognize those staff members who have achieved significant service milestones. In the past ACT 2 has recognized staff with 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service, and now we have to add another milestone at 25 years soon!

We have lots of people between milestones this year, so we only have 2 to honour today. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the following staff for their long service with ACT 2:

Candida Moreira, 5 years

Eva Lopez, 5 years

Philomena Jordan, 25 years

We extend our thanks and hearty congratulations on achieving these milestones and we want to thank all of our staff for their dedication and hard work with ACT 2 and for the clients and communities we serve.

Thank you!

# 2014 - 2015 Board of Directors

## Deborah Best President

Deborah Best is an advocate for people and community development, having dedicated her career to human resources while volunteering for health and children's causes. She initially joined the ACT 2 Board in 2001 and served to 2007 then, after returning from abroad, gladly rejoined in 2011. Deb is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and holds designations as a Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP), Certified Compensation Professional (CPP), and Global Remuneration Professional (GRP). She is Vice President Human Resources with Raymond James Ltd.

## Polly J. Krier Vice President

After moving to Canada in 2005, Polly spent years volunteering with a variety of organizations in the Tri-Cities. Since becoming a permanent resident in 2007, Polly has been "wearing two hats" within the community. She is the owner of *PollyK Consulting* and has been organizing successful events and fundraisers in the Lower Mainland for the past 9 years. She is also the owner of *Angel in Your Closet*, a company specializing in ensuring her clients have wardrobes which fit their lifestyle, thus feeling confident and appropriate in everything they wear. As a Wardrobe Consultant/Personal Shopper, Polly has donated her time and resources to assist women of all ages and backgrounds entering the work force.

Polly is a graduate of University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She hopes her passion for helping women feel confident with their wardrobes, as well as her organizational skills will be a benefit to the board and all those involved with ACT 2.

## Steve Lake Treasurer

Steve worked out of the Surrey office of Crowe MacKay LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants. He is a retired former senior partner. He has a varied background that includes Estate Planning, Corporate and Personal Financial Planning, Retirement Planning, Coaching and Mentoring, Strategic Planning, as well as being a member, President and Treasurer of numerous Boards in the Lower Mainland.

## Grant Lee Director / Past President

Grant is head of Taxation at HSBC Bank Canada, whose Canadian head office is located in Vancouver. He obtained a B. Comm. from UBC and also has a Chartered Accountant designation. Grant is a member of the BC Institute of Chartered Accountants. Grant teaches taxation as a seasonal lecturer for the Faculty of Commerce at the University of British Columbia. Grant also has a Master of Arts degree in the area of Counselling Psychology and has worked as a counsellor.

## **Archie Tuck**

### **Director**

Archie has served as both Vice-President and President of the Board of Directors of ACT 2. He has been employed in adolescent delinquent youth programs for several years. He has served on the board of the Cameron Wing Gym club. He works in the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and has knowledge of the programs and resources focused on children and youth. Archie is willing to work with ACT 2's board members and staff in the difficult work they face on a daily basis. He appreciates the need for a stable, realistic format so that the basic working of the society is not encumbered by unnecessary discourse. He offers a strong well-versed opinion in support of these goals.

## **Lee Cassels**

### **Director**

Lee Cassels is a graduate of Simon Fraser University. She has a Bachelor's degree in Education and Master's degree in Counselling Psychology. Lee is a member of the Canadian Psychologists and Counsellors Association. Lee has a small private counselling practice in the Tri Cities. Lee has had a lengthy career working with youth in the education system, first as a teacher and later, as a counsellor. Both her teaching and counselling experiences gave her a clear understanding of the complex needs that face youth today. She became involved with Act 2 following her retirement from working as a district counsellor in the Burnaby School District in 1995. Initially, she was hired to work as a family therapist in Coquitlam office of Act 2. She continued to work there on part time basis until 2013. Lee wanted to remain connected to Act 2 so she pursued being elected to the Board in 2013. She has experienced firsthand the many issues that face working in a non-profit agency and is able to provide that perspective to the Board. Her past year on the Board has allowed Lee to look into ways to enhance Act 2's funding through grants.

## **Mani Sandhu**

### **Director**

Mani holds a B.A from Simon Fraser University and an L.L.B from the University of Alberta. Mani currently has a law practice, as a sole practitioner, in Surrey. The areas of law Mani practice's in are criminal, family and real estate.

# Donors and Supporters

ACT 2 receives major program funding from the **Ministry of Children and Family Development** and from **BC Housing**.

The Board and staff wish to thank the following organizations and individuals for their support and donations during the past year:

*Anonymous*

*Alvia Branch*

*Canadian Women's Foundation*

*Capers / Whole Foods*

*CKNW Orphans Fund*

*Judeth Clark*

*C.T. Dunn*

*Kent & Pam Elliott*

*Rita Eng*

*Margaret Hobson*

*Intercity Packers*

*Steve Lake*

*Karen Lam*

*Grant Lee*

*Judy Lewis*

*London Drugs*

*Crowe Mackay LLP*

*Telus Community Action Team*

*Omnitrans Pacific Inc.*

*Lindsay Paterson*

*Brad Watson*

*David Weir*

*Betty Yu*

