

**BFISS**

## **BOUNDARY FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL SERVICES SOCIETY 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT**



**WE BUILD PARTNERSHIPS WITH  
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY BY  
DELIVERING SERVICES WHICH  
ENRICH OUR LIVES AND SHAPE  
OUR FUTURE.**

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### **BFISS PROGRAMS**

#### **Early Years Services**

Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program -  
Baby's Best Chance  
Community Action Program for Children -  
Parents of young Children Program  
Infant Development Program  
Family Attachment Matters  
Physio Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Early Childhood Development Programs  
Community Integration Program  
Behavioural Support

#### **Child, Youth and Family Services**

Child and Youth Counselling  
Family Support Services  
Aboriginal Family Support  
Youth Support Services  
School Aged Physiotherapy  
School Aged Occupational Therapy  
Men's Support Group  
After School Programs  
Variety of Parenting Programs for all age  
groups and family needs



## **Boundary Family and Individual Services Society**

**provides a wide variety of programs to meet  
children, youth and family interests and needs.  
Our services are provided by professionally  
trained support staff in a respectful and  
confidential manner.**

**All services are provided FREE of charge  
thanks to our funders and the  
generous support of private donors.**

## Executive Director's Report to the Annual General Meeting September 28, 2015

This is the 39th year of existence for BFISS. There were the two years back in 1979 and 1980 when the organization was inactive, so we have 37 years of operating as a Society. This year, I have worked for BFISS for 30 of those years. There is one person who has been here serving longer. That devoted person is Maxine Ruzicka. Maxine has served since 1977...an amazing 38 years. I cannot celebrate this day without also celebrating Maxine's enormous contribution to BFISS and to the Boundary communities.

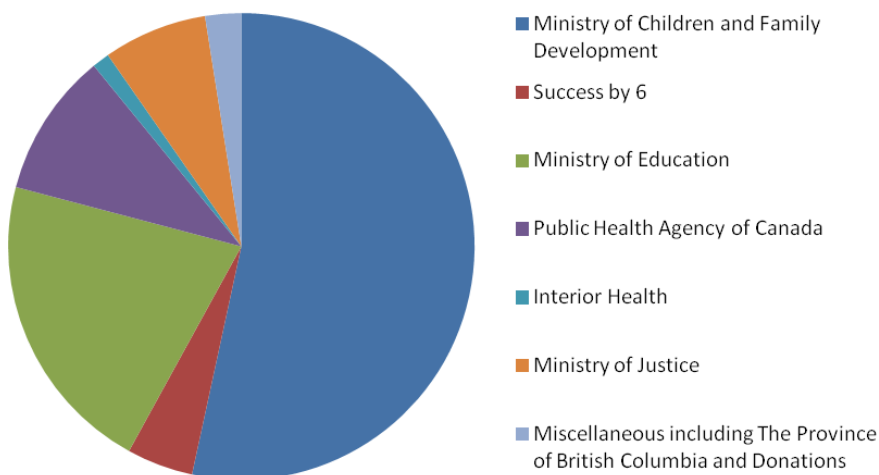
69 people have served BFISS as Board members over the years. I congratulate each and every one of you....all 69 of you in your desire to help others. Many people only wish that they could make this a better world....you have taken action to help turn those dreams into reality.

Many hundreds of people have worked for BFISS over the years and additionally countless volunteers. Currently, at any one time, we have about 32-36 people working for BFISS with an average of about 50 people employed during the year. We are a small but significant economic contributor to the wellbeing of the area.



We each make life good, by making it meaningful. I venture to say that all of us seated in this gathering today and all of those who have contributed to BFISS, have come together because of our desire to build more hope, more trust, more empathy and more life sustaining and hope sustaining action on behalf of others. Amazing thing...When you give of yourself to enrich the lives of others, you also enrich our own life. What could be more perfect....when you help others, you help yourself....and there is lots of research on this. People who help others, people who engage in building greater capacity for a civic and just society are, by in large, happier and as a result, on a population health basis, healthier than others.

### Funding by Source at March 31, 2015



### WE APPRECIATE YOUR DONATIONS

All services provided by Boundary Family and Individual Services Society are FREE of charge. This is possible due to funding received from the Provincial and Federal government and the generous support from private donors.

We appreciate any financial donation that you are able to make. Gifts can be a cheque, cash or gift cards to local merchants.

If you would like your gift to go directly to a specific program, just let us know.



As an organization we are actively engaged in partnerships with other organizations that build and sustain collaborative efforts on behalf of our Boundary communities. We are all trying to survive and as organizations are competing for often scarce resources. Ironically, collaboration makes us more sustainable....it lessens the fear and engenders hope. Collaboration multi-



plies itself and provides opportunities for more.....collaboration. There are now many organizations within and outside of the Boundary that we are collaborating with in creating healthy communities. In this regard, School District #51 Boundary, Public Health Nursing and the Ministry for Children and Family Development are key and sustaining partners for BFISS and for the Boundary Communities. Additionally, local partners such as the Sunshine Valley Child Care Society, Victim's Services, the Community Alliance for Literacy, Selkirk College, FreedomQuest, the Boundary Women's Coalition and others combine efforts with BFISS to serve our citizens and communities. Regional partners such as the Circle of Indigenous Nations, Kootenay Kids, Kootenay Family Place and the West Kootenay Boundary Community Services Cooperative work collaboratively with BFISS to deliver services in the Boundary.



Working hand in hand with our participants in 2014-2015, BFISS served 575 participants /families in one to one and family service. Of note were the high number of children/ youth served through Child and Youth Counselling services. In ad-

dition, the Baby's Best Chance program and its affiliated initiatives served a very large number of families. BFISS continues to struggle with how to accurately reflect our stats data. For some of our contracts, a family is counted as 1 service entity and for some a family where our worker is engage with several children and a parent each person is counted, as long as we are working specifically with that family member. Additionally we often work with some families who have very high needs and as such require a large number of service hours.

### **Thank you to BFISS Funders and Partners**

*The Ministry of Children and Family Development  
The Ministry of Justice  
Public Health Agency of Canada,  
Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program  
The Interior Health Authority, Public Health  
Kootenay Kids, West Kootenay Boundary CAPC Coalition  
with funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada  
Kootenay Family Place - Behavioral Support Program  
School District # 51 Boundary  
The Province of British Columbia*

*Selkirk College  
The Grand Forks Credit Union  
Blessings Boutique  
The Phoenix Foundation of the Boundary Communities  
Success by 6  
Kemp Harvey Burch Kientz Corp.  
COINS - Circle of Indigenous Nations Society  
BANAC - Boundary All Nations Aboriginal Council  
Boundary Métis Association  
Community Citizens and Fundraising Initiatives*



In 2014-2015, BFISS provided:

- 43 ongoing and session oriented groups that had 1855 adult attendances and 4316 child/youth attendances
- West Boundary StrongStart centres saw a total of 878 child attendances and East Boundary StrongStart centres a total of 4160 child attendances
- 37 drumming groups with 203 adult attendances and 265 child/youth attendances
- 6 community education sessions with 64 attendances
- 4 community events had approximately 204 adult attendances and 190 child attendances ...number counting at these events is difficult at best and the teams that support these events are amazing and dedicated believers in the power of prevention



Groups evaluations continue to show that groups are highly valued and provide skills acquisition and a sense of belonging for participants. The provision of groups remains an effective strategy for BFISS to manage our high number of requests for service.

As I prepare to retire from 30 years of service with BFISS, I am extremely gratified to look back over what we have all accomplished together. Our organization has grown to deeply understand the importance of working with the people that use our services as partners. We are regularly evaluating and seeking the opinions and suggestions of our staff, our participants and our partners. Soon to come, we will have our service outcomes reports posted on our website.

During our recent accreditation site visit, the accreditors affirmed that the Management and Supervisors Teams are strong and effective. In the past year, the Teams have worked hard on the restructuring of the Management team roles, preparing for accreditation, work on training issues, risk management issues, policy updates and importantly, supporting each other and our staff through the many difficult situations we all encounter in every day. I respectfully acknowledge and pay homage to the dedication over the past years of:

- Ellen Strelaef – Early Years Team Supervisor
- Teresa Viebrock – Child Youth and Family Team Supervisor
- Laura Greaves – Financial Officer
- Linda Stooshinoff - Program Support and Office Coordinator
- Carol Mitchell – Groups Coordinator
- Roxann Van Brakel – Community Integration Coordinator
- Cynthia Garnett – Baby's Best Chance Coordinator







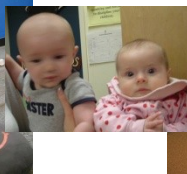
I would also like to acknowledge those who have left our agency in the past, for a variety of reasons, but who have been seminal in the growth and development of the agency.....Marilyn DeWynter and Colleen Schiesser, both previous supervisors at BFISS, and also Barry Pratt who has tirelessly raised the issue of services for men and has continued, after retirement, to facilitate the Men's Support Group as a volunteer.

Over the years, it has been an immense honour to work with our Staff Members, our Board Members and our participants. I have learned so much from you all. I have laughed and cried with you and in our passionate work together, we have achieved much. You have been a great blessing in my life and my years at BFISS have brought me much personal happiness and growth. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to you all...people that are here today and people that have been here in the past.

In passing the torch to you all and to the many of you that are leaders within our organization I reflect on the inspiring words of Valerie Luyckx: "True service is not a relationship between an expert and a problem...it is a relationship between people who bring the full resource of their combined humanity to the table and share them generously. Service goes beyond expertise. Service is another way of life...service is a relationship between equals...In helping, we may find a sense of satisfaction...in serving we have an experience of gratitude"

I ask you to please continue the important work of this great organization with passion, with gusto and with action. In looking forward I pay greatest respect to BFISS colleagues and compatriots who will lead the organization into the future. This is all of you and a company of many more. My best wishes to you all in the pursuit of the amazing endeavors that I know will be in the future of BFISS.

Leda Leander, Retired Executive Director.



James Wilson was appointed to the position of Executive Director of Boundary Family and Individual Services Society on August 10, 2015. James was the previous Executive Director of the Boundary Chamber of Commerce and has a strong understanding of the unique needs of the communities and the citizens of the Boundary. James came to BFISS with a grounding in social services and a Bachelor of Arts, Youth Work and experience in working with youth, communities and business. James looks forward to working with our staff, our partners and our Boundary communities in leading BFISS in exciting and responsive directions in the future.

