



Burnaby Family Life

A place to go... a place to grow!

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December 15, 2014

City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.

Dear Executive Committee of Council,

Re: Application for Community Grant

Please accept our application for a community grant in the amount of \$20,000 for 2015.

Since 1974 Burnaby Family Life (BFL) has relied on the City of Burnaby for financial and in-kind donations for its operations. BFL does not take the City's annual assistance for granted. We see your ongoing support as recognition of the leadership role we have taken in building community capacity for the past four decades.

The City's generosity in providing annual lease subsidies, affordable printing of program brochures and an annual community grant demonstrates the City's historical partnership with BFL, its compassion and commitment to provide support to *all* Burnaby citizens – including some of the most disadvantaged families in our community.

In 2014 some of the key challenges facing families in Burnaby continued with the lack of affordable housing, lack of affordable quality childcare, poverty, mental illness and the integration of immigrants and refugees in our city. According to our program participants and stakeholders, BFL has made a significant difference in each of these critical areas, thereby benefitting thousands of people and strengthening our community.

Census reports show that Burnaby is one of the most diverse cities in all of Canada. Approximately 61% of residents speak English as a second language and 51% of citizens are foreign born. We know that in some neighbourhoods almost *all* residents speak English as a second language. Using Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure (LIM) after tax, 20.6% of British Columbia's children ages 0–17 lived below the poverty line, representing more than one in every five children in the province. According to this measure, 169,420 BC children lived in poverty, putting this province fifth highest in comparison to other provinces. It is a shame that BC has the worst poverty rate of any province for children living in single mother families at 49.8%. In response, we advocate pro-actively and relentlessly at every level of government and with influential decision makers for policy changes. BFL is an active participant in provincial lobbying efforts for the social services sector through the BC Federation of Community Social Services, Board Voice and other coalitions.

Collectively, we are doing our best to keep the plight of the vulnerable amongst us front and center in the minds of every member of the provincial legislature. We have garnered significant support from the Burnaby business community for our efforts as evidenced by the strong corporate support of our annual Kids Challenge event as we go into our fourth year.



Burnaby Family Life is proud to be an accredited social profit agency.

Burnaby Family Life's multi-faceted partnerships with other community organizations as well as the business sector continued to develop and expand significantly in 2014. BFL continued to play a key role on the BBOT Social Development Committee, particularly in the area of family friendly workplaces. The BBOT opened many doors for us and has done a great job in getting our key messages out to the business community. Burnaby is known throughout the province for promoting corporate social responsibility, for educating and raising awareness about poverty, homelessness, and the value of investing in the social services sector.

Burnaby Family Life is the founding and leading organization for the Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table (BIPT), a dynamic community co-ordination network in which government and community service organizations work together to improve service collaboration and a more effective community based response to families who have moved here from around the world. Through the BIPT, we have brought together more than 30 organizations and managed, on behalf of the consortium, a range of diverse community development projects. This year, the Federal Government has assumed responsibility for the funding envelop and the focus is shifting to the development of a strategic plan aimed at improving the city's ability to meet the changing needs of our community.

BFL continues to work in formal partnerships and sub-contracts with 25+ different community based agencies, as well as the Burnaby Board of Trade. These efforts have resulted in a more effective social safety net for Burnaby families. BFL provides other organizations with mentoring, shares best practice models, assists with policy development, preparation for accreditation and plays a key role in regional, provincial and national advocacy efforts.

BFL maintains remarkable, award winning accreditation standards with CARF and just received another three year accreditation this past June. We received a number of exemplary mentions for excellent financial management, highly effective administrative systems and most importantly the high quality standard which are omnipresent in the delivery of all of our services. A mini "United Nations" in the heart of our community, BFL staff speak 47 different first languages, representing the community we serve. With BFL's commitment to continuous quality improvement processes and accreditation standards, the positive impact of our organization never stagnates.

Many services depend on private donations and grants. In 2013, Pro Organics and CKNW provided 30,000 nutritious snacks, 300 meals and 1250 hot lunches to 300 plus children and pregnant teenagers every day. Every dollar that is donated to BFL is "stretched to the max" with our services extended by 30 volunteers working in professional and para-professional program teams. BFL is able to do more because the City of Burnaby and the School District provide free or subsidized space. The Health Region dedicates community health nurses and dental hygienist to our programs supporting parents, high-risk pre & post natal mothers and vulnerable children.

Thousands of children and families have found comfort, meaning, growth and learning at BFL because of visionary, effective governance combined with committed and highly trained employees who have the expertise to intervene with skills and compassion that really make a difference. Families are strengthened and the quality of life is better in Burnaby because of the exceptional work provided. Services are filled to overflowing and sadly, families are sometimes turned away because we do not have the capacity to meet the increasingly complex and demanding needs of our community.



Attached is our most recent Annual Report and audited Financial Statements. I may be reached at 604-659-2208 if further information is required. The chairman of our Board of Directors, John Crawford, and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to address any questions or concerns that you might have regarding this application.

In closing, Burnaby Family Life gives thanks to Mayor Corrigan and members of Council for their ongoing commitment to make Burnaby a better community by supporting Burnaby's most vulnerable citizens.

Yours truly,



Michel Pouliot
Executive Director

c.c. John Crawford, President

Encl: Annual Report, 2014 and audited financial statements