



**BURNABY
FAMILY LIFE**
A PLACE TO GO... A PLACE TO GROW!

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April 28th, 2016

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

Re: Application for Community Grant

Dear Executive Committee of Council:

Please accept our application for a community grant in the amount of \$20,000 for 2016.

In 1971 the City of Burnaby gave Burnaby Family Life (BFL) \$200 to run its programs, thanks to Marguerite Dixon, a past Social Planner. Since then we have enjoyed a strong partnership with the City in making Burnaby one of the best cities to live.

The City's generosity in providing annual lease subsidies and an annual community grant demonstrates your historical partnership with BFL, its compassion and commitment to provide support to *all* Burnaby citizens.

Today, Burnaby families are facing a lack of affordable housing, increased levels of poverty, mental illness, homelessness, and several barriers for the integration of refugees in our city. Right here in Burnaby almost 30% of Burnaby's children live in poverty and most of the struggling families are working families where parents have a low paying job. This makes finding affordable quality child care a real challenge. With your support we provide quality child care and child minding to over 172 children every day. Not only that, you have enabled us to become advocates for the most disadvantaged families in our community.

Burnaby is one of the most diverse cities in all of Canada. Approximately 55% of residents speak English as a second language and 51% of citizens are foreign born. This incredible cultural diversity is both an asset and a challenge and BFL has had to adapt its services to meet the varied needs. We are fortunate to have an incredibly diverse staff team that speak 47 different first languages. This allows us to execute all our programs effectively while meeting the needs of clients here at Burnaby.

We have a key role on the Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT) Social Development Committee, particularly in the area of immigrant integration. Working with the BBOT has opened many doors for us and they have done a great job of getting our key messages out to the business community.

We are also the proud founder and leading organization of 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 newcomer families. Through the BIPT we have brought together more than 30 organizations and currently manage the implementation of a newly developed Local Immigration Partnership Strategic plan.

With BFL's commitment to continuous quality improvement processes and accreditation standards, the positive impact of our organization never stagnates. BFL maintains remarkable, award winning accreditation standards with CARF, including two exemplary awards for the role we have taken in community development initiatives and responsiveness to the changing demographics of our community.

We are dedicated to collaborating with Burnaby based groups and companies to ensure the maintenance and development of the quality services which we provide. We work in formal partnerships and sub-contracts with 25+ different community based agencies. These efforts have resulted in a more effective social safety net for Burnaby families. BFL provides other organizations with mentoring, best practice models, assistance with policy development, and preparation for accreditation and plays a key role in regional, provincial and national advocacy efforts.

Many services depend on private donations and grants. We have an amazing team of 65 volunteers to complement our diverse staff team in each program. The Health Region dedicates community health nurses, a dietitian 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 families are sometimes turned away because we do not have the capacity to meet the increasingly complex and demanding needs of our community.

I have enclosed our most recent Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements. The Chair of our Board of Directors and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to address any questions or concerns that you might have regarding this application and may be reached at 604-659-2208.

In closing, Burnaby Family Life gives thanks to Mayor Corrigan and members of Council for your ongoing commitment to making Burnaby one of the best and most welcoming cities to live, work and play.

Yours sincerely,



Michel Pouliot
Executive Director

c.c. John Crawford, President
Encl: 2015-2016 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements

