



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

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April 25th, 2017

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 2017.

Since 1974 Burnaby Family Life has relied on the City of Burnaby for donations in kind as well as financial support for its operations. Burnaby Family Life does not take the City's annual assistance for granted. We see your ongoing endorsement as recognition of the leadership role we have taken in building community capacity for the past 4 decades.

The City's generosity in providing annual lease subsidies 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 2017 priority challenges facing families in Burnaby are very broad, namely, the lack of affordable housing, affordable quality childcare, increased levels of poverty, mental illness, homelessness, and the integration of immigrants and a significant influx of refugees in our city. According to our program participants and stakeholders, Burnaby Family Life made a significant difference in each of these critical areas, thereby benefitting thousands of people and strengthening our community.

Our work leading the Intercultural Planning Table constantly reminds us of just how diverse Burnaby's population is with over half of residents having been born outside of Canada. This incredible cultural diversity is both an asset and a challenge and Burnaby Family Life has had to adapt its services to meet an everchanging culturally diverse community. It is shameful that the wellbeing of Canada's children ranks 17 out of 24 industrialized countries and that B.C. has the greatest number of children living in poverty in all of Canada for the ninth year in a row, with almost 30% of Burnaby's children amongst the poor. In response, Burnaby Family Life advocates pro-actively and relentlessly at every level of government and with influential decision makers for policy changes. Burnaby Family Life is an active participant in provincial lobbying efforts for the social services sector through the B.C. Federation of Community Social Services.

Burnaby Family Life's multi-faceted partnerships with other community organizations as well as the business sector continued to develop and expand significantly in 2016. Burnaby Family Life continued playing a key role on the BBOT Social Development Committee, particularly in the



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area of child care for family friendly workplaces and Immigrant Integration. 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 BIPT, the Burnaby Inter Cultural Planning Table, 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 BIPT, we have brought together more than 30 organizations and managed, on behalf of the consortium, a range of diverse community development projects under the (federally funded) Local Immigration Partnership.

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.

Our organization reflects the cultural diversity that exists in the community, our staff speak 47 different first languages and we offer many services in other languages. We continue to meet the highest service standards and we are currently accredited under CARF. With BFL's commitment to continuous quality improvement processes and accreditation standards, the positive impact of our organization never stagnates.

Many of our services depend on private donations and grants (Pro Organics and CKNW have provided about 30,000 healthy and nutritious snacks and meal ingredients to over 100 children and pregnant women in every day in 2016). Every dollar that is donated to BFL is "stretched to the max" because the organization is volunteer-driven. Unfortunately, a change in priorities from the CKNW orphans fund will see this element compromised in the coming year. Funding levels and expectations from funders that overheads be kept to a minimum has been a real challenge for all smaller organizations in Burnaby and we are no exception. The financial pressures are very real and year after year it is very challenging to maintain our infrastructure and continue to meet the high service delivery standards we set for ourselves. We wouldn't be able to continue without the support we receive from the city. Burnaby Family Life is able to do more because the City of Burnaby and the School District provide free or subsidized space. We have been able to leverage our resources through partnerships with government and other organizations.

In order to meet the needs of the community, most of our services rely on the 90+ volunteers who have provided more than 4,200 hours in the last fiscal year.

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 service 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 please find our most recent Annual Report and audited Financial Statements. I may be reached at 604 659 2208 if further information is required. The chair of our Board of Directors, Shaheen Nanji, 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. Shaheen Nanji, Chair

Encl: Annual Report, 2016 and audited financial statements