

## SCY continues to speak out

The past year has been an active one for SCY as we continue to speak out on issues affecting the well-being of children and youth in our province. SCY raised its voice against

Section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada and its use as a legal defence in the physical punishment of children. We expressed our concern about the changes to B.C.'s child labour laws. We spoke up for same sex couples and the children they are parenting. We supported efforts to alleviate child poverty in Canada and will continue to monitor the

impact of funding cutbacks and government restructuring on the lives of children, youth and their families in BC.

SCY is committed to ensuring that policies, programs and services meeting the rights of children are viewed not as additional resources but as mechanisms for the realization of human rights and our international commitments. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recently observed that Canada's governments need to do more to ensure the non discrimination of children, in particular minority children, within public policy. Over the past year we have worked with decision makers, service providers and communities to use the Convention as a lens to design policy and programs, to enhance the inclusion of children and youth in communities and their participation in decisions affecting them, and ultimately, as a lens through which to view the world. I am very proud of the initiatives that SCY has undertaken over the past year to help make this a reality.

None of this would be accomplished without the strong relationships SCY has developed at local, national, and international levels, the efforts of the many committed volunteers who make up the fabric of SCY, and our staff who run the organization on a daily basis.

Since Mary Clare Zak began as our Executive Director a year ago the Society has continued on familiar paths and set out upon some new ones. Our commitment to improving the lives of children and youth is as strong as ever, achieving a new sense of focus through our strategic planning process which we will resume in the coming year. We look forward to another exciting year ahead.



## Moving the agenda forward

### Advancing children's rights and well-being in public policy and in local BC communities.

#### Leading

Over the past year SCY led forums in Ottawa and Victoria to support the implementation of children's rights in public policy at provincial and federal levels. Participants, including over eighty youth, senior government and non governmental policy makers examined and tested SCY's policy development tools. Other highlights included learning about the increased use of the Convention in Canada's courts, as well as evidence-informed research that links a

rights based approach to increased competency and resiliency in children. Identifying how participants put these tools to practice on a daily basis will conclude the second phase of this project in

2004. Special thanks to the International Institute for Child Rights and Development, the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children and the National Children's Alliance for a terrific partnership.

A provincial tour promoting the use of SCY's Child and Youth Friendly Communities (CYFC) planning tools is well underway and will result in one hundred youth and adult leaders from twenty BC communities being better equipped to support the involvement of young people in community building. After evaluating the impact of this process, the next steps for the Child and Youth Friendly Communities Program includes developing a child and youth friendly communities network in BC and beyond! SCY extends its thanks to the Environmental Youth Alliance for contributing their time and expertise to this exciting initiative.

Lead by SCY, over 30 municipalities in BC proclaimed National Child Day in November 2003. In doing so these communities voiced their support for commitments made by mayors from around the world

who declared their responsibilities as advocates for children at the UN Special Session for Children held in New York in May, 2002.

#### Convening

Through its multi disciplinary board of directors, SCY is a natural convener of people, ideas, and action. This year SCY brought together UNICEF, the Vancouver School Board, and teachers to implement children's rights education materials in elementary school classrooms. During Youth Week, we convened a forum in partnership with the Student's Commission, Centre for Youth Engagement, the Environmental Youth Alliance and the City of Coquitlam that brought together youth, government, and community groups to examine current issues and strategies to make communities fit for children. Thanks to our partners!

#### Connecting

SCY responded to hundreds of requests for information from individuals, all levels of government, community based agencies, academics, students and journalists from around the province and around the globe. The Society continues to work closely with other organizations and agencies to achieve its goals. Our participation in national coalitions and networks enables SCY to disseminate key information on children's rights and collaborate among various networks. SCY was one of ten national pilots that

**"If SCY were to focus on one area, it should be advocacy because you do it so well."**

NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESPONDENT

helped produce Canada's first children's rights monitoring toolkit. We anticipate that this successful partnership with the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children will involve youth and communities in monitoring children's rights as well as their participation in Canada's next non governmental report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. SCY is exploring ways to improve our capacity to share information and better serve a wide and increasingly diverse public. Our survey of the FOCUS newsletter is an example of efforts taken to better serve the information needs of our members.

#### Rewarding

Our Child and Youth Friendly Communities Awards Program recognizes efforts made to meaningfully involve children and youth in community building. 2003 awards and honorable mentions were presented in conjunction with National Child Day to: Renfrew-Collingwood Community; the Montrose Youth Action Team Society; the Broadway Youth Resource Society; the Boston Bar community; the International Red Cross RespectEd Program, and the Riley Park Youth Council.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | MARY CLARE ZAK

## Past year active for society



Do children with disabilities enjoy different rights from other children in British Columbia? This was the first of many questions SCY examined this year which

are expressed in our report, *Perspectives on the Rights of Children with Disabilities in British Columbia*. As with any successful process, it has made an important contribution to the realization of rights for all children while deepening my own personal commitment to these

important issues. I am grateful to SCY's board of directors, staff and contractors, and my new colleagues in the child and youth sector provincially and nationally. Your dedication to making a difference for children and their families is unparalleled. Many thanks for your wonderful support.



## You can be an Advocate for Children and Youth. Here are some ways.

- 1**  **Become a member**  
 **Renew my membership**

As a member I will receive the FOCUS Newsletter and SCY member updates, 20% discount on all SCY publications, and information on issues, initiatives, and events.

Annual membership fee\*

- \$10 individual**    **\$25 organization**

- 2**  **Make a tax deductible donation**

Here is my donation\*

- \$25**    **\$50**    **\$100**    I prefer to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- 3**  **Volunteer**

Participate in one of our committees

- Rights Awareness
- Child and Youth Friendly Communities
- Communications
- Fund Raising and Membership

Join the Board of Directors

**I want**

- To contribute to SCY's endowment with the Vancouver Foundation. If so, we will contact you.
- More information on how to make a charitable bequest.
- To find out about volunteer opportunities at SCY

*\*Donations and fees can be received by cash or cheque only.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS AND POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this form to an SCY representative along with your contribution or mail to SCY office: (prior to August 1, 2004)  
**Society for Children and Youth of BC, 1409 Sperling Avenue, Burnaby BC V5B 4J8 TEL 604-433-4180**  
 EMAIL [info@scyofbc.org](mailto:info@scyofbc.org) [www.scyofbc.org](http://www.scyofbc.org)

After August 1, 2004 our new location will be  
**551 – 409 Granville Street, Vancouver BC V6C 1T2**

**SCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**SCY PARTICIPATES ON THE FOLLOWING COALITIONS AND NETWORKS**

- Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children  
 FirstCallBC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition  
 Early Childhood Development Advisory Committee,  
 Ministry of Child and Family Development  
 Early Years Alliance of BC

**SCY APPRECIATES THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE FOLLOWING FUNDING AGENCIES**

- Department of Canadian Heritage  
 Law Foundation of BC  
 Human Resources Development Canada  
 Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Safety  
 National Crime Prevention Council  
 Vancouver Foundation  
 VanCity  
 United Way of the Lower Mainland

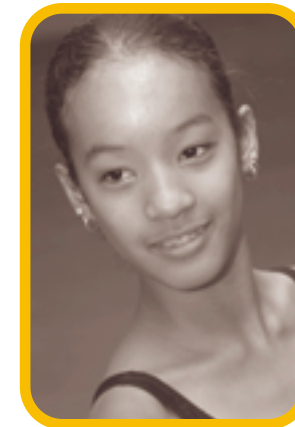


**SCY STAFF AND CONTRACTORS**

- Mary Clare Zak EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 Melanie Clark PROJECT COORDINATOR  
 Child and Youth Friendly Communities  
 Edlira Heba OFFICE MANAGER  
 (December 2003-May 2004)  
 Gary Pennington, Linda Graham,  
 and Robert Yates

**OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME, EXPERTISE AND OTHER SUPPORT TO SCY**

Alana Kappel, Save the Children Canada • Angela Clancy, Family Support Institute • Anna McQuarrie, Michael Bach and Janice Douglas, National Association for Community Living • Brigitta von Krosigk, Canadian Legal Network for Children with Special Needs • Cathie Camlie, Federation of Invisible Disabilities • Carol Stinson, Cerebral Palsy Association of BC • Cecilia Van Egmond, Health Canada/Department of Canadian Heritage • Cherie Enns, University College of the Fraser Valley • Cheryl Thorpe • Chilliwack Community Services Society • Child and Youth Officer of BC • Cindy Blackstock, Caring for First Nations Children's Society • Cindy Sanford, Developmental Disabilities Association • Clair Schuman, BC Association for Community Living • Community Expert Engagement Resource Team • Coralys Cuthbert, City of Vancouver; • Denise Buote, Faculty of Educational Psychology, University of BC • Dianne Bascombe and Tara Ashtakala, National Children's Alliance • Doug Ragan, Chrissy, Kat, and others at the Environmental Youth Alliance • Elaine Isaac, Caring for First Nations Children Society • Eva Murray, Learning Disabilities Association of Vancouver • Eyob Naighzi, MOSAIC • Frances McQueen, Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture • Gary Pennington • Helesia Luke • Irene Sterninske • Jack Boomer • Jo Anne Dillabough and Kimberly Hlina, Faculty of Education, University of BC • Jen Mantika, RightWay Program, Save the Children Canada • Julie Cullen and Adrienne Montani, First Call BC; • Justice Institute of BC (Victoria) • Katherine Covell, University College of Cape Breton • Keith Pattinson, Search Institute • Ken Kissinger; Bev Kissinger • Les Foster, Ministry of Child and Family Development • Lisa Pedrini, Larry Haberlin, and Jan Sippel, Vancouver School Board • Marianne Hanson, Autism Society of BC • Matthew Geigen-Miller, Defence for Children International • Michael Prince, University of Victoria • Michel Inkel • Paula Carr, Collingwood-Renfrew Community • Philip Cook, Brent Parfitt, Suzanne Williams and Michele Cook, International Institute for Child Rights and Development • Ralph Hembruff, Boys and Girls Clubs of BC • Senator Landon Pearson • Sandra Griffin, Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children • Shirley Kepper, UNICEF • Susan Knecht, City of Coquitlam • Sharon Hope-Irwin, Specialink • Sheryl Dickson, Down Syndrome Research Foundation and Resource Centre • Stoney McCart Students Commission and Centre of Youth Excellence • Students Commission Youth Members • Tereanne Derrick, BC Aboriginal Network on Disability • Valerie Fronczek • And our many donors



## Society FOR Children AND Youth of BC



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