

SOCIETY FOR  
**children**  
and **youth**  
OF BC

**2017**  
**Annual Report**

**SCY Society for Children and Youth of BC**



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## SECTION 1

## An Overview of SCYOFBC

The Society for Children and Youth is a not for profit Society.

### Our Vision

Our vision is a British Columbia where all children and youth thrive.

### Our Mission

To improve the well-being of children and youth in BC through the advancement of their civic, political, economic, social, cultural and legal rights.

### Our Goals

- Improve the understanding and implementation of child and youth rights.
- Protect the rights of children and youth in vulnerable contexts.
- Advance the planning and development of child and youth friendly communities.
- Grow opportunities for children and youth to be heard and included

### Our People

#### Board Members

Nina Purewal	Chair
Kim Thomson	Vice Chair
Erin Hood	Treasurer
Jenn Strate	Director
Ashley Howard	Director
Paul Lepage	Director
Sarah Joesse	Director
Jennifer Stewart	Director
Jessica Tran	Director
Carrie Anne Vanderhoop	Director

#### Employees & Contract Employees

Stephanie Howell	Executive Director
Amanda Thayil	Program Manager
Ildiko Kovacs	CYFC Coordinator
Allison Barker	Office Administrator
Dinali de Fonseca	Office Administrator
Donna Maser	Child & Youth Lawyer
Suzette Narbonne	Child & Youth Lawyer
Rachel Malek	Youth Co-Facilitator
Elliot Cluney	Youth Co-Facilitator
Dylan Cohen	Youth Co-Facilitator
Alison Bates	Youth Co-Facilitator
Sarah Kothlow	Youth Co-Facilitator

**Honourary Officers** – Joe Rosen, Tom Berger, Frances Grunberg, Flora McLeod (deceased), Basil Robinson (deceased)

## **Chairperson's Report**

2017 was another exciting year at SCY filled with new opportunities. We moved offices (from UBC to the Commercial Drive area), opened the doors for the Child and Youth Legal Centre, and continued educating young people about their rights. Our Executive Director, along with the Staff and Board Members, continued to enhance old partnerships while also building new partnerships with new stakeholders.

We hired two new lawyers in 2017 to work in the Child and Youth Legal Centre, where they provided direct advocacy and legal advice to children and youth. While there are many gaps in legal services for children and youth in BC, the Centre worked to fill some of those by providing representation for young people. Everyone at SCY worked hard to get the Centre up and running, with significant assistance from the Law Foundation of BC. The Centre also has an Advisory Committee, comprised of legal experts in the community. We thank them for their commitment and assistance to the Centre and to the work of SCY.

In Board news, we had a full complement again and continued to recruit individuals with diverse backgrounds. We continued with the Strategic Planning for the future of SCY and with the assistance of the staff, held our first annual event on November 20, A Night for Rights. The event was well attended and it not only raised funds for SCY but also increased the profile of the organization.

On behalf of the Board, I thank all of our supporters, funders, members and staff for all of their hard work and dedication in advancing the rights of children and youth in BC.

Nina Purewal, Chair

## **Executive Director's Report**

When I joined SCY, there was a lack of opportunities for young people to have their voices meaningfully heard within some of our programs and within broader social systems generally. A great majority of children and youth didn't know about their rights, and young people who were in and aging out of care were not receiving the support they needed to thrive. Since then SCY has been working diligently toward moving the dial in these areas in a positive and sustained direction.

Early in the year we continued to tighten up and refine our strategic plan. Our mission to advance the rights of children and youth in BC guides us in our decision-making and our daily work.

The project work and accomplishments you will read about in this Annual Report are just some of the highlights from 2017. We hired a new office administrator to compliment the SCY team, as well as new legal staff. We moved to a new, more central and accessible office, and built new and strengthened existing partnerships along the way. We continued our work in partnership with young people who were in or had aged out of government care in bringing awareness to unlikely adult allies, of some of the barriers faced, as well as suggested solutions to those barriers. We also successfully piloted our Urban Explorers initiative through which middle years school children explored and assessed parts of their city for child and youth friendliness. The children then had the opportunity to share their findings with various City of Vancouver department staff and other stakeholders.

With the support of both the Law Foundations of BC and Ontario Access to Justice Fund, as well as the Law Society of British Columbia, the Notary Foundation of British Columbia, and the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth of BC, the program was officially up and running by the end of October, 2017. Our team has since been working hard to address the many existing needs throughout BC, with the number of young people served steadily increasing each month.

I look forward to continuing to learn with and from young people in the year ahead. I am very proud of what our small team has been able to accomplish in this short time and humbled by their passion and commitment to advancing the rights of children and youth.

Stephanie Howell, Executive Director

## Our Activities

### Child and Youth Legal Centre

The Child and Youth Legal Centre provides direct legal services to children and youth in BC to allow their voices to be heard. Young people are now able to access legal services relating to family matters, child protection, and other children and youth legal matters.



Society for Children and Youth of BC Night for Rights Gala: Wayne Robertson, QC, Executive Director, Law Foundation of BC; Suzette Narbonne, Child and Youth Lawyer and Donna Maser, Child and Youth Lawyer, Child and Youth Legal Centre; Stephanie Howell, Executive Director and Nina Purewal, Chair, Society for Children and Youth BC; The Honourable Judge Patricia Bond, Governor and Veenu Saini, Program Director, Law Foundation of BC

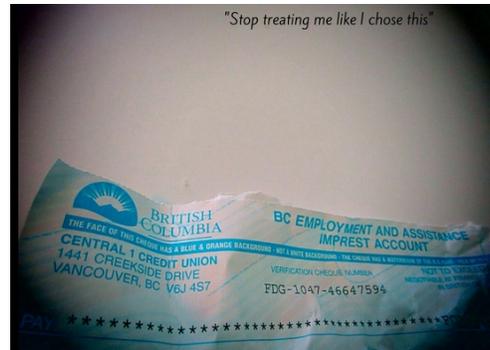
### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Night For Rights Celebration Fundraising Gala

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 SCY hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Night For Rights event.

Guest Speakers included:

**The Honourable Donna Martinson, Q.C.**, a retired Justice of the B.C. Supreme Court and co-chair of the CBA, BC Branch Children's Law Section. and **Tru Wilson**, Transgender Advocate, 14 year old student.

## Banking Through Our Eyes



In 2016, SCY began to work on a part of the Vancouver Foundation's [Fostering Change](#) initiative aimed at improving policy, practice, and community connections for young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood. SCY hosted two youth photovoice projects aimed at increasing youth voice and participation for those in and aging out of foster care.

While having conversations with these youth about solutions and next steps, SCY began to explore the possibilities around supporting some youth-led customer service staff awareness training. In 2017, in partnership with the Vancouver Foundation, SCY hired 4 youth in and from care to partner with us. These young people were trained in facilitation, convened groups of youth to get their input, interviewed various bank and credit union staff which contributed to their staff awareness training for customer service providers with whom they interact and who may benefit from awareness about the experiences of youth in care and the importance of connections between these young people and their community. They then co-facilitated these sessions for customer service staff.

These workshops were run in the Youth Facilitators Communities in 2017 and were wildly successful. Responses ranged from individual commitments improve their interactions with youth and further to educate their teams and look into their language, policies and training of their staff to lessen barriers for youth in care. Further to this participants of these workshops shared that this workshop inspired them further to become advocates outside their role and add their voice to housing crisis, the Fostering Change objectives, to listen for rights being dismissed or violated and to add their voice to change making initiatives. The Youth reported that they felt this project empowered them as experts, gave them a new form of advocacy, encouraged them to own their identity as Youth from care for the first time and saw community change as a direct result from their education.



**STORYTELLING FOR CHANGE**

Youth Art for Change – A First Call, SCY and Fostering Change Partnership



SCY joined forces with First Call- BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition to engage youth in and from care in identifying and promoting systemic changes needed to reduce the incidence of poverty and its attendant vulnerabilities among BC youth leaving care.

**Youth Art for Change: A Collective Showcase**

In January 2017 partnership with First Call – BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, SCY hosted a cooperative showcase event with a moderated panel to showcase the collective works of Youth in and from care. This was the culmination of the 2016 Youth Art for Change Project. This event served to fulfill the rights of Youth to have their voices heard, to provide an opportunity to build awareness of the issues they are experiencing while transitioning out of care, and to have a venue in which to advocate for change. Some of the groups who participated were, SCY's Youth Photovoice, Adoptive Families Striving for Permanence, Housing Matters Media, Art Start in Schools, and Meredith Graham Spoken word Artist.

Thanks to the many people who were involved in making this work happen and to the Youth who not only gave of their time, expertise and art, but did this all while living the very real challenges of risk of homelessness and living in poverty.



## Urban Explorers

Over sixty VSB students presented ideas to Vancouver's city and park planners on May 29, 2018 at the Urban Explorers Final Showcase.

The students all took part in a 6-month sustainability and environmental education curriculum that uses participatory planning methods for place-based and project-based learning. Students learned about Indigenous and multicultural histories of this land, and discussed urban growth, sprawl, and density. A Translink guest speaker, held a workshop on sustainable and active modes of transportation. The classes then examined their city through field- trips with the Places for People CoV team. This was followed by a collaborative brainstorming session where students identified local and global sustainability challenges, focusing on both social and environmental issues. Students then embarked on projects, creating visioning essays, posters and Parks and Public Space models (deemed most fun!) representing their ideas of how Vancouver should address many of the identified challenges.



## **Acknowledgements & Thank You**

We take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank-you to all of our donors, sponsors, and grant providers for their continued support. It is only through their generosity that we are able to continue work to improve the well-being of children and youth in BC.

### **Grants and Funding**

Law Foundation of British Columbia  
Law Foundation of Ontario Access to Justice Fund  
Notary Foundation of British Columbia  
Law Society of British Columbia  
Office of the Representative for Children and Youth of BC  
Vancouver Foundation  
United Way of the Lower Mainland  
Financial Assistance of the Province of British Columbia through the Community Gaming Grant

### **Corporate Sponsors and Major Donors**

Global Container Terminals  
Sidoo Family Giving

### **Volunteers**

We thank all of our volunteers for their passion and dedication to SCY.

Gayly Wu	Danika Howell
Gutham Parhar	Albert Chen
Andrea Gaede	Rosie Bolderston
Tazmin Mitha	Daphne Howell
Stephanie Driedger	Neil Morrison
Sophie Elliot	Erica Eng

We would also like to recognize members of the Child and Youth Legal Centre Advisory Committee who provided their commitment and expertise to the program.

## How You Can Help

### **Become an SCY Champion – Donate Today!**

Your support provides young people with life changing community programs, education, and legal support.

Consider becoming a monthly donor.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/scy-society-for-children-and-youth-of-bc/>

### **Subscribe to our Child Rights Network Newsletter**

Subscribe to our monthly Child Rights e-newsletter to stay informed on current issues, opportunities, and resources.

### **Become a member**

Membership is one way in which we demonstrate community support for SCY's work to donors and funders and is vital to the future and health of SCY.

As a member of SCY you will be automatically signed up for the Child Rights Network.

Network participants receive:

- Information on issues, initiatives, and events
- Opportunities to be a part of a unique and vital organization dedicated to children and youth in BC
- Invitations to attend conferences, forums, workshops, and roundtables
- Access to resource materials

SCY uses membership fees to:

- Create opportunities for children and youth to express their perspective and to share their own child rights stories
- Produce child rights resources that are distributed to community groups throughout the province and downloaded worldwide
- Continue to lead a multi-media Child Rights Public Awareness Campaign
- Provide no cost direct legal service to children and youth in BC.

To become a member, email your interest to [info@scyofbc.org](mailto:info@scyofbc.org) or consult our website [www.scyofbc.org](http://www.scyofbc.org).

### **Support our Annual Night for Rights Celebration Fundraising Event**

SAVE THE DATE! We are hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Night for Rights Event on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Heritage Hall in Vancouver, BC.

## Contact Us

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