

Mike Harlow, Adam Wright, Mark Sommerfeld

Co-Chair AGM Report - 2017-09-20

The Co-Chairs would like to report on the overall position of the Society and the Centre. This past year had a new feel for the Board, that being one of relative stability. For the first time since its inception the financial foundation on which the society stands is solid – there is cash in the bank and we are not anticipating incurring any major deficits in the coming year. Our financial statements show a continued positive trend, and one that we are going to do our best to maintain. If the current situation continues the CFS and CFC should be here for the long haul. We would like to specifically thank the Town of Inuvik for their assistance over this time and look forward to continue working with Council and Staff.

Over the past year the Board considered the impacts of the introduction of Junior Kindergarten on the CFS. As a result of this analysis the Board made slight changes to the school aged program fees, and established a new set of JK fees. As the school year plays out we'll have more information from which to evaluate the success of these changes, and make corrections if needed. We would like to acknowledge the work of the Inuvik DEA, BDEC and ECE in establishing JK in Inuvik. We hope to continue to provide assistance as and where appropriate.

As a result of significant work by former CFS Chair Fraser Pearce, the current CFS Board and our Executive Director we were able to secure funds to complete two major projects. You have probably noticed the installation of solar panels on the side walls, and have perhaps noticed the recent work on the installation of two pellet boiler systems. These systems are projected to reduce our energy demand significantly, which should further help our financial position while at the same time doing our part to reduce our climate footprint. Thanks to the noted hard work these systems have been purchased and installed at no cost to the Society.

This past year saw a wonderful partnership forged between the CFS and the Aboriginal Head Start program. Having the two programs operate side by side has proven beneficial for both groups from an organizational point of view. Of greater importance however is having all of these great kids sharing and interacting together. Having AHS come into the building was always part of the initial plans for the CFC, and we are thrilled that it has happened. We look forward to finding ways to work collaboratively for the benefit of each child who enters our doors.

You may have noticed the fencing placed around the playground outside. Please note this playground is for use by the whole community – the fencing is part of a regulatory requirement and not meant to keep people out.

Regarding volunteer hours, the Board has established a process by which parents may opt out of volunteer requirements for cost. We are happy to discuss those now if parents Wish.

Our staff compliment remains almost filled. High turnover rates are the norm in this industry, but our Executive Director Patricia Davison has been able to deftly manage this reality while ensuring excellent programming while working within required Early Childhood legislation, regulation, and policy. The Board would like to extend our thanks to Patricia for all her hard work, consideration and dedication to the center and the children who come here.

To the remainder of the staff – those who have been here for years and those just in the door – we would equally like to express our gratitude. It is the staff who provide the care to our children and keep them safe, stimulated and happy. Without them the facility would not be able to operate.

As always we'd like to finish by recognizing the incredible support the Society and Center have received from our wonderful community. Earlier this year a portion of this support was recognized as two rooms – the gym and the infant room – were named in honour of Kurt Wainman's father and uncle. Kurt, owner and president of Northwind Industries, has been a constant friend to the Center and for that we are grateful. But Kurt is not alone – we are constantly humbled by the support we receive from Inuvik's business community, the Gwich'in, the Inuvialuit, government agencies, and – probably most importantly – from individuals who call Inuvik home. From all of us on the Board, and the three Co-Chairs specifically, thank you for all of your time and support. It is always appreciated, and never taken for granted.

Thank you.

Adam, Mark and Mike.