

Mike Harlow, Adam Wright, Mark Sommerfeld

Co-Chair AGM Report - 2018-09-25

The Co-Chairs would like to report on the overall position and key activities of the Society and the Centre from the last Annual General Meeting. This year was marked with financial stability and steady policy and program improvement. We're happy to report that this year was without major incident or reason for concern.

The largest challenge that we faced as a Board was planning for, and adapting to, the implementation of the half-day junior kindergarten program at East Three Elementary School. Due to the potential change in enrollment numbers and the impact the JK program could have had on our programming, we decided to take an especially fiscally conservative approach to our budgeting this year. Half-day junior kindergarten has impacted our enrollment numbers slightly. However, due to our responsible budgeting, we managed to end the year in a healthy fiscal position, as confirmed by the audit report we will consider tonight. The efforts of the Society's finance committee and senior staff must be commended for this positive result. Furthermore, the introduction of JK did not negatively impact programming, with everything at the centre continuing to run very smoothly and efficiently. Full credit is due to Patricia and her devoted staff in this regard.

Three years ago we established the first CFS Strategic Plan which has contributed to ensuring both the short and long term success of the Children's First Society. The majority of the 2015-18 Strategic Plan's goals and objectives have been met or exceeded. The Board recognized the value of updating the Strategic Plan for the coming three years and engaged the services of our friend Michael Pealow of Whitehorse to help carry this out in June. The new strategic plan is about continued growth that furthers our vision for the impact and role the society can play on enrolled children, our staff, the community of Inuvik, and Early Childhood Education in the NWT going forward.

To properly look forward this year we must first look back. It is incredible to believe the CFC is opening its doors for the 6th year since it opened in 2013! As a result we are planning an event to acknowledge this 5 year milestone and hope to see you and the entire community come out. Please stay tuned for updates in this regard.

The Board would like to pass on its thanks to the many partners and stakeholders which allow the Society and Center to flourish. Meaningful involvement from institutions like the Inuvik Community Corporation, Nihtat Gwich'in Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Town of Inuvik, GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment and many others allows us to operate from a stable and reassuring foundation. The combined support of local business, not for profit organisations, and Inuvik's residents gives us the confidence that the center is viewed as a positive part of our wonderful community. Of our

talented, compassionate and caring staff we cannot say enough - without you this place simply does not work, and this is never lost on the Board or senior staff. To the parents who work hard to pay the fees and volunteer your limited time we say: thank you. It is your commitment to your children that ultimately created the CFC and keeps it going. The entire community has benefited immensely from your efforts and we look forward to improving the center for all of Inuvik's children. Finally, to the kids themselves - your happy and growing faces give us all the inspiration we could possibly need for us to keep doing what we do.

We look forward to the coming school year and working with all of you to keep the center positioned to succeed. If you ever have any questions about the CFC or the CFS please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of the co-Chairs, Board members or Senior staff. We need your input to ensure the Center does what it can to "help children achieve their greatness".

Thank you.

Adam, Mark and Mike.