



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

2023

Annual Report



Agency Message

Burnaby Family Life (BFL) envisions a healthy and inclusive community where individuals and families can thrive.

At its conception in 1971, BFL was an organization formed to respond to the changing social environment and needs of individuals and families in Burnaby. According to “Understanding and Dismantling Impacts of Racism on Racialized Communities in Burnaby” a report commissioned by BFL, it was highlighted that immigrants make up 50.38% of Burnaby’s population, “Burnaby is now a hyper diverse city, with 67% of the population identifying as visible minorities, the second highest percentage of visible minorities in Metro Vancouver and these residents bring their intellectual and artistic talents, cultures, languages and worldviews from a wide range of countries”.



The social services sector in which we operate our services continues to recognize the need for change to address the complex social environment and BFL, in our second year of our strategic plan, continues to contemplate transformation amid growth and strengthening of our internal structures and we saw many exciting things happen this past year.

In January Montecito became a \$10aDay ChildCare Centre, officially making all three of our childcare centres a part of the provincial \$10aDay initiative.

Our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation has led us to grow and learn as an organization and look within. We challenged our own biases, focus on outcomes and understand that this process must be intentional, continuous, and adaptive as we move forward.

Technology has become a vital part of our operations, and through the launch of our new accessible website, we have found that it has allowed us to deepen our reach of services into the community. In this year we have continued to upgrade all IT structures, and updated our operating systems, allowing for increased efficiency and effectiveness.

At the core of the organization is the staff. The internal environment in which we operate is reliant upon the interpersonal connections between staff and each client we serve. We are filled with gratitude for the dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and funders and recognize that it is through their trust in our organization that allows us to continue to provide much needed programs and services within the community of Burnaby.


JERRY CHEN, BOARD CHAIR


NAVREEN GILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BURNABY FAMILY LIFE'S MISSION IS TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY SERVICES THAT MEET THE CURRENT AND EMERGING NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY IN ALL ITS DIVERSITY. WE FACILITATE AND EMPOWER COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO ENABLE ALL TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.



**Licensed
Child Care &
Child-minding**



Counselling



**Family Life
Education**



**Family
Resource Program**



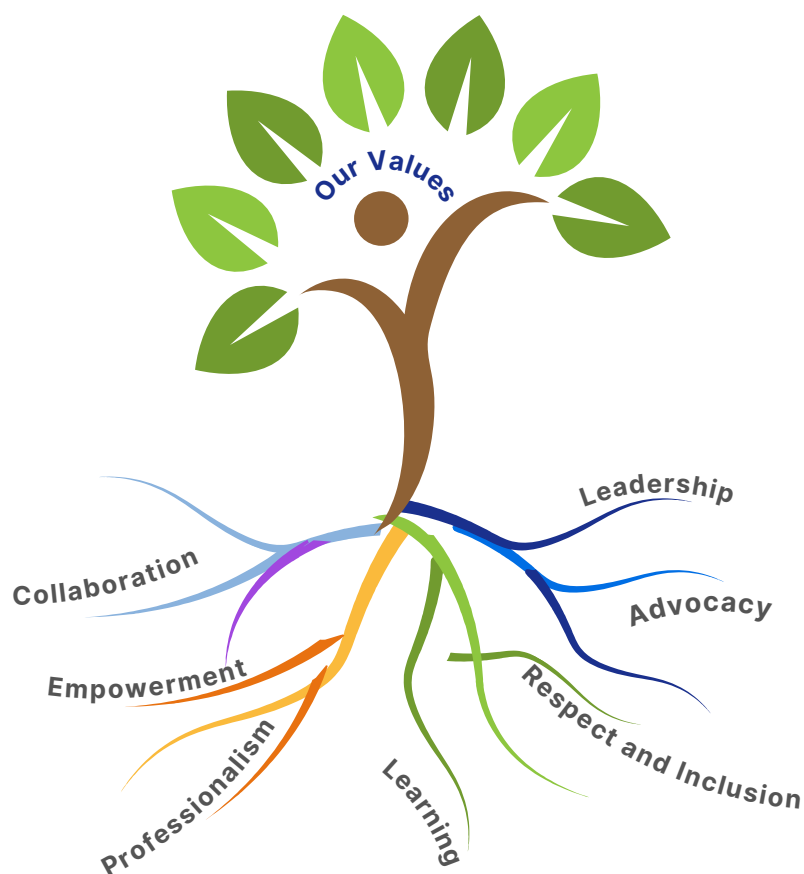
**Moving
Ahead**



**Pre & Post Natal
Services**

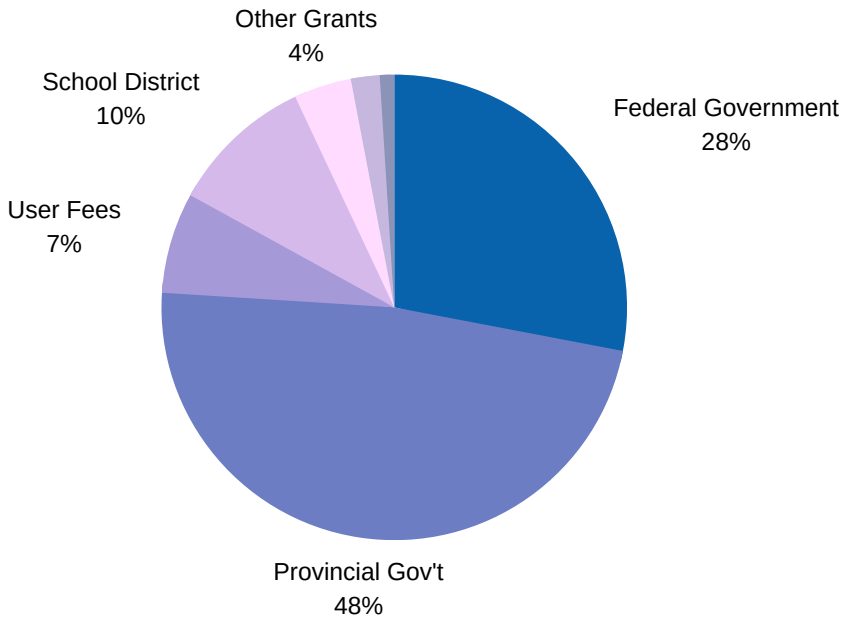
Like a tree's roots, our values intertwine to provide a stable base from which we can continue to grow and thrive as an organization.

These values not only define us, but they also guide us in our everyday work, helping us to make a difference in our community.



**Our Mission and
Values**

2022-2023 REVENUE SOURCES



The yearly revenue total is the highest ever recorded by Burnaby Family Life and represents our constant innovation and search for new funding to enhance services and programs we deliver in the community. Overall revenues increased by 8% over the prior year with new additional programming funded through provincial and federal grants.

We are pleased to report on the financial performance of Burnaby Family Life for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023., which resulted in an excess of revenue.

This year we saw a program change that impacted on our service to the community as our Montecito Child Care Centre became our third \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre, which is an exciting opportunity for BFL and our clients.

As always, we want to thank the Burnaby Family Life staff for continuing to provide innovative and excellent services to our clients this past year. BFL is grateful for the commitment and generosity of the individuals and organizations who have supported us over the past year through donations, memberships, other relationships, and the contribution of financial and in-kind resources. Your support allows BFL to continue to deliver quality services, which empower our community to fully participate in society.

Jason Welch, Treasurer

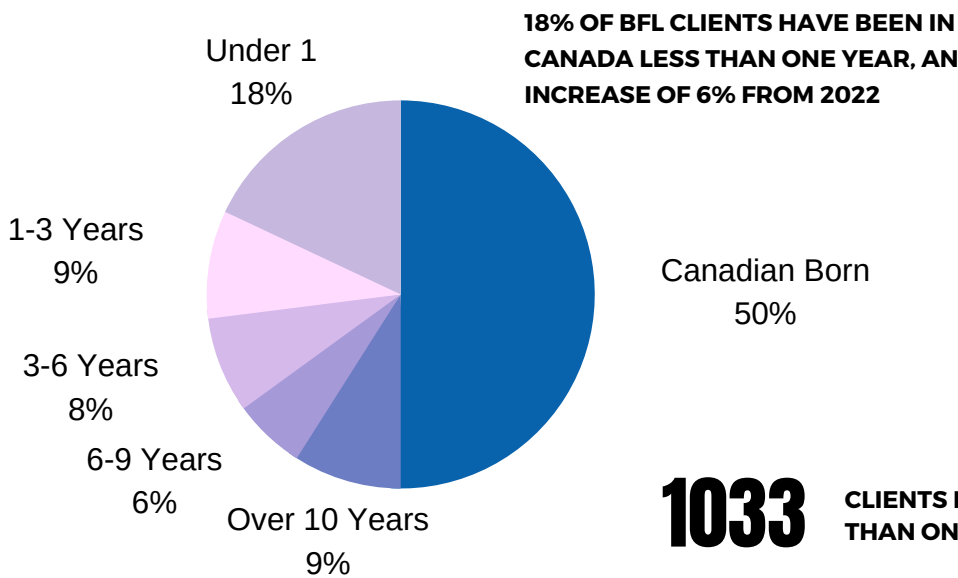
BFL is dedicated to supporting families and individuals within the Burnaby community by providing transformative programs and services that cultivate a strong sense of inclusivity. This year we delivered services and programs that celebrate unique backgrounds and the diverse needs of families and individuals as we continue to be deeply committed to fostering personal and collective advancement. This year we had three licensed child care centres, three licensed child-minding programs, parenting support workshops, specialized support groups, family-oriented drop-in programs, outreach programs for expecting and new mothers, educational programs focusing on family life, summer camp, and comprehensive assistance and counseling for women and children who have endured traumatic experiences and abuse.

BFL IS PROUD TO OFFER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT SUPPORT NEWCOMERS

2307
clients served

3340
client admissions

228,256
total service hours



1033 CLIENTS PARTICIPATED IN MORE THAN ONE BFL PROGRAM THIS YEAR!

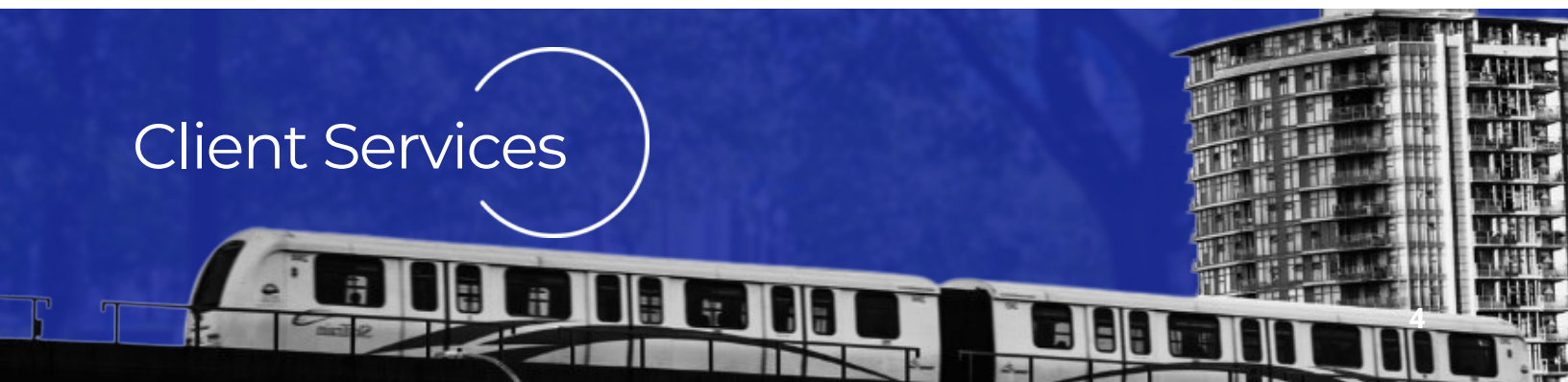
64 DIFFERENT FIRST LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY CLIENTS

69% SPEAK A FIRST LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

33 DIFFERENT FIRST LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY STAFF

95 UNIQUE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN REPRESENTED BY CLIENTS

Client Services



The **Burnaby South Child Care Centre** provides quality licensed child care for children between eight weeks and three years of age with a primary focus on supporting the Young Parent Program, a program focused on supporting families while attending secondary school. In working with young parents, staff recognized the importance of providing response services, by providing childcare past school hours and within the summer months.

As we began this year, family and staff continued to adapt and change processes and procedures to maintain health and safety.

At Burnaby South staff recognized the importance of building connections amongst families attending the Centre and the community. Innovations such as a monthly newsletter were created, and family get togethers occurred. It was reported by families that they increased their awareness of available resources and supports.

Staff at Burnaby South worked to maintain quality childcare by investing in weekly training with a Pedagogist from the Early Childhood Pedagogist Network, training on the Early Learning Framework, and participation in the Annual Alliance of Professionals Serving Young Parent Conference. Our commitment to training and supporting future educators in the field was maintained as Burnaby South supported practicum students from Vancouver Community College, Douglas College, and Vancouver Career College.

SPECIAL THANKS

This year we are extremely grateful to continue being a \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the following key partners:

- The Farmer's Market Nutrition Coupon Program, for providing funds to our Young Parent Program.
- The Burnaby School District for their continued strong partnership in supporting young parents and their children.
- The Fraser Health Authority for their licensing and environmental health support.
- Supported Child Development at the BC Center for Ability for the support by providing resources to staff to support children with extra needs. Also, for providing workshop and training opportunities.

**35,625 total
service hours**



We can see how well staff care for my child, and it makes it easy to leave her. We also appreciate all the stimulating activities they do. We can already tell she is learning so much. It's a great program.

Client quote

**Burnaby South
Child Care Centre**



The **Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment (PEACE)** program is an intervention and prevention program for children and youth, ages three to 18, who witnessed domestic violence and abuse. The goal of the program is to help children and youth heal from the trauma they have experienced and to interrupt the cycle of intergenerational abuse.

This year we were able to offer our individual counselling services in-person, or remotely via telephone and online. This school year we continued to offer Open Art Studio at Burnaby Youth Hub to serve vulnerable youth in our community.

We continue to get positive reviews and encouragement from the school district, caregivers, and school staffs to continue with the Violence Is Preventable (VIP) group facilitation program which offers psychoeducation and awareness of emotional process.

SPECIAL THANKS

We are grateful for the following support:

- Our students from Adler University
- BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the local Fraser Health Authority, Ministry of Health for funding support

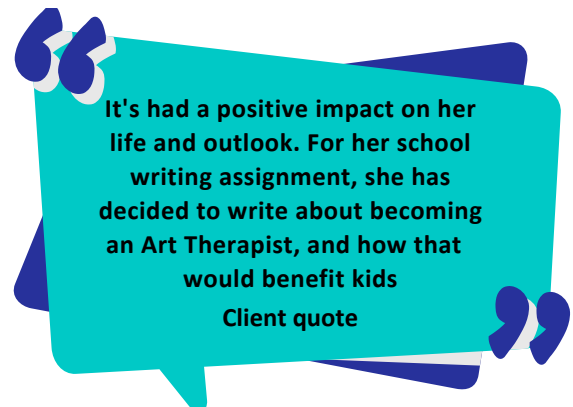
**2160 direct
service hours
provided**



The **Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling** service provides free individual counselling and therapy groups for women who have experienced abuse (i.e., physical, sexual and/or emotional, including witnessing domestic violence in childhood). The mission of the program is to educate, support and empower women, so they may heal from the impacts of trauma and lead healthier and more productive lives.

This service area provides individual counselling and a range of therapy groups. In summer 2022, we provided the Healing Journey group virtually online for our clients. This opportunity gave us an overview of counselling department versatility and ability to adapt to external transitions and changes. Post pandemic we continued to see an increased need for counselling services. Our team responded to these extensive waitlists by offering a virtual online groups.

According to our surveys and feedback we received from our clientele, we observed an increase in request for group counselling services. We have added an additional group offerings to our counselling services during the summer season.



**Counselling
Services**



The **Children's Program** provides quality care for children ages 18 months to 12 years for parents and caregivers participating in different BFL programs. We believe that all children are entitled to safe and healthy child care that encourages their physical, emotional, social, intellectual, and cultural development, respects diversity and supports their families. Service areas include child care for 14 different adult programs, Monday through Saturday, during morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. We provided childcare for 39 different groups through the year.

As Burnaby Family Life continues to provide responsive programs such as Curious Minds, and Support & Peer Group for Parents of 2SLGBTQIA+ Children/Youth, child-minding has been extended to allow for participation. In addition to our Family Life Education programs, child care is also provided for our Pregnancy Outreach Programs as well as programs such as Nobody's Perfect, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, Single Mother's Support Group, Immigrant Women's Support Group, Parenting for Immigrants, Calm & Confident Parenting, Curious Minds, and Fatherhood, a Journey.

This year 76% of participants have a first language other than English. This language barrier can lead to difficulties settling in and intensify separation anxiety. To address this, we work to address this by trying to recruit multilingual volunteers and staff to create a positive and inclusive environment. Our goal is to ensure that all children feel supported and engaged in our programs, providing enriching experiences for each child.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the Ministry of Children and Family Development for their continued support so that parents can enhance their parenting skills while their children are cared for in a supportive, inclusive and caring environment.

Also thank you to the incredible Children's Program team for their kind and patient hearts.



The best experience in this program is my son starts to separate with me now, every week he improves relation with other kids everywhere.

Client quote

Clients came from 29 countries of origin, with 36 different first languages.



Children's Programs



The **Family Life Education Program** provides a variety of parenting and support groups for individuals to create healthy and nurturing environments for their families and themselves, in a diverse community. Additionally, our services encourage the successful settlement and integration of immigrants and promote the acceptance of diverse cultures in Canadian society.

All programs are provided in a group format, guided by a facilitator, balancing group activities and discussions with structured learning. Each session provides education and discussion on topics related to parenting, child development and personal growth. Participants socialize and share their experiences with each other which can lead to building lasting social connections.

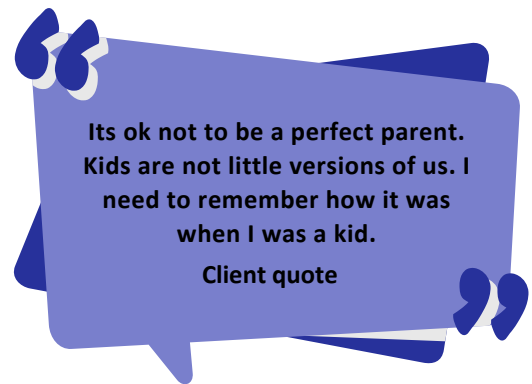
One of our most significant achievements this year has been the establishment of the Support & Peer Group for Parents of 2SLGBTQIA+ Children/Youth program. Another accomplishment was the well-received workshop titled "Let's talk about sexuality," which aimed to demystify the topic. This workshop, led by PossAbilities, resonated with parents and further contributed to our efforts in providing valuable resources and support to the community.

These achievements signify our commitment to meeting the diverse needs of parents and families in our community. We look forward to expanding and enhancing our programs and workshops, striving to create an inclusive, caring, and supportive environment for all participants.

SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our gratitude to our funder Ministry for Children and Family Development for acknowledging and recognizing the impact of our programs and our efforts in reaching out to parents/caregivers who are most in need. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to our volunteers and community partners for supporting our programs –Second Street Community School, Stoney Creek Community School, PosAbilities and Family Services of Greater Vancouver.

We would also like to thank the incredible team of Family Life Education facilitators for their unwavering commitment, dedication and enthusiasm that have made a significant positive impact on the lives of many, fostering strong and resilient families within our community.



**198 unique clients
served, speaking 38
different first
languages**



**Family Life
Education**

The **Family Resource Program (FRP)** provides a range of services to support parents and caregivers, including Family Drop-ins, Learning Together Through Play, Baby & Me and Mother Goose. The program goals are to strengthen healthy family-child relationships through opportunities for parents and caregivers to become informed of and involved in supporting the positive development of children within the context of the family. All programs value cultural diversity and provide opportunities to increase each family's knowledge of children's health and development, knowledge of community resources and opportunities for family networking and advocacy.

It is with a deep sense of respect and humility that the Family Resource Programs' team would like to share its sincere efforts this year to learn, celebrate, and raise awareness about the rich heritage, culture, and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples. To achieve this, we implemented a curriculum that serves as a valuable resource for Family Resource Programs to foster awareness and combat racism through the spirit of reconciliation. The modules and materials provided aim to serve as a starting point for children, parents, and caregivers in our programs to share and reflect upon.

We continue to listen to the evolving needs and challenges of the families that come to our programs and make every effort to address them. For example, we have been able to continue offering the outdoor Family Drop-ins in the parks in the Summer even after the pandemic. This has helped us to promote the significance of outdoor play for the healthy physical, cognitive, and social development of children.

SPECIAL THANKS

We are immensely grateful to the following partners and stakeholders: City of Burnaby Parks and Recreation, Early Childhood Consultants from Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Information Children, Fraser Health, PPH Dental Program, Seventeen dedicated volunteers, the hundreds of parents, caregivers, and children from whom we learn from every day, the incredible Family Resource Program team, whose commitment and dedication have been instrumental in supporting the healthy development of families and children. Our appreciation goes out to each and every one of them for their invaluable contributions and unwavering support.

**986 unique clients
from 61 different
countries of origin
and 46 different
first languages**



Having these drop-in programs and also parenting classes are so beneficial to myself as a parent and my daughters development. I love meeting and talking to other parents. The coordinators are so helpful with resources.

Client quote



**Family Resource
Program**



Montecito Child Care Centre is located on the grounds of Montecito Elementary and serves children between the ages of thirty months to five years old. We believe children are unique individuals who are capable and independent with different strengths and learning methods. Our program provides an inclusive environment to meet each child's developmental milestones by using their interests and creating age-appropriate activities to help each child reach their full potential.

Staff continuously work together with families with open and respectful communication, providing resources and support to connect them with one another and to the broader community.

We continue to work closely with the BC Centre for Ability as they provide us with funding for one-on-one support for some of our children and have also provided resources and tools to use in our program. We saw tremendous growth in the children supported through this program.

For most of the year, Montecito was funded through client user fees, however, on January 1st, 2023, funding was provided by BC Ministry of Education and Child Care for Montecito to become a part of the \$10aDay ChildCare BC program. We are excited for this wonderful opportunity for our Montecito families.

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to say thank you to Montecito Elementary School for continuing to support a smooth and safe environment for all the children and staff. We also want to say thank you to all the volunteers who volunteered at the centre. We really appreciate the dedicated time volunteers have put in to support our program.

**49,644 total
service
hours**



“Every experience, every day is the best one! It is truly the greatest gift to know every day that my child has a safe, healthy, nurturing, fun, and engaging environment to grow and learn. I am grateful every day for the interactions I have with Montecito staff and the support and social education they provide each and every day for my child.”

Client quote

**Montecito Child
Care Centre**



Moving Ahead is designed to provide support for Government Assisted Refugees and vulnerable immigrant populations facing significant barriers to settlement and integration in Canada. The primary goal of the program is to empower vulnerable immigrants through intensive one-on-one case management in the client's first language, offering various education and support programs to help them overcome obstacles and achieve their settlement goals.

We are proud to be a part of the Innovative BC Settlement Case Management Service Model Project, led by MOSAIC in partnership with researchers from UBC. This collaborative project aims to enhance the existing Settlement Case Management Model, with the overarching objective of supporting vulnerable members of Canadian society to fully participate and contribute to society.

With digital and computer literacy becoming essential to access many services like banking, credit card services, welfare/income assistance services, paystubs, and tax documents, our clients have requested support in this area. This shift in increased technology impacts our clients, as many have little to no literacy skills and have no experience with living and working in urban environments.

To respond to this changing social environment, our case managers have dedicated considerable time and effort to educate and support clients with digital literacy so that they can independently access online services.

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to thank the following...

- A generous community member for continuing to volunteer his time to file income tax for all our clients.
- City of Burnaby – Parks and recreation for supporting our clients to receive recreation credit.
- BC Tech and Burnaby Neighbourhood House for the many refurbished cell phones we received for our clients.
- BC Federation for providing funding support for technology for our clients.
- A special acknowledgement goes to the Moving Ahead Program Case Managers for their dedication and determination in supporting, serving, and advocating for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.



**71% of clients
have been in
Canada for less
than one year**



**Moving Ahead
Program**



Morley Child Care Centre offers three licensed programs at our centre: Daycare (children between 3 and 5), Preschool (children between 30 months to five years old) and Out-of-School Care (from Kindergarten to Grade 5). We believe each child develops at an individual pace and each has unique strengths, interests, personality and ways of learning. Our programs provide an inclusive environment that supports children in meeting developmental milestones and reaching their own full potential through age-appropriate programming.

We continually look for opportunities to connect families with community resources, and develop a connection between the children's centre, home and the community. Increasing communication and building connections was a focus for the staff. Creative ideas such as interactive boards illustrating progress, individual learnings and parental encouragement were developed. A monthly newsletter was also created and served as a vehicle to bridge learnings, and increase awareness of community supports .

Morley Child Care Centre proudly continues to be a \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centre and are grateful for the support this gives our families.

**53,120 total
service hours**



SPECIAL THANKS

This year, we are extremely grateful for the support of the following key partners:

- Morley Elementary School Principal and head teacher who collaborated daily with us to build and improve a safer environment for our community.
- Morley Elementary School Kindergartens teachers for the extra support to help our children transition into kindergarten smoothly.
- Morley Elementary Strong Start Teacher who helped promote our Preschool Program to new parents in our community.
- Early Childhood Pedagogy Network who continued to provide our staff the ongoing professional training for Early Learning Framework.
- The BC Centre for Ability who has provided ongoing support of consulting services for children who needed the extra support in our preschool and daycare programs.

I am happy to see my child interacting with other children and with the staff encouraging and teaching him the basic but fundamental rules of play. Seeing my child happy, healthy and safe is invaluable.

Client quote

**Morley Child
Care Centre**



Pre and Post Natal Services offer services to promote positive health and wellness with at-risk women through education and support in a safe and inclusive environment. The program serves women struggling with multiple barriers that could impact their pregnancy or postpartum journey. We strive to improve mother and infant health, foster social and community networks, and empower women to their fullest potential. This program is delivered through continuous care in group and one-to-one outreach services.

Our clients often share the feeling of belonging, safety, and support they get from our groups and outreach services. The team works to ensure that every group session feels warm, inviting, and safe regardless of a person's background, religion, or life experience. Our multi-disciplinary team is focused on maternal well-being, newborn care and development, and nutrition.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to give a special thanks to the many organizations and individuals that support the program throughout the year: BCAPOP, Pro Organics, Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program, Burnaby Life Quilters, Baby Go Round, Greater Vancouver Food Bank, Caring Hearts, BCCA, Save-On-Foods, Burnaby Primary Care Network, Burnaby Neighbourhood House, ISSofBC, Pacific Spirit Quilters Guild, Burnaby Senior's Knitting Group, Family Services of Greater Vancouver, Second Harvest, and several independent donors. We are grateful to have had guest organizations facilitate educational sessions and our volunteers for their commitment to the clients.

This year, BFL was once again a host agency for a pilot project called the **Healthy Care Pregnancy Program (HCPP)**. The objective of the program is to support women with a history of, or who are currently using, substances and are pregnant or up to 7 months postpartum, providing them with wrap-around support in-home, community, and acute care settings.

We have successfully supported families in getting housing, reuniting with their cultural history or traditions, and feeling better about themselves through mental and emotional support. Goals of the program are to promote and maintain mother-baby togetherness, increase support for parenting, breastfeeding education, improve overall wellbeing, and empower women who are enrolled to make the best decisions for themselves and their baby.

We would also like to thank both the Provincial Health Services Authority for funding the project and the BC Association of Pregnancy Outreach Programs for their administration of the HCPP project and funds.



80% of participants born outside of Canada



Pre and Postnatal Services



Our **LINC Child-minding Program** provides quality care in a safe and caring environment for children while their parents or guardians participate in Language Instruction for Newcomer to Canada (LINC). The licensed child-minding program has been delivered by BFL since 2011 and offers services to children from 18 months up to six years (school age). Various learning opportunities are provided to support the early learning and development of children of immigrant families. The program values cultural diversity and aims to increase the family's knowledge of children's health and development, community resources and opportunities for family networking and advocacy. The learning and growth of each child and the smooth adjustment of the family into their new communities is important and valuable to the LINC Programs.

Burnaby Family Life is partnered with two different agencies for the LINC Child-minding Program: the Burnaby School District and MOSAIC. This program is delivered at three locations: Brentwood Learning Centre, Edmonds Resource Centre, and Windsor Adult Education Centre.

Trust is essential between educators and families and this process takes time as we work to build relationships with the children and their families to learn about the child and their individual needs. We are committed to ensuring that each family feels comfortable and supported during their time with us. In supporting the individual needs of the children, staff work closely with paraprofessionals in the community such as, BC Centre for Abilities, Kinsight, speech and language pathologists, dental hygienists, and librarians.

This year LINC staff offered two innovative programs, HSBC Literacy Workshop and the Healthy Habits program. We continue to build relationships with each other, our families, the adult LINC educators, and the community. We are open to engaging in ideas that will bring us together and look forward to finding more ways to connect.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to all children and families for all your support during this past year. We also want to thank our volunteers and we are very grateful for the hard work, commitment and dedication offered by staff.

Our work would not be possible without the support given by BC Centre for Abilities and Kinsight.



162 clients speaking 21 different first languages representing 19 different countries



LINC Child-minding Program





BIPT

BURNABY INTERCULTURAL PLANNING TABLE



IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR VISION FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE BURNABY

We dedicated ourselves to achieving several essential goals guided by the five key strategic priorities identified in Burnaby's Settlement and Integration Strategic Plan, which have laid the foundation for our impactful initiatives throughout the last fiscal year.

Each of the five goal areas represent a vital aspect of our mission to empower immigrants and foster a strong sense of community belonging.

EMPLOYMENT

One of our key objectives was to ensure that Burnaby immigrants have access to services and supports that enhance their employment opportunities. Through strategic partnerships and hosting events, **we worked diligently to bridge the gap and empower newcomers to succeed in the workforce**, thus contributing to their personal growth and economic stability. The employment events were well attended by both employment seekers as well as organizations looking to grow.

 **359 people engaged**
10 working groups

CULTURAL REPRESENTATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We firmly believe in the power of diverse voices in shaping the future of Burnaby. Through working group meetings, we encouraged civic engagement among immigrants, allowing them to play a crucial role in the growth and development of their neighborhoods. We participated in Task Force for Retrofit and Climate change. **By embracing unique cultural backgrounds and perspectives, we aspired to create a richer, more vibrant community.**

 **189 people engaged**
14 working groups

INTERCULTURAL CONNECTION

To build a harmonious and connected community, we placed a strong emphasis on fostering intercultural connections. **During the year we held working groups meetings, encouraging active participation in the growth and development of their neighborhoods.** We conducted racism research, attended conferences and presented on the Burnaby Newcomer Inclusion Initiative Project. We sought to create an inclusive environment where immigrants feel valued, and welcomed.

 **270 people engaged**
14 working groups

IMMIGRANT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Comprising passionate Burnaby immigrants and refugees, the council played a pivotal role in supporting and promoting our initiatives and activities. **We welcomed new members from Malaysia, India, Ukraine, Indonesia, Syria, and China.** Their invaluable input and feedback have been instrumental in shaping the direction of our organization's initiatives and ensuring that our endeavors resonate with the very community we serve.

 **6 working group meetings**

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES

We recognized the significance of information accessibility for newcomers' successful settlement and integration. In pursuit of this goal, **we worked this year to ensure that Burnaby's settlement and integration information and services were readily understood and accessible to all through working group meetings and environmental scan of services to newcomers in Burnaby.** By breaking down barriers and fostering transparency, we aimed to empower immigrants to make informed decisions and confidently navigate their new lives in Burnaby.

 **41 people engaged**
14 working groups

As we reflect on the past year's achievements, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and dedicated team members who have played pivotal roles in this transformative journey and **we welcome the organizations that joined the BIPT this year, BCIT, YWCA, and the Jewish Canadian Jewish Federation., BCIT, YWCA, and the Jewish Canadian Jewish Federation.**

MORE
THAN

859

PEOPLE ENGAGED
TROUGHTOUT THE
YEAR





BURNABY TOGETHER

COALITION AGAINST RACISM AND HATE



The Burnaby Together Coalition, operating under the Organizations Against Racism and Hate (OARH) program, embarked on a transformative journey aimed at promoting multiculturalism, addressing racism, and fostering inclusive communities. **With a strong community-driven approach, the coalition expanded its reach to urban areas, engaging communities in its mission.**

The Coalition addressed anti-racism and discrimination by **recognizing on-going education continues to be important to frontline workers and any member in the community.** Based on our learnings on how to best engage the community, we used a hybrid model of offering online and in person events.

WHAT WE DID

We brought educational sessions to the community. We held three sessions of Racism and Active Witnessing that had interpretation in Farsi, Dari/Pashto, Arabic and Chinese. We also organized Break the Silence which included micro-aggressions and unconscious biases discussions.

Through a community wide event, Everyone is Welcome: A Burnaby Community Celebration, Burnaby Together **joined community partners to explore issues of racism, stigma, social isolation** and Burnaby's response on decreasing barriers in communication as experienced by newcomers.

We partnered with the Metro Vancouver LIPS for the commemoration of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We hosted a diverse panel who **engaged in dialogue to understand racism through an Indigenous, local and educational lens.**

Through the Theatre of the Oppressed, a tool for personal and social empowerment created by and for the community to show real life situations come to life. The participants **explored how best to respond to incidents of racism and hate in our current social context.**

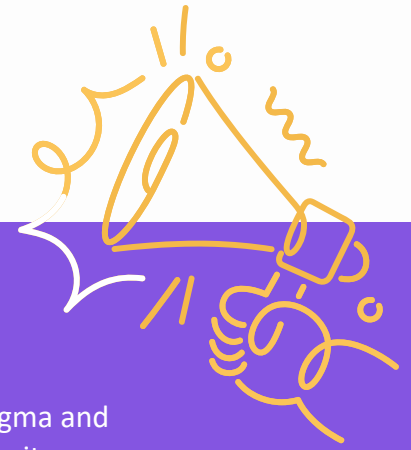
We celebrate the culmination of our year-long endeavor - the Burnaby Together Coalitions' Community Response Toolkit! This exciting project has been a labor of dedication and commitment to creating a safe and inclusive community in Burnaby. **This initiative represents a significant milestone in our commitment to fostering a brighter and more equitable future for Burnaby.** The toolkit project was implemented to raise awareness and understanding of racism and hate crimes within the Burnaby community. By establishing a supportive and collaborative response system, Burnaby Together aims to mobilize community members to implement racism and hate protocols. The protocol can be found at www.bipt.ca

The Community Response Toolkit (Condensed) is designed to empower community members and stakeholders to respond promptly and effectively to discrimination or hate-motivated incidents.

Community Response Toolkit (Complete) is tailored to support community organizations and clients, offering a step-by-step approach to address long-term responses to discrimination and hate incidents.

The Burnaby Together members have been active participants in the meetings and in providing feedback on the work of the Table and in participating in the final community sessions of the research on Understanding and Dismantling Incidents of Racism on Racialized Communities in Burnaby.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this achievement and continue working together towards a community where diversity is celebrated, and inclusivity thrives.



Mobilizing local level action to combat the toxic drug supply crisis through community and peer engagement.

The Burnaby Community Action Team (BCAT) continued its efforts to combat stigma and raise awareness about the prevailing toxic drug crisis within the Burnaby community. Through steadfast collaboration with our esteemed partners, BCAT has made significant strides in promoting positive change and support.

2022 - 2023

Pillars of Success?

One of the pillars of our success has been the ongoing relationship development with local educational institutions, including the Burnaby School District and BCIT.



Notably, BCAT conducted impactful presentations to faculty and students in the BCIT nursing program, shedding light on stigma prevalent in healthcare settings for people with lived experience. **These efforts have played a vital role in fostering a more inclusive and understanding environment in healthcare.**

BCAT's impact extended beyond essential outreach services, as we actively participated in various community events throughout offering invaluable opportunities to engage with diverse populations within Burnaby. At these gatherings, **our focus was to bring education and awareness, fostering an environment of inclusivity and understanding for all.**

We are incredibly proud of the progress made by the Burnaby Community Action Team this year. **Our shared vision of a stigma-free and supportive community has guided our actions, making a tangible difference in the lives of individuals facing the toxic drug crisis.** None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our peers, unwavering commitment of our partners, and the support from the Burnaby community.



Our Commitment

The dedication of our BCAT peers has been nothing short of commendable. Throughout the year, they remained **actively engaged in providing essential outreach services to the community.** Our members consistently offered their support and assistance to those seeking shelter at Extreme Weather Cooling Stations, strategically located at Burnaby Civic Square (McKay & Central), and Kensington Square (Fell & Frances).

Their unwavering commitment has touched the lives of many, providing comfort and solace in challenging times.

As we move forward, BCAT remains committed to its mission, determined to create a compassionate and informed community where individuals find strength in unity and support. **Together, we will continue to make a positive impact and foster lasting change in Burnaby, a community that we can all be proud to call home.**

Thank you Volunteers!



Our volunteers are a vital and invaluable asset to our organization, offering their generous support across many parts of the organization. **Their passion for our mission drives them to go above and beyond, making a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.**

Among our esteemed Board members, the spirit of volunteerism shines brightly. Despite their full-time commitments in their respective professions, they remain passionately dedicated to our cause, steering our organization towards success.

We would like to give a special thanks to our volunteer board members this year:

**Jerry Chen, Chair
Ruth Huang, Vice Chair
Jason Welch, Treasurer
Eva Lewis, Secretary
Baljit Lalli, Director
Jacqueline Chan, Director
Tanya Valois, Director**

VOLUNTEER QUOTES

“When my father was still alive, he always suggested me to stay low key when volunteering. However, I always tell myself if my volunteer stories can encourage others to give where we live, and make our society happier, then it is worth to tell the story. thanks to all BIPT volunteers for your support and inspiring me in many ways.”

“I am so grateful to volunteer in your agency for the past few months. I am so happy to know you and other program staffs during this journey and I have learnt a lot from all of you.”

We are delighted to share two heartwarming stories that exemplify the transformative power of volunteering. These stories showcase how ordinary individuals, driven by extraordinary compassion, have made a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

STORY 1: FROM VOLUNTEER TO STAFF

We recount the journey of a dedicated volunteer who began their service in our Child-Minding Program creating a nurturing and safe space for children while parents attended support sessions. This individual's commitment and passion were evident from the start. Today, they proudly hold a staff position and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our clients at BFL.

STORY 2: SPREADING MUSIC AND LOVE

We celebrate the music-filled journey of a compassionate volunteer, who not only shares their soulful melodies but also holds a significant role as a member of our Immigrant Advisory Council. This individual selflessly dedicates their time to bring comfort and solace to those facing adversity. Through the magic of music, this volunteer continues to uplift spirits and spread love at BFL.

As we delve into these heartwarming accounts, we invite you to witness the power of volunteerism and the profound effect it has on our organization and the lives of those we serve. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of BFL, and their dedication exemplifies the spirit of compassion and community that lies at the core of our mission.



We want to thank our funders and all community partners that helped support the agency this past year. In addition, we also want to thank our regular monthly donors, in-kind donors, and members for their contributions this past year.



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Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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MOSAIC



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BFL acknowledges that we serve the Burnaby Community on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of the [Halk-uh-MAY-e-lum] and sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh [Squa-HO-o-meesh] speaking peoples, and appreciate the opportunity to work, respect and learn on this shared territory.