

**Bulkley Valley Hospice Society
Directors' Report
Annual General Meeting
June 10, 2024**

As always it was yet another rewarding year for the Board of Directors. An overview of our activities and the role of the Board are given below.

Support to the Programs

- We renewed our grant with the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation which provides 33% funding for the Coordinator of Volunteers. Without this directed support we could not deliver our programs.
- We continue to stay in contact with Northern Health. This year we renewed our grant of \$6,000.
- We continue to receive support from the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund. This has been a long term source of funding to our Society and we are thankful to the Provincial Government Employees for their support.
- In addition, we received quite a few donations from families and friends of clients.
- We are very grateful to our community. Hospice is alive and well in Smithers –a caring community!
- We resumed our project with the Northwest Child Development Centre by producing the Community Spirit Coupon Card. The card is much faster and cheaper to produce and from feedback it is a lot handier than the original coupon book. We have begun work on another coupon card for 2024-25.
- The NavCARE program pairs specially trained hospice volunteers with older adults diagnosed with a chronic illness, helping them to access services, resources, transportation and social opportunities in the community. We now have 5 trained volunteers in the program. Currently the Lead position is being managed by Denise Kalina, Hospice Coordinator. Denise continues to pursue another individual to co-lead or take on the role.
- Regarding Libraries, we donated to the Smithers Public Library to re-establish a tub of grief support for children. We had our own library re-organized, and information made available for its increased use.
- The Board was kept very busy providing advice and support to Denise Kalina, Coordinator of Hospice Volunteers. We recognize Denise's excellent work and dedication. Hospice has been fortunate with the very high caliber of our Coordinators, and their contribution is very notable. Denise is recognized beyond our Society as a key member in the Hospice/Palliative Care community.
- Our Society has continued to equip the Palliative Care Room at the Lodge and the BV Hospital. Making these facilities comfortable to patients and family is a significant contribution.
- We are fortunate to have a group of highly qualified and dedicated individuals involved in our Bereavement Program. Fortunate indeed that Cornelia Huisman is the Bereavement Program Coordinator. Many thanks to Valerie Laub, Cornelia Huisman, Teresa Stevenson and Joanne Reid for their important support to clients. Lianne Eichstadter is a new addition to our grief support team and co-led a grief group session. This is a key program of our Society and is recognized as helping people adjust to life after the loss of a loved one. We offered an 8 week grief support group in the fall of 2023 and just finished a 10 week group this spring.
- Director Bonnie Lear continues to take the lead Board role for the Bereavement program. We appreciate her dedication to the program and to the Society in general.
- The equipment delivery/pickup volunteers are a key resource provided by the Society. We were able to restart our equipment loan program in late fall of 2022 and would like to thank our team of volunteers for their continued efforts in supporting this vital program: Jesse Bredenhof, Daniel Bruintjes, Terry Huisman, Bob Westcott, Doug Henderson, Peter Rhebergen and Dave Penninga.

- We continued the liability insurance for volunteers and board members.

Community Outreach

- The BV Hospice Society has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/bvhospice>) and a web page (<http://www.bvhospice.ca/>).
- Melissa Butler joined us as a new volunteer providing social media support via FaceBook and Instagram. We acknowledge and appreciate Teresa Stevenson's support with our FaceBook page in previous years.
- We have members representing BV Hospice on the Smithers Health Committee. We acknowledge Lori Widen for her past time as our representative and currently thank Cornelia Huisman for taking this on.
- The Board renewed the rental arrangement for the office. We recognize the significant rental donation of Mark and Terri Weme, owners of the building. This donation makes it possible for our Society to have an office and storage space for the Society's equipment.
- The Ceremony of Remembering was held with 34 individuals participating. This is an important community event.
- Continued to work with CFBV (BVLVD – the MOOSE) and the Interior News to promote local awareness of the Society.
- Maintained the Hospice telephone message service (250-877-7451) and Post Box (Box 8, Smithers, VOJ 2N0).

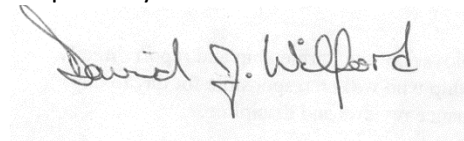
General Society Business

- Continued strategic planning sessions to identify funding sources and to ensure that funds raised for the Society are targeting the community's hospice needs.
- Continued membership in the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association and the BC Bereavement Helpline.
- Maintained the Society in good standing by fulfilling the requirements of the Societies Act.

Update on the Board

- Tina Hackle continues to do a fantastic job as treasurer. This is a key position in our Society.
- John Stevenson continues to impress us with his secretarial work.
- D Read and Eileen Astin continue to provide sage advice
- Ken Alton provides thoughtful pastoral advice and arranged St. James Hall for this AGM
- Daphne Hart is very thorough in her reviews and comments – much appreciated.
- Kalah Blackstock provides valuable insights
- John Perry continues to provide legal guidance which is also much appreciated.
- Board members are volunteers. We have great satisfaction in providing our professional experience to support the society and our community.
- Bonnie Lear's contribution to the bereavement program was mentioned above as is her wisdom in our Board meetings.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Wilford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.

David J. Wilford, Chair