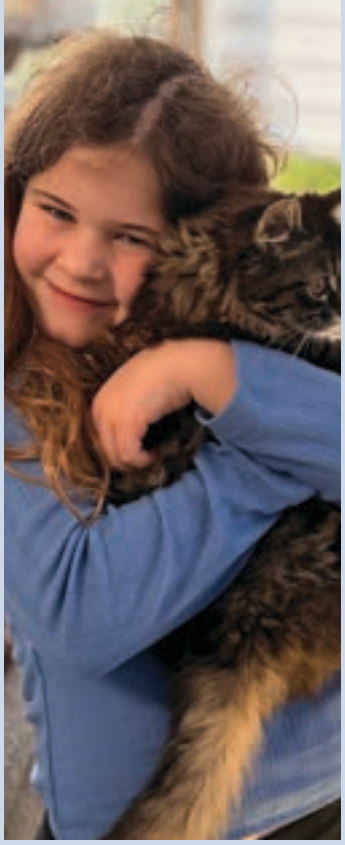

BC Centre for Ability

Annual Report

2025 - 2026

We would like to acknowledge that this Annual Report was created at BC Centre for Ability's Vancouver office, located on the traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Sə́lílwətaɁ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Our work at BCCFA extends across the homelands of many diverse Indigenous peoples within the area we often call British Columbia. Territorial acknowledgements are just one small part of dismantling colonial worldviews. Please take a moment to think of other ways you can enact decolonization.

*BC Centre for Ability is proud to be **CARF Accredited & Great Place To Work Certified**.*

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About Us

BC Centre for Ability (BCCFA) has been delivering quality services for children, youth, and adults with disabilities and their families since 1969. We are the largest community-based provider of child development services in BC and are leaders in our field provincially.

We were founded with the goal of creating inclusive communities and a sense of belonging. We serve clients across the lifespan using approaches that are compassionate and evidence-based. We consistently receive high accreditation scores for being innovative and for the quality of our services and our dedication to client and family-centred care. Our commitment is to provide outstanding support and to ensure positive outcomes for each client and family we serve.

Our programs provide support to children, youth, and adults from across BC through a variety of services, including Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Social Work, Supported Child Development as well as mental health, primary care and employment services.

Internally, we aim to create a workplace that is supportive, encouraging, fun, and engaging. We are dedicated to nurturing a healthy workplace culture and we pride ourselves on our ability to attract and retain talented knowledgeable, hard-working, and passionate professionals.

Through the collaboration of our staff, clients, families, caregivers, and the broader community, we are able to achieve the best possible outcomes for the clients we serve and **foster inclusive communities where every person thrives at all stages of life.**

Vision

Inclusive communities where every person thrives at all stages of life.

Mission

To lead in the design and delivery of community-based services for persons with disabilities.

Values

Hope: We help clients and families see hope for the future.

Kindness: Kindness and empathy form the basis of every interaction.

Collaboration: We work together as staff, clients, members, and communities to build on our strengths and achieve the best possible outcomes.

Innovation: We are creative risk takers who relentlessly seek to improve and excel.

Family Centred: We honour and respect the unique needs and preferences of our clients, celebrate our diversity and ensure that clients, families, and caregivers are at the centre of everything we do.

Letter

from our Chief Executive Officer & Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the leadership team, we are pleased to share our 2025/2026 annual report and reflect on a period of meaningful progress, renewed focus, and growing momentum for our organization. This past year has been defined by bold planning, strong partnerships, expanded service reach, and a continued commitment to ensuring that children, youth, and families have access to the supports they need, when and where they need them.

On April 1st, 2025 we launched of our new 2025–2027 Strategic Plan. This plan provides a clear roadmap for the years ahead and reflects our shared ambition to grow our impact, strengthen our leadership in the sector, and continue adapting to the evolving needs of the communities we serve. We have completed our first year of our plan and are proud of the progress we've made on a number of key initiatives, all of which are highlighted throughout this annual report.

This past year represented the half-way point in our Foundry Burnaby project which is set to open in 2027. A major focus from the year was on our capital development project at 6889 Royal Oak which will be the future home of Foundry Burnaby. The project layout and design were approved, a construction firm was selected, and permits were submitted. We also established important partnerships with the Burnaby Hospital and Community Foundation, including a commitment from them to help raise $1 million toward the cost of the capital development project. These steps, along with our continued community engagement and service planning, bring us closer to creating a welcoming, integrated space that will expand access to coordinated supports for young people in Burnaby.

More broadly, across the province, we continued to expand services to reach more communities, including remote, isolated, and hard-to-reach areas of British Columbia. A new partnership with Helicopters Without Borders is helping make it easier for staff to travel to communities where access barriers are greatest. This reflects our commitment to equity of access, supporting partner organizations in these communities and helping them serve families closer to home.

We also expanded our student-led physiotherapy clinic to include occupational therapy and speech-language pathology. This growth has created more timely access to services for families while also building a stronger pathway for new graduates to enter the organization. In a sector facing ongoing recruitment challenges, this model supports both service capacity and workforce development.

Our psychosocial services also grew, including the addition of another FASD Key Worker and an Autism Navigator. These roles are helping families access guidance, coordination, and practical support as they navigate complex systems and seek the right services for their children and youth.

While much of our successes have been externally facing with the support we provide to communities across BC, we are also proud of the work we do internally to create a positive environment for our staff. This year we are proud to be recognized as a Great Place to Work in Canada and named among the Best Workplaces in Canada in the Government and Social Services 2026 category. This recognition reflects the dedication, professionalism, and compassion of our staff, as well as our ongoing commitment to creating a workplace culture where people feel valued, supported, and able to do their best work.

Looking ahead, we are encouraged by the historic announcement from the Government of British Columbia of an additional $81 million investment in the sector over the next three years. This investment signals an important opportunity to strengthen services for children and youth across the province. We are positioning our organization to receive a portion of these funds so that we can continue to grow our capacity, expand service opportunities across the 0–19 age continuum, and remain ready to meet both the opportunities and challenges ahead.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the guidance of our Board, the trust of families, and the support of our partners, funders, donors, and community champions. As we move into the next chapter of our strategic plan, we do so with confidence, humility, and a deep commitment to strengthening services, advancing innovation, and improving outcomes for children, youth, and families across British Columbia.

Joshua Myers MSW, RSW
Chief Executive Officer

Peta Wales
Board Chair

Centre Highlights

Great Place To Work Certified

In fall 2025, BCCFA was certified by Great Place To Work Canada as one of the best workplaces in the country! We were named one of the 2025 Best Workplaces in British Columbia, and have also been named as one of the 2026 Best Workplaces in Government & Social Services and one of the 2026 Best Workplaces for Professional Development in Canada.

This certification is a true reflection of the commitment that all of our staff have to making our organization a warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

Elevator Upgrades

We have started upgrading the elevators at our head office on Kingsway. These upgrades were made possible in part by $99,920 from the Provincial Community Gaming Grant. This is an important upgrade to our building that illustrates our commitment to safety and accessibility, as well as modernizing our space. These upgrades will help us better support our clients and the community we serve, as well as make the office more welcoming for our staff to come to each day.

Burnaby Hospital & Community Foundation Fundraising Partnership

BCCFA and Burnaby Hospital & Community Foundation (BHCF) entered a fundraising partnership to support the development of Foundry Burnaby in early 2026. As the lead agency for Foundry Burnaby, BCCFA is overseeing the capital campaign to support the development of Foundry Burnaby with a funding goal of $2 million. BHCF has committed to raising $1 million toward this campaign, which is an incredible contribution to the development, renovation, and equipping of the space at 6889 Royal Oak for delivering services to youth and their families.

This partnership represents a transformative investment in Burnaby's young people by bringing together health, social, and community services in a way that has never existed locally. By addressing existing service gaps and building a model tailored to the unique needs of Burnaby's diverse population, this initiative will create an integrated hub of support that strengthens the foundation for a healthier future for youth and their families.

Autism Navigator Program Multi-Year Funding

In 2025, the Chin Wei Foundation committed to a multi-year funding agreement to support our Autism Navigator Program. Due to a demand for services, the Chin Wei Foundation's funding has enabled the program to double its staffing capacity and see a 25% increase in families served in the first year of funding. The support has also helped strengthen the quality and scope of support provided by the program. We look forward to seeing the continued impact of this multi-year funding agreement as it extends over the next two years.

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade Finalist

BCCFA was selected as a finalist for the 2025 Business Distinction Awards, for Community Impact, presented by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. This award recognizes organizations that have "gone above and beyond to set themselves apart in business growth, employee engagement, community impact, sustainability and more."

Programs Overview

Children & Youth Services

Program Name	Type of Service	Description
Early Intervention Therapy Program (EITP)	Occupational Therapy Physiotherapy Speech-Language Pathology Social Work	Provides community-based services for children from 0 to 5 years of age who have, or are at risk of having, a developmental delay.
Community Brain Injury Program for Children & Youth (CBIPCY)	Service Coordination	Coordinates short-term community-based rehabilitation and support for children and youth, following a brain injury.
Pediatric Outreach Therapy Program (POTP)	Service Coordination Occupational Therapy Physiotherapy Speech-Language Pathology Behaviour Support	Provides therapy services for children with or at risk for developmental delays in underserved communities throughout the province.
North Shore School Occupational Therapy Program	Occupational Therapy	Provides school and community-based services to students with support needs in the North and West Vancouver School Districts.
Supported Child Development (SCD)	Consultation	Helps families with children who need extra support to access inclusive childcare.
Family Counselling Support Services	Social Work	Provides support to families following a new diagnosis, during life transitions, or caring for one or multiple children with complex medical needs.

Children & Youth Services cont.

Program Name	Type of Service	Description
Key Worker	Social Work	Provides support to children and youth with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, and Complex Developmental Behavioural Conditions (CDBC).
Provincial Complex Medical Respite Support Services	Social Work	Offers respite support for families and children in BC with complex health conditions.
Autism Navigator Program	Service Coordination	Provides short-term support to help families understand their options for autism assessments, connect with the Autism Funding Unit, and build a customized support team in the community that suits their family needs.

Youth & Young Adult Services

Program Name	Type of Service	Description
Foundry Burnaby	Integrated Youth Services	Offers free and confidential supports for young people ages 12 to 24 – mental health care, substance use health care, physical & sexual health care, youth and family peer supports, and social services.

Adult Services

Program Name	Type of Service	Description
Coast Capital THRIVE	Vocational Services	Assists youth with disabilities in building vocational and employability skills, through one-to-one coaching, mentorship, advocacy, and direct connections to employers.
Opportunities Fund	Vocational Services	Assists people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment.

Early Intervention Therapy Program

The Early Intervention Therapy Program (EITP) is a community-based service for children from 0 to 5 years of age with developmental disabilities. The program supports children and their families living in the Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond and North Shore regions. The program includes Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT), Speech Therapy (SLP), and Social Work (SW) services that enhance each child's development and promote participation in all aspects of their lives. Appointments occur in the home, at our BCCFA offices, or other community venues based on goals for the session.

Program Highlights

- Student-led clinics were launched by the OT and SLP departments and collaborated with the PT Student-led clinic.
- The program hosted multiple interdisciplinary parent workshops: Responsive feeding, Toileting and Kindergarten transition information.
- Therapists provided early educators with an AAC workshop to support clients.
- The program hosted multiple interdisciplinary client groups: Music and Movement group, Communication and Play group and Gross Motor group.
- Our responsive feeding working group created new Responsive Feeding Resources that were shared across the province.
- Monthly clinics were run, offering video gait analysis to support clients by providing suggestions for appropriate orthotic support, as well as tracking changes in gait over time.
- Two PTs were trained in the General Movement Assessment, 15 clients under 20 weeks were assessed, helping to prioritize early PT services.

1,446
CLIENTS SERVED

Introducing Aria!

Aria is very bubbly and loves being silly and making people laugh. Despite all the odds stacked against her, she continues to show incredible perseverance and, with the support she receives through BCCFA, continues to grow and thrive in ways we once thought might not be possible.

Born at 22 weeks and 6 days, Aria faced many early challenges, including Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), Level 2 intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH), chronic lung disease, and oral aversion that required G tube feeding. She was later diagnosed with Level 1 cerebral palsy and recently Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

After spending seven months in the hospital, we were introduced to BCCFA—and the support from her care team has truly changed our journey as a family. Through occupational therapy, we've received guidance that has helped Aria overcome feeding challenges and build important life skills. Physiotherapy has supported her mobility with Ankle Foot Orthotics (AFOs), giving her the confidence to run, jump, and explore.

Speech language support helped identify early signs of ASD, allowing us to access further supports. Today, speech and language are among her greatest strengths—she talks up a storm and brings smiles to everyone she meets.

With the help of social work and supported child development, we've been able to better navigate school transition, ASD resources, and funding. Because of BCCFA, our family has never felt alone, allowing us to focus on celebrating every milestone along the way.

—Aria's family

Community Brain Injury Program

For Children and Youth in BC (CBIPCY)

BCCFA's Community Brain Injury Program for Children and Youth (CBIPCY) provides intensive, short-term, home and community-based rehabilitation. CBIPCY serves children and youth with an acquired brain injury in BC who do not have third-party funding. We offer individualized, community-based acute rehabilitation support, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy, and service coordination, to help children and youth return to activities that matter to them and participate in school, at home, and in the community. This program is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

Program Highlights

- Continued involvement in a research project in collaboration with BCCH and UBC:
  - Applied for multiple grants (CUES, CIHR, Catalyst Grant)
  - Submitted Research Priorities Manuscript to peer review journals
  - Developed infographic for research priorities
  - Started drafting research report
  - Survey completed and data collected and analyzed
  - Ethics approval for interviews; interview guide developed
- New parent and previous client added to advisory committee.
- Updated all program documentation and service provider documentation to include the F-Words of childhood development framework.
- Developed a system to track and triage neuropsychological assessment requests to the program.
- Attended multiple sessions with BCANDS/Jordan's Principle to deepen understanding of supports for Indigenous clients.

189

CLIENTS SERVED

Introducing Olivia!

Olivia was six years old and living with a new diagnosis of focal epilepsy when everything changed. She suddenly became very ill, and a CT scan at our local ER revealed a brain hemorrhage. She was airlifted to BC Children's Hospital, where imaging uncovered a large tumour in her left temporal lobe.

Olivia underwent a craniotomy to remove the tumour. In order to fully resect it, surgeons also removed her entire left temporal lobe, placing her in the category of acquired brain injury. Overnight, our family was faced with a completely new and overwhelming reality.

Whitney from the Community Brain Injury Program became an essential part of our journey. During a time filled with uncertainty and stress, she provided expert guidance and genuine compassion. Through CBIPCY, Olivia received essential therapies, including speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy, to support her recovery. Whitney coordinated referrals, arranged travel and accommodation for follow-up visits to BC Children's Hospital, secured grant funding for multiple therapies, and consistently ensured we had access to the resources we needed.

Her support went far beyond what we expected. She helped us navigate a complex system and gave us the confidence to move forward during one of the most difficult times in our lives. Without Whitney and this program, it's hard to imagine how we would have managed the past year.

—Olivia's family

Pediatric Outreach Therapy Program

The Pediatric Outreach Therapy Program (POTP) provides therapy services for children with or at risk for developmental delays in remote, rural, and underserved communities throughout the province.

The POTP includes Coordination, Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT), Speech Language Pathology (SLP), and Behaviour Consultation (BCBA) services. The team works in collaboration with local child development agencies and health leaders to support children and families where access to pediatric developmental services is limited. Services are delivered through a combination of community visits and virtual care.

This year, the POTP has placed an increased focus on engagement with remote Indigenous communities, recognizing that access to services in these settings is often limited by both colonial impacts of Western healthcare, as well as complex, weather dependent travel and geographic isolation. To prioritize cultural safety and humility, engagement begins only upon invitation from the community and emphasizes relationship building, listening, and understanding community priorities before service delivery.

Early engagement and travel to several remote Indigenous communities were made possible through a partnership with Helicopters without Borders, a not-for-profit organization supporting the delivery of health and wellness services in remote and rural communities across British Columbia. Through their established relationships with community health leaders, this partnership has supported early conversations and enabled access to communities that would otherwise be difficult to reach. We are deeply grateful for this collaboration and look forward to continuing our work together in the years ahead.

Program Highlights

- Served 13 communities.
- Increased our multidisciplinary outreach team from 4 to 5 clinicians, recruiting an additional Speech Language Pathologist in May 2025 in response to community needs.
- Engaged with Len Pierre Consulting to review documentation and learn about practices that will ensure the team begins in a good way with Indigenous communities.
- Provided mentorship to 12 staff throughout the province, supporting sustainability in their roles.
- Contracted Private Service providers to support 5 communities and 48 children.
- Partnered with Helicopters without Borders to support relationship building visits and access to hard-to-reach communities.

613
CLIENTS SERVED

North Shore School Occupational Therapy Program

The North Shore School Occupational Therapy program supports students with disabilities from kindergarten to Grade 12 in the North and West Vancouver school districts. They collaborate with students, families, teachers, and support staff to support inclusion, participation, and independence in the school and community. The program is funded by the North and West Vancouver school districts and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

Program Highlights

- Successfully contributed and obtained the Variety Children's Charity $10,000 playground modifications grant for an accessible playground addition at Blueridge Elementary.
- Obtained a Variety grant for 50% of the cost of a Hippocampe chair, which will support students to participate in field trips, community-based instruction and nature-based learning. BCCFA and SD45 funding shared the remaining cost.
- Supported an event at the North Vancouver School District Art Gallery for AAC users in the North Vancouver school district for the 3rd year in a row.
- Collaborated with the Boundary Elementary school team and the PAC on the creation of a dedicated sensory room at that school.
- Collaborated with the North Vancouver School District on 2 new accessible washroom designs/ modifications.
- Created and co-led a 4-part education/demonstration on how to use a sensory space to support regulation at Sherwood Park Elementary.
- Coordinated an education day on Vision with Dr. Linda Mamer, TSVI and Blind Beginnings.
- Provided district-wide professional development on Self-Care and, ADHD and Executive Functioning.

154
CLIENTS SERVED

Program Highlights

- Provided education to OTs at the BC Centre for Ability (Technology Use/Switch Access and how to support Kindergarten transition).
- Presented to Impact North Shore Chinese families using simultaneous translation on Social Emotional Development.
- Coordinated an education day at GF Strong to attend the driver assessment program in support of students getting their learner's license.
- Created and shared multiple new Padlets with school teams on OT related topics.
- Supported Lynn Valley Elementary School to develop an interoception-based group to support various learners.
- Collaborated with the District Physical Literacy team to include fine motor screening in the gross motor screening they carry out across the district annually.
- Supported Kindergarten Vision Screening across the district for the 4th year.

Supported Child Development

Our Supported Child Development (SCD) consultants help families with children who need extra support to access inclusive childcare. The consultants work with families to design support for children's individual needs, and consult with daycare, preschool, and out of school care programs to help them develop inclusive principles and practices that enrich all children's experiences. The SCD program also disperses funding for childcare programs to hire additional staff to further assist with the inclusion of children with extra support needs to be successful and included. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funds this program.

Program Highlights

- Reached 2,286 individuals through training and education advancing inclusive practice knowledge in childcare on a variety of topics.
- Received a grant from The City of Vancouver to diversify and expand training initiatives for early childhood educators.
- SCD Team attended the Cheakamus Centre learning about Indigenous history, knowledge, culture, and ways of being.
- Expanded relationships with post-secondary schools and hosted four practicum students with Social Work and Child & Youth Care education pathways.
- 98% of parents who responded to our annual survey indicated that our services helped their childcare team and their support plans were meaningful and inclusive.

1,567
CLIENTS SERVED

"We loved collaborating with BCCFA! The Consultants have all been amazing and helpful when we need resources and guidance. They have all been such a great support system for us and for our families. We appreciate all of your hard work."
—Child Care Partner

Introducing Josh!

Josh is a 19-year-old who BCCFA has been supporting since he was just 3 years old. He is always smiling and always happy, and much of that is from how SCD's support helped him to thrive. Before getting support from SCD Consultant Belle Sandhu, Josh's mom Mimi felt overwhelmed and lost, and had difficulty finding balance in their family's life. With Belle's guidance throughout Josh's entire time at school from Kindergarten to Grade 12—a unique and especially meaningful experience for both the family and SCD Consultant—Josh was able to get the support he required through inclusive childcare programs that changed their whole family's lives.

Now as an adult, Josh wants kids like him to have that exact experience—and he's inspired to help them have it. Josh and his family share that SCD's involvement in his life enabled him to want to be a role model to kids, and in addition to working as a barista at Gem Chocolates, his family's local business in Vancouver (and one of BCCFA's Coast Capital THRIVE program's employers!), Josh has volunteered with Arbutus Kids World and Marpole Adaptive Soccer, both of which he attended and participated in.

Having also received services from BCCFA's Early Intervention Therapy program, Josh and his family feel deeply connected to the Centre. Mimi shared that BCCFA's services were a "lifesaver as a parent", and that every member of Josh's team felt like family. When meeting with Josh and Mimi for this story, it was a full-circle moment for the whole family and Belle as their SCD Consultant.

"When Josh wants to model after the support he gets, it shows how impactful that support is. It all adds up, and it all shows in Josh's actions today. Kudos to Belle and BCCFA! We are very grateful and thankful." ***—Mimi, Josh's mom***

"Josh was one of my very first clients as an SCD Consultant sixteen years ago, and from the moment I met him, he brought joy into my work. Watching him grow has been one of the most meaningful privileges of my career. Josh's smile and his relentless, unyielding passion for adventure and leadership have never stopped inspiring me. I still remember our "tea time" in the pretend-play corner at Berwick, where his imagination could turn the simplest moment into something magical. Today, seeing him as a barista, proudly handing me an iced latte he crafted with his own hands, felt like full-circle moment that touched me more than I can express. I am deeply grateful and truly honored to have played even a small part in supporting Josh and his wonderful family." ***—Belle Sandhu, SCD Consultant***

"Josh was such an integral part of AKWS from the time he started in Kindergarten. Josh has a way of helping other children feel comfortable and included and through the support of Belle and SCD, we were able to ensure he felt included and well-supported. Belle helped us achieve that sweet spot of celebrating differences without feeling separated by them. Josh is a beautiful human, inside and out, and the world is a better place with him in it." ***—Jennifer Wong, Manager, Arbutus Kids World (2012-2025)***

Psychosocial Programs

Family Counsellor

The Family Counselling Support Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs (FCSS) is a six-month, family-centered program that supports families in fostering healthy development and enhancing quality of life. Grounded in a collaborative partnership with families and individuals served, FCSS builds on existing strengths to support parents and caregivers in their vital roles.

Through coaching, connection, and shared learning, the program strengthens family relationships, promotes cohesion, and expands natural and community support networks. FCSS supports families in building confidence, resilience, and skills to meet the unique needs of their child or youth, while encouraging meaningful participation in everyday life.

By enhancing access to resources and strengthening supportive connections, FCSS helps families sustain stability and well-being over time. Referrals to the program are received through Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) offices serving Burnaby, New Westminster, Maple Ridge, and the Tri-Cities.

"The Family Counselling program was able to inspire positive change in my son that I had been hoping to see for many years. Since beginning the sessions, I have seen my son become more open in communication, more willing to take responsibility in his life, and make a genuine effort to improve his relationship with his younger brother."

—Response to 2025/26 BCCFA Client Experience Survey

Program Highlights

- Completion of Grief and Loss Training for Professionals through the Living Through Loss Society.
- Initiated regular external consultation with an expert in the field to enhance program quality and outcomes.

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CLIENTS SERVED

Key Worker Support Services

The Key Worker Support Services (KWSS) program supports children living in Burnaby aged 0-19 (and their families/caregivers) who have a confirmed or probable diagnosis of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (NAS/FASD) or other Complex Developmental and Behavioural Conditions (CDBC) that greatly affects their day-to-day life.

KWSS partners with families, professionals, and community service providers to build understanding of diverse behavioural presentations and how they relate to development, learning, mental health, and social and adaptive functioning. They offer training and coaching to parents and providers, along with opportunities for families to connect, strengthening supportive networks. Through this work, KWSS helps enhance social-emotional skills, promote resilience, and support meaningful participation and success in everyday life.

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CLIENTS SERVED

Program Highlights

- Increased involvement with the Canada FASD Research Institute (CANFASD) including presenting at the CANFASD AGM (Vancouver, May 2025) and attending the CANFASD Conference (Toronto, October 2025).
- Expanded community outreach through direct engagement with local agencies (e.g., CYMH, CYSN, Burnaby School District, Burnaby Family Life).
- Strengthened youth group participation, with consistent attendance and meaningful peer connections across multiple program periods.
- Partnered with the STaRS program (Summer 2025) to offer equine therapy sessions in Vancouver.
- Celebrated several long-term participants graduating from the program at age 19, many of whom had been enrolled since early childhood.

"[Our Key Worker] helped us advocate for our child in meetings with the school supports and also helped us get our child involved in several group events over the year which was huge for our child who doesn't have a lot of social interaction with other kids his age."

—Parent feedback on summer 2025 teen groups

Psychosocial Programs

Respite

Funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), the Provincial Complex Medical Respite Support Services (PCMRSS) provides top-up respite support and specialized summer camp opportunities to families of children across British Columbia with complex medical needs. BC Centre for Ability (BCCFA) is responsible for referrals, waitlist maintenance, screening, and intake for both respite supports and summer camp participation.

This program supplements families' existing At Home Program respite benefits when additional overnight support is required due to the complexity of care. In addition to year-round respite supports, PCMRSS offered three 5-day overnight summer camps at Camp Alexandra (Crescent Beach) in summer 2025. These camps, operated by the Community Ventures Society, provided respite opportunities for 15 families.

Top-Up Respite Options:

- **BCCFA Top-Up Support**
  Beginning in 2026/2027, BCCFA will directly contract with families (a shift from previous administration by MCFD).
  - 20 families will receive this support.
  - Families recruit and supervise their own care providers.
- **Contracted Respite Support**
  Delivered by Community Ventures Society.
  - Families receive 26 days of respite annually.
  - The agency recruits, matches, and supervises caregivers.

37
CLIENTS SERVED

"I love having returning staff, it makes transition at drop off easier and the staff knows the child's personality and needs from previous years. It's a huge relief to have that familiarity."
—Parent of 2025 Camp Alexandra participant

Autism Navigator Program

The Autism Navigator Program (ANP) launched as a pilot in 2023 in response to needs expressed by BCCFA families. The purpose of ANP is to provide short-term support to help families understand their options for autism assessments, connect with the Autism Funding Unit, and build a customized support team in the community that suits their family needs. In 2025-26, additional funding from the Chin Wei Foundation allowed the program to add an additional team member and serve 50 additional children.

Program Highlights

- 25% increase in families served from last FY
- Trained two staff in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to provide caregiver groups
- Facilitated Bachelor of Social Work field education placement
- Received $360,000 funding commitment from Chin Wei Foundation
- Received $91,250 from the Community Gaming Grant
- Received $50,000 from RBC

225
CLIENTS SERVED

Introducing the Diaz family!

"Hi, my name is Rosa, mother of three kids. We are very grateful for the support from the Autism Navigator Program.

It was crucial to get the right path in the assessment for my daughter Estefania as she showed some signs for autism, however we did not know if she was only copying her brother's behaviour (he was already diagnosed for autism throughout an institution outside of Canada).

They were guiding me step by step for the assessment and once we got the diagnosis, they made sure that we had the correct support for my little one.

You cannot imagine how blessed and confident I felt having these people around me and my family, it is a huge difference having their support. I wish more families can navigate through this process accompanied by the amazing team helped my family a lot."

—Rosa Diaz

Adult Services

Opportunities Fund

Opportunities Fund is a program that assists people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and maintain employment. This program provides three streams of service: wage subsidies and support for people with disabilities seeking employment; wage subsidies and support for people with disabilities pursuing career advancement opportunities; and consultation, education, and supports for employers who are seeking to develop their inclusiveness and accessibility as an employer.

We support eligible participants in the Lower Mainland, Sunshine Coast and Sea to Sky corridor as far as Pemberton; and the Fraser Valley as far as Boston Bar and Hope. Service Canada funds this program.

Program Highlights

- **38** new clients served in Stream 1 – Work Experience.
- **9** new employers served in Stream 2 – Employer Awareness.
- **3** new clients served in Stream 3 – Career Advancement.
- Contract extended until the end of 2026-27.

Coast Capital THRIVE

Coast Capital THRIVE (Transforming Hiring Relationships, Inspiring Vocational Experiences) supports young adults with disabilities, ages 19–29, who are currently in post-secondary education or have recently graduated and are looking for work.

Participants receive personalized support from vocational counsellors, including career coaching, mentorship, advocacy, and direct connections to employers.

The program's goal is to help individuals build strong job and employability skills while also supporting employers to tap into this talented and diverse workforce. Services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each participant and employer.

67
CLIENTS SERVED

Program Highlights

- 2 education financial sessions provided by Coast Capital.
- 2 episodes of THRIVE podcast published, focusing on financial literacy.
- Completed 1st year of 3-year commitment from Coast Capital.

Introducing Kiara!

Kiara is a 24-year-old woman with a visual impairment and a passionate Film Production graduate from Capilano University. She is launching her career in filmmaking, with interests in directing, producing, scriptwriting, cinematography, sound design, photography, and editing.

With support from both the THRIVE and Opportunities Fund programs at the BC Centre for Ability, Kiara secured a work experience placement as a Production Assistant at Movement Living after several months of interviews and assessments. Movement Living is a wellness media network producing content on health, fitness, beauty, and lifestyle.

In her role, Kiara applied skills directly related to her studies, including logging footage, editing rough and final cuts, managing media libraries, syncing sound, and exporting deliverables. She also supported social media content, research, and administrative tasks.

"THRIVE became more than just a program to me. They gave me guidance, mentorship, and real support. They helped me in so many ways—updating my resume, reaching out to employers, preparing me for interviews, even attending them with me and checking in to make sure I was doing OK. They truly don't just help you get the job; they help you discover your full potential, build your confidence, and map out a career path that works for you. The THRIVE program is truly transformative. It gives you the tools, guidance, and opportunities to grow, and professionally, it prepares you to step into work that's meaningful, sustainable, and aligns with your passions."

—Kiara

Foundry Burnaby

Foundry offers free and confidential supports for young people ages 12 to 24 – mental health, substance use health, physical & sexual health, peer supports, work, education and community services, and drop-in counselling – both online and in-person in communities across BC. Following the announcement of BCCFA's selection as lead agency to bring a Foundry to Burnaby in Spring 2024, we have been hard at work developing this exciting project.

The project will include funding from the Ministry of Health of approximately $3 million over the next 3 years, with the expectation that the grand opening of Foundry Burnaby will happen sometime in early 2027.

After securing a site for Foundry Burnaby at 6889 Royal Oak Avenue last summer, we have moved into the capital development project phase. We have been working with Human Studio Architecture & Urban Design to design the space, making it fully accessible, welcoming, and part of the Foundry ecosystem. We anticipate starting construction in early fall 2026, and have partnered with ETRO Construction for renovating the space. Throughout this entire process, we have also been consulting community members and fellow community organizations, including Burnaby youth and families. Foundry Burnaby is a community-led initiative that sees the community as the experts and is governed by community partners, youth, and families on its leadership tables. The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and Family Advisory Committee (FAC) have been instrumental in developing Foundry Burnaby's space and in starting to design the services available once we open, helping keep Foundry by youth, for youth.

We have also been working towards our critical goal of raising $2 million, supporting the one-time funding needed to open the centre. We are pleased to announce that we are more than halfway to our goal, and on track to reach this urgent need. Our fundraising partnership with Burnaby Hospital & Community Foundation (BHCF), announced in early 2026, has greatly supported this campaign, as BHCF has committed to raising $1 million to our total $2 million need. We are excited to continue to build a strong future foundation for Burnaby's youth as we grow meaningful community partnerships like the one we share with BHCF, connect with youth and families in the community, and bring an essential service to the Burnaby community that meets their needs.

Photos from our After Hours Mixer, hosted in collaboration with BHCF and the Burnaby Board of Trade, in April 2026 at the future site of Foundry Burnaby.

Budget

Revenue

Provincial Government	$28,497,524	88.99%
Federal Government	$857,571	2.99%
Other Income	$1,930,108	6.74%
School District	$275,715	0.96%
Gaming	$91,250	0.32%
Total Revenue	**$28,652,168**	

Expenditures by Program

Supported Child Development Programs	$14,144,646	51.86%
Early Intervention Therapy Program	$7,198,621	26.39%
Facility and Administration	$2,699,145	9.90%
Community Brain Injury Program for Children and Youth	$1,103,077	4.04%
Vocational Services	$827,570	3.03%
Foundry Burnaby	$546,722	2.00%
FAS/NAS Complex Behaviour Program	$270,304	0.99%
Autism Navigator Program	$198,381	0.73%
THRIVE Employment Services	$159,241	0.58%
Social Work Respite Program	$69,529	0.25%
Family Counsellor Program	$57,632	0.21%
Total Expenditures	**$27,274,869**	

Photos from our Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee's Indigenous Beading Crafts event.

Donor and Funder Recognition

We want to recognize and thank those who share our vision for inclusive communities and contributed $500 or more to our cause in the last year.

Funders

City of Burnaby
City of Vancouver
Community Gaming
Employment and Social Development Canada
Foundry Central/Providence Health Care
Ministry of Children and Family Development
North Coast Community Services
North Vancouver School District
Northwest Child Development Centre Society
Province of British Columbia
Provincial Health Services Authority
Sunshine Coast Community Services
Terrace Child Development Centre
University of British Columbia
Vancouver School Board
West Vancouver School District

Corporations, Foundations, and Organizations

Ann Claire Angus Fund-Vancouver Foundation
Caretek Integrated Business Solutions Inc
Canadian Online
Chin Wei Foundation
Coast Capital
Ecclesiastical
Government of Canada
Justin and Faye Hui/CIBC Miracle Day Foundation
Ledcor Industries
Municipal Insurance Association of BC
Nicola Wealth
N'Oubliez Charitable Foundation
Pacific Lions Club
Pixieset Media Inc
Pythian Cerebral Palsy Committee
RBC Foundation
The Langara Foundation
The Victor and Anna Kern Foundation
The Wolrige Foundation
Translink
Urban Impact
Vancouver Pacific Lions Club
Ventum Foundation

Individuals

Bill Corbett
Brie Hoffman
Clayton Greenwood
David Burgoyne
Deborah Mitchell
Don Kim
Emma Gauvin
Jefferson Mooney
Jenny Williams
Joshua Myers
Kristen Spies
Myron Backlin
Sharon LeClair
Shu-Hsien Crowe

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