



**BC Centre
for Ability**



Annual Report

2024 - 2025

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 xʷməθkwə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/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**.*

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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 considered provincial leaders in our field.

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. Our programs help families enhance their child's development and inclusion in the community, we support families in successfully navigating life transitions, and provide adult clients with vocational training and connections to meaningful employment. We consistently receive high accreditation scores for the quality of our services, our dedication to client and family-centred care and the opportunities to provide feedback through our client experience surveys. 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 through a variety of services, including Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Social Work, Supported Child Development, and Employment Services. We provide services throughout our community – at schools, parks, public spaces, or one of our four locations in the Lower Mainland.

Internally, we aim to create a workplace that is supportive, encouraging, fun, and engaging. We are dedicated to nurturing a healthy workplace culture and consistently engage staff in surveys and opportunities to provide feedback on how we can improve. 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

This past year has been an exciting one at BC Centre for Ability. Over the last year, we have launched or expanded several programs and services across the province which we are proud to showcase in this report. In October, we launched our Provincial Pediatric Outreach Program made up of an interdisciplinary team of therapists who, in partnership with local communities and agencies, provide additional outreach and virtual services to rural, remote, and underserved communities across BC. This is an exciting program that has seen early positive results and will be expanding in the coming year to include an additional Speech and Language Pathologist. We also expanded our Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Key Worker Program in Burnaby by doubling our workforce and increasing our capacity to serve clients in that community. Additionally, we expanded our Autism Assessment Program in partnership with BC Children's Hospital/Sunny Hill Health Centre. Adding an additional Speech and Language Pathologist and Developmental Pediatrician to the team allowed us to double the number of assessments completed year over year. Finally, with the generous support of Coast Capital, the Coast Capital THRIVE Program

received an additional three years of funding to continue providing vocational services to youth and young adults with disabilities across the Lower Mainland.

Another important initiative that BC Centre for Ability is leading is Foundry Burnaby. Over the last year, we have expanded our team as we plan for a 2027 grand opening. We developed and launched our Anchor Table, which is the committee tasked with making key decisions about Foundry Burnaby, and we have done a significant amount of community engagement within the city of Burnaby. Our aim is to better understand and serve the needs of the people who will access Foundry Burnaby. We launched a fundraising campaign which is focused on raising money to secure and renovate the physical space that will house Foundry Burnaby, and we are excited to see the momentum and enthusiasm grow for this critical resource.

In the fall of 2024, the Centre underwent our regular accreditation process. Surveyors from the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) visited the organization over a one-week period and assessed our policies, processes, systems,

and tools through a rigorous process, evaluating us on over 2,000 standards. We are proud to report that we passed and received the maximum three-year extension of our accreditation status.

Finally, this year the board and leadership team developed our new 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. The plan was developed with the voices and feedback of clients, families, staff, and community partners and was launched on April 1st, 2025. We are proud of our new plan and excited to dive into the important work that will help us continue delivering on our mission and vision, expand our impact, and ensure our organization is healthy and sustainable now and into the future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to all our staff, clients, families, supporters, and community partners for your unwavering support of the organization over the last year. We look forward to the year ahead.



Joshua Myers MSW, RSW
Chief Executive Officer



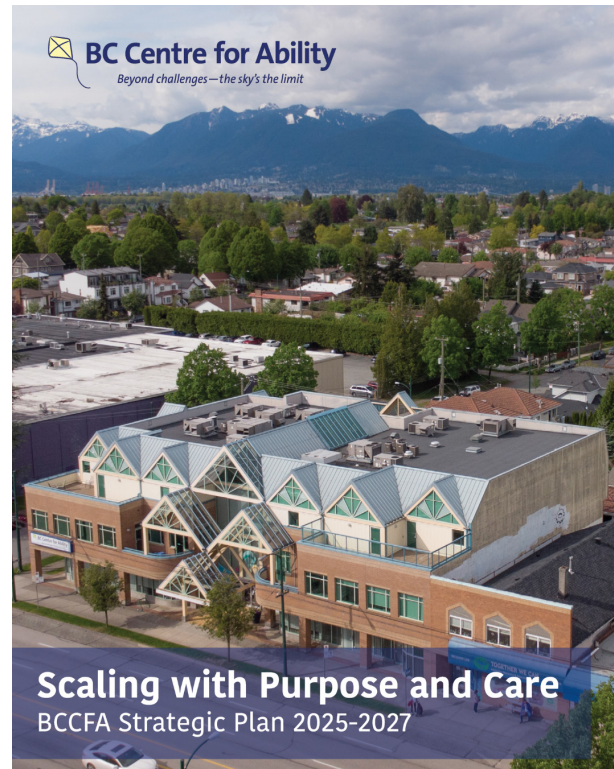
Peta Wales
Board Chair

Centre Highlights

2025 – 2027 Strategic Plan

As part of our commitment to quality improvement and self-assessment, we develop a three-year Strategic Plan to guide the Centre's activities. The plan provides a framework for organizational development and strategic progress.

In Spring 2025, we unveiled our 2025 – 2027 Strategic Plan. This newest strategic plan builds on our legacy of impact while charting a bold path for the future. The plan seeks to strengthen across five key priorities: Inspiring Our People and Teams, Delivering Exceptional and High-Quality Services, Growing Our Impact and Influence, Strengthening for the Future, and Advancing Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI). Over the next three years, we will evolve thoughtfully—not simply by expanding, but by strengthening key capacities, addressing critical service gaps, and deepening our collaboration with families, caregivers, community organizations, and government partners.



CARF Accreditation

In Fall 2024, we started our regular Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accreditation process. CARF surveyors visited the Centre over a week-long period, assessing our policies, processes, systems, and tools through a rigorous process, as well as evaluating us on over 2,000 standards. In February 2025, we received a three-year extension to our accreditation. This achievement reflects our dedication and commitment to providing our clients with high-quality service.

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade Finalist

BCCFA was selected as a finalist for the 2024 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.”

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Lending Library

In 2024, thanks to funding from the Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation, we were able to establish an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Lending Library for families accessing speech-language pathology (SLP) services. The AAC Lending Library consists of 8 iPads set up with all of the appropriate communication apps needed to trial communication systems. As the cost of a device and the related applications is quite high, the AAC Lending Library supports children and families in determining what may best support their children's communication needs before making a purchase. Access to a communication system can open up a child's ability to express themselves and interact with those around them, and the AAC Lending Library is an important step in supporting the children we serve to find ways to communicate and express themselves.



Centre Highlights

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) Group Intervention for Caregivers

For the past five years, parents and caregivers connected to a BCCFA program have been offered a group intervention based on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), focused on improving their mental well-being and supporting peer connections. The intervention was co-developed and is co-facilitated by clinicians and caregivers. We see the caregiver facilitator as the special ingredient in this intervention. In fact, participants consistently tell us how impactful it is to hear another caregiver share their experiences of having difficult thoughts and feelings related to parenting their child and how they use the tools we teach in the group.

Our Social Work Clinical Lead, Sacha Bailey, has fostered an ongoing partnership with the Centre for Addiction in Mental Health (CAMH) who developed the intervention and train facilitators. This has allowed us

to access resources to continue to offer groups and train additional Social Workers and caregivers. Recently, BC Centre for Ability was named as a partner on a 2-year \$800,000 grant called “No Caregiver Left Behind”, funded by Kids Brain Health Network, Brain Canada, and the Azrieli Foundation. The focus is on expanding and sustaining the intervention and improving accessibility. Our local team will develop a brief version of the intervention with input from families and evaluate its accessibility and impact. Other teams are looking at adapting it for underserved communities – Black caregivers, fathers, Francophones, and neurodivergent caregivers. We are excited to continue our partnership and to offer evidence-informed interventions to support caregiver mental-health and well-being.

“Being able to relate to a parent who shares their struggles of not being understood makes me feel like I’m not alone. It’s a reminder that I need to seek out other parents who are having similar experiences so that we can be a support for each other.”
—Caregiver participant

Family Bursary Fund

The Family Bursary Fund supports families receiving services from BCCFA who are facing exceptional financial circumstances and have an urgent need for practical support. Families accessing our services often encounter additional expenses related to medical care, therapies, adaptive equipment, and specialized recreation. Other funding options for families are often unavailable or costs are unexpected or out of budget. Our goal is to alleviate some of the financial stress by bridging costs for families. Having started the project with funds from a small donation and the Soong Ching Ling Children’s Foundation, we are able to provide 20 families facing exceptional financial circumstances with a bursary each year.



Programs Overview

Children & Youth Services

Program Name	Type of Service	Description
Early Intervention Therapy (EIT)	Occupational Therapy	Provides community-based services for children from 0 to 5 years of age who have, or are at risk of having, a developmental delay.
	Physiotherapy	
	Speech-Language Pathology	
	Social Work	
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	Provides therapy services for children with or at risk for developmental delays in underserved communities throughout the province.
	Occupational Therapy	
	Physiotherapy	
	Speech-Language Pathology	
	Behaviour Support	
North Shore School Occupational Therapy	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 services, physical & sexual healthcare, 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

The Early Intervention Therapy program (EIT) 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

Number of clients served: 1,499

- A new discharge report is used in all regions and reflects the client's strengths and support needs using a routine-based lens.
- A new F-words Goal plan was fully launched and used across regions.
- OT hosted kindergarten readiness groups before summer discharges.
- SW hosted multiple Acceptance and Mindfulness for Caregivers groups.
- PT offered Pool group sessions to support the client's gross motor development.
- SLP hosted a storytellers group to support social communication, literacy and language development.
- Onboarding program information is now recorded and provided to parents/guardians during the intake process. Parents/guardians receive written and recorded information regarding the EIP processes and available services.
- 2 Rehabilitation Assistant positions were filled and fully integrated into the program.



Meet Owen!

Owen is an overall happy boy who likes to eat and finds humour in the strangest things, such as changing the garbage can.

We were referred to BCCFA through our pediatrician who noticed Owen with hypotonia around the age of one. At that time we still did not have a diagnosis but the early intervention and a great team of therapists really made a significant impact on him and his development.

Owen has a big team consisting of PT, OT and SLP. Throughout our journey with BCCFA, he has accomplished and grown so much more than we had ever imagined. Even with a confirmed diagnosis later on, this did not define what he was and was not capable of. Our therapists have continued to push him into accomplishing things we thought would not be possible at the time, but also staying mindful of his pace.

Today, Owen is now able to express in his own ways what he wants/doesn't want, can stand and walk with assistance, and gain independence through self-feeding. The team has been a vital part in his transition into school, making sure that all his needs are met and the teachers are well-trained and supported.

Owen loves going to school and enjoys being around his peers. He has grown into such a unique character of his own and continues to carry that "sassy" attitude of his. For those who have met him can agree.

We have received so much support from our therapists at BCCFA in their knowledge, skills, equipments, and most of all, encouragement. We cannot express in words our deepest gratitude to what we have received at BCCFA and the early interventions that were available to us at a time when we felt lost.

Thank you so much for being a part of our journey!

—Janet, Tony & Owen

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, home, and community. This program is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).

Program Highlights

Number of clients served: 167

- Received the Michael Smith Health Research BC Grant in conjunction with BC Children's Hospital and the University of British Columbia to complete a research project titled *Modernizing Brain Injury Services in British Columbia*.
- Collaborated with a Neuropsychologist to guide the development of a neuropsychological assessment prioritization tool for CBIPCY.
- Hosted an MSW Student placement.
- Updated and developed family resources incorporating the F words of childhood development framework.

Meet Amelia!

My name is Amelia, and I am a very independent and active 15-year-old. I spend my days riding and tending to my horses along with many of my other animals. Last year I was faced with and diagnosed with acute Cerebellitis. It started with an odd headache that never quite went away. Our hospital up north could not supply the amount of extensive care I needed, and I was quickly flown out to the BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

Following that hospitalization, I was referred to the CBIPCY for speech therapy and Physiotherapy services in my home community in Northern BC. They were easy to work with and helpful in all sorts of challenges I faced with my illness.

I met with a speech therapist to work on returning to school full-time and learn strategies to help with impacts to my memory and processing speed, increase my self-advocacy skills and support my overall communication. I also worked with a physiotherapist to help myself get back to my fitness courses at school as well as increase my strength and balance among other gross motor skills needed to get back to riding my horses, this not only made me gain my original strength back, they helped me come back stronger.

I made a significant recovery, returning to school full time and getting back to practicing show jumping on a competitive level. I couldn't thank them enough for the amount of support and assistance that was provided!

Amelia's parents also shared, "The program found and set up the support she desperately needed and helped us navigate her recovery every step of the way including working with her return to school. I truly believe without this support our daughter's recovery would have been a far more difficult of a journey for her.

We are beyond thankful to everyone involved in her care.

—**The Korfmanns**



Photo by Noble Horizon Memoirs.

Pediatric Outreach Therapy Program

The Pediatric Outreach Therapy Program (POTP) provides therapy services for children with or at risk for developmental delays in underserved communities throughout the province. The outreach program is guided by 5 core values: service delivery is community-led, relationship-centred, sustainable, evidence-based and supports local advocacy.

The POTP includes Coordination, Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT), Speech Therapy (SLP), and Behavioural Consultation (BCBA) services. Services are provided through community visits and virtual services.

Program Highlights

Number of clients served: 244 children served in the first six months of the program

- Recruited members of each discipline within 3 months of obtaining the contract.
- The first outreach visit occurred 1 month after full onboarding of the team.
- Developed and tested a needs-based assessment to prioritize communities.
- Completed a pilot project with one community while launching services.
- Mentorship has been provided to new graduates in sole-charge positions and in specialty scope areas such as feeding.

Meet the team!

Emma: Building a program that reaches families across the province has been rewarding. I have loved getting to know the people at the heart of the beautiful, remote communities, making connections across agencies and health authorities, and re-imagining service delivery to support equitable access to pediatric therapy.

Emily: Working in outreach has expanded my understanding of what meaningful occupation and function can look like. Using my creative brain to collaborate with families and local teams supporting children's development has been a fun challenge.

I am enjoying meeting and learning from all the kind and welcoming people who live and work in the communities we travel to.

Amanda: Being an outreach therapist has highlighted the importance of relationship building and culturally sensitive care in rural, remote, and underserved communities. In addition to seeing the creative options in service delivery within these communities, it has been especially meaningful to collaborate with local team members to support families.

Sara: A BCBA is a therapist who assesses behaviour, creates individualized plans, and supports caregivers or staff in helping children build meaningful skills and make positive behaviour changes. I am passionate about increasing access to quality care while also gaining a deeper understanding of the diverse communities and needs across the province.

Sarah: PTs support gross motor skill development to help kids move easier to participate in activities that are meaningful to them. Supporting families in an outreach role is rewarding and engaging - understanding the context of each family in their community and finding ways to offer helpful suggestions requires flexibility, creativity and a holistic mindset. I love the relationship-building and big picture thinking that comes with outreach work!



Team members from left to right: Emma (Coordinator), Emily (OT), Amanda (SLP), Sara (BCBA), Sarah (PT).

North Shore School Occupational Therapy

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

Number of clients served: 144

- Co-presented to the School Board on the Feeding Futures program, which focuses on fine motor, executive function, and social-emotional development through food preparation and cooking at Irwin Park School.
- Developed a Feeding Futures Vision kit for cooking sessions with a student with a visual impairment.
- Vision screening for kindergarten students continued and advocacy on behalf of this program in public health resulted in a new provincial pilot project for kindergarten and grade 1 students.
- A Step Up to Kindergarten summer program was offered in the summer for students with additional needs to support their transition to kindergarten.
- Planned and led a 4-part networking series for Learning Support Teachers regarding implementing Kelly Mahler's interoception curriculum.
- Planned and provided school-based workshops on various topics requested by schools, including "Sensory Detectives", "Self-Regulation Classroom", and "Sensory Pathways".
- Presented a 4-part online workshop for fine motor development and strategies, recorded this presentation and created a Padlet for future viewing.
- Created six Padlets to share resources widely within the district on various OT topics.
- Collaborated with Education Assistants, Learning Support Teachers, the Level 4 team, and SLPs to implement interoception groups and one-on-one interoception programs across the district.



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.

Meet Luna!

"My daughter Luna got her ASD diagnosis at the age of 3. She was not verbal then; I can't tell the level of struggles that we dealt with every single hour of each day.

As a parent you feel like a car hits you and you are in survival mode constantly. Then your child keeps growing and needs help, as well as a place to socialize, start friendships and be playful. Then we were extremely fortunate to get referred to the Vancouver Supported Child Development Program at BC Center for Ability. Our lives got a better sense; the path had a less dark future. We were very anxious about the outcome and how Luna would develop, a very uncertain future.

With their support, especially from our consultant Belle, our lives have changed dramatically. VSCD planted a seed on my girl, now she has flourished! You must meet Luna, she is brave, funny, a leader, creative and loving. She has become a very talented



young artist with a huge future ahead. We always have new challenges but the confidence that grows in her is the result of hours of meaningful support. VSCD has supported every environment that Luna has been in so far, since 2017 when we first met. I can't thank enough for the guidance, supervision and constant support over all of these years. Every phone call, check in email, visits to centers, etc., really matters. We will be forever grateful for your unconditional support."

—Itzia Paz, Luna's mom



Program Highlights

Number of clients served: 1,638

- Exceeded our training targets by 33%.
- Launched The Inclusive Childcare Toolkit Training supporting childcare partners with implementing and developing inclusion policies for their organizations.
- Presented "Creating Calm and Community: The Power of Environment and Social-Emotional Learning in Childcare" at the Squamish Early Years Conference.
- 95% of clients met or exceeded their goals in partnership with childcare providers.
- 93% of childcare staff reported they gained knowledge from the strategies and suggestions provided by their consultants.

"We appreciate the visits, observation notes, and collaborating with the consultant on ways to make our space more inclusive and enjoyable environment for all."

—Child care partner

Psychosocial Programs

Family Counsellor

The Family Counselling Support Services for Children and Youth with Special Needs (FCSS) is a 6-month support for families that promotes healthy development, maximizes quality of life and assists families in their role as primary caregivers. In a collaborative relationship with families and individuals served, this program enhances an individual's capacity to effectively parent a child or youth with support needs, strengthens family functioning, and increases awareness of family strengths through facilitating family cohesion and broad community connections. It maintains and enhances the stability of families who have a child with extra challenges and ensures they have an ongoing network of support and access to community resources. This program receives referrals from the Child and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) offices for Burnaby, New Westminster, Maple Ridge, and the Tri-Cities.

Program Highlights

Number of clients served: 42

- Achieved 97% direct service targets despite 8-week parental leave.



"I've been receiving family counselling at the BC Centre for Ability, and it has made a meaningful difference in our lives. As a solo parent of two neurodiverse children, things can often feel overwhelming and complicated, especially when it comes to managing emotional regulation and sibling dynamics.

One of my children has autism and can be quite resistant to participating in anything that feels therapeutic. Our counsellor has an incredible ability to meet him where he's at. With patience, empathy, and a range of creative techniques, he has been able to engage with my son in ways I didn't think were possible. It's been amazing to watch my son open up, even in small ways, and begin to take part in the process.

Our counselling sessions have focused on respectful sibling communication, emotional regulation, and clarifying family roles and responsibilities. With this support, I've seen improvements in how we function together as a family."

—Lindsay, parent participant in the FCSS program

Key Worker Support Services

The Key Worker Support Services (KWSS) program in Burnaby offers individual support, group therapy, and skill development programs for children and youth with:

- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD)
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Complex Developmental Behavioural Conditions (CDBC)

KWSS educates families, professionals and other service providers about the behavioural presentations of these conditions, which can impact development, learning, mental health and adaptive and social skills. They provide training for parents and community service providers and networking opportunities for families to reduce social and emotional difficulties and challenging behaviours, as well as life skills to encourage success and participation in everyday life.

"The social events that we have been able to bring our teen to over school breaks have been great. She enjoys attending."

—2024/2025 BCCFA Client Experience Survey Response

Program Highlights

Number of clients served: 38

- Partnered with Southlands Therapeutic Riding to provide spring group for youth.
- Offered 3 summer youth groups, including an escape room, a hike, and bowling.
- Participated in summer group programming.
- Offered Spring Break group.
- Attended FASD United Research Conference in Seattle, WA in April 2024.
- Attended Synergetic Play Therapy training.
- Attended ACT for Caregivers group facilitation training.

Psychosocial Programs

Respite

Funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), our Provincial Complex Medical Respite Support Services offers respite support for families and children throughout BC with complex health conditions. These families currently receive At-Home Program respite benefits and collaborate with social workers from Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) to be referred for additional top-up respite throughout the year, due to the complexity of their child's medical condition. The program offers two streams:

Number of families served: 37

- At-Home Program Respite Top-Up: For families already receiving the At-Home Program Respite funding and due to the high complex care needs of their child, the parent requires additional respite support. Respite is provided as an overnight and out-of-home at an alternate caregiver's home. This Top-Up is administered through the local CYSN office responsible for each family's existing At-Home Program respite agreement.
- Contracted Respite: Delivered by Community Ventures Society. Eligible families are allocated 26 days of respite annually. The contracted agency recruits, matches and supervises the caregiver.

The Provincial Complex Medical Respite Support Services program offered 3 different summer camp opportunities for families at Camp Alexandra in Crescent Beach over the summer of 2024. These 5-day sleepover summer camp experiences are supported by the Community Ventures Society and provide respite opportunities for 15 different families of children with complex medical needs.

"We are grateful for our child to experience a summer camp environment with like-minded/capable kids in a safe, supportive setting. This opportunity is not possible without this program other than with us (her family). It is different for kids to get to be with other kids and to have dedicated, enthusiastic staff with fun activities."
—Parent of 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.

Program Highlights

Number of clients served: 180

- Presented to RISE Community Clinic.
- Developed comprehensive resource website for families.
- Completed program evaluation in partnership with UBC.
- Funded by Community Gaming Grant and RBC.

"One of the standout features of the service was its highly personalized approach. Whether it was navigating the complexities of an autism diagnosis or finding appropriate resources, the support was customized to address our particular situation, ensuring that the advice and strategies were relevant and actionable. I also love the time flexibility for appointments."
—Parent feedback

Adult Services

Opportunities Fund

The 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

- **159 clients served in Stream 1** — Work Experience.
- **16 employers served in Stream 2** — Employer Awareness.
- **27 clients served in Stream 3** — Career Advancement.
- \$153,000 in increased funding received to serve additional participants.

Coast Capital THRIVE

Coast Capital THRIVE (Transforming Hiring Relationships, Inspiring Vocational Experiences) serves young adults with disabilities between 19-29 who are currently enrolled in or have recently completed post-secondary education and are seeking employment. The vocational counsellors in the program provide career coaching, mentorship, advocacy, and direct connections to employers. The goal of the program is to support participants in building vocational and employability skills and to assist employers to harness this talent. The services are customized to meet the needs of each individual participant and employer.

Previously known as THRIVE, the program has been renamed to Coast Capital THRIVE in recognition of We are absolutely thrilled to have signed a 3-year partnership agreement with Coast Capital and the program is fully funded until December 2027.

Program Highlights

Number of clients served: 47

- 17 jobs offered to participants.
- 14 work experience placements offered to participants.
- 5 episodes of the THRIVE podcast published.
- \$480,000 in funding provided by Coast Capital for 2025-2027.

Employer Story

“Our staff from BC Centre for Ability programs are a delight to work with. They have been with us since October and learned so much at the Bean Kiosk x Hummingbird and Bean Café in a short period of time.

We provide practical tools and support to help staff successfully complete tasks like cleaning the espresso machine. This includes easier-to-use measuring cups, replacement screws, and an Allen key to make the process more manageable. Most importantly, we offer a clear to-do list and close guidance throughout the process—staying involved until staff feel confident and independent. This approach reflects our understanding of the challenges related to executive functioning and our commitment to supporting staff in developing these essential skills.

Now they are comfortable to share their ideas, and we encourage them to create their own drinks that we could serve to customers. They feel it is a safe environment to speak their minds and express their needs to be able to carry on with their duties and tasks, for instance, they are comfortable to say: ‘I need 5 minutes to go out and get some fresh air.’ And they return with more energy to carry on their shift. I think this admirable as they know what they need to self-regulate and we understand this 100%.

We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of the BC Centre for Ability and the Coast Capital THRIVE and Opportunities Fund programs, whose partnership has been instrumental in the success of our coffee business located at the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute. By connecting us with talented individuals with disabilities, they have not only enriched our workforce but have also reinforced our mission of inclusivity and empowerment. Thank you very much for supporting our cause and introducing us to your programs.”

— **Liz Cooney, Owner of Hummingbird and Bean Café**



From left to right: Liz Cooney, Aidan Cowell, and Ela Green.

Foundry Burnaby

Foundry offers free and confidential supports for young people ages 12 to 24 – mental health care, substance use services, physical & sexual healthcare, youth, and family peer supports, and social services – 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 includes funding from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions of approximately \$3 million over the next 3 years, with the expectation that the grand opening of Foundry Burnaby will happen sometime in 2027.

We are excited to share that in June 2025 we successfully secured a space for Foundry Burnaby! Foundry Burnaby will operate at 6889 Royal Oak Avenue, neighbouring Royal Oak Skytrain Station and a developing urban area close to Metrotown.

Now that a site has been secured, Foundry Burnaby’s critical goal is raising \$2 million to support developing, renovating, and equipping the space for delivering services to Burnaby youth. Foundry Burnaby’s fundraising campaign will complete the one-time funding needed to open the centre, and to tailor its space to the unique needs of the community.

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. Moving into the capital development project phase, Foundry Burnaby looks forward to working with partners and the community to transform the space into a warm, welcoming and space that meets the health and wellness needs of youth and young adults in Burnaby.



6889 Royal Oak, the future site of Foundry Burnaby.

Budget

Revenue

Provincial Government	\$22,749,827	86.59%
Federal Government	\$1,273,027	4.85%
Other Income	\$1,892,756	7.20%
School District	\$267,685	1.02%
Gaming	\$91,250	0.35%

Total Revenue **\$26,274,545**

Expenditures by Program

Supported Child Development Programs	\$13,335,108	52.69%
Early Intervention Therapy Program	\$6,156,018	24.32%
Facility and Administration	\$2,668,397	10.54%
Vocational Services	\$1,290,462	5.10%
Community Brain Injury Program for Children and Youth	\$1,048,241	4.14%
FAS/NAS Complex Behaviour Program	\$279,155	1.10%
THRIVE Employment Services	\$172,180	0.68%
Autism Navigator Program	\$118,284	0.47%
Foundry Burnaby	\$110,435	0.44%
Family Counsellor Program	\$79,277	0.31%
Social Work Respite Program	\$50,768	0.20%

Total Expenditures **\$25,308,324**

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

Corporations, Foundations, and Organizations

Association for Corporate Growth BC	HME Health Home	RBC
Ann Claire Angus Fund-Vancouver Foundation	Hudson Canada Management	Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada
BC Association for Child Development and Intervention	Justin and Faye Hui/CIBC	The Victor and Anna Kern Foundation
Canada's Walk of Fame	Miracle Day Foundation	The Wolrige Foundation
Canadian Online	Kiwanis Club of Vancouver	TSO Cleaning
Coast Capital	Ledcor Industries	Urban Impact
Ecclesiastical	Mr & Mrs P.A. Woodward's Foundation	Western Stevedoring
Envol Strategies	Nicola Wealth	
Government of Canada	North American Air Travel Insurance Agents LTD	
Guardian Capital LP	Pacific Lions Club	
	Pythian Cerebral Palsy Committee	

Individuals

Bill Corbett	Emma Gauvin	Maryn Wallace
Chang I Lin	Helene & Arthur Iliffe	Michael Jones
Chris Wales	Jefferson Mooney	Mike Taculad
David Burgoyne	Jenny Williams	Myron Backlin
Deborah Mitchell	Joan McKey	Sharon LeClair
Don Nicholson	Joanne Loberg	Shu-Hsien Crowe
Don Kim	Joshua Myers	William H Levine
Dr. Gary R Braxendale	Karen Lindsay	





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