



President's Report to the Powell River Hospice Society 2022 AGM

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend tonight's Annual General Meeting, whether you've joined us in person or virtually.

Your Hospice Society continues to flourish in so many ways as an organization. Our presence both in the community and online has increased in leaps and bounds in the last few years. This year we have strengthened ties with local governments, qathet Division of Family Practice, the Hospital Foundation, and other community support organizations as we begin to share who we are, what we do and how we can support each other. I believe we are on the cusp of huge opportunities for further growth, while we remain fiscally responsible by accessing grants and other sources of funding to assist in covering our operational costs.

We could not do the work we do without the dedication of each of our volunteers, whether they are supporting individual end-of-life or bereavement clients wherever they live, facilitating one of our support groups, assisting at various fundraising events, or spreading the word about Hospice at every opportunity. Volunteers are the backbone of any organization such as ours, and I think we have the most dedicated group I've ever seen. The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch we held in October was just a small token of our gratitude for the heart and commitment of our volunteers.

Our staff and contractors continue to support us by looking after the on-the-ground work of the organization. We appreciate all Sarah Joy Herzog, our Client and Volunteer Coordinator, and Megan Gros, our Administrative Assistant, do to keep us operational. Elisa Renick has just had to step down as our Resource Development Coordinator and we thank her for the work she has undertaken on our behalf. We've just hired Leslie Emory as our new Program Coordinator and are excited to have her onboard.

Thank you to our society members who further the work of the Hospice Society in myriad ways. You are our advocates in the community. We would not exist without your support.

This has been another busy year for your board, starting immediately after our last AGM, when we determined which of various committee responsibilities we would each take on in addition to preparing for and attending board meetings. One of the reasons for the strength of our board is the contribution of every single member. Each director brings a different set of assets to the table and together we are a cohesive group that gets things done.

Rod Paynter has decided not to run again for a board position. Rod has looked after the Policies and Procedures and Membership committees since his election in November 2018. During that time Rod has worked hard to update our bylaws, policies and procedures, operations manual and membership process, and for his attention to detail I am truly grateful. Rod's recent suggestions for changes to our online membership application resulted in a significant increase in memberships as well as in additional donations by those taking out a membership.

Anna Byrne is also stepping back from the board for the coming year. Her involvement with the Hospice board started in November 2016. In the spring of 2017 Anna became the Hospice Coordinator, a position she held until mid-2020, after which she was once again elected to the

board. Anna has taken the lead on the Program and Personnel committees, as well as providing training and support for our staff. I've appreciated Anna's commitment to streamlining the way we operate, her concern for the wellbeing of each staff and board member, and her willingness to take things off my plate when I'm feeling overloaded.

Work on our strategic plan has been pretty much on track this year, as we are in the final quarter of Year 1. It's satisfying to plan together to create a path forward, and then to watch how all the pieces of the path fall into place through the concerted efforts of all our strategic plan committees. Thank you to everyone involved.

As you are no doubt aware, we have undertaken an extensive community engagement process to seek input into what our community wants in terms of a hospice facility, under Malerie Meeker's leadership. Results of two focus groups and the community survey are available on our website. On November 24th, we hosted a Key Stakeholders meeting, inviting all levels of local government, a VCH representative, Hospital Foundation, Health Care Auxiliary, Community Foundation, Community Forest, First Credit Union, Seniors Association and Rotary. I guess I shouldn't have been surprised at the level of support each of these organizations expressed for Hospice, but I have to say, it was incredible. We are so fortunate to be surrounded and supported by our community. The report from this meeting will be on the website in the near future.

It has been my honour to act as President of the board this year. It's been exciting for me to support our organization as we continue to gain momentum and grow together.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Fisher.