



KOOTENAY BOUNDARY
Community Services Co-operative

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



KOOP MEMBERS AT DARE TO LEAD, APRIL 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Welcome to the 20th Annual General Meeting of the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative (KBCSC or “the Koop”). As one of the founding members, I am proud and honoured to be here to celebrate our 20th anniversary!

More than twenty years ago, a group of Executive Directors from the social service sector in the West Kootenays recognized the need to work collaboratively, share information and resources, and advocate for social service programs. Thus, the birth of KBCSC, an umbrella organization to serve as a forum and platform for its member agencies. The KBCSC, with eleven members, was incorporated in 2003. We currently have eighteen members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteer board members over these past years who have supported our organization with their dedication, hard work, and commitment. I would also like to thank our funders, particularly the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT). The CBT has generously funded us from 2009 to 2023 to strengthen the capacity of our member agencies. Their support has resulted in thriving social service organizations and improvement in the lives of the people they serve.

Our challenge moving forward will be to find ongoing funding to continue doing this important work. The KBCSC Board and the Executive Director are working hard to pursue various potential funding sources, including Foundations and the Provincial Government.

Here's to celebrating twenty years of service, and looking forward to twenty more.

Lena Horswill

KBCSC Board Chair

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ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

In May 2022, members gathered to develop the Koop's strategic plan at a session hosted in Ainsworth, funded by the Columbia Basin Trust. It was a critical step in determining the Co-operative's next steps as we navigate the loss of ongoing operational funding and recommit to member priorities. In the Fall, the plan was finalized for 2022-2024.

The new executive director prioritized meeting in person and online with members throughout the year to understand their priorities and finalize the strategic plan. Additionally, the SKY team expanded, increasing the number of children served across the region, and the Nobody's Perfect Parenting series rebounded from low delivery during the pandemic to offering 10 series throughout the year.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Achieving and Maintaining Sustainability
- Strengthening Collaboration, Sharing and Engagement
- Support Learning and Growth

MISSION

The Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-operative's mission is to work together to strengthen the capacity of each member agency through cooperation and collaboration nurtured in a spirit of mutual support and respect.

VISION

Our vision is to foster a community of thriving social service agencies improving the lives of people in the Kootenay Boundary region.

STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL SECTOR'S CAPACITY



The capacity building grant, funded by the Columbia Basin Trust, makes trainings, workshops, and networking events that build member and sector capacity possible. Other member benefits come through the information sharing and sector news the Koop provides and a venue to discuss important issues.

The Koop supports member organizations' executive directors, board, and staff members.

Sector trends that have been identified this year, include challenges with recruitment and retention, isolation in leadership and burnout, an everchanging contracts landscape, a desire to decolonize policy, and, for many, a growing demand for services since the pandemic hit. These topics are reflected in the capacity building priorities that will guide this project moving forward.

FINANCE NETWORK

The Finance Network meetings were held twice throughout the year, one to address questions with a payroll software that a number of members use, and another for member finance staff to connect and troubleshoot several topics.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

Executive Director Network Meetings were held bi-monthly. These serve as an opportunity for leaders to connect, engage in peer mentorship, and remain informed on sector issues, and collaborate on service. The HR Network hosted a "Rumbling with Vulnerability" workshop, facilitated by Warren Helfrich, providing valuable learnings on courageous leadership.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

In partnership with Koop member, Circle of Indigenous Nations Society (COINS), the Koop hosted training and discussions to deepen member knowledge of Indigenous ceremony, traditions and engaged in dialogue surrounding cultural safety in social services.

- Learning Circles - May '22 & October '22
- Towards Reconciliation Training- Feb '23

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In May 2022, a Koop strategic planning session was held. Funded by the Trust, members set a clear path for the Co-operative to focus on financial sustainability, and continued member growth and connection.

Nobody's Perfect

Across the Kootenay-Boundary region, 10 Nobody's Perfect Parenting series were held, rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic that saw fewer programs run.

Nobody's Perfect is a facilitated parenting program for parents of children from birth to age five. The program is designed to meet the needs of parents who are young, single, socially or geographically isolated, or have low income or limited formal education, offered in communities by facilitators to help support parents and young children. Parents expressed that the series made them feel "connected and understood" and provided valuable tools for navigating parenting at different ages and stages.

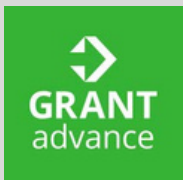
Our managing partners for delivering the NP series are ASLCS, BFS, KFP, KCS, KKS, SCRS, TFS, and WEG. (See back page for definitions of acronyms).



Thank you to Nobody's Perfect funder
Interior Health Authority

Strength through Connection

The Koop coordinated group subscriptions for members who had the opportunity to opt in, saving funds and building internal capacity.



The Koop maintained memberships with network organizations, sharing resources, and important sector updates to co-operative members.





Highlights

30 children were served by SKY from April 2022 to March 2023.

13 interviews were conducted. Of those, 12 interviews were conducted in SKY interview rooms.

SKY Coordinators held 17 MDT meetings in our 6 communities.

69 multidisciplinary team members participate on SKY teams.

Successes

SKY referrals increased from zero during the first six months of 2022 (due to staff vacancies), to 8 referrals in the first two months of on-boarding regional SKY Coordinators.

In October 2022, 18 multidisciplinary (MDT) members from 5 different communities attended Stepwise Interview Training organized by SKY. Funding was obtained from the British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

SKY received an Accredited Facility Dog through the Lions Foundation of Canada. Trusty joined the SKY team in April 2023 and has already begun supporting children and youth in our region.

In February 2023, SKY hosted a Regional Gathering focusing on education about online child sexual exploitation. 33 MDT members attended with each of our 6 SKY communities represented.



Trusty, our beloved Accredited Facility Dog

SKY Partners

- Ministry of Children & Family Development
- RCMP
- Nelson Police Department
- Victim Service Contract Holding Agencies: Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services, Castlegar and District Community Services Society, Kaslo Community Services, Nelson CARES, Salmo Community Resource Society, Trail FAIR Society, and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary,
- School Districts No. 8, 10, and 20
- COINS
- Interior Health
- BC Provincial Network of CYACs & Canadian National Network of CYACs (Child & Youth Advocacy Centre)

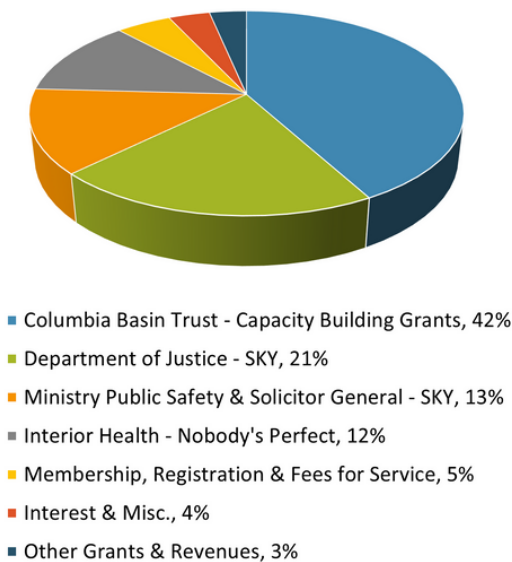
Funding

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Department of Justice

2022-2023 Finances

2022-2023 Revenue



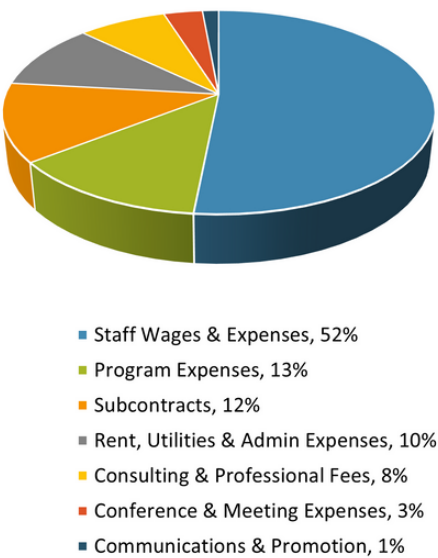
The most significant expense in 2022-2023 was wages and benefits. This area grew with the implementation of the new staff model for SKY, which included bringing on two part-time coordinators. Nobody's Perfect Parenting program rebounded with strong activity following a COVID-19 dip over the last few years.

Overall revenue (\$417,663) was up compared to 2021-2022 (\$378,523), and overall expenses were also slightly up (\$388,840 versus \$374,893); a result of increased program expenses, and a growing team, though there were fewer consulting services under total expenses. We ended the year with an excess of \$28,823 in revenue over expenditures. These funds are being allocated to achieving a balanced 2023-2024 budget and planning for a future without currently secured future ongoing operational funds.

*THE KOOTENAY BOUNDARY
COMMUNITY SERVICES CO-OPERATIVE
BELIEVES THAT WE ARE STRONGER
WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER TO SERVE
THE RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES OF
THE REGION.*



2022-2023 Expenses



STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members: Gina Camilleri, KBCSC Treasurer (Member-at-large), Maureen Berk (SCRS), Vivian Smith (KBCSC Finance Administrator), Hannah Smith (KBCSC).

Met 5 times. The committee oversaw KBCSC's financial review. KBCSC is in a stable financial position, though securing ongoing operational funding will be a major priority to maintain this status moving into the future. See page 7 for more details.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Members: Phyllis Nash (Nelson CARES), Tina Tew (FQ), Hannah Smith (KBCSC)

Committee met 2 times in 2022-2023. Committee updated the KBCSC file backup policy. Minimal policy updates were undertaken, as much work was done over the last few years by committee to update KBCSC policies.

HR COMMITTEE

Members: Cindy Strukoff (BFSS), Lena Horswill (Member-at-large), Joanna Temple (KCS), Hannah Smith (KBCSC).

Met 5 times in 2022-23. Oversaw the onboarding and performance review of new Executive Director .



Members

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community
Services Society (ASLCSS)

Boundary Family Services Society (BFSS)

Castlegar & District Community Services Society (CDCSS)

Columbia Basin Family Resources Society (CBFRFS)

Circle of Indigenous Nations (COINS)

Family Action Network (FAN)

Freedom Quest Youth Services Society (FQ)

Kaslo Community Services (KCS)

Kootenay Career Development Society (KCDS)

Kootenay Family Place (KFP)

Kootenay Kids Society (KKS)

Kutenai Art Therapy Institute (KATI)

Nelson CARES Society (NCares)

Nelson Community Services (NCS)

Nelson & District Women's Centre (WKWA)

Robson Valley Community Services (RVCS)

Salmo Community Resource Society (SCRS)

Trail FAIR Society (TFS)

W.E. Graham Community Services Society (WEGSS)



Board Members

Lena Horswill, Chair

Cindy Strukoff, Secretary (BFSS)

Gina Camilleri, Treasurer

Joanna Temple (KCS)

Lisa Heisler (KATI)

Malia Joy (WKWA)

Phyllis Nash (NCares)

Shelley Cousineau (RVCS)

Tim Payne (ASLCSS)

Tracey Fellowes (NCS)

Contact Us:

Current Staff

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