



*The Comox Valley Social Planning Society respectfully acknowledges that its work take place on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, stewards of the land since time immemorial.*

## COMOX VALLEY SOCIAL PLANNING SOCIETY



**CONNECTED PEOPLE  
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES  
PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

We acknowledge the truth about ongoing harms caused by colonization to the health and social wellbeing of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to be living on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land, and commit to continuing the journey towards reconciliation.

# 2024 AGM Agenda

1. Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Living Wage with Igluka Ivanova:  
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
4. Steff McGowan - Comox Valley Head Injury Society
5. Approval of AGM 2023 Minutes
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Election of Board 2024-2025
9. Closing

## Annual Report 2023-2024

### Foundational Principle

Strong communities need social, economic, and environmental health.

### Vision

Connected people and organizations improving the quality of life of citizens in the Comox Valley by impacting social issues.

### Mission

The CVSPS provides information to individuals, organizations, and policy makers to advocate for and guide the development of social planning strategies throughout the Comox Valley

### Social Planning

A process that involves local governments and community members working together to address social issues and build healthy communities. Integrated with other types of planning, social planning focuses on the people themselves in the community planning context.

### Board of Directors (2023-2024)

Betty Tate (President)  
Pam Munroe (Treasurer)  
Allisyn Wodham (Director)  
Lindsay Monk (Director)

Brian Charlton (Secretary)  
Joanne Schroeder (Director)  
Susan Auchterlonie (Director)

# Comox Valley Social Planning Society Annual General Meeting Minutes May 2, 2023

**Attending:** Alexis Forbes (LINC), Angie Prescott (The Foundry), Betty Tate (President, SPS & Meeting Chair), Brian Charlton (Director, SPS), Cecilia Plecas (Sasamans Society), Chelsea McCanell-Keene (Trustee, SD#71), Christopher Bate (Assistant, SPS/AC & Meeting Minutes), Danielle Hoogland (NIC), Edwin Grieve (Director, CVRD), Heather Deane-Clark (CV Hard of Hearing Association), Hollee Card (L'Arche), Jessie Ketler (Councilor, Cumberland), Jonathan Kerr (Councillor, Comox), Judy Norbury (Accessibility Committee), Julie Keumbekhdjian (WCC), Kelsey Smith (LINC), Lindsay Monk (Makola), Louise Howes (CVHIS), Pam Munroe (Treasurer, SPS), Sheila McDonnell (Director, SPS), Sigourney Brown (CV Community Foundation), Stef McGowan (CVHIS), Vickey Brown (Mayor, Cumberland), Wendy Morin (Councillor, Courtenay), Michelle Ford (City of Courtenay).

**1. Call to Order** 12:04PM

**2. Territorial Acknowledgement**

1. Betty Tate provided the acknowledgement.

**3. Welcome and Introductions**

**4. Guest Speakers: Supports for Youth in the Comox Valley**

1. Kelsey Smith and Alexis Forbes from the LINC Youth Centre (City of Courtenay)
2. Angie Prescott from The Foundry (John Howard Society)
3. Questions

**5. Approval of Minutes of AGM 2022**

1. Motion to accept by Pam Munroe
2. Seconded by Brian Charlton
3. All In Favour/Carried

**6. President's Report**

1. AGM Report presented by Betty Tate

**7. Treasurer's Report**

1. Report presented by Pam Munroe
2. Motion to accept by Pam Munroe; Seconded by Edwin Grieve
3. All in I Favour/Carried

**8. Election of Board 2023-2024**

1. Election of returning Board members: Betty Tate, Brian Charlton, Joanne Schroeder, Pam Munroe. Election of new Board members: Allisyn Wodham, Lindsay Monk
2. After three calls for nominations from the floor, the slate was declared elected.
3. To be appointed in September: Susan Auchterlonie

**9. Closing**

1. Thank you to Sheila McDonnell who is departing the SPS Board after several years of serving.

**10. Adjournment** 3:20PM



### President's Report

Respectfully submitted, Betty Tate, President

The Social Planning Society has had another exciting year as we continued to make progress on priorities and actions. Some of the highlights of 2023-2024 are:

#### Regional Accessibility Committee

For several years we have collaborated with and provided support to the Comox Valley Accessibility Committee. In 2023, facilitated by the CVRD, the local municipalities asked the existing Accessibility Committee to become the Regional Accessibility Committee as required by the *Accessible BC Act*.

The local governments developed and agreed on a regional Accessibility Framework in consultation with the Accessibility Committee. Based on the collective/regional framework each participating local government will develop action plans to reduce or remove access barriers within their individual jurisdictions. The role of the Regional Accessibility Committee is to advise on and support the development of the Accessibility Framework and ongoing Accessibility Action Plans with individual local governments as required.

#### Bunny Shannon Heart of the Community Award:



We remember Bunny Shannon each year at Bunny's Brown Bag Lunch in November. We also present the ***Bunny Shannon Heart of the Community Award*** at this event.

This award is given annually to someone who embodies Bunny's values and commitment to creating a just and healthy Comox Valley Community. When she passed away many of us said we would honour her by continuing the care and compassion she had for our community and the people in it.

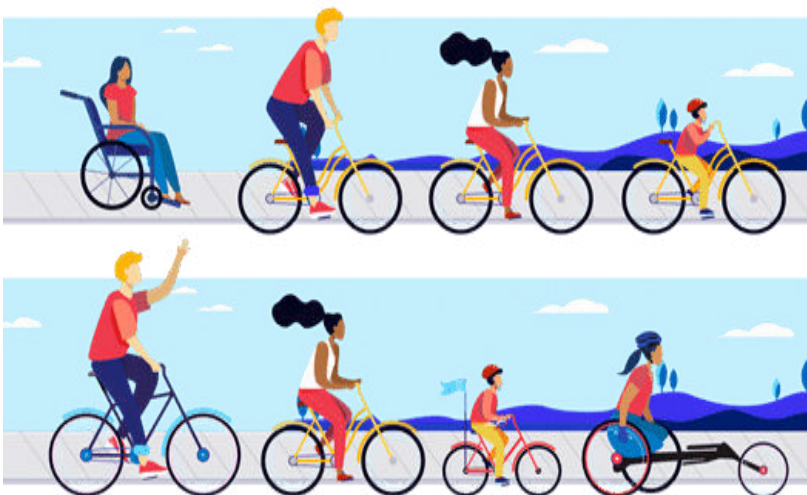
This year we honored Ramona Johnson with the Bunny Shannon Award for her years of work in our community exemplifying everything Bunny stood for! Thank you for your commitment to our community Ramona! Pictured with Ramona are Karin Kratz who nominated her and Betty Tate, President Social Planning Society



### **Our Projects – Equity, Living Wage and Accessibility Audits**

This year we continued to make progress on our three main projects that all relate to our commitment to accessibility, equity and reducing poverty.

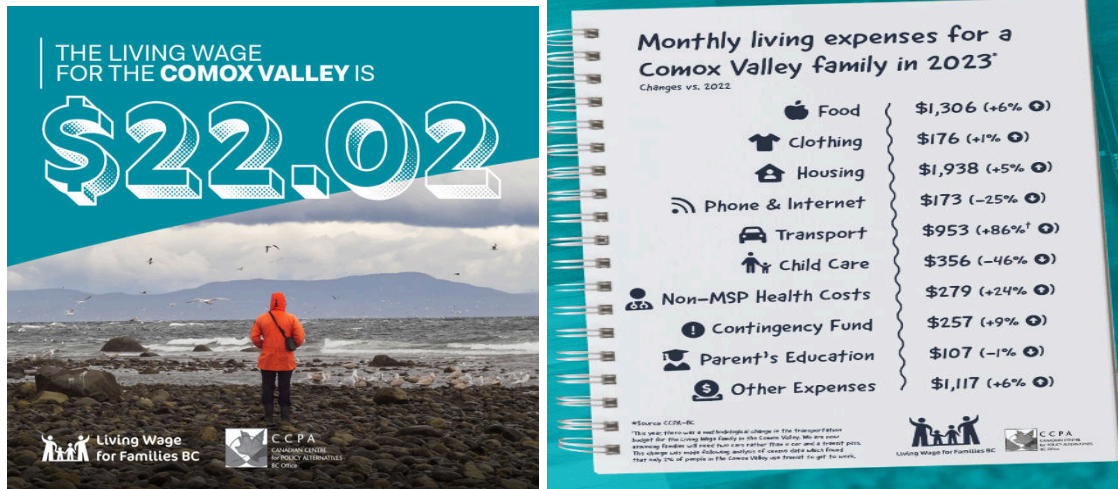
**1. Bringing an Equity Lens to Public Policy** provides support based on an individual's level of need, instead of providing the same support to everyone.



This work included building on what we heard at a facilitated workshop in February 2023 to create a Bringing an Equity Lens to Public Policy Guide highlighting some Comox Valley examples of integrating an equity lens into policy development. We hope these examples will inspire others to use an equity lens in their work.

**2. Calculating Living Wage for the Comox Valley.** We collaborate with Living Wage for Families BC to calculate the Living Wage for Families for the Comox Valley. The living wage is the amount that a family of four with two adults working full year, full time, needs to earn to meet their expenses.

For 2023 the living wage for the Comox Valley was \$22.02 per hour.



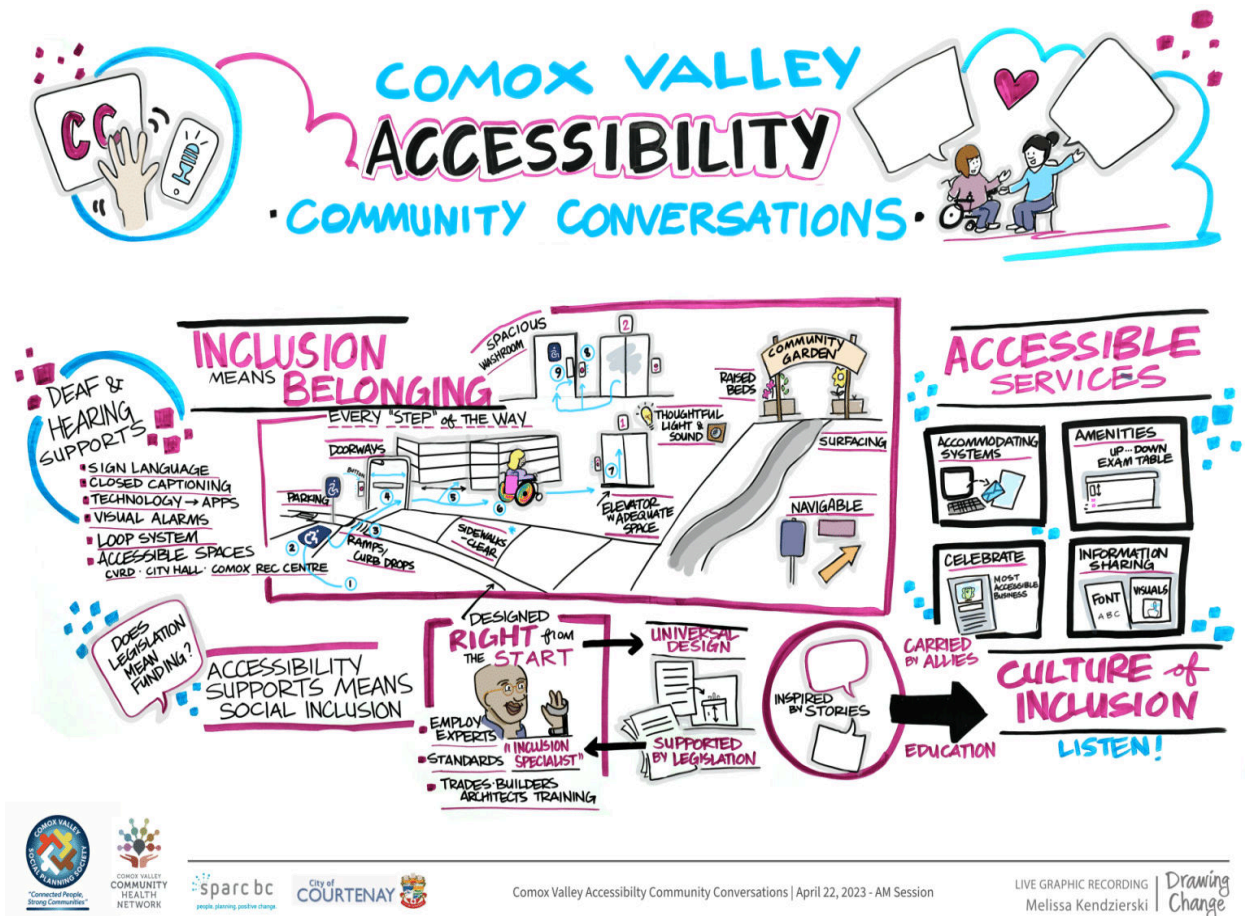
We have 23 Living Wage Employers in the Comox Valley which is up from 1 in 2018 when we started doing this calculation. Find out who our Living Wage Employers are [here](#). Huge appreciation to them for contributing to people being able to live with some security in our community. We continue to encourage more employers to pay a Living Wage and we use our Living Wage calculation to advocate for systemic changes to lift people out of poverty.

**3. Coordinating and Completing Accessibility Audits across the Comox Valley.** In partnership with the Regional Accessibility Committee, Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) and the CV Community Health Network we began an Accessibility Audit Project in the spring of 2023. The purpose of the project is to:

- engage community members and people with lived experience of disability in planning for the audit and doing the audit.
- demonstrate the value of accessibility and universal design as a benefit for all community members.
- identify areas/policies/processes in the Comox Valley that require modification to be a community that is accessible and inclusive.

- create a living document/map that can be used by local government and community organizations to improve accessibility and inclusion in the Comox Valley.

To begin the project, we hosted 5 community conversations in April with people with accessibility needs to ask what would make our community more inclusive.








Comox Valley Accessibility Community Conversations | April 22, 2023 - AM Session

LIVE GRAPHIC RECORDING | Drawing Change  
Melissa Kendzierski

In June of 2023, twenty-one people with visible and invisible disabilities along with 4 support auditors were trained and hired to conduct an audit of public spaces in the region. The audit sites to date have been mapped and Interim Reports for Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, and the Comox Valley Regional District were released to them in March 2024. Approximately 60 sites have been mapped in the Comox valley to date and more audits are planned in 2024. Over time the audit maps will be used to make changes to create more barrier free spaces. This work aligns closely with the work of the Regional Accessibility Committee and the expectations of the Accessible BC Act. The

Social Planning Society and the Regional Accessibility Committee look forward to continuing this work together with local governments.

## **What to Watch for in 2024**

### **All Candidates Meeting for Provincial Election**

We are once again partnering with LUSH Valley and the Community Health Network to host an All-Candidates meeting in advance of the upcoming provincial election. Focused on health and social well-being in our community, the forum will be in a format where you get to talk with the candidates about the issues. Watch for more information closer to the election and plan to attend! If you want to submit a question, contact the Social Planning Coordinator at [comoxvalleysocialplanning@gmail.com](mailto:comoxvalleysocialplanning@gmail.com) !

### **Equity For All Guide**

The guide will be released by summer 2024 so watch for it and please start using some of the ideas in it to increase equity in all we do.

### **Comox Valley Living Wage Campaign in Fall**

The 2024 Living Wage calculation will be released in November 2024 with a campaign to encourage more LW employers and a short report to follow.

### **Accessibility Audit Public Event**

We are planning an event to introduce the audit to the public and raise awareness about accessibility in the Valley and the concept of universal design in all we do.

### **New Website**

Thanks to Kathy Birkett at Ocean's Edge Business Services our website has a completely new look and new information. Check it out!



## Treasurer's Report

Respectfully submitted, Pam Munroe, Treasurer

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUE</b>		
General Income	348	9
Grant Income	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<u>\$20,348</u>	<u>\$20,009</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
General Expenses	3,620	2,037
Administrative Staff	7,290	8,004
Program Expense	<u>1,419</u>	<u>1,237</u>
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$12,329</u>	<u>\$11,278</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	8,019	8731
Surplus beginning of year	<u>24,131</u>	<u>15,400</u>
Surplus end of year	<b>\$32,150</b>	<b>\$24,131</b>

**BALANCE SHEET**  
AS AT MARCH 31.2024

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Term Deposits	45,343	25,016
Accounts Receivable	-	30,000
Prepaid Expense	<u>794</u>	=
<i>Total Assets</i>	<b>\$46,137</b>	<b>\$55,016</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS</b>		
Accounts Payable	1,617	885
Accessibility Audit	12,370	30,000
Unrestricted Surplus	<u>32,150</u>	<u>24,131</u>
<i>Total Liabilities and Surplus</i>	<b>\$46,137</b>	<b>\$55,016</b>

## Thanks To Our Funders!

We are extremely grateful to our funders and to the people who support our work. It would be impossible to do this work without you.

