

## **FamilyNet**

### **President's Report October 4, 2013**

I am pleased to report on the activities over the past year. As in the past we have worked closely with other groups to press government to fulfill the growing needs of persons for whom we advocate. In all it has been a frustrating year, to say the least. The pending election and the push to balance the budget, while admirable, still demanded that services to people in grave need had to be given higher priority in budget planning. This appears not to have happened.

We now are aware of serious refusal by government to honour collective agreements affecting those who are part of the service delivery to people with developmental disabilities and are expecting agencies to find ways to fulfill these agreements from within present budgets. This is a clear denial by government to accept its obligation to so many of its citizens. The very fact that many workers within Government and Crown Corporations have received high salary increases and bonuses has only added to our frustration as we advocate for our families and their loved ones.

Our advocacy efforts included joining the push to close Pearson Hospital and urged Vancouver Coastal Health to consider a community based model of supports rather than a medical one when considering the redevelopment of the site.

We also requested a meeting with the new Minister of Social Development (the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a year) and had to turn down a last minute offer due to the early hour (8am) which made it impossible for a person with home care assistance to be able to attend. We are awaiting another later time appointment. We continued to work with BC-CLAG in highlighting the many gaps in service such as waitlists, transfers of service into adulthood, monitoring of home sharing, continued cuts to daycare programs and little focus on the aging population of our loved ones, not to mention the parents.

We wish to thank Inclusion BC for its ongoing support and were pleased to be part of its Conference in Whistler. We also attended the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BCCPD and also welcomed its support. In addition we updated our brochure and have welcomed the help from Charlotte Kates in renewing our Website.

In closing, I wish to thank the Board for its faithful dedication and support throughout the past year.

Anita Dadson  
President, FamilyNet