



2015/16 Annual Report



BC ASSOCIATION OF
Community Response Networks
Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect ...Together.

www.bccrns.ca



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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
OF
THE BC ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY RESPONSE NETWORKS**

The Board of Directors of the Association hereby gives notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at **5:00 PM. on the day of Thursday, June 23, 2016:**

1. To receive the report of the Directors to the Members.
2. To receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements of the Association for the period ended March 31, 2016.
3. To appoint an Auditor for the Association for the ensuing year.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

**CALL IN NUMBER FOR TELECONFERENCE AT 5:00 PM SHARP:
1-877-353-9184 or Locally: 604-681-0260
Pass Code: 9239214#**

DATED the 8th day of June, 2016

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ward Bertram
Chair

Please RSVP to Sharon Johnson – administration@bccrns.ca



13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2016
TIME: 5:00 PM
PLACE: By Teleconference (please RSVP administration@bccrns.ca)

- 5:00** **Welcome**
- Introduction of current Board Members
 - Roll call of voting members and other participants

5:20 **Agenda of AGM – June 23, 2016**

Minutes of Twelfth Annual General Meeting - June 18, 2015

Financial Report

- Audited Financial Statements for 2015/2016
(Separate Document)
– Norm Grdina, CPA, CGA, Reid Hurst Nagy Inc.
- Appointment of the Auditor - motion

Report of the Board to the Members – Ward Bertram

Report of the Executive Director – Sherry Baker

Introduction of Board members for 2016-2017

Other Business

6:00 **Adjournment**



MINUTES OF THE 12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 18, 2015
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: By Teleconference

- 1. Welcome, Co-Chair, Jill Hightower supported by Director Ward Bertram at the beginning of the meeting while the teleconference line was being activated.**
- 2. Roll Call, Sherry Baker, Executive Director**

PRESENT: 30 Voting plus 19 Non-Voting

BOARD

Kelley Williams
Jill Hightower
Linda Myers
Susan Harland
Phil Hall
Ward Bertram
Matt Scott

NON-VOTING STAFF

Shirley Gust
Micki Smith
Karen Bunner
April Struthers
Bridey Morrison Morgan
Bill Barger
Kari Chambers
Belinda Lacombe
Sharon Johnson
Louise Tremblay
Jane Osborne
Barb Kirby
Sherry Baker

CRNs (One vote for each CRN)

Beaver Valley
Campbell River
Cranbrook (2)
Chetwynd
Cowichan Region
Cranbrook
Fort St. John
Gabriola

OTHER

Norm Grdina – Reid Hurst Nagy
Allison Jones



Hope
Kaslo
Lakes District – Burns Lake
Kitimat
Mt. Waddington
Nelson
North Shore
Prince Rupert
Revelstoke
South Caribou (100 Mile House) (2)
Vancouver West End
Vancouver Mount Pleasant
Vancouver Kitsilano
Victoria

- 3. Quorum (15) was confirmed.**

 - 4. Motion:** Accept the Agenda of AGM – June 18, 2015
Moved: Moira Tait
Opposition: None
Motion Carried

 - 5. Motion:** Accept the Minutes of Eleventh Annual General Meeting - June 19, 2014
Moved: Kelley Williams
Opposition: None
Motion Carried

 - 6. Motion:** Accept the Audited Financial Statements as presented by Norm Grdina
Moved: **Kelley Williams**
Opposition: None
Motion Carried

 - 7. Appointment of the Auditor**
Motion: That Reid Hurst Nagy Inc. be appointed Auditors for the 2015-2016 year
Moved: Ward Bertram
Opposition: None
Motion Carried

 - 8. Report of the Board to the Members – Jill Hightower** presented a report on behalf of the Board
-



Motion: Accept the Report of the Board

Moved: Jill Hightower

Opposition: None

Motion Carried

9. Report of the Executive Director – Sherry Baker

Motion: Accept the Report of the Executive Director

Moved: Moira Tait

Opposition: None

Motion Carried

10. Introduction of the Board of Directors for the following year

The following members have one more year on their two-year term

Phil Hall – Chilliwack

Guisepppe (Joe) Scaletta – Victoria

Lillian Allison – Cawston

Kelley Williams - McBride

The following members were elected for a two-year term

Susan Harland – White Rock

Jill Hightower – Sechelt

Ward Bertram – Surrey

Matt Scott - Gabriola

11. Motion: Adjournment

Moved: Linda Myers

Opposition: None

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.



REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 23, 2016

2015-2016 was a year of transition and growth

In 2015-2016 the BC Association of Community Response Networks continued to expand to reach more communities under the tireless guidance of our executive director, **Sherry Baker** and her team leaders, mentors and volunteers. There are now 133 networks in 60 communities across the province working to prevent the abuse, self-abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. Thanks to \$2.6M of funding from the **Ministry of Health**, our financial position is secure and we are one year into a three year plan to strengthen our collaborative approach to the issue of abuse prevention. Thanks to a ground breaking longitudinal study we have commissioned with **Ben Kadel** of Emotus Operandi to evaluate the effectiveness of our approach, we can see that not only are we growing the number of networks across the province, but those networks are maturing and the awareness of where to turn to address abuse among community members has increased.

2015-2016 saw us undertake significant work developing intergenerational tools to prevent elder abuse which are the first of their kind.

We have enhanced our website and materials to improve recognition and provide a more consistent brand as well as improve access to resources for users both employed and public.

Local networks were provided with the opportunity to apply to the BC CRN for a \$5,000 “special” grant and one highlight of the year for me was hearing the incredible work the networks did with the funds. In one community, a publication around elder abuse prevention was designed and printed for distribution and the master design file will be distributed to all the networks so they can reproduce community specific version if they wish.

A network also formed collaboration with regional transit and municipal bodies to coordinate and improve transit access for those individuals who were vulnerable and living in remote communities.

The stories shared were inspiring examples of what can be done by passionate, intelligent individuals who are given the freedom to collaboratively address the issue of abuse in their specific communities based on the feedback from the people who actually live and work there!



We will be collecting these stories and others like them to post on our website. Stay tuned!

Another highlight of the year was attending the 25th Annual John K. Friesen conference hosted by the SFU Gerontology Research Center where it was my great pleasure to see our very own **Jane Osborne** receive the 2016 Individual Elder Abuse Awareness to Action Award honoring her for efforts on the North Shore and now Vancouver Island. Thanks Jane!

2016 also saw significant change in the composition of our board. A number of members moved on for various personal and professional reasons leaving with assurances that were it not for other commitments they would have continued to serve and carry on the good work of the BC CRN.

The departing members are:

- **Giuseppe (Joe) Scaletta**
- **Susan Harland**
- **Jill Hightower**
- **Frank Dunham**
- **Lillian Alison**
- **Phil Hall**

Each of the individuals listed above were thanked and recognized at our in person board meeting in May and I'd like to take occasion again now to recognize them for everything they brought to the organization. In an effort to retain the talent of departing board members as well as leverage the abilities of other non-board stakeholders, the association has moved to form an advisory committee intended to act as a resource to the current board. The planning has begun for this initiative and we are excited to see it take shape.

The vacancies left by the departing members left us room to add some incredible new people to the board of the BC CRN:

- **Ajit Mehat**
- **Dr. Gloria Gutman**
- **Dr. Silvia Straka**



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- **Ryan Hildebrandt**

They join **Janice Cunningham** and **Matthew Scott**, and me, who are continuing on for another term. I am impressed with the strength of current board and am very much looking forward to working alongside these talented individuals in the coming years.

To the continued effort to prevent abuse, neglect, and self-neglect!

Respectfully submitted,

Ward Bertram
Chair BC CRN



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 23, 2016

This past year was the first year of our second three-year funding from the **Ministry of Health** to do Elder Abuse awareness and prevention throughout BC. With the increase in demand upon the service providers within the ministry it is becoming more important that the BC CRN carry the prevention work which is so important to the long-term elimination of abuse, neglect and self-neglect. We are very grateful for the financial support and vote of confidence which we have received from the ministry and are committed to continuing this important work in the years to come. We have also played an integral role in the implementation of the *Together to Reduce Elder Abuse* provincial strategy both as an active member on the Council (CREA) and as the manager of the grants and contributions which are supporting capacity building and awareness in BC. We received a **\$34,000** Capacity Building Grant from **CREA** to assist with the training of 81 volunteer “It’s Not Right” workshop presenters throughout the province. I would like to acknowledge the support of **Kelly Acker** in the Office to Reduce Elder Abuse in the Ministry of Health as well as our own **Sharon Johnson** who has been doing the hands on rolling out of grants and agreements.

Our other main funder is the **BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, Ministry of Justice**. With the additional \$50,000 which was received last year, we were able to support 12 “Special Projects” for CRNs of up to \$5,000. We were amazed at the projects, which were undertaken. They included:

- A program for women fleeing relationships because of abuse and neglect in Vernon.
- Special Intergenerational programs in Smithers and Houston.
- A full-colour Elder Abuse Booklet in Langley which can be adapted for other CRNs.
- Developing and distributing PRIME Kits and stickers throughout the West Kootenays.
- Translating the INR workshop materials into Spanish in South Granville (Vancouver).
- A promotional video for INR in the Downtown Eastside (Vancouver).
- Asset Mapping in Victoria.



This is in addition to the three- \$500 grants, which each CRN is entitled to apply for to help support their volunteer efforts and projects. We ended up distributing over **\$90,000** for local community initiatives in the past year.

Much of the work undertaken this year involved meeting in-person in the regions with mentors and coordinators, and doing substantial in-service training with our mentor team. Please read the Team Leaders' Reports for the details on this activity.

Sharon Johnson has taken on more responsibility this year in supporting the financial operations and budgeting for the association. It has been wonderful to be able to hand much of this over to her and to know that it will be professionally attended to. You will notice, on the financial statements, that the reporting is clearer and the information more easily accessed. She has worked closely with our bookkeeper, **Doug Waymark** to update and streamline our monthly reporting systems.

The BC CRN **Website** continues to be a work in progress. We changed servers and are doing a lot of work in the back end to make the access to information easier and more transparent. **Sharon** continues to manage the website and is keeping the postings up-to-date.

We hired Communications Consultant, **Debbie Hultgren** of Links Communication Solutions to develop and gradually implement an integrated BC CRN communication strategy and process. Some of the key activities in this process include document rebranding, web rework, evolving the BC CRN newsletters, and streamlining all our publications and reports. We have a new and modern look to everything, now which reflects the maturity of our organization. Debbie will continue to work with us on the development of materials, consulting with our colleagues and helping with the newsletter. Thank you **Debbie!**

We also started work with **Sharon Mackenzie** of the i2i Intergenerational Society to develop some comprehensive **Intergenerational tools** for use in communities throughout the province. **Debbie** worked with Sharon as well to make sure that the materials, while free for anyone to use, were properly branded as being generated by the BC CRN.

We will continue to try to attract more interest in the **Community of Practice** teleconferences to involve the volunteers and coordinators in a more meaningful way



The **Provincial Learning Events** are attracting a steady audience – sometimes from outside of the province. In 2016-2017 we are now able to provide audio transcription along with the power point for people who are unable to attend the event in real time. This year the topics presented included:

- HandyDART.
- Age-Friendly Communities.
- CNPEA Hub.
- Restorative Justice.
- BC Association of Community Gaming.
- Canadian Bankers' Association Workshops.
- Mandatory Reporting.
- Promising Practices.

The Management Team attended the three-day Collective Impact workshop on Developmental Evaluation. Subsequently we had an in-person meeting with our evaluator, **Ben Kadel**, and worked out how we can proceed to measure our progress and the effectiveness of our work. **Shirley Gust** and **Sharon Johnson** are key participants in the process. **April Struthers** continues to work directly with Ben as well.

Sherry did a webinar of the BC CRN as a **Collective Impact Backbone Organization** for Tamarack which is the organization which houses the Collective Impact work.

The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse's three year New Horizons pan-**Canadian Knowledge Sharing Hub** project draws to a close on June 30, 2016. Sherry continues to serve at the Treasurer for this organization and has taken on the responsibility for finding sustainable funding for the work. This continues to be a challenge as it is very difficult to find ongoing operational funding. The Hub is attracting over 800 people every month and has become an important resource throughout Canada and beyond as the definitive source of information and communication for everyone working in the Elder Abuse field.

As a key member of the **BC Adult Abuse, Neglect Collaborative**, which brings together all the agencies in BC who play a role in providing services for those who have been abused or are in



danger of being abused, the BC CRN shows leadership and offers ongoing communication and support. This year the main subject under review is “self-neglect”.

We continue to be indebted to **Sue McIntosh** at *Come Share* for the use of an office; to **Jim Poole** who looks after the BC CRN investments watches our income and expenses; to **Ben Kadel**, for his ongoing evaluation and advice; to **Debbie Hultgren** for helping us look good; to our auditor, **Norm Grdina** and his staff at Reid Hurst Nagy Inc.

Of course, I cannot close without acknowledging and thanking our Management Team – **Heather Archer, Kathy Doerksen, Sharon Johnson** and **Shirley Gust** for their incredible dedication to the work of the BC CRN as well as their initiative, advice and support for the really important work we are doing.

And, of course, to the **BC CRN board of directors**. To those who have left us I thank each and every one of you and to the new folks who have agreed to carry the torch forward I sincerely thank you. And, most especially, thanks to **Ward Bertram**, our board chair, who has taken on his role with great enthusiasm and has actively participated in many governance issues and challenges throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Baker
Executive Director



TEAM LEADER REPORTS

1. FRASER HEALTH, VANCOUVER COASTAL & VANCOUVER ISLAND

Working with communities around the province who are engaged in developing their responses to abuse, neglect and self-neglect of adults continues to be exciting and ever-changing. We continue to see growth and interest from all over the province and have again added CRNs to our roster this fiscal year.

In the Fraser Valley we welcomed the **Agassiz-Harrison** CRN and on Vancouver Island we launched a new CRN in **Ladysmith** and another one in **Salt Spring Island**. A provincial francophone group heard about the BC CRN and contacted us about possible education in French on adult abuse issues. **Louise Tremblay**, a mentor who is fluent in French, connected with the group and we now have a province-wide **Francophone** CRN. Louise is providing some of the workshops and is partnering with BC CEAS to further develop French language resources.

With the growing numbers of CRNs and their members in the province it is critical to stay connected to all of them. With that in mind, we hosted 5 regional Gatherings – one in each Health Authority region. In my area the gathering for the Island CRNs was held in Nanaimo on October 29, 2015, for the Fraser Valley CRNs in Langley on January 26, 2016 and in Vancouver on February 3, 2016. A training workshop for ***It's Not Right!*** community presenters took place in Nanaimo on October 30, 2015.

The gatherings were organized by the Team Leaders with great support from the mentors and the rest of the Management Team. The whole team travelled to all the gatherings and it was great for all of us to connect with people all over the province.

The gatherings were very successful and participants encouraged us to organize another event. Some comments were:

- *Thank you for the informative day and new connections.*
- *People in the BC CRN association are very approachable, professional and helpful.*
- *I am truly happy to be a part of this extremely worthwhile initiative.*
- *We need to get together again! Thank you for funding this Gathering; it would be great to repeat every 2-3 years.*



The ***It's Not Right!*** program has also generated a lot of buzz around the province. The goal of the Power Point presentation, along with the videos of abuse scenarios, is to engage bystanders - the friends, family members and neighbours who have concerns but aren't quite sure what to do. As team leaders we have trained and facilitated numerous workshops around the province and this will continue to be a large part of our work for 2016-2017.

As we continue to expand, we are paying special attention to our website and our resource material. Both Heather and I have been involved with our Communications Consultant as we revamp, streamline and update our documents.

The Regional Mentors continue to do the bulk of the outreach work as they engage new CRNs, support the fledgling CRNs and re-energize the more established CRNs. In my region I work with **Karen Bunner** in Fraser Valley East, **Christine Spinder** in Fraser Valley West and the Vancouver Urban Aboriginal CRN and **Louise Tremblay** in South Surrey/White Rock, Richmond and Delta.

Barb Kirby is the Mentor for the Vancouver CRNs and **Kari Chambers** is responsible for North Vancouver and the Sea to Sky corridor.

On the Island, three mentors – **Bridey Morrison Morgan** in the Victoria area, **Jane Osborne** in Central Island and **April Struthers** in North Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast - work to support and establish CRNs.

As Team Leaders, **Heather Archer** and I are responsible for organizing the annual Summit in April and some mini-Summits focused on training. A major training area this past year was empowering our Mentors to work respectfully with BC's indigenous communities in the area of adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect.

Working with our capable Management Team, **Sharon Johnson** and **Shirley Gust** and with our very active Executive Director, **Sherry Baker** continues to be a pleasure. We look forward to another year of collaboration, growth and new adventures.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Doerksen

Team Leader – Fraser Health, Vancouver Coastal and Vancouver Island



2. INTERIOR HEALTH AND NORTHERN HEALTH

This has been another very busy and exciting year in so many ways. First up was the implementation of our BC CRN ***It's Not Right!*** program delivery agent role and the engagement of CRNs to take on local administration of the program as well as building/managing a team of INR Community Presenters to deliver presentations. Early reporting shows lots of ***It's Not Right!*** presentations planned for this spring; we anticipate many of the new ***It's Not Right!*** Community Presenters will be involved in them.

In rolling out this new program delivery strategy we did many things well but also learned a lot which is resulting in changes which are planned for the fall of 2016. These adjustments will be done to ensure the program delivery is manageable, Community Presenters are well trained and supported/ lots of ***It's Not Right!*** presentations are delivered and the BC CRN receives the data required to sustain this signature program of the association.

As exciting was the hosting of five Regional Gatherings, two of which took place in the fall within my geographic territory. We had a terrific turn out in both Prince George (Northern CRNs) and in Vernon (Interior CRNs). The information exchange, feedback and sharing as well as the building/strengthening of relationships was notable and valued by all in attendance. I had the pleasure of attending the other three Gatherings as well and witnessed similar outcomes.

We welcomed **Lindsay Jardine** to the position of North East Regional Mentor in the Fall and said goodbye to **Erin Evans**, who served in this position from 2013-2016.

CRN growth continues to be directly attributable to the work of the Regional Mentors; their outreach activities continually engage new communities each year and reenergize those whose activity level had dropped off. During this past reporting year we welcomed **South Okanagan (Oliver & Osoyoos), Houston, Kitimat, Terrace, and Fraser Lake** to the CRN roster from the Interior and North. A capable and engaged coordinator is a key asset to CRN sustainability.

Another key activity this past year I have been involved in has been the review and revision of many of our core BC CRN documents. Not only has the content been updated but a new and cohesive BC CRN look and feel has been added thanks to the strategic guidance/work of our Communications Consultant, **Debbie Hultgren**.

In 2015/2016 we held both our annual Summit and a mini Summit to ensure learning and development needs of Mentors and Staff were addressed in a timely manner; they are always



great opportunities to meet face to face and grow the team relationships that help us to sustain our work around the province. It was my privilege as well to attend a Collective Impact learning event on evaluation last Fall; it was an enriching experience with much content very applicable to our work.

In closing I want to recognize and thank my Regional Mentor Team – **Marian Anderberg** (Thompson Cariboo Shuswap), **Bill Barger** (East Kootenay), **Lindsay Jardine** (North East), **Belinda Lacombe** (North West), **Tim Rowe** (North Interior), **Micki Smith** (Okanagan) and **Heather von Ilberg** (West Kootenay Boundary). They individually and collectively bring much strength to their work with CRNs in their communities and serve as excellent representatives of the BC CRN.

As one of two BC CRN Team Leaders I greatly value the opportunity to work in partnership with colleague **Kathy Doerksen**. As Team Leaders, we also are part of the BC CRN Management Team along with **Sharon Johnson** and **Shirley Gust** with whom we work hard to build and manage the organizational structure/backbone to support the work of CRNs and Regional Mentors across the province.

It is a privilege to be part of this team under the continued leadership of **Sherry Baker**, Executive Director.

I look forward to what is sure to be another interesting year.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Archer

Team Leader – Interior and North



BC CRN EVALUATION– YEAR FOUR REPORT SUMMARY

(Full Report available at www.bccrns.ca)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the evaluation are extremely encouraging. Nearly all indicators started in positive territory and moved in positive directions over the course of the study period.

Perhaps the most important finding is the relatively high percentage of respondents who reported seeing or hearing about positive impacts on the community as a result of the work of the CRNs. In addition, the descriptions of the kinds of impact seen demonstrated a deepening and broadening of impact from internal to community focused impacts.

Additionally, evidence of strong and growing professional networks can be seen as a sign of the growing infrastructure of the social network-based approach to abuse prevention and response.

This year at the annual summit, there was general interest in exploring the determinants that affect local CRNs ability to develop in a stable way. The focus of the evaluation will build on this in the 2016 cycle.

Ben Kadel PhD
 Emotus Operandi

SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTED BY BC CRN DURING YEAR:

Year	CRNs	Communities	Events	Attendance	Volunteer Hrs.	Donations	Gifts in Kind
12-13	31	75	*	*	\$226,438	\$ 84,941	\$21,808
13-14	45	108	75	5,298	\$249,603	\$ 60,029	\$21,193
14-15	52	116	146	7,230	\$403,237	\$124,286	\$19,718
15-16	60	133	201	14,405	\$577,582	\$ 29,703	\$58,833

**Did not track in 12-13*



INTRODUCING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2016 – 2017

We have been very fortunate to have a strong and diverse board during the past years of rapid growth. As mentioned in Ward’s board chair report we are saddened during the past year to have accepted the resignations of the following board members:

- **Lillian Allison**
- **Frank Dunham**
- **Phil Hall**
- **Susan Harland**
- **Jill Hightower**
- **Kelley Williams**
- **Joe Scaletta**

They have all made invaluable contributions to how the BC CRN has evolved into its present strong and effective association. They will be invited to be part of a newly formed BC CRN Advisory Council so that we can continue to benefit from their experience and wisdom.

The following two board members have completed one year of a two-year term:

1. Ward Bertram Surrey 2015

Ward Bertram leads the financial planning and wealth management team for Prospera Credit Union’s Fleetwood branch. Ward has worked in the financial services industry since 2000 and specializes in planning for business, families and individuals with disabilities. He has worked in the cooperative system for a decade and is strongly committed to the democratization of expert financial advice and the removal of barriers between planning resources and those who need them. Ward holds both the Certified Financial Planner and the Certified Professional Consultant on Aging designations.

Ward has been a Surrey resident for 23 years and currently lives in Cloverdale with his wife and his three daughters.

2. Matt Scott Gabriola Island 2015



Matt is the Island health clinical specialist for vulnerable or incapable adults. As a Registered Social Worker, for the last decade, Matt's focus has been helping develop and lead the adult protection work within both Vancouver Coastal Health and Island Health as designated agencies under the Adult Guardianship Act. Matt's earlier social work career was in mental health, child welfare, the criminal justice system, and civilian work for the Canadian Armed Forces.

Matt and his family live on an island off an island in the Salish sea.

3. Ryan Hildebrandt Fort St. John 2016

Ryan has been elected for a one-year term

Ryan is a Regional Manager with North Peace Savings and Credit Union in Fort St. John, where he collaborates with a team of dedicated financial experts. Throughout his 10 year career in financial services, Ryan has committed himself to making a difference for those around him. From community involvement in local sports and childhood education to an insatiable desire to always be learning, he stays true to his personal values of positivity, personal growth and making a contribution. Ryan is a proud resident of the Fort St. John community and enjoys spending much of his free time in the great Northern wilderness.

The following board members have been elected for a two-year term:

4. Janice Cunningham North Vancouver 2016

Janice was appointed to the board mid-year. She will be starting the first year of her first two-year term with the 2016 AGM.

Janice Cunningham is an independent population health and communications technology professional. She has a reputation for building successful public and private collaborations throughout Canada, the US and overseas earned over 25 years leading new service strategy and development for Fortune 500, non-profit, and start-up companies. She has championed the use of mobile technologies to reach at-risk, under-served populations for disease management and prevention services since 2008. She now specializes in tech strategies for aging adults and their caregivers. Janice holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from Simon Fraser University and a Master's in Public Health (MPH) from George Washington University.



Janice returned to Vancouver in 2015 after 20 years in the United States. She now lives in North Vancouver.

5. Dr. Gloria Gutman Vancouver 2016

Gloria Gutman, PhD developed and directed the Gerontology Department and Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University from 1982-2005. She served two terms as President of the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG), was President of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) from 2001- 2005 and President of the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) from 2009-2014. In 2005 she was recipient of INPEA’s Rosalie Wolf award for her strong support of elder abuse prevention. In 2007 she was awarded the Order of British Columbia, in 2010 an honorary LLD by the University of Western Ontario and in 2012 a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by the CAG for her work in gerontology. She is author/editor of 23 books among them *Aging, Ageism and Abuse – Moving from Awareness to Action* (Elsevier Insights 2010). Recently, she was awarded a grant for an intergenerational project that will raise awareness of the risks of elder abuse in the LGBT community.

6. Ajit Mehat Surrey 2016

In Ajit’s Letter of application for the BC CRN board, he states “*I am privileged to continue a lifelong journey of learning and contributing to social justice in Canada*”. Ajit’s career has included working as a Human Rights Officer for the BC Human Rights Branch; Executive Director, Multiculturalism Secretariat and Race Relations Program – Secretary of State (Canada); Director General, Programs Branch, Department of Justice (Canada); several years working in workplace Health and Safety and Workers Compensation in Ottawa and for the Province of Ontario and Director General, National Labour Operations, Human Resources and Skills Development. He currently is working on policy initiatives to improve the ability of Canadians to exercise their rights under the law.

Ajit grew up in Surrey and, since his retirement, has returned to Surrey to be near his children and grandchildren.



7. Dr. Silvia Straka Kamloops 2016

Silvia Straka, PhD is an Assistant Professor, School of Social Work and Human Services, Thompson Rivers University. She describes herself as a social change agent, educator, capacity builder, and researcher. Dr. Straka's research focuses on anti-oppressive perspectives on aging, with projects including older women living with intimate partner violence, Indigenous aging, and the abuse of older adults. Having worked in aging and elder abuse in three other provinces prior to her recent arrival in BC, Dr. Straka also has expertise in northern, rural and remote social work practice. Her approach to research and practice highlights the importance of a participatory community development approach involving a wide range of stakeholders, with a special concern for under-represented and marginalized voices.

For further information, go to www.bccrns.ca, or contact Sherry Baker, Executive Director at ed@bccrns.ca.