



LEARNING
DISABILITIES
SOCIETY

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SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT US



WHO WE ARE

The Learning Disabilities Society (formerly, the Learning Disabilities Association Vancouver), is a research-based, non-profit organization that has been servicing children and families in our community for over 50 years.

In partnership with the University of British Columbia, we provide research-based individualized instruction and progress monitoring for children with Learning Disabilities, in addition to family support and advocacy.

As a non-profit, we believe that all children should receive the academic support they need in order to be successful. We are proud to offer a variety of funding options to support families and children who require assistance.

MISSION

To empower children and youth with Learning Disabilities to recognize their unique strengths and develop the confidence and tools to achieve academic success.

VALUES

Community, Kindness, Acceptance, Achievement

My son was coming home every day, and saying- "grandma I am invisible, i'm just invisible." My heart ached for him. Now he is supported in all the ways he needs to achieve his goals. I am sitting back now with the biggest smile on my face, all of the time. I am so proud of him. He truly is amazing.



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past year has been transformational for the Learning Disabilities Society of Greater Vancouver.

Through the thoughtful and generous support of our individual donors, corporate sponsors, and institutional funders, we have served over **200 children and youth** with Learning Disabilities. We continue to improve and enhance our service provision model to ensure that we provide the highest quality of support and care.

We would like to thank our dedicated team of instructors and staff, who have devoted significant time, resources and energy to advancing our mission. We would also like to thank our Board of Directors for their ongoing commitment and hard work.

We would like to extend our gratitude to our many donors, community partners and sponsors, whose kindness and generosity has allowed us to extend our reach, and serve more vulnerable children in need.

We could not accomplish our goals without the generous support, involvement and enthusiasm of our donors, community partners and sponsors. Please continue to show your support.

We look forward to an exciting year of growth ahead!



Susan Aitchison
Board Chair



Kate Raven
Executive Director

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2018 was a groundbreaking year for LDS, as we lay the framework for future growth and sustainability. We are proud to be Vancouver's primary non-profit service provider for children with Learning Disabilities.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

Learning Disabilities Society works one-on-one with each child and their family to develop a plan for diagnosis and remediation. Upon completion, children are equipped with the necessary tools and strategies for success. Programs are constructed as follows:

1:1 Individualized Instruction

- Assists students in achieving expected competencies in core academic skills such as literacy and numeracy.

Self Regulation Strategy Development Model (SRSD)

- Based on 50 years of research in cognitive science and educational psychology.
- A structured set of student strategies that develops student ownership and confidence and allows them to take responsibility for their own learning.

Progress Monitoring

- Used to assess students' academic performance, to quantify a student's rate of improvement or responsiveness to instruction, and to evaluate the effectiveness of instruction.

Partnership with UBC

- The only data-driven service provider for children with Learning Disabilities in British Columbia.

Success Rates:

Based on the results from our longitudinal research study with UBC, our students saw a 54% improvement in literacy (reading and writing), in addition to a 42% improvement in Math, relative to general education norms.





SATELLITE SCHOOL PROGRAM

In 2018, LDS expanded our **satellite school program**, which provides one-to-one remediation to children during school hours to children with multiple barriers at their home school. In addition to supporting nineteen students at Thunderbird Elementary (VSB), LDS officially partnered with the Catholic Independent Schools Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA). This new partnership grew quickly from sixteen students at two schools to thirty-six students at six schools. We look forward to continued growth and success through this collaboration as we will target supporting seven more schools in 2019.

BURSARY PROGRAM

LDS continues to provide bursaries for children with severe Learning Disabilities to attend one of Vancouver's full-time LD immersion schools. In 2018, LDS supported four children at Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School, two of which were returning recipients. This program is in its eighth year, and students continue to demonstrate improvements in self-esteem and academic performance. Bursaries were made possible by our Anonymous Donor, Variety-The Children's Charity, CKNW Orphan's Fund and Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School.

ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY PROGRAM

With a grant from the Vancouver Foundation, LDS developed and delivered the first and only program supporting adults with Learning Disabilities in Greater Vancouver. This pilot program was offered for six weeks through July and August and had six participants between the ages of 18 and 55. Participants attended 24 hours of coursework, which focused on social skill development, self-awareness, workplace etiquette and strategy development. All six participants completed the program and set personal goals related to either employment or post-secondary education. LDS is currently seeking additional funding to continue this program.



HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2018, LDS added the following permanent positions:

Development and Communications Coordinator (PT)

Responsible for developing and implementing an external communications plan and fundraising program.

Due to this initiative we were able to:

- Launch our first fundraising campaign, raising **\$67,000** in three months.
- Establish a strong presence on our social media channels, increasing engagement, and number of followers by over 30%.

North Shore Program Coordinator (PT)

North Shore Community Liaison, responsible for fostering awareness of LDS programs and partnerships.

Learning Support Coordinator: (FT)

Responsible for managing the remediation programs to ensure students reach their identified goals for success.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

In 2018, LDS focused on demonstrating value and showcasing our commitment and dedication to mission, through promoting community awareness and fostering a greater understanding of the issues and challenges faced by children with learning disabilities.

REBRANDING

In November 2018, our society legally changed its name from the Learning Disabilities Association of BC - Vancouver Chapter to the Learning Disabilities Society of Greater Vancouver. While we continue to work alongside the Learning Disabilities Association chapters in British Columbia and across Canada, LDS will thrive as an independent service provider.



TREASURER'S REPORT

This report is intended to be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements of the Learning Disabilities Society of Greater Vancouver (formerly known as Learning Disabilities Association of B.C. – Vancouver Chapter) for the year ended December 31, 2018, on which Vanderluit and Associates Inc. issued a qualified opinion on May 17, 2019.

A key strategic focus for the Learning Disabilities Society of Greater Vancouver (“the Society”) during the year ending December 31, 2018 was to expand the scalability of operations to ensure the Society is able to provide services to the largest number of children with Learning Disabilities possible in upcoming years. In order to deliver on the planned future programs, enhancements were made during 2018 to increase the organizational capacity and to ensure the Society is adequately funded.

Through the key financial initiatives undertaken during 2018, the Society has prepared itself to be able to provide services to a continuously increasing number of children with Learning Disabilities in future years. These include the following, which are reflected in the financial results for 2018:

FUNDING

The Society focused on securing additional funding to be used towards providing program services in future years. Key funding partnerships were established, and additional grant/donation funding was secured during 2018. This resulted in an increase in the combined cash flow from grants and donations from \$499,000 in 2017 to \$661,000 in 2018. The success of this initiative resulted in a cash balance at December 31, 2018 of \$724,000, which will be used to fund future programs and staffing increases.



ORGANIZATIONAL STAFFING

To provide scalability, the Society identified future program delivery staffing requirements and began to fill identified opportunities during 2018. This is reflected in the increase in Program expenditures wages and benefits from \$115,000 in 2017 to \$231,000 in 2018. This is expected to continue to increase in 2019 to facilitate the ability to provide the services in demand.

ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE LIMITATION

The Society has historically maintained a focus on limiting administrative expenditures. The Society continued to focus on maximizing the effectiveness of funding resources towards delivering programs in 2018, as evidenced by the reduction in general and administrative expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures from 13.8% in 2017 to 10.9% in 2018.

While the Society successfully commenced a number of areas of focus during 2018, to ensure the success of future programs there continues to be a concentration on securing increased funding and the fiscally responsible use of all funding received. This focus is paramount in ensuring the Society is able to achieve our mission of ensuring children with Learning Disabilities and their families have access to the tools they need to increase self-esteem and achieve academic success.

Kevin Riley
Board Treasurer

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Learning Disabilities Society of Greater Vancouver (formerly known as Learning Disabilities Association of B.C. - Vancouver Chapter)

Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	2018	2017
Program revenues	\$ 236,250	\$ 267,881
Program expenditures		
Learning Centre Facility	177,579	201,602
Wages and benefits	230,955	115,318
Tutors	192,539	196,454
Training and development	50,941	29,340
Communications	15,078	6,542
	667,092	549,256
General and administrative expenditures		
Bank charges and merchant fees	7,078	6,229
Office and miscellaneous	19,620	14,713
Professional fees	10,403	7,853
Salaries and benefits	43,993	57,705
Amortization of equipment	1,878	2,682
Amortization of deferred equipment	(1,219)	(1,432)
	81,753	87,750
	748,845	637,006
Program loss before funding	(512,595)	(369,125)
Funding		
Grants	365,195	334,190
Donations (Note 11)	181,616	161,806
Other income	9,353	2,550
	556,164	498,546
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 43,569	\$ 129,421

THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- BC Housing
- Covenant House
- Compass Clinic
- Coquitlam College
- Dr. Candace Murray
- Dr. Meagan Smith
- Dr. Sharon Arnold and Associates
- James Cameron School
- Jewish Community Centre
- Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School
- Le Blanc Studios
- Lord Nelson Elementary School
- Lord Strathcona Elementary School
- North Shore Neighbourhood House
- North Shore Stress and Anxiety Clinic
- Pathways to Education
- SEAC – VSB (Special Education Advisory Committee)
- SFU Department of Education
- Strathcona Community Centre
- Thunderbird Community Centre
- UBC Psycho-Educational Research and Training Centre
- UBC Faculty of Education
- Vancouver School Board

DONORS

- Anonymous Donors
- Ruth Meyer Epstein Fund
- Susan Aitchison
- Jim Belsheim
- Christine Bergeron
- Ronith Cogswell
- Carlo and Sophia De Mello
- Susan Dvorak
- Fletcher Family Foundation
- The Geyer Family
- Wendy and Eric Harris
- Brigid Lumholst-Smith
- NS Waterfront Gala
- Supporters of the Waterfront gala
- Neptune





- Larry Peterson
- Dr. Sterett Mercer
- Angus Reid
- Pamela Sack
- St. Mark's College
- Chris Stuart
- Elese and Greg Sullivan
- Emily Sullivan
- Laura Sullivan
- Thomas A & Ida M Tait
- Praveen and Anuja Varshney
- Virginie Vigeant
- Windsor Plywood Foundation
- Fibreco
- Richardson
- Western Stevedoring
- Kinder Morgan
- Cargill

SPONSORS



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United Way



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Gulshan & Pyarali G. Nanji
Family Foundation