

ROGERS SOCIETY

Rogers Community Society's 2022/23

Annual General Report

December 6, 2023

Board Chair Report

Thank you for another great year at Rogers Society. 2023 has been a year of change and the Society has continued to endure and create. We transitioned from providing child care and online learning to online learning and community engagement. We said goodbye to The Centre and amazing staff with grace and hello to a new name and updated constitution. Amber continues to create collaboratively and build on community engagement from our new office.

The Society continues to remain financially stable with continued careful financial planning. Continuing to make the Society's presence known further afield and online, Amber and Subject Matter Expert contractors continue to create additional material for our online community. It has become a successful online platform of classes, geared both to community interests, and to those interested in childcare. These classes provide an excellent revenue stream, and boost our visibility as a true community resource.

The Rogers Society Board would like to thank our Board members for their continued service this past year. As outgoing Board Chair, I would like to thank everyone for an amazing experience and Mark for taking on Board Chair. As a Board, we continue to uphold the Society's Constitution, Mission, and Values, and provide guidance and support to Amber.

Chris Wylie

Board Chair

boardchair@rogerssociety.org

Chief Visionary Officer's Report

This year we received damning news from SD61 with the decision to not renew our lease. The letter arrived December 1, 2022 and simply stated the lease would not be renewed on July 1, 2023. We reached out to collaborate and converse with the district but we received nothing other than staff responding with vague conclusions and weird responses that over time, proved we had to take to the media to get attention.

In February 2023, we took to the media to get attention for our plight and we waited to have an audience with the district board or senior staff. We never heard from SD61 and finally received a confirmation message that we needed to be out on June 30, 2023.

We considered relocating to another facility to continue to offer childcare but, with real estate costs and lack of availability in the immediate purview, we knew that we needed time to consider what would be in the best interest of the community. As childcare providers that prided ourselves

on being the MOST affordable operator in the GVA, making a change to a new facility with higher costs meant we needed time to consider our options and to discern the best way forward. At this time, the board also decided to change our society name to “Rogers Community Society” so that our identity no longer aligned with Rogers Elementary School and the out of school care industry.

We crafted a strategy to close our childcare operations in time for the building to be cleaned out before the end of June. We requested a 2 week extension from SD61 to mid-July so that we could continue to provide care for families until the end of the school year but the request was denied and so we were forced to close May 31, 2023 to ensure families could make June arrangements for care.

Staffing was immediately cut back to prepare for the closure and Eva, our Chief Experience Officer left in March. The remaining staff committed to the end and included Glenn, our Chief Advisory Officer, Devariya, our Chief Innovation Officer and Valerie, our Before and After School Care Leader and myself. We also retained Tara, our Contract Custodian who also supported us in the program for the end of the day.

In addition to communicating with the families of the May 31 closure, our attention turned to selling and/or donating all of our childcare programming materials. We were able to sell the bus to a childcare program in Squamish, BC and also sell a large lot of supplies for pennies on the dollar to Fernwood NRG. There was also a new childcare facility in the Westshore that bought many of our toys and materials.

The final day of operations was May 31, 2023 and all staff were laid off on that day except for myself. We enjoyed a pizza party and cake with the kids that afternoon and invited parents to come inside the facility to say their final goodbyes. The Board of Directors hosted a final celebration meal for a few staff members in early June and we toasted an amazing journey of childcare excellence with a bittersweet ending.

In the month of June, I worked to empty the contents of the building and ensure what we stewarded for 32 years was left impeccably clean and ready for future occupants. Additionally, I moved into a 9 x 10 square foot office space nearby to enable the administration of the society to continue while the building operations were being shut down.

In July and August, much of my time was spent wrapping up the various administration details required, generating tax receipts for the 2024 tax year and completing our licensing and government agency contracts. In September, the board and I turned our attention to the future and began to plan for what would become of this established not for profit in the future without childcare as our primary service to the community.

Due to my teaching career outside of the realm of Rogers Society, I had the opportunity to bring some of my clients ‘in-house’ for training. This enabled the board and myself to see the possibilities of where we could transition our operations using the information we learned as

online educators throughout the pandemic. To this day, we are still the largest online provider of the RA Certificate in the Province of BC and that experience and exposure makes us well suited to move into the training space.

Nothing about this past year has gone according to plan. From every which way, we have been dealt blows to the very nature of our existence and yet, we are still standing. The future may yet be uncertain but what cannot be erased is the impact we had on the lives and families of Rogers Elementary School since 1991. No poor decision making on the part of the local school district can rob us of that honour and we stand proud of the legacy that lives on in the children and families we had the opportunity to serve.

Stay tuned for the future as we reshape and realign ourselves to continue to provide 'social impact through community contact'. Our future goal is to transition Rogers Society to become a sustainable provider of professional and educational services to benefit customers and clients, especially those in the non-profit, public and socially conscious sector.

Looking forward,

Amber McMillan

Executive Director/Chief Visionary Officer

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Finance Report

Our plans for budget expenditures and 2022/23 revenue burst on the day that we were given notice of losing our facility. We had to balance expenses against the eventual demise of our revenue and our year end numbers reflect that.

Staffing made up the biggest part of cost savings for the budget year as I looked to lay off gradually those who could find other work. The full time staff that remained until May 31, 2023 worked long, hard hours with little to no breaks but the end was in sight so everyone rallied together to make the best of the situation.

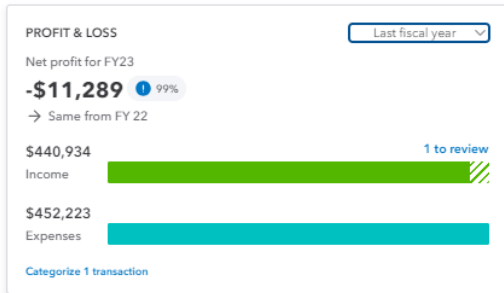
As you'll see below:

We spent more than we made last year which is the second time in many years that we reported a loss. The loss can be directly correlated to rising costs of business coupled with declining enrollment in all of our programs and the eventual closure of our facility in May.

We were uncertain of just how much of a loss we would experience but through tight fiscal management and my ability to work singularity between June 1 to year end in August, we saw a very conservative loss.



In October, the Board approved the repayment of our loan to the Government of Canada \$40K which we had protected in the form of a maturing GIC and we decided to cash out all of our GIC's in November to ensure the liquidity of the organization in times of uncertainty.



In 2024, we will attempt to recalibrate our operations, consolidate our costs and look for new ways to serve the community in the areas of online training and development. It is our desire to transition Rogers Society to become a sustainable provider of professional and educational services to benefit customers and clients, especially those in the non-profit, public and socially conscious sector.

Another area we are willing to explore is to actively seek grant monies to support new growth initiatives. It's been many years since we have needed grant funds to be sustainable but the global pandemic hit us hard and we want to grow ourselves back in meaningful ways that create partnership and collaboration with others.

AGM for the Rogers Society for 2022

February 9th, 2023 (postponed from Dec 7th, 2022)

Meeting called to order at: 7:02pm

Present: Devaiya Ra, Michelle Decker, Chris Wylie, Chad Grimm, Mark Chudleigh, Mary Eddie, Daniela Crudu, Paul Cook, Barb Roth, Oliver Cowern, Amber McMillan

Amber discussed the intention of this meeting and asked for questions about the annual report. There were no questions about this year's report. The 2021 minutes were presented to members. There were no questions regarding the minutes for 2021.

Amber moves to approve the minutes for 2021 and it was seconded by Chris Wylie. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

No board members are leaving the board and two new members will be joining the board for 2023. New board members will be Paul Cook and Martin Castellani.

Amber moves to approve the 2023 board slate and Mark seconded the motion. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amber opened the floor to questions. Chad had a question about the RFP from the school board, if we had access and if this is something we have had dealt with before. Chris answered that we had not seen the RFP yet. The statement released to the parents is all the information that we have and the school district has not directly communicated with us regarding the RFP.

Amber added that we have never been in an RFP process with the school district in the 32 years that we have been the out of school care provider for Rogers Elementary. In 2016, when Amber came into the Rogers Society it was to help renegotiate the licence to occupy with the district and was able to negotiate a 5 year agreement even though a 10 year agreement was asked for. Our licence to occupy agreement was for the Rogers society to be automotos for that 5 years with the financial burden of 3x the previous fee and the requirement to fund all other support (custodial, repair and maintenance). A year ago Amber reached out to the district and asked to be in collaboration with the school district. At the time the district said they would be in touch. This was the last communication until we received the letter ending our license to occupy. We only know about the RFP through a board member that is also a parent. We do not know if we would qualify for applying for the RFP but we will explore this if we are eligible. We never anticipated that the district would end this relationship like this.

Question regarding board experience with applying for RFPs. Chris has experience applying for RFPs through his personal business. Chad added that he has experience applying for RFPs and would be willing to help advise if and when we apply for the RFP.

Amber added that the board is being transparent with all dealings in this situation and that she had been contacted by the Times Colonist for an update to the situation. The only update that we have is that the school district has reaffirmed their decision to end the licence to occupy.

Amber mentioned that Glenn is a chair of ROSCO and the impression Glenn has got from the industry is that everyone is shocked by this development.

There were no more questions.

Chris thanked everyone for their time and attending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7:29pm.

Minute Taker: Michelle Decker