



**Annual General
Meeting 2020**

Tuesday, July 28, 2020





When January, 2020 rolled around, I can remember thinking, “this is going to be an interesting year”. After all, the year 2020 just seemed to draw our attention to good sight, optimism, and horizon. In late January came a story about a strange flu in the Wuhan region of China and then two presumptive cases in BC connected to an individual returning from Wuhan. By February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization had named this strange virus COVID-19 and a month later declared it to be a pandemic. In BC, we saw the rise of COVID-19 first in a North Vancouver care home and then at a large Vancouver dental conference. Soon COVID-19 would spread to other regions, other care homes, work sites, prisons, bars, and the community at large. The Province of British Columbia declared a health crisis and a state of emergency was enacted.

Following Provincial Health Officer (PHO) advice, we moved all non residential services online and operationalized our pandemic plan. Our leadership team met weekly, and sometimes daily, to review reports and program updates and if necessary, make improvements to our plan. Our residential teams remained calm and professional throughout and moved to implement new protocols to protect clients in our care. We took part in numerous briefings with MCFD and with others and kept informed about emerging issues. We collectively moved into the various stages of our plan with each stage requiring enormous effort. Our Health and Safety Officer provided us with data on agency impact, as well as a weekly update for staff. Throughout the pandemic, our board ensured that resources were made available.

In 2019/2020, we opened new homes and grew our programs. We committed our agency to the important work of Reconciliation. We advocated for sector wage enhancements and improved services. We walked with our clients in their journeys and celebrated their many achievements. We collaborated with our funders and with others. We were innovative and flexible. We took part in continuous quality improvement. We drew attention to the opioid crisis. We welcomed new staff and saw some old friends leave.

In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, we saw the Black Lives Matter movement burst out in the United States and then beyond with large rallies taking place across almost every major city in the world. Governments and corporations are called to declare their position on systemic racism and white privilege and our PHO cautioned protesters to wear masks and stay safe. We also heard the call to defund police departments and move a portion of revenue to community based organizations that can better support and serve people with mental health concerns.

It isn't lost on any of us by now that the year 2020 is in the end about sight. COVID 19 has caused a pause sufficient for us to stop and reflect upon our collective values, our human failings, and the possibility of justice for people and for the earth.

Renata Aebi, *Executive Director*



“On behalf of myself and the Board, I want to share our gratitude and congratulate the staff of STLEO for their efforts made to provide high quality care and services to children, youth and families during this unprecedented time. Our board is committed to ensuring that the agency receives the resources and supports necessary to remain safe and strong.”

Marion Clauson, *Board President*

Statement of Financial Position 03/31/2020

	Current Year	Previous Year
ASSETS		
Total current assets	\$ 4,279,839	\$ 3,456,352
Investments	261,387	565,453
Capital assets	3,817,582	3,787,431
TOTAL ASSETS	8,358,808	7,809,236
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Total current liabilities	\$ 2,265,361	\$ 2,254,748
Net assets (equity)	6,093,447	5,554,488
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	8,358,808	7,809,236

“St Leo’s has been great about finding workarounds to stay connected to a couple of my clients. He was connecting with one of my more challenging youth who was surprisingly responsive to him. Thank you and all of your awesome people for all that you do”

- social worker at Indigenous Team



Statement of Operations Twelve months ending 03/31/2020

	Current Year	Previous Year
REVENUES		
MCFD	\$ 6,617,198	\$ 5,866,206
Donations	5,213	12,155
Interest	57,732	59,757
Grants/Other	102,756	79,151
TOTAL REVENUES	6,782,899	6,017,269
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Programs	\$ 5,440,591	\$ 4,871,168
Administration	803,349	645,201
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,243,940	5,516,369
EXCESS OF REV over EXP	\$ 538,959	\$ 500,900



Carter's Success

Carter* was first introduced to St. Leonard's when he was 13 years old. When we first met Carter, he had exhausted and cycled through many caregivers, as Carter often tested the people around him. A scared young boy who expressed his fear in anger, Carter became really good at "forcing" people to leave him. He made it clear that he did not trust anyone, that trust was earned and not given. He was like any other kid; he wanted to be with his family and not with paid "random strangers". When we first met Carter, he was already deeply entrenched in the youth justice system and on probation. He would go on to spend his formative years in and out of Youth Custody. Each time he returned to the community, staff re-establish their relationship with him. In Carter, staff saw glimpses of a sensitive child who was thoughtful, quick-witted, incredibly self-aware and loyal. He drew something out of us; he challenged us to go above and beyond.

As a team, each person had different relationships with him and we would use our strengths to build him up. Some staff were good at offering straightforward advice, some were good at consoling and being empathetic, and others were just able to have fun. Everyone found a way to connect with him that was genuine to them and Carter could sense that. Regardless of the challenging incidents that took place for Carter, he knew there was always an opportunity to start fresh. Every small step and milestone was celebrated; release from custody, getting off probation, first day of work, attaining his L, first day at the gym, etc.

Over time, Carter was able to express his care for staff through acts of service, mainly through cooking. He was thoughtful and hospitable and was often proud to showcase his cooking skills (which in truth were much better than most of the staff). We were open to many different strategies on how to tackle each barrier. If one strategy didn't work, we would brainstorm new ideas and try something else. Over the years, staff planted seeds with Carter of trust and self-worth. Carter taught us that healing does not occur overnight; it is a journey with peaks and valleys that requires patience and humility. Small and often painfully slow building blocks led him to where he is today.

Carter has attained his dogwood diploma, works full-time and hopes to attend college one day. It has been over a year since Carter moved on from his STLEO home and his relationship with staff has evolved. He talks to staff about his girlfriend, the best way to save his money, hopes for his future and the challenges that a typical teenager might face. Carter tells us that he is deconstructing for himself the negative labels that our system of care can inadvertently place on to children.

*name had been changed to preserve confidentiality

"Staff has been great about finding workarounds to stay connected to a couple of my clients. He was connecting with one of my more challenging youth who was surprisingly responsive to him. Thank you and all of your awesome people for all that you do."