

**President's Report**  
**Powell River Hospice Society 2020 AGM**

On behalf of the entire board of directors, I would like to thank you for attending this AGM, and for your involvement with Powell River Hospice Society.

This has been a challenging year for us on many levels. We have had to navigate these difficult times while trying to stay true to our mission; rethinking how we provide these important connections and supports to individuals at the end of their lives, and their families, and coming up with different ways to educate and advocate in the community. On top of this, our joint venture with the Powell River Sunshine GoGos suffered a blow when donated artwork for a silent auction was stolen. But we are forging ahead!

Our hospice house project is on pause to allow for a new board to be brought up to speed, details to be worked out with Vancouver Coastal Health and for this pandemic to be behind us.

Powell River Hospice Society was incorporated in 2014, and I have been privileged to be involved since that time. I share the honour of completing the Society's first training session in 2015, with Heather Baldwin, KC Bell, Lee Coulter, Susan Jersak, Barbara Langmaid, Roger Langmaid, Mary Lock, Sandy McCartie, Deborah McIsaac, Sandy Townsend and Sandra Trolan. This 5 year anniversary is cause for celebration! Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

A few other good news stories in 2020 ... This September marked the second time that PR Hospice Society received funds from 100+ Women Who Care. Jack Barr has, once again, renewed our office lease at no charge for another year. While our major fundraising events have been either cancelled or put on hold due to Covid this year, we have received a number of grants that Pat will speak to in his report. Other generous donations have come in from individuals. And ... I am grateful for family and friends who supported a successful birthday fundraiser for Hospice in August ... it made transitioning to the big 6-0 a little easier!

We are ever grateful for our small but mighty staff. We can't talk about staff without acknowledging the great work that Anna Byrne did during her tenure as Hospice Manager. In her spare time, she even managed to write an amazing book! Megan Gros is our Admin and Program Assistant, and we are fortunate to have her expertise in all things web or computer related. And ... we are thrilled that Jackie Baker joined the ranks as our new Hospice Manager this September. Jackie is already busy building relationships with community partners, volunteers and thinking outside the box ... because it is 2020!

It has been a privilege to work with such a talented, diverse and compassionate group of humans on this board. Sandy McCartie, along with her partner, Heather Baldwin, is a matriarch of the hospice movement in Powell River. The Society has been blessed to have someone with her professional experience and hospice background to mentor us in our infancy and we are grateful for her service over the last 6 years.

"If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it ..." This describes Cathy Fisher perfectly. Where she finds the time to keep on top of so many volunteer jobs remains a mystery to us all, and she very rarely drops a ball!

Not only does Lee Coulter leave nothing to our imagination when delivering his monthly financial reports, but he has also provided much needed support in the office. He is also a stickler for detail and knows his Robert's Rules! And as if that weren't enough, we get two for the price of one as his partner, Doreen Berrington also voluntarily shares her accounting expertise when called upon. Thanks, Doreen!

If not for Covid, we would have had a banner fundraising year if Pat Buckna's planned events had come to fruition. We are grateful for the time and resources he has invested in some successful grant applications, and for the personal fundraisers he has organized benefitting hospice.

Rod Paynter has grown hospice membership and has led the mammoth work updating our bylaws. He is a great wordsmith, so is often the person we look to when coming up with language for a press release or policy. And we love his sense of humour!

Tla'amin has had wonderful representation through Rose Adams. Her thoughtful and expert input is always appreciated.

Nora Koros had to resign her position this year due to a family emergency, but we appreciated her contribution and experience with a medical professional lens in the time she was on the board.

We couldn't have a bigger ally in hospice and palliative care than we do in Dr. David May, and we are thrilled that he has agreed to serve on the board in an *ex officio* capacity for another year.

On behalf of the board, I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our volunteers, who remain the backbone of our organization. Their work is done with the highest professionalism, integrity and empathy, and because of them, Powell River Hospice Society has earned a solid reputation in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the board of directors. I wish the new board every success in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Barton-Bridges  
President  
Powell River Hospice Society