



# Annual Report –2007/2008



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## **Purpose**

The BC Centre for Social Responsibility (BCCSR) was established in November 2005 in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of the Fraser Valley. The mandate of BCCSR is to promote prevention and awareness of social problems of concern to all British Columbians such as gaming addiction, internet addiction, substance abuse, and alcohol consumption. The Centre's focus is on early intervention, prevention, education, and research of various addictions. It promotes the prevention and awareness of problematic alcohol use and aims to increase social responsibility. The Centre is linked with the Ministry of Health and several other provincial ministries in supporting alcohol abuse initiatives and research as part of the Act Now BC initiative and is also linked with BC regional Health Authorities.

## **Goal**

The goal of the Centre is to provide evidence-based information, conduct policy research, and act as a referral and resource centre to help government agencies, communities, and individuals develop and access information to prevent and respond to a wide range of social problems and enhance social responsibility. The Centre partners with and supports Government ministries, provincial and community organizations, law enforcement, academic partners, health authorities, and the public. The Centre is focused on increasing access to and improving the quality of information available to our partners and all British Columbians.

## **Core Business Areas**

The core business focus of the BC Centre for Social Responsibility includes:

- Information sharing, research and evaluation, and community referrals.
  - Partner with the BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities and the BC Centre for Non-Profit Development to coordinate research, deliver programs, and maximize opportunities for clients;
  - Complement and link with the BC Government's ACT Now program and Action Schools initiative; and
  - Conduct BC-focused research on issues related to the promotion of social responsibility.
  
- Develop and review prevention initiatives, programs, approaches, and strategies.

- Provide referral services to the public for prevention services, programs, and strategies.
- Provide website and library resources for the public and partners, including print, video, and other materials.
- Promote events and training opportunities through our website.
- Promote and evaluate public awareness campaigns.

### **Affiliation with Other Centres at the University of the Fraser Valley**

The BC Centre for Social Responsibility is co-located with the BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities, and the BC Centre for Non-Profit Development. One of the key factors of co-locating these centres at UFV was the ability to collaborate on various projects and to obtain economies of scale in the provision of services. Most notable examples of the Centres' ability to collaborate is found in the joint library that houses over 1,750 print and media resources, and the Centres' access to experts from a variety of fields at the university.

The three Centres, along with the Centre for Criminal Justice Research and the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, focus on enhancing community safety and well-being for all British Columbians. Working together presents unique opportunities to meet the needs of community stakeholders through research, referrals, professional development, and access to information and resources.

### **BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities (CSSC)**

Through its focus on facilitating community-base research to promote the safety and well-being of British Columbia's children and youth, and providing prevention-based educational resources and activities, the Centre has greatly valued its community and government partners. Twelve BC school districts successfully completed the second annual administration of the Safe School Social Responsibility Survey for Secondary Students. A provincial conference held in Richmond on May 2008, sponsored in partnership with the BC Youth Police Network, drew more than 300 participants. Community forums were initiated, in partnership with the similarly mandated First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, to allow our organizations to identify how to best support communities across BC, and to offer workshops to support the advocacy work already occurring in many communities. The Centre's library, which contains an extensive collection of specialized DVD's, videos, books, and curriculum kits, continues to realize a considerable increase in the use of its resources. In addition to many other activities, the staff at CSSC have valued the educational opportunities and the University of the Fraser Valley students that continue to enrich the Centre's work. Due to the Centre's commitment to work in partnership

with communities, the Centre embraced a name shift from the *Institute for Safe Schools of BC* to *BC Centre for Safe Schools and Communities*.

### **BC Centre for Non-Profit Development (NPD)**

Focused on creating agreements with post secondary institutions for the delivery of the *Introduction to Non-Profit Management* course, two contracts were signed in 2007/2008. The Centre also engaged in negotiations with four additional institutions, with another three having expressed interest in delivering the course. The Centre also expanded community awareness of its mandate resulting in many additional inquiries. A substantial investment in print resources also resulted in an increase in access to the most relevant and current non-profit information. Now available through its online access, the NPD library holds more than 350 titles and is available to all BC residents.

### **Centres' Staff**

Listed in alphabetical order by last name, the following staff and University of the Fraser Valley faculty associated with the three BC Centres have either directly or indirectly supported the activities at the BC Centre for Social Responsibility for this fiscal year:

Wilma Clarke, Director of Operations

Lindsay Clement, Project Coordinator, Centre for Social Responsibility

Dr. Irwin Cohen, Research Director

Rachael Harrison, Centres' Assistant

Lucie Honey-Ray, Manager, Centre for Non-Profit Development

Amanda McCormick, Research Coordinator, Centre for Social Responsibility

Patrick Neal, Research Information Manager

Karin Rempel, Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Centre for Safe Schools and Communities

Sheila St. Laurent, Coordinator, Library & Centres' Services

Dr. Martin Silverstein, Director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

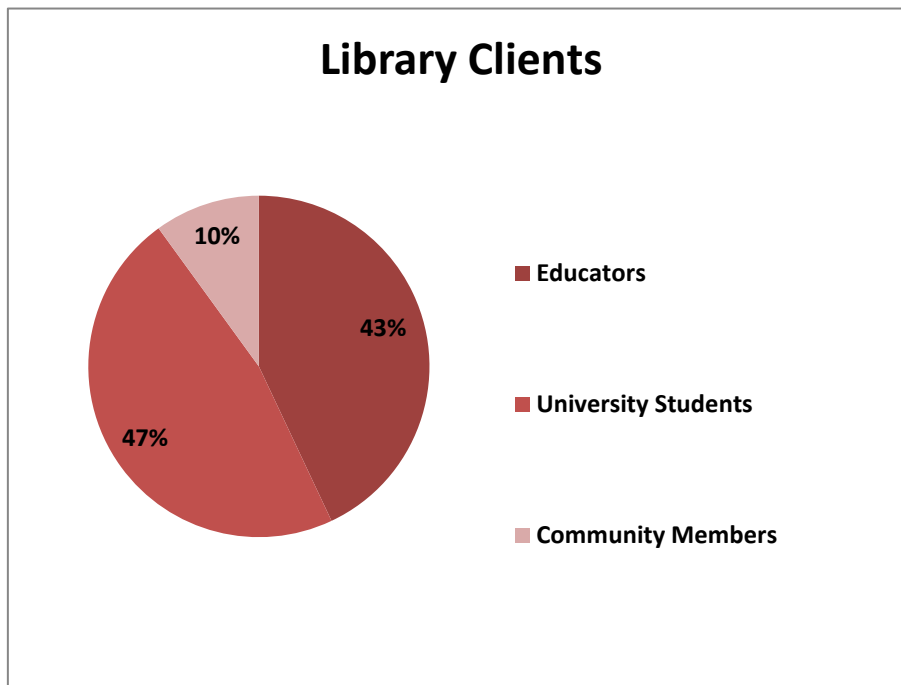
Annette Vogt, Project Coordinator, Centre for Safe Schools and Communities

## BC Centres Library Facts

The BC Centre for Social Responsibility [www.bccsr.ca](http://www.bccsr.ca) houses specialized resources on anti-social behaviors and social responsibility issues on a wide range of subjects, such as underage drinking, gambling, Internet addictions, drug use, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. The library is publically accessible at its Abbotsford university location. Approximately 1,750 items form this unique collection with new items being added each month. The library expanded its collection to include items that support early childhood education and training, and the non-profit sector by acquiring over 700 new resources at a cost of approximately \$19,000.00. The library also provided six student engagement opportunities utilizing work study, co-op, and practicum placement positions for University students across disciplines.

This year, the BC Centres library established an online search catalogue in addition to a print catalogue making the resource collection easily accessible for all British Columbians. A total of 400 catalogues were printed, with 300 catalogues distributed at conferences, workshops, meetings, and by mail. CSR publications were registered with the National Archives of Canada, and are available through several academic libraries across Canada.

Free return shipping was also introduced through the Library Book Postal Service which allows borrowers to receive and return items free of charge.



Borrowers contacted the library either by email (preferred method), phone, or in person. Among those borrowing, 43% were educators, 47% were university research students, and 10% were community members. Library users were predominantly from the Vancouver Coastal Region, followed by Fraser Region, Interior, and Vancouver Island.

Library User by Clientele Group

## **A Successful Year – Our Report on Performance**

### **A Focus on Evidence-Based Research**

A key focus of the BC Centre for Social Responsibility is conducting evidence-based policy and practice research, student led research, as well as coordinating research with other academics and research institutes in BC, Canada, and internationally.

The Centre's research and program evaluations focus on anti-social behaviours, such as:

- Alcohol misuse;
- Internet addiction prevention; and
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder ("FASD") strategies

Specific issues of focus for research include:

- Prescription drug misuse;
- Problem gambling and gambling self exclusion programs;
- Substance use; and
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

The Centre provides research-based evaluations of the efficiencies of programs and impacts of legislation, statistical information and relevant resources related to alcohol use and social responsibility. The Centre also identifies baseline measures, and develops best practices.

### **Completed Research Projects**

- **Binge Drinking among Post-Secondary Students**  
Data on perceptions and use of alcohol was collected from university students at two local universities. Data analysis focused on the prevalence of binge drinking and the nature and frequency of associated harms. A final report was provided to the funder, the BC Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General. A conference presentation was delivered at the Western Society of Criminology, Sacramento, CA.
- **Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse among University Students**  
Students at two local universities were surveyed regarding their use and misuse of prescription drugs, methods of accessing prescription drugs, and reasons for using these drugs. A final report was sent to the funders, the Public Safety Ministry of the Federal Government, and is available for viewing on the BCCSR website.
- **Pharmacists Perceptions of Prescription Drug Abuse**  
A random sample of British Columbian pharmacists were sent a mail survey regarding their training and their perception of the available tools to identify and respond to the abuse and misuse, of prescription drugs. A final report was sent to the funders, the

Public Safety Ministry of the Federal Government, and to our collaborators, the British Columbia College of Pharmacists, and is available for viewing on the BCCSR website.

- **Methamphetamine in the Community**

Together with the City of Chilliwack and the Centre for Criminal Justice Research in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of the Fraser Valley, the BCCSR completed a book regarding the prevention and response to methamphetamine in BC communities. A copy of this book was delivered to every community in British Columbia. The book is also available electronically on the Centre's website, as well as through the funder, the City of Chilliwack.

## **Research Projects in Progress**

The BC Centre for Social Responsibility is currently engaged in a number of studies and research projects. The following provides a partial listing of projects.

- **Voluntary Self Exclusion Program**

Evaluation of the Voluntary Self Exclusion Program, including focus groups with service staff and telephone surveys of clients enrolled in the program.

- **Vancouver Longitudinal Study of the Psychosocial Development of at risk children.**

This prospective longitudinal research tracks the psychosocial development of at-risk newborn babies, four year olds, and eight year olds, and comparison groups of representative newborns, four year olds, and eight year olds through to early adulthood. The goals of this study are to increase our understanding of the risk and protective factors involved in life-course persistent (LCP) offending and to provide valid data for the development of a risk management instrument to reduce LCP offending. The study will address the policy challenges that life-course persistent offenders represent.

- **Alcohol and Other Drug Monitoring Study**

This study will examine the frequency with which Vancouver Police Department officers come into contact with substance-related calls for police services. Data will be collected in subsequent years, as the current year was focused on developing the coding instruments and methods of data collection.

- **Spam Content**

Research assistants collected a sample of spam email and coded it for content. A report will be drafted following an analysis of the spam email characteristics.

- **Online Prescription Drug Sites**

Research assistants identified prescription drug websites and coded the sites for content regarding the types of medications sold, access to medications, and prices of medication. A report will be drafted following data analysis, and the final report will be available on the BCCSR website.

- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Prisons**

The effects of FASD, including impulsivity, poor decision making and judgment, and irresponsibility increase the risk for involvement in crime. The BCCSR is collecting data on suspected and confirmed cases of FASD in youth detention centres in British Columbia. This data will continue to be collected over the coming year.

## Website Development and Usage

The BC Centre for Social Responsibility provides an overview of the services of the Centre, on-line access to the Centre’s print and video resource library, research links, and contacts at the Centre.

Month	Visits per Month	New Visitors	Pages Viewed	No. of Downloads	~~~~~Views From~~~~~		
					BC	Canada	International
Apr-07	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
May-07	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
Jun-07	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
Jul-07	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
Aug-07	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
Sep-07	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
Oct-07	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
Nov-07	88	66	328	0	71	9	8
Dec-07	90	74	337	4	66	13	11
Jan-08	121	101	387	1	96	8	17
Feb-08	164	126	595	0	118	22	25
Mar-08	185	148	548	5	117	49	19
<b>Totals</b>	1,551	1,236	5,268	24	1,126	241	192
<b>Per Month</b>	129	103	439	2	94	20	16
<b>November 13, 2007 stats changed over from Urchin (includes robots) to Google Analytics</b>							
<i>*Numbers have been averaged from April through October*</i>							

## Report on Resources

Funding for fiscal 2007/2008 was provided from the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services. The University of the Fraser Valley has provided administrative support and office space at the University in kind.

BC Centre for Social Responsibility 2007/2008	
Balance Forward	\$203,932.28
Grants received	\$220,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$423,932.28</b>
<b>Centre's Salaries</b>	
Share of Research Director, Research Coordinator, Librarian, Information Manager, Centres Assistant, Operations Manager	\$277,28.02
<b>General Operating Costs</b>	
Office Supplies, website, library, printing, travel, events	\$147,004.04
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$424,432.66</b>
<b>Year End Balance</b>	<b>\$ - 500.38</b>

The BC Centre for Social Responsibility appreciates the support of our funding partners which has enabled us to engage in numerous research initiatives and information dissemination activities. This support demonstrates our shared commitment to evidence-based policy making and service delivery. We look forward to future collaborative efforts.