



President and Executive Director Report 2017

As in the past, this was another exciting and fulfilling year at Lifetime Networks. I continue to be motivated and energized by the wonderful people I see in this space every day; people supported, staff, families, friends and volunteers.

John, our Board President, and I are combining our efforts to bring you a joint report. Before we launch into the information bits, we would like to acknowledge the Lifetime family members who passed away this year; long time Network families Phyllis Ferris, Jim Prentice, Lillian Chapman and Don Sefton as well as Eileen Austin and John Bird.

Lifetime Networks continues to be fiscally responsible with strategic and planned growth. This past year we had a total of 37 Networks with four disbanding and seven starting.

The eight primary programs at Lifetime support a combined total of 539 people and their families. The programs include Networks, Community Engagement, Being A Citizen, Employment, Theatre Troupe, Inclusion Works!, Best Buddies and Sessionals. These programs are facilitated by 144 employees equaling 75 FTEs, and 154 volunteers.

2017 saw new opportunities for individuals and staff. Lifetime was happy to welcome Inclusion Works! to the family, as well as a new Theatre Skills Program. We successfully added respite and home share to our catalogue of services and have a Respite Coordinator beginning in May. Also, you may have noticed our bright purple 'Barney' type clothes bins around the city? Lifetime Networks joined a province wide clothes drop recycling initiative. The clothes drop recycling program employs two supported individuals at better than minimum wage, it generates revenue for the scholarship and bursary program, and it increases environmental sustainability by keeping textiles out of the landfills. Lifetime Networks has 12 bins distributed around the city. Lifetime Networks was also chosen as one of four agencies around the province to trial a potential new service option. The trials were referred to as ANSO.

In addition, we are very pleased to be expanding our training department to offer staff and individuals regular professional development opportunities. In house training includes SIVA (Supporting Individuals through Valued Attachments), Healthy Sexuality, 5 Languages of Appreciation, and Accreditation Surveyor Training. A few other professional development opportunities this past year included Ambit Diversity Training, Bias Training, Trauma Informed Practice, Diversity and Inclusion Training, lunch and learn presentations and a wide range of other sector relevant training.



Supported individuals at Lifetime Networks have taken part and contributed much to the community this year. Contributions include participation as advisors for the ANSO trial project, attending the Provincial Inclusion BC conference, furthering diversity and acceptance as part of various groups including Ambassadors and Queerabilities, creating news casts as part of 'Being A Citizen – On Location', and membership on the host team for the International Film Festival.

As always, the Lifetime Networks family celebrates and gathers at every opportunity! Following is a quick listing of some events this year: karaoke at UVic, Royals games, Harbour Cats Games, the Gala, Theatre Troup Performances, Golf Tournament, Summer Picnic, Holiday Breakfast, Ice Cream Social, Marathon, and Table Talk.

One of the big events this year was Accreditation! Accreditation is quite a process, designed as a vehicle for agencies to examine all they do and to be accountable to those they support. Lifetime was awarded a successful three-year accreditation and was recognized with an exemplary commendation, an honour awarded to less than two percent of all accredited agencies in North America. Our survey report states:

"In the following area, Lifetime Networks demonstrates exemplary conformance to the standards. Lifetime Networks truly infuses its person-centered philosophy into its service delivery. The person –centered aspect of service delivery is at a standard not seen elsewhere. All programming is the result of the wishes and desires of the persons served. The development of 'networks' of small groups of two to four community persons to become lifelong members and friends of the person served leads to enduring friendships based on common interests. Persons served guide the planning of services and lead the process of service delivery throughout. The support staff is hired to be tailored specifically to the desires of the individual person served, including a search for such factors as a bubbly personality, being athletic, enjoying a particular craft or type of music, or desire to develop a skill in a certain area such as a type of cooking cuisine. As one staff member put it, 'It all begins with the individual,' and this continues as long as the participant is served. The various groups and course offerings are the result of the requests and desires of the persons served, and these are ever changing in terms of both the subject material and content of the sessions. Persons served help research and sometimes lead groups."

This exemplary, and all the wonderful initiatives outlined in this report, are due to the passion of the staff. The entire Team believes in the value of those we are privileged to support and are sincerely committed to person centeredness and diversity.



In 2018 Lifetime Networks will continue to focus on those we serve and on expanding our community presence by increasing partnerships with likeminded organizations. In addition, this fall we hope to move to a space that is better suited to meeting the needs of the Lifetime Networks family.

In conclusion, John and I would like to thank the Board for their commitment and wisdom. Our meetings are lively, open, and collaborative, and we get things done.

Together we can all look forward to another productive year.

Sincerely

John Ouilette &
Wendy-Sue Andrew