

Report From Finance Department

Submitted by Moon Yee, Director of Finance

The Finance Department has dealt with both changes and challenges throughout the 2006-07 year.

On the labour front the main issue was settling the Collective Agreement for the Health Services and Support Community Sub-sector Association. The four year deal which impacts all unionized employees at GVCSS covers the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2010. The one-time signing bonus payments were processed and new wage rates for all programs and employees were also implemented. Acknowledgments go to all of our Finance employees - Cecilia, Eric, Luba, Luisa and Juliet who worked so diligently to meet deadlines as they processed information for the hundreds of staff who work for our organization.

In November 2006 I was welcomed to the organization as the new Director of Finance to fill the vacancy left by Mary Norris who took on the new role of Assistant Executive Director. As a result of our planning and collaborative efforts the transition went very well, and I continue to look forward to meeting the challenges which lie ahead.

Our Auditors, BDO Dunwoody, completed the 2006/07 audit of GVCSS in June of this year. We are very pleased that results of the audit show that no significant issues or recommendations need to be addressed by GVCSS. GVCSS recorded an operating surplus mainly due to the increase in hours in the Home Support and Richmond HandyDART Departments; and administrative efficiencies in other areas of the organization.

We will soon be negotiating with TransLink to extend our HandyDART contracts to December 31, 2008. TransLink's decision to proceed with extensions to existing contracts is due to the accessible transit system review which they are currently undertaking. Once the TransLink review and the tendering process are complete, Custom Transit services in newly assigned geographic areas will take effect on January 1, 2009. We look forward to the opportunities which will be

presented in 2008 when TransLink implements the contract tender for Custom Transit service.

The Home Support Department had a slight increase in service hours evidenced by a 7% and 5.7% increase during the last two years. In the latter part of the operating year Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA) introduced new reporting and billing rate changes to the Home Support Program. Our billing rate is now contingent upon exceeding performance indicators based on quarterly program results. This will have implications on our revenue if indicators are not always exceeded.

In January 2007 VCHA also introduced block funding for five clustered areas in Vancouver. This change has resulted in some challenges for billing and Home Support staff. More custom reports are now required from our Procura database to meet the new requirements. Home Support Supervisors/Schedulers will need to become more attentive when they enter client data so that the system can capture this information to generate these new reports. Additional training and accountability will be needed to increase data entry accuracy and data integrity.

The Community Living Program incurred a small deficit in 2006/07 due to the amortization of capital items. There likely will be higher one-time costs in the coming years as the Community Living houses begin to show their age and more resources are needed to maintain safety and normal operations.

As we move into the future financial sustainability with our contractors (Community Living BC, Vancouver Coastal Health and Translink) continues to be the major goal. Changes to contracts and funding from these sources may require further restructuring in our programs. We will make every effort to meet the challenges which arise and to mitigate the impact these changes may have on our staff and clients.

