

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024



*Inclusive Services
Connecting a Thriving
Coastal Community*

Our Purpose

Vision

Our vision is a welcoming, inclusive, and diversity-affirming community that is free of poverty and full of heart.

Mission

We work with community partners and people facing barriers to create equity and hope in the qathet Region by establishing sustainable housing and employment, and providing a range of inclusive, supportive services.

From WOW to now...

2024 marks 40 years of Lift!

SERVING qathet REGION
SINCE
1984

We were founded as Powell River Employment Programs (PREP) Society in 1984 by 3 community members who wanted to increase local job opportunities for women: our very first program was Work Opportunities for Women (WOW)! From there, we've continued to evolve to meet emergent and urgent community needs - from grant-writing and recycling to mental health and parenting supports to housing and harm reduction. We're proud of our track record of bringing community members and partners together to find solutions to community issues. Here's to another 40 years!

From our Board President & Executive Director

After an exhaustive search, Lift has a new Executive Director. In June of this year we hired Kim Markel as our new leader. Kim has been with Lift for the past year and a half as Director of Programs and we are confident she has the education, experience and dedication to move us forward in a very positive way.



The Board extends its deep appreciation to Stu Clark, our previous ED, for his hard work and dedication to the organization over the past six years.

Earlier this year the Board created a strategic plan, available in full on our website. We identified near term plans and appointed staff members to champion the success of these goals that build towards a bigger aim of organization. We strive to decrease housing needs and establish permanent shelter services while continuing our work to end poverty.

Community engagement continues to be a Board and staff priority. We are advancing strategies that focus on effective information dissemination, community dialogue and public

education about the impact of Lift's work.

My sincere thanks to my fellow Board Members, the dedicated staff at Lift and to the people of Powell River and qathet who support us in our endeavours.

- Maggie Hathaway, Board President

It's been another year of change and transition for Lift. We've seen the loss of a few programs this year and a few key people; we've re-organized our leadership structure and implemented a strategic plan. These changes are all an ongoing process as we continue to grow and reach for organizational quality while remaining responsive to the needs of our community.



Looking back on the year, I have been reflecting about how to hold onto the heart of the work that began 40 years ago, when Lift was founded as PREP Society. As our organization continues to grow, how do we hold onto the grassroots values that have made us who we are? When I think about

how I define grassroots - being in community and for community, advocating for change not just locally but provincially and nationally, encouraging other members of the community to participate and stand alongside - I believe that Lift has managed to hold onto many of these elements. And with this awareness, so too comes my commitment to ongoing robust and meaningful engagement with community and staff to ensure that we strive to hold onto the organization's bottom-up origins.

This past year hasn't always been easy and like many service providers we have had our struggles with challenged staffing, fiscal constraints and the ongoing weight of the toxic drug supply and increasing housing challenges.

Throughout this year, I have been so appreciative of our team here at Lift, who show up every day to provide care and support to members of our community. The expertise and passion that our employees, volunteers and community partners bring to the work is amazing and helps inspire and fill us up when we most need it.

I look forward to continuing this work with each and every one of you in this coming year.

- Kim Markel, Executive Director



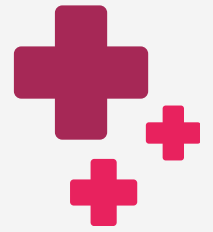
Community Resource Centre



255 Public Health visits

373 Legal Aid files

5754 Free lunches served



Welcome to the CRC, a space
where faces light up when they see you
and people listen to you

where we can hold our problems together
share stories fresh from the kitchen,
and jokes the cooks dish up

where cups tippeth over
but many hands reach for paper towels

where folks can help you make sense
of inscrutable paperwork
or help you fill out those endless forms

and where you leave
feeling never alone, feeling warmed up
as you walk out the door



Created by community members
at the CRC in a collaborative
process led by 2023 Powell River
Public Library's Writer in
Residence, Johnny MacRae.

Employment Services

This afternoon as I was helping my client load all their new assistive tech equipment in their vehicle to go home and set up their home office they said "Oh my god this is going to change my life, thank you."

- Paige, Employment Counsellor



484

individuals accessed our
Employment Services

1254

job postings shared on
our community job board



\$458,683

in financial supports
distributed in community
through Employment Services

Family Programs

3 hospital-grade breast pumps available to lend.

Referrals to community supports like Public Health and inclusion Powell River's Infant Development Program.

Formula, household items, grocery cards, baby supplies, vitamins, meals, phone cards, and peer support for new and expectant parents.

30+ parents and caregivers attending weekly Bond Program groups.

8 new babies supported through the Healthy Care Pregnancy Program

2 families supported in getting their children back in their care from the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

“The staff is amazing and make me feel welcome. I love the activities they put on for my family.”

- Family Place guest

Housing Services



121

unique Individuals accessed
Emergency Shelter services.

“They helped me to follow up to get my ID and get off the streets and get my head together.”

“I’ve got a roof over my head, instead of living on the streets wondering where I’m going to sleep every night. I’ve got a warm place to go. I’ve got loads of friendly people around me. Really good access to information.”

“I wish people knew how hard it is to have injuries and addictions. To learn how to control the addiction with normal life... and without housing, I would be really lost and I’d probably be dead by now. Housing has got me to cut down my use [of substances], and I’m really grateful for it.”

- Supportive Housing participant,
15+ years in Powell River



This year we helped deliver qathet Region’s
first Point in Time Homelessness Count.
126 individuals were identified as experiencing
homelessness.

Community Health Programs

“CCH helps me so much every day. Getting to and from appointments, helping me keep up on my dishes and stuff – my mobility isn’t great, and a lot of times homecare workers can’t because they have so many places to get to in a day. It means a lot that CCH is available right when I need them to be.”

- Complex Care Housing client

“When my dad died, [it was a CCH worker who] went down to the beach with me to write a note to him, tie it to a rock and throw it in the ocean to say goodbye. I cried for a long time. No one ever made time for me that way before.”

- Complex Care Housing client

21

unique individuals receiving support through the iOAT Program.



Immigrant Services



This year our highlights were over 75 community orientations and connection sessions, 170 conversation clubs and more than 50 needs assessments and referrals!

111 One-on-one community mentorship connections

67 New English learners connected to volunteer tutors

Literacy



480

Drop-in visits for literacy support



This year we launched youth-specific tutor training. One of our new youth tutors attended weekly Fibre Space meetings to offer digital literacy support to participants.

Food Hub

For seven years The Nook provided job and life skills training to youth and individuals facing barriers to employment, while operating as a social enterprise cafe in the Powell River Public Library.

We closed The Nook in Spring 2024 due to operational barriers. We're thankful for the community's support over the years, and for the connections and engagement we had in our little corner of the PRPL!



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youth supported with agricultural and food skills mentorship through the Creating Opportunities for Real Employment (CORE) Program.

Youth cultivated the CRC and Hospital Community Gardens, sold their produce and flowers at market, and processed their foods for valued-added products.

Financials

	2023-24	2022-23
Revenue*	\$8,050,874	\$6,189,863
Wages & benefits	\$5,049,706	\$3,799,893
Rent & building costs	\$532,166	\$442,328
Client expenses	\$1,038,176	\$1,072,939
Equipment & Maintenance	\$426,417	\$324,211
Professional Fees	\$560,958	\$169,087
Misc. purchases	\$304,144	\$315,617
Total Expenses	\$7,911,567	\$6,124,075
Surplus	\$139,307	\$65,788

*82% Government-funded in 2022-23 and 2023-24



Staff 2023-2024

Stuart Clark, Executive Director

Kim Markel, Director of Programs

Jessica Colasanto, Community Support Programs Manager

Kathryn Colby, Community Development Manager

Brodie D'Angio, Employment Services Manager

Stuart Holder, Finance and Administration Manager

Julie Jenkins, Housing Services Manager

Board 2023-2024

Maggie Hathaway, President

Lee Coulter, Treasurer

Karen Lines, Secretary

Hans Brennert

Terry Dyer

Courtney Harrop


Tom Keenan

Kristin Street

Rebecca Withers

Contact Us



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We live and work on the homelands and territories of the Tla'amin People. We honour the land, the Tla'amin People, and their treaty and continually seek to strengthen our relationship and responsibilities to them as guests in the territory.