

Index

INDEX	Page 1
SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS	Page 2
2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA	Page 3
WHO'S WHO AT ESSA	Page 4
MINUTES ~ 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Page 6
... 2003 AGM Snap Shots	Page 11
OFFICER'S REPORTS	
... President	Page 12
... Treasurer	Page 13
STAFF REPORTS:	
... Executive Director	Page 14
... Executive Assistant	Page 16
SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORTS:	
... Newsletter Committee	Page 17
... Seminar Committee	Page 18
... Ways & Means Committee	Page 18
... Regional Reps/Volunteer Support Committee	Page 19
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
... Auditor's Report	Page 20
... Statement of Assets	Page 21
... Statement of Operations	Page 22
... Statement of Changes in Net Assets	Page 23
... Expense Schedules, etc	Page 24
... Notes to Financial Statements	Page 26
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:	
... Region #1 ~ Vancouver Island-South	Page 28
... Region #1 ~ Vancouver Island-North	Page 29
... Region #2 ~ Southwest-Coast	Page 30
... Region #2 ~ Southwest-Fraser Valley	Page 31
... Region #3 ~ Central	Page 32
... Region #4 ~ Southeast-East Kootenays	Page 32
... Region #4 ~ Southeast-West Kootenays	Page 33
... Region #5 ~ Northeast	Page 33
... Region #6 ~ Northwest	Page 34
CONSTITUTION:	
... Current Edition	Page 35
ESSA'S MEMBER COMMUNITIES:	
... Current listing of paid members	Page 40

Support Organizations

ESSA works with the following organizations
in support of Emergency Social Services
volunteers in British Columbia



**Ministry of Human
Resources**



**Provincial Emergency
Program**



**British Columbia
Housing**



**Canadian Red Cross
Society**



**Canadian Disaster Child
Care Society**



**A RESPONSE from
the HEART**



**St. John
Ambulance**



**Adventist Development &
Relief Agency**



**JUSTICE
INSTITUTE
of
BRITISH
COLUMBIA**



**Telephone Pioneers
Amateur Radio Club**

Agenda

16th Annual General Meeting
Killarney Community Centre, 6260 Killarney Street, Vancouver
Saturday, October 16, 2004 at 6:00pm

Introductions & Welcome:

1. Board of Directors
2. Office Staff
3. Regional Representatives
4. Special Guests

Adoption of 2003 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Reports:

- a. President – Bryan Larrabee
- b. Treasurer – Laurie Pearce
- c. Executive Director – Joan Smulders

Regional Representative's Goals for 2005:

- a. Region #1 ~ Vancouver Island South: Bob Kennedy
- b. Region #1 ~ Vancouver Island North: Audrey Pineau
- c. Region #2 ~ Southwest Coast: Debbie Nider
- d. Region #2 ~ Southwest Fraser Valley: Jackie Kloosterboer
- e. Region #3 ~ Central: Ray Huey
- f. Region #4 ~ Southeast East Kootenays: Donna Grobell
- g. Region #4 ~ Southeast West Kootenays: Tracy Barry
- h. Region #5 ~ Northeast: Jerrilyn Schembri
- i. Region #6 ~ Northwest: Rachel Minger

Election of Officers

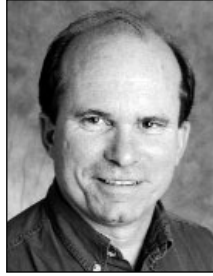
Constitutional Amendments

Other New Business

Presentations

Adjournment

ESSA Board of Directors



BRYAN LARRABEE
President



LARRY PEARCE
Past President



DIANA KRIMMER
Vice President



GERRY BLITSTEIN
Director



BILL ANDREWS
Director/Secretary



WENDY BENNETT
Director



SHEILA MCLEAN
Director



NATALIA SKAPSKI
Director



**JEAN FRANCOIS (JF)
LANDRY**
Director



DOREEN MYERS
Director



LAURIE PEARCE
Director/Treasurer



MARIE SALEM
Director



COLLEEN VAUGHAN
Director

Professional Staff



JOAN SMULDERS
Executive Director



KERRY EVANS
Executive Assistant

Regional Representatives



BOB KENNEDY
Region #1
Vancouver Island-
South



DIANE CLOOTEN
Region #1
Vancouver Island-
North



**JACKIE
KLOOSTERBOER**
Region #2
Southwest- Fraser Valley



DEBBIE NIDER
Region #2
Southwest-
Coast



RAY HUEY
Region #3
Central



DONNA GROBELL
Region #4
Southeast-
East Kootenays



TRACY BARRY
Region #4
Southeast-
West Kootenays



JERRILYN SCHEMBRI
Region #5
Northeast



RACHEL MINGER
Region #6
Northwest

Regional Representative - Alternates

- Region #1 ~ Vancouver Island North: **BOB DENDOFF**
- Region #1 ~ Vancouver Island South: **BRENDA YOUNG**
- Region #2 ~ Southwest-Fraser Valley: **RITA BERGSMA**
- Region #2 ~ Southwest Coast: **PAT HARVEY**
- Region #3 ~ Central: **BERYL ITANI**
- Region #4 ~ Southeast-West Kootenays: **POSITION VACANT**
- Region #4 ~ Southeast-East Kootenays: **ANGEL RICHARDS**
- Region #5 ~ Northeast: **VICKY CHIPMAN**
- Region #6 ~ Northwest: **DANIELLE DALTON**

EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2003 AGM Minutes

15th Annual General Meeting Monday, October 27, 2003 At the Wall Sheraton Hotel 1088 Pender Street, Vancouver, BC Commencing 1840 hrs

The Annual Report is a separate document, which can be accessed via the ESSA office at 604-517-1442 or 1-800-910-ESSA or info@essa.ca. This report includes the Staff, Board, and Regional Reps' reports in full.

<p>Attendance:</p> <hr/> <p>President: Larry Pearce</p> <p>Vice-President: Bryan Larrabee</p> <p>Treasurer: Laurie Pearce</p> <p>Secretary: Doreen Myers</p> <p>Directors: Bill Andrews Diana Krimmer Jean-Francois Landry Marie Salem Wendy Bennett Colleen Vaughan</p> <p>Executive Director: Kevin D'Souza</p> <p>Office Administrator: Christine Fleeton</p> <p>Regional Rep Liaison Officer: Esther Kane</p> <p>Regrets:</p> <hr/> <p>Directors: Doug Kinton</p> <p>Regional Reps: Debbie Nider</p>	<p>Special Guests:</p> <hr/> <p>ESS Program Office: Jeff Cornell</p> <p>ESSA Life Member: Sally Pollock, JIBC</p> <p>Other attendees:</p> <hr/> <p>Janet Andrews-ESSA Regional Rep. Southwest-Fraser Valley, Vicky Chipman-ESSA Regional Rep. Southeast West Kootenays, Donna Grobell-ESSA Regional Rep. Southeast East Kootenays, Ray Huey-ESSA Regional Rep. Central, Rachel Minger-ESSA Regional Rep. Northwest, Bob Kennedy-ESSA Regional Rep. Vancouver Island South, Diane Clooten-ESSA Regional Rep. Vancouver Island North, Jerrilyn</p>	<p>Schembri-ESSA Regional Rep. Northeast, Debbie Clyne-Burnaby ESS, Dennis Harvey-Saanich ESS, Patricia Harvey-Sunshine Coast ESS, Tammy Lata-Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, Bev Stenning-Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, Jackie Kloosterborer-Maple Ridge-ESS, Carol Unger-Abbotsford ESS, Rob Johns-Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, Sam Aksidan-Gitsegukla Village ESS, Gerry Blitstein-Langley ESS, Debbie Cockell-Kamloops ESS, Magnus Eek-Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, Lisa Evans-MacKenzie, Jennifer Franssen-Cowichan Valley ESS, Bryan Farrar-Telephone Pioneers Amateur Radio Club, Maggie Grant-ESS Program Office, David Tomaz-ESS</p>	<p>Program Office, Cheryl Venn-ESS Program Office, Beryl Itani-Kelowna ESS, John McEwan-Salvation Army, Frank McMiller-Adventist Development & Relief Agency, Waldo Neufeld-Mennonite Disaster Services, Bill Potma-Canadian Disaster Childcare, Roger Richot-Langford ESS, Norene Richot-Langford ESS, Margaret Shane-Telkwa ESS, Thersa Sharp-Simon Fraser University, Howie Siemens-Surrey ESS, Deb Reid-Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, Faye Lathrope-Abbotsford ESS, Natalia Skapski-Vancouver Police Dept., Corey Burtini-Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, Jill McLuckie-Esquimalt, Bob Dendoff-Nanaimo ESS.</p>
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1. INTRODUCTIONS

ESSA President, Larry Pearce opened the meeting with introductions of directors, staff, & reps.

2. ADOPTION OF 2002 AGM MINUTES:

Motion: That the minutes of the 2002 ESSA Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented.

{Moved: Dennis Harvey /Seconded: Bill Andrews}

CARRIED.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Larry Pearce's report is in the Annual Report. He is proud of ESSA, partners, & people who support us at the Program Office – especially through the change in staff.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Laurie Pearce's report is in the Annual Report. Laurie thanked the Program Office. She stated that, for the first time, ESSA had to bid for funding from the Program Office and was the successful applicant. ESSA is grateful for those who wrote letters of support and encouragement. The financial information is presented in the Annual Report. The accountant's Letter of Engagement is on page 24. The Statement of Net Assets shows over \$72 thousand in the General Account. Laurie explained that, as we had not secured funding until after the close of the fiscal year, ESSA needed to hold onto a large cash reserve. The Gaming Account was over \$32 thousand as the

Direct Access grant had only recently been received. That money, which went to the cost-share initiative, Group Lodging signs, and other initiatives, is now gone. ESSA's new application is pending. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets is shown on page 26. On page 27 the Statement of Revenue & Expenses show revenue of \$269,796: much of which came from the Ministry of Human Resources and Gaming Commission. Categorized Operating Expenses are shown on pages 28 & 29. Notes are on page 30.

Laurie opened the floor to questions. There were none and she requested a motion to accept the Financial Statements.

Motion: That the financial statements for the fiscal year-ending March 31, 2003 be adopted as presented.

{Moved: Debbie Clyne /Seconded: Mike Davies}

CARRIED.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Larry introduced new Executive Director, Kevin D'Souza and stated that he is proud of and appreciates Kevin's efforts.

Kevin thanked everyone at the board for the opportunity. He stated he's had a lot to learn and not too many to learn it from. He is looking forward to the years to come – working with the regional reps & new members, Jerrilyn & Rachel. His report is on page 18 of the Annual Report.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Larry stated the sub-committee reports start on page 21 of the Annual Report. He invit-

ed the committee chairs to add to their report.

JF Landry, Newsletter Committee Chair, thanked all the volunteers who sent articles and photos. He stated mESSAges would take a new focus towards marketing ESS, the work the volunteers do, and the training available to them.

Diana Krimmer, Regional Rep Volunteer Support Committee Chair, thanked the Regional Reps for all the work they did during the flooding. Diana also thanked those who didn't go to the "frontline" but worked on call-outs. She also thanked Esther for the work she's done. Larry stated Esther would be leaving ESSA and wished her farewell.

Bill Andrews, Seminar Committee Chair, reported looking forward as not much could be planned during the past 6 months.

Doreen Myers, Ways & Means Committee Chair, reported that 28 communities were able to purchase training, equipment, & supplies thanks to ESSA's latest cost-share initiative. She stated that, as the Regional Reps felt it was important the Group Lodging signs be available throughout the province, the process of giving away the first batch was changed. One kit is going to each regional rep and Mobile Support Team. The next batch of signs would be attached to training. She reported that the committee also tries to raise funds and raise the profile of ESS. Laurie stated that, should any community or person wish to donate, tax receipts could be given.

7. REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Vancouver Island (South) – Bob

Kennedy thanked the people in his region as they make his job more manageable.

Vancouver Island (North) – Diane Clooten reported that there is a new ESSD in Sayward.

Southwest (Coast) – As Debbie Nider was absent, she was unable to present her report. Debbie's report is included in the Annual Report.

Southwest (Fraser Valley) – Janet Andrews reported that getting the resource information for the Kelowna PREOC was a great exercise for her region. Most communities would depend on BC Housing for cots and blankets. It was great that two regions pulled together to help a third.

Central – Ray Huey thanked everyone and all the teams involved in the fires one way or another. Special thanks went to ESSDs, Marie Salem and Beryl Itani. He also stated, for the first time since he's been a rep, there are no blackhole communities in his region.

Southeast (East Kootenay) – Donna Grobell's report is available in the Annual Report. She added a "Thank you" to the volunteers and partner agencies who assisted during the East Kootenay *Firestorm* this summer.

Southeast (West Kootenay) – Vicky Chipman stated the summer has been a huge learning experience. Her region is down to four (4) blackholes. Thank you to ESSA and the ESS Program Office for assisting her region. Larry reported that Vicky has resigned her position as Regional Rep and will be moving to Prince George in November. He stated the region would miss her being there.

Northeast – Jerrilyn Schembri reported that communication throughout the huge Northeast region has been a challenge: she is hoping to rectify that.

Northwest – Rachel Minger stated her report was a joint effort between herself and former Regional Rep, Gord Fox. She stated the Annual Report duplicates Vicky's report in the last five paragraphs of her region's section.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

Jeff Cornell from the Program Office introduced his staff. He welcomed Kevin and the new reps. Jeff stated the latest edition of the newsletter was very well done and that he would ensure his executive saw a copy. He also thanked everyone for all the work they'd done: he is proud to be a part of their organization. The staff, volunteers, & partner agencies demonstrated the highest caliber. He also thanked those who did not have the opportunity to respond at the front-lines but, nevertheless, contributed.

John McEwan of the Salvation Army gave a presentation and promoted Personal Services training.

Bill Potma of the Canadian Disaster Childcare spoke. He congratulated everyone in the room for having had a very busy time in the past few months. He stated that his organization is an offshoot of the Christian Reform World Relief organization. They decided to form a Canadian society rather than continue as a church-based group. Bill introduced Donna Grobell, Coordinator/Administrator of the organization. He also stated they are seeking sources of funding. He gave a brief outline of the specialized training required which runs through a 27 hour period.

Waldo Neufeld briefed the group on the various activities and upcoming training of the Mennonite Disaster Service.

On behalf of Barry Growe, Bob Kennedy gave the Red Cross report.

Frank McMiller of the Adventist Disaster Relief Agency (ADRA) spoke.

Debbie Clyne of Burnaby stated ESS volunteers in her community would love to access training offered by the various agencies.

Beryl Itani, ESSD for Kelowna said Thank You to the Salvation Army.

Thanks also went to Alert Bay & Alberta for the generous food donations.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Wendy Bennett stated the following directors are up for election and seeking nomination: Doreen Myers, Bryan Larrabee, Colleen Vaughan, JF Landry, & Bill Andrews. She also stated that a total of seven (7) spots are available.

She opened the floor to nominations.

Tammy Lata from Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, in reference to the *Volunteer Directors* handout where it stated that directors are not reimbursed for travel to board and/or committee meetings, asked if travel could be reimbursed for directors coming from outside the Lower Mainland.

Laurie Pearce, Treasurer, responded that, should directors from further regions be given reimbursement, funds would be taken from the various programs. Under the new contract, the meeting requirements are increasing and the funds have decreased.

Beryl Itani, Kelowna ESSD, suggested a fee increase for member communities.

Laurie responded that some communities have difficulty paying the fees as they stand. We don't want membership to be prohibitive. Where do you put the money – to the board or the communities?

Sally Pollock, JIBC instructor, stated that Marie, Kamloops ESSD, is a director.

Larry replied that the reimbursement issue was not clear when Marie was elected. Often Marie has participated in board meetings via conference calls. He also declared that Marie traveled “on her own nickel.”

Tammy asked about ferry pick-ups. Wendy replied that arrangements could be made. Tammy also asked when the board met. She was told the board met Wednesday evenings – she declined to stand for election.

Doreen Myers nominated Gerry Blitstein, who agreed to stand.

Diana Krimmer nominated Natalia Skapski, who agreed to stand.

Larry Pearce nominated Doreen Myers, who agreed to stand.

Donna Grobell nominated Colleen Vaughan, who agreed to stand.

Laurie Pearce nominated Bryan Larrabee, who agreed to stand.

Bill Andrews nominated JF Landry, who agreed to stand.

Laurie Pearce nominated Bill Andrews, who agreed to stand.

Wendy Bennett nominated Sheila MacLean, who, although absent, had previously agreed to stand.

Beryl Itani moved that nominations cease.

Gerry Blitstein offered to remove his name from the ballot.

Natalia questioned the number of positions available as the Bylaws state that up to eighteen (18) directors may serve on the board. The response was that only twelve (12) positions had voting privileges.

Rob Johns, Victoria/Esquimalt ESS, suggested the election be conducted and the candidate with the least number of votes be offered a position as a non-voting director.

Doreen encouraged Gerry to let his name stand.

Larry stated that if Gerry did not wish to stand for election, he could be invited to join the board as a non-voting member at the first Board Meeting.

Gerry accepted this offer and no election was required.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

No amendments were put forward.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

None.

12: ADJOURNMENT

{Moved: Beryl Itani/Seconded: Janet Andrews}

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned at 2023 hrs.

CARRIED.

Larry Pearce, President
Doreen Myers, Secretary

2003 Snap Shots



Kevin D'Souza and Larry Pearce
at the 2003 Working Group.



Bill Andrews and Joan Smulders
hosting the booth at the
Emergency Preparedness for
Industry and Commerce Council
Conference (EPICCC).

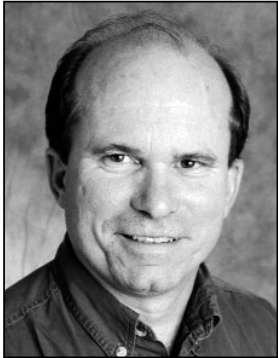


Julian Mason and Rob Johns in a
Victoria Emergency Response
Vehicle.

President's Report

PRESIDENT

Bryan Larrabee



My thanks to **Larry Pearce** who handed the Presidency of Emergency Social Services Association (ESSA) over to me this past summer. Under Larry's leadership we stabilized our core funding, took on some challenging projects, and put in place a staff complement that will take ESSA to the next level. Filling Larry's shoes will be a challenge, but carrying forward the vision that this Board has will be easy with all the hard work behind us. There may be many challenges that await us in the future, but I feel confident with a Board of Directors who is committed and willing to put time and effort into the organization.

A hearty thank-you to the Directors, who took weeks out of their schedules, stayed up long hours to write proposals, and participated in many discussions on the direction of ESSA. The past year was a turning point and I am proud to be associated with this Board and this staff group.

Thank-you to the Regional Representative's who keep track of all the Emergency Social Services (ESS) teams out there, identify gaps, issues, and concerns. You are the bread and butter of this organization.

Our cost-sharing program exceeded our expectations and reached out to many communities in British Columbia. Our newsletter reported the aftermath of the flooding and wildfires last year, featured photos of hundreds of volunteers, and informed us of regional meetings and seminars that took place in every corner of the Province.

What's new for ESSA? We want to become more effective in supporting our ESS Directors in the field. If it's a new Director, provide them with a proper orientation, point them towards all the resources and programs available to them, for our experienced directors, where can they get help to develop their teams, what connections and materials are out there to bring our ESS Teams up to the next level? How can we start? By listening to concerns, learning from mistakes, and blueprinting successes.

With the shared vision of the ESS Program Office in Victoria, we see a new profile for ESS. The Justice Institute has unveiled the ESS Academy and is pushing the excellence of training in our field to new highs. All this progress brings new demands on ESSA to support our front line ESS volunteers. I think ESSA is more than capable of rising to meet these challenges.

Treasurer's Report

AGM Treasurer's Report 2004

Laurie Pearce



I am pleased to present the Emergency Social Services Associatio's (ESSA) financial statement for the fiscal year April 01, 2003 to March 31, 2004. We continue to appreciate the financial contribution we receive from the Emergency Social Services (ESS) Program Office through the Ministry of Human Resources, which enables us to provide an essential and high quality program to our volunteers and member communities.

Our membership continues to grow and we are hopeful of securing additional funding sources in the coming year and in so doing, expand our efforts through mutual beneficial partnerships and to continue to provide value-added initiatives to the program.

I am especially pleased that in the past year we have injected over \$25,000 in direct funding specifically for local ESS teams through our Cost-Share Program. These dollars have helped purchase vests, jackets, signs, radios, emergency kits, and many other aids to volunteers. There's no lack of requests for ESSA's financial support!

Buchanan & Company completed a review of our accounts and was satisfied with the accounting procedures and our performance in all regards. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of **Joan Smulders** and **Kerry Evans** in ensuring that all of our bookkeeping and paperwork is done on schedule and kept up-to-date.

ESSA is about to embark on many new initiatives and this will undoubtedly prove to be a challenging and exciting year. I trust these initiatives will enhance our ability to recruit, educate, train, maintain, and recognize our volunteers.

Executive Director's Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joan Smulders



It has been a very exciting year for me, taking on new responsibilities, “learning the ropes”, and meeting the many dedicated volunteers throughout the Province!

I am happy to report on the growth of Emergency Social Services (ESS) Teams and to say that we are now better equipped thanks to the cost-sharing of Emergency Social Services Association (ESSA) with many ESS Teams and communities. ESSA received funding through the Gaming Commission and we were able to commit over \$25,000 to our Teams for this initiative which resulted in over \$50,000 of equipment, supplies, and materials for 58 communities throughout BC! What a super accomplishment! Now is the time to approach your municipalities/ communities to be considered in their budgeting process for the new year. We hope to offer this program again but we do require a sharing agreement between the community and ESSA for the best results. Don't delay! Begin the process by lining up your funding alternatives and talk to your ESS Teams about what equipment, supplies, and materials may be required in the near future.

We, at ESSA, hope to receive an increase in our funding to direct towards providing a greater level of support to volunteers, communities, and regions. We also hope the additional funds would allow ESSA to further promote and increase visibility of the ESS program.

The ESSA newsletter, mESSAges, is now being produced quarterly and is also available for viewing online through our website at www.essa.ca. If you would rather view the newsletter online, please contact our office and we'll save a little money (that we can direct to other volunteer services) by decreasing our “hard copy” production and distribution costs. Our newsletter has taken on a new look with a brand new format, new features, contests, quotes, etc. Please let us know how you like it! Remember, this is your newsletter, so if there's something else you'd like to see added to mESSAges, just email us a line to tell us how we can improve!

We are also working on giving our website a new appearance as well. As the new year approaches, you'll be happy to see many changes in our format there as well. We'd like to offer a “training page” on the website so if you have training, regional meetings, seminars, etc. planned for your community, just email us the details and we'll post it on the website!

Also at the ESSA Office we've reorganized the physical layout of the office, cleaned up the files, incorporated recommendations by a Records Management specialist, documented processes, and attempted to streamline our procedures to more effectively support our volunteers.

Over the past year ESSA has participated and hosted information booths at the following:

- Emergency Preparedness (EP) Conference
- Thompson-Okanogan Inter-Agency Conference
- Emergency Preparedness for Industry & Commerce Council (EPICC) Conference
- Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists (ATSS) Conference
- Richmond Centre (Emergency Preparedness Week)
- Vancouver Island Emergency Preparedness Conference.

These are great venues at which to promote ESS and to encourage volunteerism.

In the Spring I had an opportunity to attend the Regional Meeting in Houston, BC (Region #6 Northwest). It was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed meeting all the enthusiastic volunteers that attended the meeting. It was a great opportunity to hear about the funding challenges of smaller communities which, I'm sure, is shared throughout the Province. I'm hoping to participate in many more Regional Meetings to meet more of the ESS Teams to identify other avenues for ESSA to support our volunteer organization.

I'd like to welcome **Jackie Kloosterboer** as the new Regional Representative for Region #2 Southwest Fraser Valley and to congratulate the following Regional Representatives who have accepted the position for an additional two-year term: **Rachel Minger** (Region #6 Northwest), **Jerrilyn Schembri** (Region #5 Northeast) and **Donna Grobell** (Region #4 Southeast East Kootenays). Also a big thank you to **Diane Clouten** (Region #1 Vancouver Island North) for extending her term until a replacement can be located! Our Regional Representatives are doing an incredible job but they do need your continued assistance in notifying them of your volunteer hours and any changes to contact information or your position in the ESS community. Thank you to the Regional Representatives and all the volunteers for your continued dedication and enthusiasm!

Thank you to the ESSA Board of Directors for their confidence in me for this position of Executive Director. I am enjoying the challenges of meeting and exceeding expectations but most of all, I enjoy working with all of the wonderful people associated with this organization. Thank you for your support!

Thank you, also, to the Emergency Social Services Program Office for their patience through this transition period (since May). As you may be aware, ESSA was awarded with contractual obligations identified in a Request for Proposal (RFP) in June 2003 and it is my hope and concern that all of these initiatives are fulfilled completely in a timely fashion.

I'd also like to welcome **Kerry Evans** to the ESSA Office in the position of Executive Assistant. Kerry first accepted this position as a temporary placement through an Office Temporary Agency and I'm so happy to have her on staff. Kerry will be performing office administrative duties as well as support to the Regional Representatives. Kerry also brings with her a vast knowledge of newsletter publishing and will have an opportunity to put that to great use at ESSA. Welcome aboard, Kerry!

Staff Report

Executive Assistant

Kerry Evans



In June I began a temporary position with Emergency Social Services (ESSA) as the Office Liaison. I jumped in with both feet and tackled the vast orders of cost-sharing requests not even fully knowing the true essence of the ESSA organization. In no time I was throwing around abbreviations such as BCERMS, ESSA, ESS, PEP, RRVSC, and ESSD just like I was part of the gang.

By the second month I was having heart-to-hearts with **Bob Kennedy**, **Jerrilyn Schembri**, and other Regional Reps all over the Province. Trips to the post office were daily to get all the t-shirt and license plate requests to the volunteers eager to promote Emergency Social Services (ESS). Orders have slowed down but are still steady. We do have some license plates left so please email me if you would like to receive some.

I attended my first Regional Representative conference call as an innocent bystander to the flow of ideas and genuine respect each representative has for their Region. By the second call I began to gain the confidence to provide information and field some questions. By the third call I was comfortable and felt as though I was able to provide answers to nearly all the questions and take minutes at the same time!

I arrived in time to catch the tail end of the Summer newsletter production and was very excited to start working on the Fall issue. Thank you to everyone who submitted your articles. I had a great time editing them and look forward to putting faces to the names on the stories, articles, and Regional recaps that I read. My background is Journalism and I have spent a considerable amount of time in the literary, newspaper, and newsletter production game and am thrilled that I will continue to have an opportunity to write, edit, and proofread the different publications that are developed through ESSA.

As part of my Regional Representative Liaison duties, I plan on attending the February Emergency Social Services Directors (ESSD) training at the Justice Institute and will be taking more training through Volunteer Vancouver such as "The Value of PR" and "Proposal Writing" so that I can better promote the ESSA and ESS names.

I hope that I will be able to support the Regional Representatives, as well as the ESSD's and Alternates in the Province to the best of my abilities.

Thank you to **Joan Smulders** who gives me daily pep talks on what a great job I am doing. Thanks to the Board of Directors and Regional Representative's who all sent me warm wishes upon hearing the news of my permanent position with ESSA as of September 1st. And thank you to the ESS Program Office who has been patient with me while I immersed myself into the discourse community that is ESSA and ESS. I look forward to continue supporting the different regions around the Province.

Committee Chairs' Reports

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor: Natalia Skapski



This year, the Newsletter Committee has made an effort to focus on our readers. With every subsequent issue of mESSAges we are making a concerted effort to include articles that have a direct relevance to the Emergency Social Service (ESS) volunteer, Team Leaders, and Emergency Social Services Directors (ESSDs). We realize that this publication is about the many dedicated volunteers and without the efforts and activities of the volunteers and the Teams, we would have little to write about. mESSAges provides a vehicle for all of the ESS Teams to showcase what they are doing in their areas and how they've addressed some of the challenges they face.

The entire Newsletter Committee would like to thank everyone who has submitted an article, letter, or photograph. We want to continue to hear from you in the year to come. Please do not hesitate to share your triumphs and your challenges. Send us your articles, your photos, and your questions. If you have an idea for a regular column, send it in. We cannot guarantee that we can publish absolutely everything we get (only because we want to be fair to all the communities in our province and give everyone a chance to have something published) but we will certainly try our best!

Thanks for making this year a success.

Your Newsletter Committee:

Natalia Skapski (current editor)
JF Landry (past editor)
Gerry Blistein
Kerry Evans
Joan Smulders

SEMINAR COMMITTEE

Chair: Bill Andrews



The Seminar Program continues to be a benefit to the members of the Emergency Social Services Association (ESSA). Over the past year, seminars such as the Table Top Exercise facilitated by **Murray Bertram**, Disaster Child Care, and Food Safe have been a huge success.

On the average, ESSA hosts between 10 and 20 seminars each year. We expect that there will be at least four more seminars held this year. Those seminars include:

- We're Family Too! by **Deborah Silk**
- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention by **Bob Beckett**
- Food Safe – Level 1 (Basic) by **Dean Scovill**
- Canadian Disaster Child Care by **Donna Grobell**

The Seminar Program continues to support ESS volunteers to be better-trained and fully prepared to face disasters head on when the time comes. The next issue of the seminar catalogue is currently in production and will be available by the end of the calendar year. The Committee is more than willing to add any new topics and/or presenters to the list of seminars offered.

Thanks to all the Regional Representative's who have worked hard to provide their regions with informative and exciting seminars this past year.

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Chair: Wendy Bennett



The Ways & Means Committee members for 2003/2004 were **Larry Pearce**, **Colleen Vaughan**, **Bryan Larrabee**, and **Wendy Bennett**, along with Emergency Social Services (ESSA) Staff support from **Joan Smulders**.

As a Committee, our mandate is to:

- Develop and maintain operational funding guidelines
- Provide recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding funding sources and disbursement of funds
- Nurture relationships with, and recognize contributions made by sponsors
- Investigate and organize potential fundraising initiatives.

The end result for all of our objectives is to increase the awareness and support for Emergency Social Service volunteers around the Province.

Our greatest challenges remain:

- Seeking out new and innovative ways to raise additional funds
- Increase awareness of Emergency Social Services (ESS) volunteers, and the important role they fill in our Province.

Over the past number of years we have explored a variety of means to raise additional funds: corporate sponsorships; partnerships, and/or affiliations; grants; charitable donations etc. Our biggest success has been achieved through

the Gaming Commission Grant, but we're still developing the other strategies, and as the profile of ESSA and the overall ESS Program grows, so does the odds of acquiring additional funds.

In 2003/2004, through its cost-sharing program with communities, ESSA was able to match communities contributions towards the purchase of ESS related equipment and/or materials in 58 communities. These communities were able to purchase items such as Reception Centre kits, radios, blankets, Group Lodging cots, t-shirts, and registrations for the Emergency Preparedness (EP) Conference. The Gaming Funds contributed significantly towards ESS based programs, allowing for improved support and recognition of the many volunteers.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication and your undying willingness to make a difference!!!

REGIONAL REPS/VOLUNTEER SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chair: Diana Krimmer

With the main focus this year being black hole communities, Regional Representatives continue to support and address expansion of Emergency Social Services (ESS) Teams in their regions. This has brought about newly formed ESS Teams in Bear Lake just north of Prince George, Armstrong, Spallumcheen, Enderby, Tofino, Fraser-Fort George regional district, and Sparwood/Elkford. Regional Reps have been very successful soliciting for ESSA memberships this year.



Should there be a maximum term of service for Regional Representatives? It is always valuable and important to ask for input and listen to the responses from those that it impacts the most. The Committee put together a survey that asked for Regional Representative's (RRs) and Emergency Social Services Directors (ESSDs) to participate. Majority indicated limiting the number of terms is preferred. The Regional Reps/volunteer Support Committee (RRVSC) would like to see a maximum of three two-year terms with the option of the outgoing RR continuing on if there is no other interest shown. A mentoring concept to assist the new RR would also be of value.

In addition to annual evaluations of each Regional Representative, the RRVSC updated/reviewed the evaluation form and also the letter inviting ESSDs to apply for outgoing RR positions.

Change in the Regions: **Tracy Barry** took on the position as RR for Southeast-West Kootenays upon **Vicky Chipman's** resignation in Nov 2003. **Janet Andrews** retired as RR for Southwest (Fraser Valley) with **Jackie Kloosterboer** filling the position. **Diane Clooten** indicated her desire to step down. As a replacement was not available at the end of her term, she was kind enough to stay on for a few more months. **Rachel Minger & Jerrilyn Schembri** are staying on for another 2-yr term. Although not a RR, I feel it is important to acknowledge the change of personnel in the ESSA office; the person that really keeps this committee in line. I think you will agree, **Joan Smulders** does a super job keeping us all on our toes!

The support and voice that each Region Representative exercises is heard by the committee and we will continue to assist in any way we can.....that is our commitment to you!

BUCHANAN & Co. *
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REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

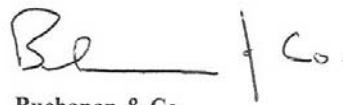
To the Directors,
Emergency Social Services Association of British Columbia,
New Westminster, Canada

We have reviewed the statement of financial position for the Emergency Social Services Association of British Columbia as at March 31, 2004 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the association.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Surrey, Canada
May 26, 2004



Buchanan & Co.,
Chartered Accountants