



# 2024-25 Annual Report



Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society is located on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and support families on these lands.

Prepared by:

Mount Pleasant Family Centre Team

# Board of Directors Executive Committee's Message



Leslie Mitton, Chair



Elizabeth Magai, Treasurer



Lauren Florko, Secretary

As the Board of Directors, our 2024/25 focus was to advance the goals outlined in our 2023-2026 strategic plan:

- Deliver inclusive programs and services that address community needs and service gaps
- Increase awareness and promotion of MPFCS as a "hidden gem"
- Strengthen staff, volunteer, and board resilience
- Establish consistent, reliable, and diverse funding streams

Key accomplishments include:

## **Building a Resilient Volunteer Board**

- Confirmed 7 board members at the AGM (Leslie, Lauren, Elizabeth, Sarah, Haley, Rafaeli, Jessica); welcomed 2 interim members in 2025 (Ogi, Shama)
- Appointed executive volunteers: Chair (Leslie), Secretary (Lauren), Treasurer (Elizabeth)
- Enhanced training and onboarding
- Conducted governance and staff engagement surveys
- Updated governance materials and by-laws for improved effectiveness

## **Enabling Committees**

- Assigned volunteer Chairs: Governance (Leslie), Human Resources (Lauren), Finance (Elizabeth), Fundraising (Sarah), Communications (Jessica)
- Confirmed committee members, including broader membership and staff for Fundraising and Communications

## **Promoting MPFCS**

- Increased social media activity
- Finalized sponsorship packages
- Held meetings with city officials and MLAs to build support

## **Strengthening Funding Streams**

- Completed fundraising event
- Engaged sponsors
- Held successful silent auction
- Finance Chair and ED collaborated on grant opportunities
- Partnered with community organizations to position MPFCS for grants

Despite challenges from the cancellation of our Circles of Care & Connection program in March 2025, the passion and support from staff, members, and the community remained strong. Together, we delivered a successful fundraising event and a member-led GoFundMe campaign. We remain committed to building sustainable funding while meeting the evolving needs of our community. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the MPFCS community!

# Executive Director's Report

Sanja Sladojevic



Last fiscal year brought significant and unexpected changes for the Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society. The year began with all programs and services running smoothly, welcoming numerous families with young children at both our Family Centre in Robson Park and at the ISSofBC Welcome Centre, where our Circles of Care and Connection (CCC) Early Years Refugee Program was located.

The number of new families attending our drop-in programs increased substantially, by almost 40% compared to the previous fiscal year. Our Dads' Drop-in program also experienced notable growth, with visits rising by more than 35%, while Baby Drop-in saw an increase of over 25%. At the same time, the CCC team continued to provide much needed support to newly arrived refugee families, both during their temporary accommodation and as they transitioned into permanent housing.

In the summer of 2024, our beloved Robson Park building underwent a major facelift. Thanks to several capital grants, we now have a new roof, exterior painting, new shutters, and a bike rack.

Unfortunately, at the end of 2024, we received notice that, like many other settlement organizations, we would no longer receive federal funding for our Early Years Refugee Program, which had served hundreds of refugee families for over 15 years. The CCC team worked tirelessly to help families find ongoing support. Saying goodbye to the amazing team at the end of March was especially difficult. The Society lost more than half of its staff: seven full-time employees and nearly 20 on-call staff, including interpreters for many languages.

In response to these funding changes, many efforts were made to find new ways to continue offering programs at the Family Centre. It has been inspiring to witness our participants, staff and the wider community come together, organizing fundraising activities, exploring new funding sources, connecting us with potential sponsors and donors, and sharing how much the Centre means to families with young children. If you have any new fundraising ideas or know someone who would be able to help us keep our programs running smoothly, we would love to hear from you!

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our incredible Board of Directors, committees, funders, sponsors, donors, members, volunteers, and participants. Together, we are committed to making sure children and families can continue to enjoy a wide range of high-quality programs for many years ahead. And in case you have not heard - next year our Centre will celebrate its 50th anniversary!

# Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society at a Glance

**Founded:**

August 13, 1976

**Mission:**

Creating safe spaces that inspire and support families to build caring relationships, with their children, each other and the community.

**Vision:**

A thriving, welcoming child and family community where we connect, share, learn and grow.

**Values:**

Connection, Respect, Inclusivity, Diversity, Kindness and Play

## Family Drop-In

In 2024-2025

- 454 new families started using our programs & services
- 190 families became members of our society
- Our Family Drop-in offered 296 sessions 9,494 visits were recorded (5,108 child visits and 4,386 adult visits)
- Dad's Drop-in ran 42 sessions with 925 adult visits and 1026 child visits
- 50 sessions of Baby Drop-in were offered and 647 adult visits and 632 child visits were recorded

We offered 400+ program sessions representing more than 800 hours of programming. Altogether, there were 11,868 visits to our programs - 5,230 adult visits and 6,638 children visits.

Children supported

1,500+



# Family Drop-In

## Special Programs

- ABC Kindergarten Readiness
- Music Therapy
- Jump into Music with Monica Lee
- Developmental Movement
- Yoga for New Moms

## Special Events

- The Canada Together celebration was attended by 126 adults and 152 children
- 91 adults & 131 children attended our Picnic in the Park
- 83 adults & 93 children came to our Christmas Party
- The Easter Party (on March 27th) was attended by 90 adults and 111 children

## Our Parent Groups/Education included:

- Circle of Security
- Nobody's Perfect
- Neufeld Making Sense of Preschoolers
- Gardening Group

Thanks to our partnerships with the Vancouver Public Library and Vancouver Coastal Health, community health nurses, dental hygienists, and librarians attended our Drop-In program. We also welcomed musical performers, and Indigenous guest storytellers and elders.

The guest speakers during our Baby Drop-In, offered every Thursday afternoon included:

- Pelvic Health physiotherapist
- Sleep consultant
- Mom and baby yoga teacher
- Librarian
- Community Health nurses
- Dental Hygienist

Thanks to several capital grants our building now has:

- New roof
- Exterior painting
- Shutters
- Bike rack

Program  
sessions  
offered

**400+**



Program  
hours

**800+**



Visits

**12,800+**

# Circle of Care and Connection Program

Home Visiting Program - long term (for families living in Vancouver) and short term (for families in other parts of the Metro Vancouver)

- 106 families served
  - 339 clients (186 adults/153 children)
  - 285 bridging supports to community resources
  - 680 referrals to settlement and community services
  - 255 home visits
  - 115 accompaniments
- 11 Parent Orientation sessions serving 168 clients (63 adults/105 children)

## Playroom

- 59 families - 223 clients (157 children and 66 adults) attended the playroom
- Sarah School of Music to added a fun addition on some Monday afternoons
- Feelings through Art Program ran weekly on Tuesday afternoon
- Healthy Meals Together ran once a month on Fridays
- Welcomed families from Afghanistan, Syria, Congo, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Myanmar and Venezuela

## Special events:

- 4 Farmer's Market outings for over 40 families
  - 49 clients attended our special events: Canada Together, Picnic in the Park and Winter Wonderland
- Partnerships with Farmer's Market Nutrition Coupon Program, Salvation Army,
  - Donations from Quilting Group at Trout Lake and multiple individual families
  - The CCC team had 17 interpreters, offering support in 14 languages.



# Testimonials



“It was nice hearing other parents’ perspectives and experiences and realizing that I was not alone in experiencing certain difficulties”



“A wonderful place, my children love it very much. My little girl always wants to go to the playroom.”

“In a world where it can often be challenging to find hope, Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society’s Circles of Care and Connection Program has proven to be a paragon of hope and safety for those who need it the most. I am deeply humbled by your dedication and thankful for your life-saving assistance.”



“We know so many people in the community whose children, and now grandchildren, attended the Family Centre, and have fond memories of it.”

“The work and care you put in to support so many families, including those that are new to Canada, including the program for children at ISS, are very much appreciated.”



“We so enjoy visiting the Centre each time. You make this place warm and special. Thank you for always welcoming us with such big smiles.”

“Every time we come to the Family Centre, we are greeted so warmly, we always feel so welcome and happy to see everyone!”

# Our Board

Leslie Mitton, Chair  
 Elizabeth Magai, Treasurer  
 Lauren Florko, Secretary  
 Sarah Chu, Director  
 Jessica Kim, Director  
 Haley Hunt-Bronswin, Director  
 Rafaeli Whitteker, Director  
 Ogi Radoicic, Director  
 Shama Patel, Director



# Our Staff

Sanja Sladojevic	Manjit Garcha
Karen Robles	Farnaz Karimizadeh
Katie Stevenson	Narsmeen Sahim
Flora Purcell	Rashida Samar
Maria Luz Fernandez	Gracie Van Cer Hluan
Ewa Paciorek	Jehan Yousif
Alma Tuliao	Nadiya Shirazi
Hafsah Zeyan	Razia Waziri



# Our Funders and Community Partners

