



Winter Newsletter Saanich Neighbourhood Place

As the year 2022 draws quickly to a close, I am reflecting on the past year at Saanich Neighbourhood Place, and boy, have we been busy. As always, we have had our share of unique challenges to contend with but, as the days get shorter and cooler – and wetter. We at SNP sincerely hope that you find ways to enjoy the winter season soon upon us. Saanich Neighbourhood Place offers programs across the District of Saanich, as many of our families live at some distance from our main locations at 3100/3120 Tillicum, with locations in the Royal Oak area and also at Cedar Hill X at Shelbourne.

This fall we passed the first anniversary of the opening of our **SNP Child and Family Centre**, which provides care for as many as 49 little ones each day. We are fortunate to have a great team of dedicated Educators in those programs, and are excited to have five adult learners completing their full qualifications through the Work Integrated Learning program at Camosun College. Students are sponsored by SNP and Camosun College, and will be fully qualified ECEs upon completion. The Child and Family Centre is also home to the 'Nurturing Connections' program, offered by Island Health. We have opened our space to the Gorge Tillicum Community Association and the Gorge Tillicum Urban Farmers for meetings, along with other occasional user groups.

Family Support Services have been exceptionally busy in the past few months. This is an ongoing trend as more people come to us for information, resources and support. Our youth support, pre/post-natal and family support programs are working hard to address the needs of the community even as those needs become more complex and acute. The Fall saw a very full program calendar offered, with more people attending groups than we've seen in a while. We also offered some new programming specifically for dads that we hope to continue in the new year. Upcoming programs and registration information are posted on the website at www.snplace.org and our social platforms.

Our **Food Equity** work is in high demand, now that most restrictions have been relaxed. Kitchen classes are busy, Family Dinner on Wednesday serves about 20 families each week. The Victoria Harbourside Rotary Club made a generous donation to support our "Lunches for Little Ones" program, Island Health provided