

BLOCK PARENT[®] PROGRAM
of CANADA INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Block Parent[®] Program is to provide immediate assistance through a safety network and to offer supportive community education programs.

President's Message:

The Block Parent[®] Program of Canada, Inc. would like to recognize and thank the many Block Parent[®] volunteers who continue to promote the Program and increase our numbers across the country.

In 2014, the Block Parent[®] Program of Canada held their Annual Symposium and AGM in Richmond, BC. I would like to acknowledge our Vice President for an excellent job in procuring our location and the planning of sessions from arms length. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed their time in BC.

We had two police led workshops focusing on Cyber- bullying and an Anti Gang program which operates in Abbotsford BC. Cst. Mike Byrne of Cape Breton Regional Municipal Police informed those in attendance about a new Cyber bullying law that has been passed in Nova Scotia. The law (April 2013) now makes the person doing the bullying (or their parent) take responsibility for their actions. Most of the time this law is applied in a civil way, but failure to comply with the judicial order to cease as a result of a hearing or the nature of the offense, could result in criminal action.

Sgt. Mike Novakowski of the Abbotsford Police gave a very informative presentation that addressed the actions that have been taken locally to reduce the impact of gang related violence in Abbotsford. The campaign targets at risk youth, parents, kindergarten students, middle school (grade 6-8) students as well as high school students. Part of the messaging is about positive choices not "what not to do". Abbotsford has seen significantly reduced statistics resulting from this Program.

Our AGM would not be complete without our annual presentation from our Co-Operators Liaison, Jayne Russell. Jayne kept the audience in stitches with some of her stories but also provided yearly information about the Co-operators and what had taken place in the past year. She was very pleased to announce that in 2013, Maclean's magazine named 3 co-operatives to the Top 50 socially responsible organizations – Desjardins, Van City and the Co-operators.

At our annual awards dinner we presented awards and recognition for outstanding efforts on behalf of the Block Parent[®] Program.

A 5 year service pin was presented to Janet Fletcher. The Alberta Block Parent[®] Association received a plaque recognizing 35 years of promoting the Program in their province. George and Geri Jarvis from the Winnipeg Block Parent[®] Program were presented with an embossed plaque recognizing 36 years of providing outstanding service to community safety with the Block Parent[®] Program.

In 2014 the Block Parent[®] Program of Canada used social media to offer a variety of information and tips that may be of interest to our members. This has proven to be a very worthwhile communication tool. Please let us know if you like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/blockparent.

Thanks to our friends in the media two new Programs have begun on the West Island in Quebec. A story ran on the local news which generated overwhelming inquiries. The Programs are up and running with the assistance of Francine Chartrand, a Director on the National Board.

I would like to thank our National sponsor The Co-operators and specifically Jayne Russell for her continued support of our Program in many ways.

I would like to acknowledge the Department of Public Safety for their continued financial support of our Program for core funding.

I would also like to thank the members of the National Board Mike Byrne, Francine Chartrand, Tara Mondou, Lynn Squance and Lorna Spargo for the hard work and support they have given to the Program and to me over the past year.

In closing I would like to thank our office staff, Carolyn Van Wort, Office Manager and Janet Fletcher, Provincial Liaison, for their dedication to our Program. Both of these women continue to go above and beyond what is asked of them.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS for 2014:

Annual General Meeting and Training Symposium:

The Annual General Meeting and Symposium was held in Richmond, BC on May 9 -10th. Michael Byrne, working with the National Office, played a key role in the success of the Symposium. BPPCI once again planned the Symposium and AGM remotely without a local committee in place.

The first day of the Symposium was dedicated to presentations.

A presentation was made by Michael Byrne on the Nova Scotia Cyber-bullying Act. The Province of Nova Scotia had been working on an Act for two years prior to the death of Rehtaeh Parsons. The young woman's death was the impetus to release the legislation quickly.

The law (April 2013) now makes the person doing the bullying (or their parent) take responsibility for their actions. Most of the time this law is applied in a civil way, but failure to comply with the judicial order to cease as a result of a hearing or the nature of the offense, could result in criminal action. The Province now has the power to deal with cases. The overall intent is to change the behaviour before it becomes a criminal problem. Currently, Nova Scotia is the only Province that has implemented legislation to address cyber-bullying.

A presentation was also made by Sgt. Mike Novakowski of the Abbotsford Police Department that addressed the actions that have been taken locally to reduce the impact of gang related violence in Abbotsford. Since 1999, gang related homicides have increased

600%. Half of all homicides committed with a firearm were gang-related in 2009 and 30% of all BC homicides were gang-related.

A program of increased awareness has been undertaken with specific goals.

- Targeted suppression – high level gang operators taken out
- Gang intervention – gang involved youth separated from gang friends sometimes by getting them out of town
- Secondary prevention – high risk youth
- Primary prevention - all youth

Abbotsford is seeing significantly reduced statistics resulting from this Program.

Both of the presentations were very well received and generated questions and discussion among the delegates.

National Block Parent[®] Week:

The theme for National Block Parent[®] Week in 2014 was “Block Parent[®] Volunteers: Making our streets safe day and night”.

Business Block Parent[®] Program:

The Business Block Parent[®] Program has been promoted by Co-operators to all of their advisors across Canada. This effort has resulted in 98 advisor locations being active Business Block Parent[®] locations. BPPCI has a dedicated contact for the Co-operators in the National Office to field questions and continue to work to promote the Business Block Parent[®] Program to the advisors across Canada. To date nearly all of the Co-operators advisors in Saskatchewan and Quebec have become Business Block Parent[®] locations. The Block Parent[®] guidelines for a business location, access and police checks have not changed. A window decal with a unique serial number is provided by the National Office once all the criteria for becoming a Business Block Parent[®] are met.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Program is characterized by a close working relationship with police, government departments, education and other community partners. This ongoing partnership is the basis for the continued success of the Program across Canada with the National and Provincial/Territorial boards or committees having a police liaison.

The BPPCI Board of Directors is committed to working with and supporting all levels of the Program on a personal level, by providing and circulating printed materials and public service announcements and by fostering effective communication. BPPCI received 304 requests from across Canada for information on how to start a Program.

BPPCI continues to search for new partnership opportunities while fostering existing partnerships.

The National Block Parent[®] Program is contacted throughout the year by individuals or groups internationally who are interested in starting up a local Program. A package of background information of the Program containing helpful tips in Program start-up, forms, sample brochures etc., is distributed upon request. The most recent International requests have come from the United States and England. Linda Patterson was interviewed by UK media personnel, fielding questions and providing expertise to help in establishing a Block Parent[®] Program in London.

NATIONAL FUNDING

BPPCI is extremely grateful to Public Safety Canada for the support received in 2014. The core funding provided is crucial to maintaining the viability of the Block Parent[®] Program in Canada.

The Co-operators:

The Co-operators support of BPPCI while initially based on funding support has grown to include much more.

- \$ 70,000 in funds;
- Support and expertise offered on an ongoing basis;
- Assistance with the design and production of printed materials; and
- Commitment to register their advisors, across Canada, as Business Block Parent[®] Program locations.

BPPCI values this partnership and the continued support that The Co-operators has provided to the Program over the years.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The Board of Directors of the Block Parent[®] Program of Canada Inc. would like to thank all of our Block Parents for the hard work, effort and dedication to the Program that they have given over the years.

Throughout the year, over 10.4 million volunteer hours were provided by Block Parent[®] members in their homes with an additional 1.2 million volunteer hours provided by the Co-operators advisor locations, daycare centres in Quebec and other business locations in Canada. You make the Program possible and it is very much appreciated.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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| President: | Linda Patterson - Oromocto, NB |
| Vice-President: | Michael Byrne - Reserve Mines, Cape Breton, NS |
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| International Partners | Safer Communities Australia - Unley, South Australia Parents-Secours Belgium – Liege, Belgium |
| Police Advisor: | RCMP - Ottawa, ON |
| National Office: | 7-50 Dunlop Street East Barrie, Ontario L4M 6J9 Phone/Fax: (705) 792-4245 E-mail: info@blockparent.ca; Web Site: www.blockparent.ca |
| Auditor: | Christian Pagenkopf Chartered Accountants – Calgary, AB |
| Annual General Meeting: | Saturday, May 9, 2015 – 3:30 PM Best Western Plus Denham Inn & Suites 5207 – 50 th Avenue Leduc, AB T9E 6V3 |

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Block Parent[®] Volunteers:

Making our streets safe day and night.