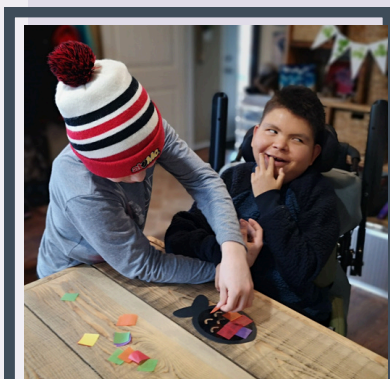
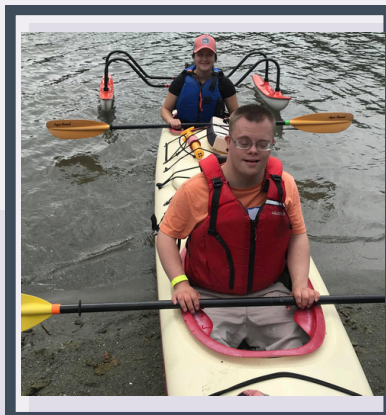


# Annual Report

2025 - 2026



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# CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This past year has been a challenging one for Vela and for the families and individuals we support throughout British Columbia.

We have seen a number of changes in policies, funding practices, and service delivery expectations that directly impact families who are accessing Community Living BC (CLBC) funding and navigating self-directed supports. These changes have created uncertainty for many families as they work to understand evolving requirements, plan for the future, and ensure their loved ones continue to receive the support they need.

One of the most significant developments has been the implementation of the Person Centred Societies Framework through CLBC. As this new framework continues to roll out across the province, many families and societies have sought guidance in understanding their responsibilities, governance obligations, and the practical implications of these changes. As a result, Vela has experienced a significant increase in requests for support, consultation, and mentoring from the societies impacted by these updates – giving us an opportunity to connect with many Microboards we don't hear from regularly. With the framework implementation, we have also been able to expand our supports beyond just Microboards to also include Person Centred Societies that reach out for guidance, helping families navigate complex systems while maintaining their focus on person-centred values.

At the same time, the broader disability support sector continues to face ongoing pressures. Workforce shortages, increasing administrative requirements, rising operating costs, and challenges recruiting and retaining qualified support staff have all created additional burdens for families and societies. Many families are finding themselves spending more time on administration, compliance, and planning, while also balancing the day-to-day realities of caregiving and support coordination.

Despite these challenges, what continues to inspire us is the resilience and determination demonstrated by the individuals, families, and societies we work alongside. Time and again, we have witnessed people coming together to solve problems, share knowledge, advocate for their loved ones, and build creative solutions that strengthen their communities.

Throughout the year, Vela has remained committed to providing practical support, mentorship, education, and resources to help families confidently navigate an increasingly complex environment. Whether through one-on-one consultations, educational

opportunities, governance support, or community connections, our goal remains the same: to empower individuals and families to direct their own supports and live meaningful, self-determined lives.

While the road has not always been easy, these challenges have also highlighted the strength of the self-directed support community. Families continue to demonstrate remarkable perseverance, innovation, and commitment to creating inclusive lives for their loved ones. Their dedication serves as a powerful reminder of why this work matters.

As we look ahead, we recognize that change and uncertainty will likely continue. However, we also move forward with confidence, knowing that the foundation of our community is built on collaboration, resilience, and a shared belief that people with disabilities deserve choice, control, and the opportunity to live lives of their own design.

## **Acknowledgments**

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated and passionate staff. Their tireless efforts, commitment, and resilience form the very foundation of what makes Vela so extraordinary. Time and again, they go the extra mile to deliver outstanding care and support to our individuals and families, making an immeasurable impact. Throughout the challenges of this past year, we have been incredibly fortunate to navigate and connect alongside such a strong, collaborative team.

We are also incredibly grateful to our Board of Directors for always showing up with strong leadership, great advice, and solid support.

To the members of Vela, your support and kind words year after year are unmeasurable. Please accept our gratitude. Together, we will continue to adapt, grow, and collaborate for a future where person-centred supports remain strong, sustainable, and accessible for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Thomas and Caitlin Goodsell  
Co-Executive Directors



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Introduction

I am pleased to provide this report to Vela's members and community on behalf of your Board of Directors. This year's board was comprised of six members that includes family members, self-advocates, non-familial Microboard members, and ones connected through Individualized Funding (IF). All of us are deeply committed to Vela's work.

Our strategic goals continue to be about ensuring Access, Sustainability, Innovation, Collaboration, and Good Governance. Our vision is for communities where people with disabilities are empowered to take greater control of their lives through self-directed living. Vela empowers people with disabilities and their support networks on their journey to lead enriched, self-directed lives. We achieve this through innovation, passion, and person-centered philosophy.

## Nominations Committee

We have some movement within the Board this year. Barb Warkentine is stepping down after eight years of dedicated service, and we thank her sincerely for her contributions. Paul Thomas, Dayna Wilson, Catrina Thomas, Rebecca Pauls, and I will remain. I appreciate the Board's commitment to ensuring people with diverse abilities can live self-directed lives. The Nominations Committee is actively recruiting new Board members, please contact Kim, Caitlin, or me if you're interested in serving.

## Conclusion

Kim and Caitlin have led Vela's service expansion and significantly enhanced sustainability. It has been a privilege to work with Kim and Caitlin as they advance Vela's mission and vision. The Board is grateful for their expertise, dedication, and the invaluable support they provide. I deeply appreciate our mentors, whose support to families is central to Vela's work. I also acknowledge Vela members and my fellow directors. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Vela.

You can learn more about [Vela's Board of Directors on Vela's website](#).

Sincerely,  
Dallas Hinton  
Board President

# VELA'S TEAM



Kim Thomas  
Co-Executive Director



Caitlin Goodsell  
Co-Executive Director



Terry Robertson  
Mentor



Lori Cochrane  
Mentor



Yvonne van Oort  
Mentor



Alison Found  
Mentor



Angela Branch  
Mentor

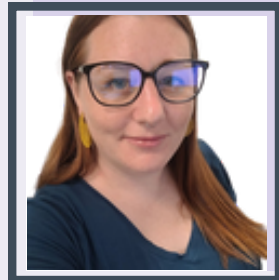


Alexi McGreer  
Communications & Marketing

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dallas Hinton  
President



Dayna Wilson  
Secretary/Treasurer



Paul Thomas  
Director



Barb Warkentine  
Director



Rebecca Pauls  
Director



Catrina Thomas  
Director

# NEW INCORPORATED MICROBOARDS

**LOWER MAINLAND**

**23**

**VANCOUVER ISLAND /  
SUNSHINE COAST**

**12**

**NORTHERN BC**

**2**

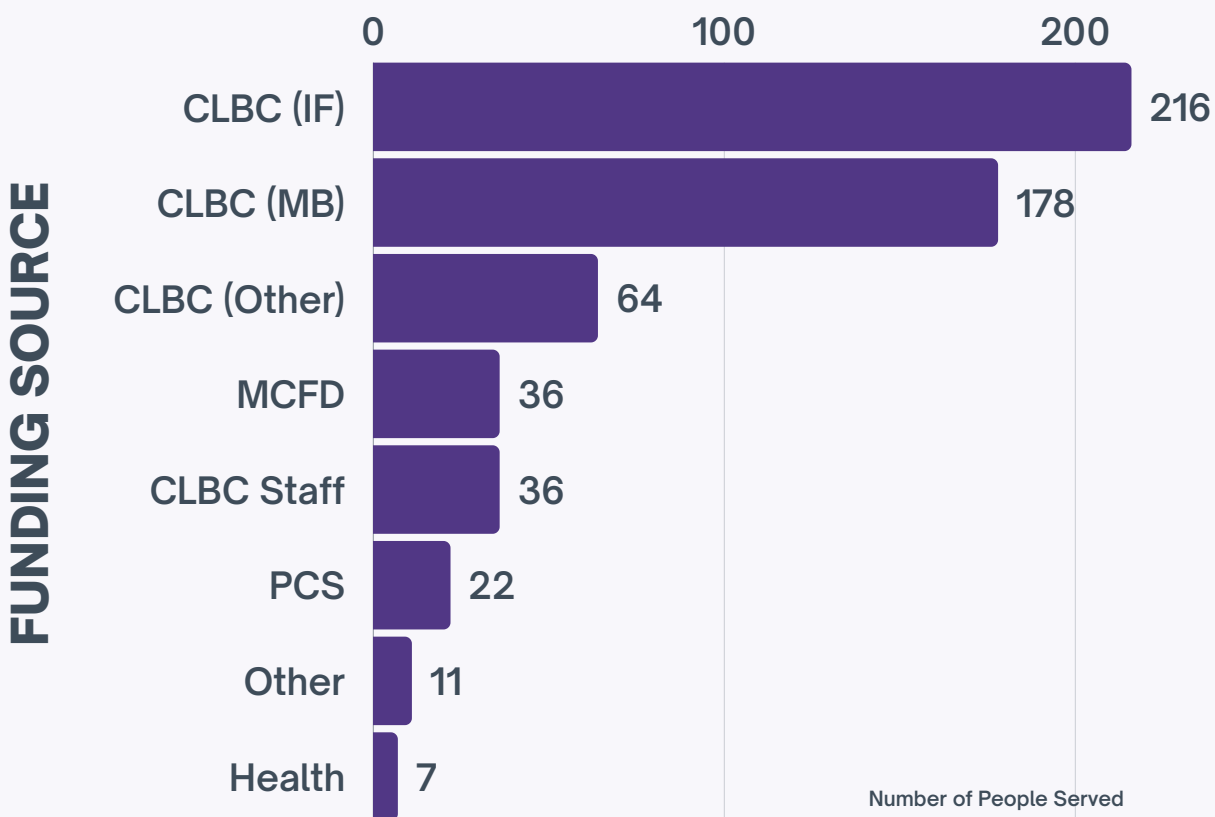
**OKANAGAN / KOOTENAYS**

**10**

**TOTAL**  
**NEW INCORPORATED**  
**MICROBOARDS**

**47**

# PEOPLE SERVED BY FUNDING SOURCE



CLBC = Community Living BC

IF = Individualized Funding

MB = Microboard

PCS = Person Centred Society

**TOTAL**  
**PEOPLE SERVED**

**570**

# CONNECTING THROUGH EVENTS



**TOTAL  
VELA EVENT  
ATTENDEES**

**672**

# NEW WEBSITE

## WWW.VELACANADA.ORG

We have a new website! The goal of a new website was to make it more accessible to all users, incorporate person centred societies to our services, and make the website more intuitive to the people and families we support.

[Explore our new website here.](#)

# SUPPORT WORKER CENTRAL

In partnership with the Family Support Institute of BC and funded by the Government of BC, Support Worker Central (SWC) is a free province-wide job board where people with disabilities and their support systems can find staff, while people looking for work can find jobs as a support worker. The updated job board has been successfully running for over three years.

## SUPPORT WORKERS (People Looking for Work)

The number of people *Registered* is the total of active and inactive job seekers. The number of *Active Profiles* is the number of people currently using the platform to find work.

### REGISTERED

April 2025	→	April 2026
4,356		6,859

### ACTIVE PROFILES

May 2025	→	May 2026
2,169		2,101

## FAMILIES / INDIVIDUALS (People Hiring)

*Registered* is the total amount of families/individuals who have registered with SWC. The *Job Postings* are the current number of available job postings.

### REGISTERED

April 2025	→	May 2026
2,332		2,900

### JOB POSTINGS

April 2025	→	April 2026
New Jobs		New Jobs
127		233

Learn more at [www.supportworkercentral.ca](http://www.supportworkercentral.ca).

# DONORS AND FUNDERS

## DONORS

A. Greene	G. Oseki	T. Ferworn
A. Mathieson	J. Ennis	V. Cook
A. McGreer	J. Jensen	V. Nosella
A. Pope	J. Lee	W. Weeks
B. Chipman	L. Paynter	
C. Caulfield	M. Norton	Family Ties
C. Johnson	P. Ip	Support Society
C. Labele	P. Nystrom	
C. Simpson	P. Utendale	
D. Hall	R. Thiessen	
D. Wilson	S. Alou	
E. Hogg	S. Tang	

## MONTHLY DONORS

C. Goodsell  
E. Thomas  
T. Babiuk

## CORPORATE DONORS

G3 Consulting

## FUNDERS



## HOW THE MONEY IS USED

