

2019 Annual Report

Quick facts about ACT in 2019

**Over 136,000 people visited nearly 400,000 pages on
www.actcommunity.ca**



Autism Information Database

AID Information Searches: 15,000
BC Community Resource Searches: 15,500
Resource pages viewed: 64,000



Autism Videos @ ACT

60 online videos available 24/7
20 new videos added in 2019
36,000 plays of ACT's videos
4,500 hours of video watched



ACT Training & Events

7 events – in person and web streamed across Canada
20,000 hours of training delivered to 2,700 attendees



ACT News on Facebook

6,500 followers; over 700 posts were published in 2019, an average of 2 posts daily featuring a curated balance of news, research and community updates.



ACT's Email Newsletter

8,000 subscribers received 65 editions of ACT's News Round-Up in 2019, with resource and event updates, as well as news.



AGM REPORT 2019

EMAILED TO ACT'S MEMBERSHIP
AUGUST 14, 2020

DEBORAH PUGH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ACT - AUTISM COMMUNITY TRAINING

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AGENDA - 2019 AGM

AUGUST 19, 2020 – VIA ZOOM

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER | 6:30 |
| 2. WELCOMING MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY | |
| 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 2018 AGM (HELD JUNE 2019) | 6:35 |
| 4. PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – ALISON NAROD | 6:40 |
| 5. TREASURER’S REPORT– BRENT SHIRLEY | 6:45 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of 2019 Financial Statements (Appendix A)• Discussion of appointment of auditors for 2019 including motion to reappoint BBA Accounting Group. | |
| 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S 2019 REPORT - DEBORAH PUGH | 6:55 |
| 7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020/2021 | 7:05 |
| 8. APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS OF SOCIETY | 7:10 |
| 9. MOTION REQUIRED TO APPROVE ALL ACTIONS BY THE BOARD IN 2019 | 7:15 |
| <p>“Moved that...all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments made and taken by the directors of ACT Autism Community Training Society since January 1, 2018 referred to in the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meetings and the minutes of committee meetings be approved.”</p> | |
| 10. ADJOURNMENT: | 7:20 |

ACT'S 2018 AGM – DRAFT MINUTES

HELD JUNE 18, 2019 – VANCOUVER

Board Members in Attendance: Alison Narod, Alisa Lipson, Anne Stoll, Brent Shirley, Karen Kalynchuk, Pharid Jaffer

Board Members Regrets: Blair Whelan, Rajan Bains

General Members in Attendance: Anne Millerd, Dr. Brenda Fossett, Dr. Ken Cole, Dr. Rashmeen Nirmal, Sawsan Salih, Shannon Muir

Staff: Deborah Pugh, Linda Leung, Stephanie Porter

CALL TO ORDER 6:45

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 2017 AGM (HELD JUNE 2018) 6:49

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2017 AGM:

Moved by Brent Shirley; seconded by Anne Stoll; approved unanimously

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – ALISON NAROD 6:50

Looking back over my first year as President of ACT's Board of Directors, I am struck by what we accomplished in 2018, thanks to the network of community supporters who sustained ACT through a tough year of transitions and prepared us to meet the new challenges ahead.

At the end of 2018 we were considering whether to continue with our live training as these events are expensive and the response to a specific training can be unpredictable. Three factors inspired us to continue:

- Tremendous encouragement from community members who told us (repeatedly) that ACT's work is crucial to properly supporting the diverse training needs of the autism community – nearly 2,000 people, both parents and professionals, registered for 14 events in 2018, demonstrating the appetite for community-based training.
- A very successful end of year donations campaign led by parents Dr. Mary Ellen Ross and Blair Dwyer. They successfully challenged the autism community to match their donation of \$50,000 by Christmas Eve 2018. The nearly \$100,000 raised as the result of a tremendous community response enabled us to finish 2018 with a small surplus of nearly \$25,000. And we must not forget the 1st Herring for Autism Sale in January 2018, initiated by parents Anne McCaw and Mike Rekis, owner of Oceanside Fisheries. Their generosity started off 2018 with a significant boost to our fundraising efforts.
- Also critical, was the response of our community partners, including Dr. Michelle Schmidt of the Surrey School District, Dr. Georgina Robinson of POPARD, Dr. Grace Iarocci of Simon Fraser University and Drs. Karen Bopp and Pat Mirenda of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Autism (CIRCA) at UBC. These community leaders have either reinforced long-standing partnerships or developed new ones with ACT, which has enabled ACT to continue to provide our vital information and training service to the autism community for the foreseeable future.

I would also like to acknowledge all those who contribute to ACT's work in so many ways. Event volunteers, our excellent presenters, all of our board members, and our many donors. We especially thank the many self-advocates in our community who participate in our panels and offer us valuable feedback. I also want to thank Rajan Bains for his two years of service to the community through membership on the Board. I am delighted that he has agreed to continue as a member of the society.

ACT - Autism Community Training exemplifies what is best about the work of not-for-profit societies: a profound understanding of the needs of the community they are committed to serve and the ability to draw on community partners, volunteers and donors to respond to changing community priorities. ACT is proud to have the support of our community to continue with our work.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2018 REPORT- DEBORAH PUGH

6:54

In 2018, ACT was able to refocus on the provision of our training and information resources, after spending most of 2017 ensuring that the transfer of our contracted services to the Ministry of Children and Family Development caused as little difficulty for parents as possible.

As ACT's President, Alison Narod, has acknowledged, our ability to continue has only been possible by the high level of community support from our registrants, individual donors, our presenters, our community partners and all our volunteers, from our board members, to event volunteers – including those who help us sell icy fresh herring every January! I would also like to acknowledge my fellow staff members who have done an outstanding job of focusing on the needs of autistic individuals and their families with compassion and a great deal of hard work. Their flexibility and creativity are inspiring.

We have continued to help individual families who contact us with referrals and information despite the limitations on our capacity, given that our staff is down to four people. We are saddened that we are no longer able to provide individual advocacy services, but we continue to encourage parents and autistic individuals by referring them to helpful resources. However, we acknowledge that advocacy support is very limited in British Columbia.

ACT still engages in selected global advocacy issues. In 2018 ACT initiated, with the support of many leaders within the autism community, a request to the leadership of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to work with us to address the appalling lack of publicly funded mental health services for adults with ASD and other developmental disabilities. This is a serious, long-standing issue province wide. We have been impressed by the level of engagement from VCH. This work is continuing into 2019.

TRAINING

ACT increased the range of training that we provided in 2018, providing presentations that addressed specific needs, relevant across the lifespan, that were evidence-informed, presented by expert researchers and clinicians with input from families and autistic individuals who shared their lived experience. ACT's focus has continued to be on the practical – translating research and clinical experience into training that informs and inspires.

An important part of ACT's engagement in training is that we do not support only one approach to autism treatment or focus on only one age group within the autism community. We recognize that the needs of individuals with ASD vary widely, depending on age, communication ability and co-occurring conditions. Families and professionals need access to a wide range of approaches to find what will work best for the person they are supporting.

Each 12 to 18 months, ACT focuses on a different area where more community-level education is required, based on our feedback from the community, including parents and professionals. From 2016-2018, ACT focused on mental health, working with community professionals to create the Online Mental Health and Autism Project, recording many of our live presentations and making them available as online videos. In 2018 we worked intensively on women and girls with autism. In 2019 our focus will be on school-age children with ASD – work that started with the conference on Positive Behavior Support in October 2018.

ACT held 14 training events in 2018, compared to eight in 2017, hosting nearly 2,000 event attendees as compared to 1,200 in 2017. Events were held in Surrey, Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria. See below for a complete list of trainings.

Of these 2,000 registrants, through web streaming five events, ACT was able to reach 700 registrants in their home communities. These included many participants from outside the Lower Mainland, from which it is expensive and/or time consuming to travel to Vancouver. This fulfills a major goal for ACT – making training available to all of British Columbia, cost-effectively.

In 2018, over 19,000 hours of training were provided, featuring provincial and international experts. This training is usually targeted, some is focused on parents, other on the needs of community professionals. However, many of our events attract registrants from across constituencies.

REVENUES FROM TRAINING

ACT's net revenue from training in 2018 was \$168,000, an increase on 2017 (\$130,000), thanks largely to the increased number of events and the continuing expansion of web streaming. The surpluses generated by our training helps ACT to cover overheads, including salaries, rent and office costs. In addition to live events, staff time was devoted to producing our free online resources, including 13 new online videos based on recordings of our live events – largely as part of the Online Mental Health and Autism Project (OMHAP).

BURSARIES

ACT provided a total of \$23,000 in event bursaries in 2018 to enable parents and professionals who could not afford the full cost of registration to attend. These were provided in the form of reduced registration fees. Providing these bursaries supports ACT in our goal of providing better equity of access to those who are on reduced income.

TREASURER'S REPORT– BRENT SHIRLEY

7:05

2018 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report (Appendix A)

Brent Shirley: Our independent auditor's, BBA Accounting Group Inc., have completed their audit of the 2018 Financial Statements. In the Auditor's Report, a clean opinion was given.

Recognition must be given to Linda Leung, our financial controller, for all her hard work throughout the year in maintaining our financial records and providing timely and accurate information to the Board.

Looking at the Statement of Operations, you can see the revenues were down about 25% from the previous year primarily due to the ending of the MCFD contract on July 1st, 2017; however, we managed to still have a small excess of revenues over expenditures at the end of the year. This is thanks to the large number of donations during our campaign at the end of 2018 and the careful management of our

expenses. For example, we moved to a smaller location which helped reduce our rent and associated operating costs. Overall, we are doing well.

Motion to accept the Auditor's report:

Moved by Shannon Muir, Seconded by Pharid Jaffer; Approved unanimously

DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2019

Motion to appoint BBA Accounting Group Inc., Chartered Professional Accountants as the auditors for 2019:

Moved by Brent, seconded by Karen; Approved unanimously.

ELECTION SLATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019/2020

7:15

EXECUTIVE:

President: Alison Narod - rejoined the board in 2017 - renewing for 1st of two-year term;
(2nd year as President)

Vice-President: Blair Whelan – joined in 2016 - renewing for 2nd of two-year term;
(2nd year as Vice- President)

Treasurer: Brent Shirley - appointed in 2017, starting 2nd of two-year term;
(2nd year as Treasurer)

Secretary: Anne Stoll – joined in 2016, starting 2nd of two-year term.
(3rd year as Secretary)

DIRECTORS:

Pharid Jaffer - joined in 2013, renewing for 2nd of two-year term

Alisa Lipson - joined in 2015, starting 1st of two-year term

Karen Kalynchuk - appointed in 2017, starting 2nd of two-year term

Motion to approve the election slate for board of directors for 2019/2020

Moved by Dr. Ken Cole; seconded by Shannon Muir; approved unanimously

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BYLAW CHANGE GOVERNING MEMBERSHIP

7:15

Alison Narod: Last month, we voted on an amendment of ACT's bylaws that allowed us to have more general members join our organization. Previously, our bylaws read that all members had to be members of the board. We now have a membership that is larger than our board of directors. We have changed our quorum requirements to match the model bylaws for societies. This was approved May 31, 2019 by special resolution.

Amendment of Bylaws

BE IT RESOLVED, as a special resolution, THAT:

1. The Bylaws of the Society be amended by deleting paragraph 17(3) in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

The quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is 3 voting members or 10% of the voting members, whichever is greater.

2. Any director of the Society, or the Society's agent, is authorized and directed on behalf of the Society to do any and all acts and things and to execute all further deeds, documents and other writings as the director or officer, in his or her sole discretion, may consider to be necessary, desirable or useful to carry out and give effect to the Bylaw amendment and to these resolutions.

MOTION REQUIRED TO APPROVE ALL ACTIONS BY THE BOARD IN 2018 7:18

"Moved that...all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments made and taken by the directors of ACT Autism Community Training Society since January 1, 2018 referred to in the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and the minutes of committee meetings be approved."

Moved by Ken Cole, seconded by Anne Stoll; approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:20

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Ken Cole, seconded by Shannon Muir; approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2019

Looking back over my first second year as President of ACT's Board of Directors, and from the vantage point of August 2020, I can see we were fortunate to have 2019 to stabilize both our financial and human resources in preparation for the challenges that COVID-19 is presenting.

In 2019 we rebuilt our training program after suspending it temporarily in 2018, following the instability triggered by the provincial government's sudden decision to end the community-based program of information and support that ACT had implemented for twelve years. Rather than giving up, we strengthened our relations with our sponsors from the education sector, including universities, and our committed donors, in addition to the BC experts who are the backbone of the training we feature.

We revamped our training program in 2019 so that all of our events were web streamed. While we had fewer events, we provided this training online across British Columbia and attracted a significance increase in registrants, many of whom were relieved to be spared the cost and time of travelling to Vancouver. Most of our 2019 events were recorded so that they can be watched, free of charge via Autism Videos @ ACT.

ACT's expertise in web streaming events has stood us in good stead but it was not the only resource that ACT rescued from potential oblivion. Our online key word searchable databases, the Autism Information Database and BC Community Resources were maintained by ACT in 2019, although we had no source of sustained funding to support them. Our successful application to BC's Community Gaming Fund at the end of 2019 has enabled us to ensure that this resource is available to the autism community during the current crisis where families have been driven to rely on online resources.

ACT is more than a staff of five – although they are a hardworking crew who have proven their resilience. Rather, ACT is a community effort, sustained by our supporters who value our contribution to those affected by autism enough to donate, advise us on all aspects of our work, volunteer for events [including selling icy herring in January], organize fundraisers, and become members of our Board of Directors.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank our two retiring board members, Anne Stoll and Pharid Jaffer, for their significant contributions. Anne has served for eight years and has been a very reliable Board Secretary. Her experience as a parent of a child with autism, and her professional training as a dietician, have helped to provide a broader range of expertise to ACT.

The longest serving member of our current board, Pharid Jaffer, has reached the limit our members can serve – eight years. During this time Pharid has provided his considerable expertise in computer systems and risk management. He helped ACT to develop a new contact management database and make the transition to working totally "in the cloud" which has been invaluable in preparing for the 2020 pandemic.

In conclusion, while 2020 is proving to present extraordinary challenges for all not-for-profits, we can see that the work done in 2019 will allow ACT to continue serving the autism community, as well as the broader special needs community.

Alison Narod

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2019

2019, as Board President Alison Narod has explained, was a year of consolidation for ACT after a very challenging transition. This was possible because of the collective efforts of our volunteers, our donors, our presenters and our community collaborators, who include a number of outstanding clinicians, educators and researchers, as well as parents and self-advocates. It is a privilege for ACT's staff to bring together this outstanding group of individuals to build resources that are accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of our community.

ADVOCACY SERVICES

We have continued to help individual families who contact us by providing referrals and information despite the limitations on our capacity to provide more intensive advocacy support. We did engage in two major advocacy efforts in 2019. By far the most significant case relates to the bizarre decision of the Ministry of Children and Families to take two young siblings into care, alleging that they did not really have autism and accusing the mother of emotional harm, even though they had been properly diagnosed; their therapy was orthodox and funded by MCFD's Autism Funding program. It was a nine-month struggle to have the children returned.

It is likely that they would still be in care without the strenuous efforts of Board President Alison Narod, who used her considerable skills as a lawyer to doggedly counter the allegations of MCFD in hearing after hearing. Critically important to their release were the expert opinions provided by Professor Anthony Bailey, Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia and Dr. Grace Iarocci, Professor of Psychology at Simon Fraser University. All three worked extremely hard, donating their time so that these children could be re-united with their mother.

ACT learned a great deal from the process of supporting this mother about the lack of understanding in at least one MCFD region about autism. Most importantly, we learned that MCFD's has a severe deficit in accountability when it comes to families falsely accused of child abuse, a deficit that is particularly problematic when it comes to children with autism whose behavior is often confusing to the uninformed. This is an issue that ACT is continuing to work on.

ACT still engages in selected global advocacy issues. In 2018 ACT initiated, with the support of many leaders within the autism community, a request to the leadership of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to work with us to address the lack of publicly funded mental health services for adults with ASD and other developmental disabilities. This work is continuing into 2020.

TRAINING

ACT held seven training events in 2019, across 10 days. [See below for a complete list of 2019 trainings]. This was down from the 14 provided in 2018. All seven events, held in Surrey and Vancouver, were web streamed to audiences across British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon.

A highlight of the year was our 2019 Focus on Research Gathering: Supporting Indigenous Families Affected by Autism through Engagement and Research – Co-Sponsored by SFU & Dwyer Tax Law. Supporting indigenous families supporting children with special needs is an area that ACT needs to focus more attention on as we plan for the future.

Despite hosting fewer events, ACT's 2019 training drew more attendees than in 2018 because of the accessibility of web streaming and because sponsorship from POPARD and the Surrey School District insured that we had large block bookings for educators. In 2019, 2,700 attendees participated in ACT events, compared to 2,000 in 2018. 75% of ACT's attendees in 2019 participated online via web stream. These included many participants from outside the Lower Mainland, who saved both on the cost of travel and time. This fulfills a major goal for ACT – making training available to all of British Columbia, cost-effectively. We were delighted to have registrants from as far afield as Port Hardy, Bella Coola, Terrace, Kimberly and Lillooet.

In 2019, nearly 20,000 hours of training were provided, featuring provincial and international experts. This training is usually targeted, some is focused on parents, other on the needs of community professionals. However, many of our events attract registrants from across constituencies. This is an overview of ACT registrants in 2019:

- 1,750 professionals, including Physicians, CLBC Facilitators, Social Workers, Psychologists, Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapists, Behavior Consultants and Teachers.
- 650 para-professionals from group homes, school districts and early intervention programs.
- 300 family members, including foster parents.

It is unusual for ACT's training to have such a low percentage of parent registrants – this reflects the focus in 2019 on events relevant to school-age children. However, parents are very appreciative when teachers have a greater understanding of autism as this lessens the pressure on the family to educate the educator.

TRAINING EVENTS IN 2019

Event Title	Presenter	City	Date
Two Social Thinking® Days for Young Children	Kari Zwebler Palmer	Vancouver & Web Streaming	April 11 & 12, 2019
Social Stories 10.2 with Carol Gray	Carol Gray	Surrey & Web Streaming	August 15 & 16, 2019
New Cutting Edge Strategies to Improve Executive Function Skills	Sarah Ward	Surrey & Web Streaming	September 25 & 26, 2019
POPARD's Gaining Student Co-operation: The First Step to Learning and Inclusion	Dr. Georgina Robinson and Alexandra Voroshina	Vancouver & Web Streaming	October 25, 2019
POPARD's Introduction to Navigating BC School System for Families with Children with ASD	Veena Birring Hayer	Vancouver & Web Streaming	November 15, 2019
ACT's 2019 Focus on Research Gathering: Supporting Indigenous Families Affected by Autism through Engagement and Research	Dr. Alison Gerlach, Diana Elliott, Dr. Grace Iarocci, Ramona Baxter, Rona Sterling Collins and Shannon Piedt	Vancouver & Web Streaming	November 22, 2019
POPARD's Introduction to Behaviour and Mental Health for Families with Children with ASD	Dr. Georgina Robinson and Veena Birring Hayer	Vancouver & Web Streaming	November 29, 2019

REVENUES FROM TRAINING

ACT's net revenue from training in 2019 was \$233,000, an increase on 2018 (\$168,000), largely due to sponsorship received from POPARD and the continuing expansion of web streaming. The surpluses generated by our training help ACT to cover overheads, including salaries, rent and office costs. In addition to live events, staff time was devoted to producing our free online resources, including 15 new online videos based on recordings of our live events held in 2018/2019.

BURSARIES

ACT provided a total of \$12,885 in event bursaries in 2019 to enable parents and professionals who could not afford the full cost of registration to attend. These were provided in the form of reduced registration fees. Providing these bursaries supports ACT in our goal of providing better equity of access to those who are on reduced incomes.

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

ACT'S WEBSITE

The ACT website attracted nearly 400,000 views in 2019. It is the hub for our information work. Users search ACT's website for information on training, research, diagnosis, school-age services, adults and employment, using several community-facing databases described below.

The families, professionals and autistic adults whom ACT supports are seeking a wide range of information resources. Providing free online resources, including community-facing databases, and online videos, are vital to meeting their needs for evidence-informed, non-commercial resources. These are resources that ACT has been developing for many years.

While we struggled to maintain and develop them in 2019, in the absence of government funding, we did successfully apply at the end of 2019 for a Community Gaming Grant while has provided \$110,000 for this work in 2020. This funding has proved to be vital to support our free information services during the 2020 pandemic. Our resources are available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, for families internationally, and the professionals who support them.

There are many reasons for ACT to maintain a significant online presence. Not least of these is that having access to these curated, evidence-informed resources protects families from exploitation by the many sophisticated scams on the internet that target vulnerable families desperate to help their children.

COMMUNITY FACING DATABASES & INFORMATION RESOURCES

Autism Videos @ ACT (AVA) – At the end of 2019, ACT hosted 60 quality online videos available free, thanks to our sponsors. ACT added 20 new videos in 2019, the largest number ever, recorded at ACT's events and conferences from 2018 and 2019.

In 2019 there were 36,000 views of AVA videos across our website and YouTube, including [Women & Girls with Autism](#), [Positive Behavior Support in School, Home, and Community](#), and the [Mental Health and Autism Project](#) learning streams. In 2019, ACT began uploading videos to YouTube to allow us broader reach and to increase our presence across the internet, resulting in thousands of new views, and automatically generates caption. Edited captions were added to four of ACT's popular AVA videos by Sharon Chen, ACT's 2019 employee through the Canada Summer Jobs program.

NEW VIDEOS ON AVA IN 2019 ([VIEW HERE](#)):

- Integrating ABA Methods in Schools: Supporting School-Age Children
- INVESTing in Women and Girls with Autism
- Visual Support Strategies for Individuals with ASD
- Including Students with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities in Schoolwide PBS: All Means ALL!
- PBS – Working Together to Support Children and Families
- Family Centred, Culturally Responsive PBS: A Multi-Method Case Study
- Providing Culturally Sensitive PBS to Families: Discussion and Q&A
- Providing Culturally Sensitive PBS to Families
- Positive Behavior Support in Schools – Discussion and Question period
- Membership, Belonging, and Development of “Soft Skills” within a PBS framework
- How Classmates Can Facilitate Positive Social Behaviors for Children with ASD
- Tier 3 Interventions and Supports – Behavior Technician Training for Paraprofessionals
- WTF – What’s the Function?
- Practical Ways to Decrease Challenging Behaviors in School, Home and Community Settings
- Setting Priorities for Future Research – A Panel Discussion
- Sex Matters: The secondary impact of low prevalence for girls and women with autism
- Girls Night Out: Lessons learned from a unique intervention for girls with autism
- Special Challenges Faced by Mothers with ASD
- The Experience of Women with ASD – A Panel Presentation by Women with ASD
- Understanding mental health problems and ASD – evidence-based case conceptualization to inform treatment planning

ACT’s Autism Information Database (the AID) – the AID allows users to keyword search 1,400 curated records for evidence-informed, practical information resources useful to families and community professionals. There were 15,000 AID searches in 2019. ACT gathers reliable resources internationally, and in many languages: www.actcommunity.ca/aid

BC Community Resources Database – Created by ACT to provide information on 1,180 B.C. community resources, including community agencies, recreational activities, service providers, support groups, and postsecondary training & employment. Provides local information with filters for postal code and town/city. There were over 15,000 searches in 2019 www.actcommunity.ca/aid-search/community/

ACT’s Autism Manual for BC – Thirteen chapters developed by ACT for BC parents with practical information on diagnosis, treatment, government services, and transition to adulthood & employment. The home page for the Autism Manual was accessed 5,100 times in 2019. www.actcommunity.ca/information/autism-manual-for-bc/

ACT in Chinese – ACT’s Chinese-language information on autism were accessed 35,500 times in 2019. ACT is one of the top five Google search results, in Chinese, for “What is autism?”. www.actcommunity.ca/information/act-in-chinese/

Social Media/Online Communications - ACT uses social media and online communications extensively and responsibly:

- ACT’s Facebook page delivered daily news posts to over 6,500 followers in 2019. www.facebook.com/AutismCommunityTraining

- ACT's News Round-Up provided event, resources and news to nearly 8,000 subscribers.
www.actcommunity.ca/mailling-list

Special Needs Community Events - ACT's free events listing service for all BC special needs organizations, viewed over 18,000 times in 2019: www.actcommunity.ca/special-needs-community-events/

Autism Research – ACT maintains a curated listing of evidence-based research organizations and research projects for parents to consider. Researchers submit their projects for consideration. ACT ensures they have passed ethics review. www.actcommunity.ca/information/research/

Opportunities for Individuals with ASD – Post-Secondary www.actcommunity.ca/education/post-sec-asd-opportunities/

Post-Secondary Programs for Professionals - Autism-related programs offered by accredited post-secondary institutions in BC. www.actcommunity.ca/education/post-secondary-programs-for-professionals

PARENT COACHING RESEARCH PROJECT

In March 2017, a competition between researchers, overseen by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, on behalf of ACT was completed. \$3.03 million in funding had been entrusted by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to ACT in 2015 to administer this process. A team at the University of British Columbia was the successful proponent. ACT continues to oversee the administration of the funding for the project which is scheduled to wrap up in 2020. Details of the project can be found here: www.actcommunity.ca/parent-and-child-early-coaching-project

MOTION REQUIRED TO APPROVE ALL ACTIONS BY THE BOARD IN 2019

"Moved that...all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments made and taken by the directors of ACT Autism Community Training Society since January 1, 2019 referred to in the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and the minutes of committee meetings be approved."

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS OF SOCIETY SEEKING BOARD APPROVAL

Jake Anthony has applied to become general member of ACT – Autism Community Training. Jake is a self-advocate who is very active in the special needs community and is known for his enthusiasm. He is on the board of a number of agencies, including Community Living BC and Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN) and is an ambassador for Autism BC. We seek a motion approving his membership.

ELECTION SLATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020/2021

According to ACT's by-laws not all of ACT's Board Members should be up for election during the same year. In order to even up the balance for the 2021/2022 AGM, Karen Kalynchuk and Brent Shirley are up for renewal this year, for a one- year term.

These board members are completing the second year of their two-year term and are not up for re-election:

- President: Alison Narod - rejoined the board in 2017 – starting 2nd of two-year term; (3rd year as President)
- Dr. Alisa Lipson - joined in 2015, starting 2nd of two-year term

These board members are standing for re-election:

- Karen Kalynchuk - appointed in 2017, starting 1st of one-year term
- Blair Whelan – elected in 2016 - renewing for 1st of two-year term; (3rd year as Vice- President)
- Brent Shirley - appointed in 2017, renewing for 1st of one-year term;(3rd year as Treasurer)

Bios for ACT's current board members can be viewed here:

www.actcommunity.ca/about-us/board-members

New candidates to become board members:

Denise Ching is Director & Portfolio Manager at RBC Dominion Securities. Denise's previous board experience includes the BC Lions Foundation for Children with Disabilities, Vancouver Society of Financial Analysts, as well as membership on the investment committee of the BC Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia and mentor to UBC's Portfolio Management Foundation.

Blair Dwyer is a lawyer practicing tax and estate planning law since 1985, first on Bay Street in Toronto and since 1992 in Victoria. Blair has been on ACT's Advisory Council since its inception over 12 years ago. He also presents an online workshop for ACT and has contributed a chapter on wills and estate planning to ACT's Autism Manual for BC. For more on Blair's extensive engagement in community and professional boards and support for ACT, see <http://dwvertaxlaw.com/community-activities/>

Nicole Provost is a founder and director of the MayDay Youth Choir for Neurodiversity. She has a degree in mathematics from the University of British Columbia and is currently studying aviation at the University of the Fraser Valley. A former summer student employee at ACT, Nicole has presented on a panel at an ACT conference on women and girls with autism and is well known for her positive attitude.

EXCERPT FROM BY-LAWS

1. (1) *Each director is appointed for a minimum term of 2 years and a maximum consecutive term of 8 years. No more than one half of the directors' terms shall end each year.*
- (2) *A former director who has served a maximum consecutive term may be re-appointed provided at least 2 years has elapsed since the maximum consecutive term ended.*
- (3) *An election of directors or officers may be accomplished by acclamation, otherwise it must be by vote.*

- (4) *At the first annual general meeting following the adoption of these bylaws, half of the directors shall be appointed for a one-year term and one half shall be appointed for a two-year term in order to establish the staggered terms contemplated in section 25(1).*
- 2.
 - (1) *The officers of the society shall be the president, the vice president, the secretary and the treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors shall determine from time to time.*
 - (2) *The president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and one or more other persons shall be directors of the society.*
 - (3) *A person may not serve as president for more than 4 consecutive years.*
 - (4) *Officers shall be elected by the members of the society and a separate election shall be held for each office to be filled.*
- 3. *The directors may at any time and from time to time appoint a member as a director to fill a vacancy in the directors.*
A director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the society, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting.