

Report of the QCEWS Organizational Support Team to the 2025 QCEWS Annual General Meeting, March 4 2026.

The QCEWS Organizational Support Team began its work after our 2024 organizational planning event led by Lee Herrin, our Scale Collaborative coach. An outcome from this planning activity was to situate QCEWS as a support for community development initiatives which might become self sustaining. This joint planning effort identified the need for more clarity for QCEWS roles and responsibilities as well as new policies. The organizational development support team of two or sometimes three QCEWS members first drafted role descriptions for the QCEWS Executive and four Support Teams (these bodies were originally called infrastructure teams or simply infrastructure). The executive role descriptions include: Chairperson, Vice Chair also called Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Past Chairperson. Role descriptions were also drafted, debated and adopted for the following support teams: Funding and Finance; Communications, Recruitment and Membership, and Organizational Development.

The Organizational Development Support Team drafted and presented the board with proposals for a revised policy called: “Roles and Responsibilities for QCEWS Roundtable Leads.” Beyond this the team also drafted policy proposals for QCEWS Fiscal Oversight as well as QCEWS Induction Process for new projects, special projects, and roundtables. These two new policies, the established QCEWS Roundtable Leads document, and the QCEWS elevator pitch have now been adopted by the QCEWS board. These role descriptions and policy proposals have been adopted as living documents to allow the descriptions and policies to be updated easily and accurately. As a result we have a more commonly understood organizational structure which simplifies our ability to make agreements, manage grant money, and eventually to raise funds with larger granting agencies I.e. BC Gaming Grants.

The organizational development support team now needs to determine the time and experience that will be required to meet these goals so that our volunteers and members can make realistic decisions about their contributions.

Report of the QCEWS Social Connections Roundtable to the 2025 QCEWS
Annual General Meeting,
March 4 2026.

The pop up Conversation Nook delivers a positive experience of connection for residents in our community. Gathering socially improves trust among neighbours and gives voice to fellow community members by engendering a sense of belonging. Social connection is scientifically shown to be good for mental health and for prevention of illness. It is essential for people's wellness.

The Social Connections Roundtable operates the pop up Conversation Nook, a small conversation area with chairs and appropriate signs where passers by can stop and chat with a Conversation Nook host. The object is to provide an opportunity for social connection to residents who may feel isolated or lonely or are simply curious.

The pop up was set up near the Old Town Clock Plaza, Saturday's Farmers Market and the Thursday Summer Street Market. In all, we set up the "Nook" over 20 times in 2025. At virtually every pop up the hosts receive supportive comments from people who either simply want us to know they appreciate the idea and the effort behind the project or they may state they are okay to visit for a few minutes then stay for 30+ minutes. Some of the most memorable conversations have been families, elderly residents and youth who stop to talk.

There are typically 3 conversation hosts who gather at the pop up shelter and we now have a group of 3 regulars who chose to join us on a regular basis. We have received a grant from Qualicum Beach Special Events fund which we used to purchase a more suitable pop up shelter and to pay for insurance. We also received a small grant from Parksville Qualicum Community Foundation which went to the purchase of a small cart, which is a great help when transporting the shelter, chairs and signs to our sites. Presently our sites are; next to the Saturday Farmers' Market one Saturday a month and at the evening Street Market weekly in July and August.

The "Nook" has also become a gathering place for QCEWS members, board members and regular visitors drop by to say hello and stay in touch. This has several

advantages for QCEWS. It helps our visibility. Visitors to the site are often curious about the people who are actually operating the Nook. This suggests that the nook may be an avenue to use in a membership drive.

Report from the Chair to the 2025 QCEWS Annual General Meeting,
March 4 2026.

QCEWS has succeeded in meeting several of the organizational goals set at the 2024 planning meeting. This has involved establishing: role descriptions for our executive positions and support teams, a policy on Fiscal Oversight and a policy on our Induction Process for new projects and roundtables, as well as an update on the Roles and Responsibilities for Roundtable leads. These organizational structures enable QCEWS to better manage and give direction to new community projects. Building our organization in this way will improve our ability to meet our stated QCEWS mission; supporting residents to successfully grow their own projects or roundtables in ways that enhance our community's life sustaining systems.

In addition to our push to establish new policies and guidelines we have had successful community activities as well. ELCCO has been successful in generating funds to build networks to improve and expand the \$10 a day daycare initiative in Oceanside and the province. Social Connections hosted over 20 pop up Conversation Nooks during the year. Universal Access Qualicum Beach is involved in the town's accessibility review which identified physical barriers and safety concerns for residents with mobility limitations. We have established a new Roundtable; "Qualicum Region CommUNITY Schools Alliance".

Building organizational capacity and expanding our mission using a new organizational model was implicit in our 2025 organizing work. If selected the new model will transition from a kitchen table group to an incubator model for new community initiatives. Our past successes with Into the Woods Society and Oceanside Integrated Fitness Society means we have experience in organizing and spinning off new non profits. Meanwhile our former kitchen table function, with its more open and tentative approach to emerging community interests, can

expand. We now have some policies and guidelines in place that permit us to move to a more conventional non profit structure while maintaining a focus for our efforts to expand the depth and breadth of local community organizations.

We will need more volunteer commitments to ensure QCEWS can provide the level of support that will be demanded of it in the future. QCEWS needs to have a successful campaign for new members if we are to succeed in incubating new non profits and offer a gathering space for community residents to discuss and spin off new ideas for community improvement. To fulfill this vision, QCEWS will need to expand its membership particularly for people with key skill sets such as social media account manager bookkeeping and accounting, and event managers.

Report of the Early Learning Childcare Council for Oceanside for the 2025 QCEWS Annual General Meeting.

It has been a busy year for ELCCO as we endeavoured to assess the present and past work of ELCCO, to determine the future direction. The original mission was to introduce and support the provincial strategies for Universal Early Learning and Childcare within the Oceanside community.

ELCCO has received additional financial support from SPARC BC for the continued work of enhancing the recruitment and retention of early childhood educators. A consultant, Sharon Tomczyk, was hired to compile feedback obtained from the early years community to best understand the strengths and challenges in the local childcare community. Sharon produced three reports highlighting the many challenges each early years sector encountered and provided some possible solutions to guide further recruitment and retention strategies. The full reports produced can be found on the ELCCO website:<https://elcco.ca/>. Sharon identified that 75% of childcare in the community is provided by private in-home providers, and that the current childcare systems of support do not meet the needs of this sector.

A series of evening meetings, Childcare Community Conversations were facilitated to determine how best to support this sector. In 2025, 3 evening

meetings were scheduled with attendance from private and nonprofit childcare providers. Within these conversations it was recognized that more opportunities were needed to bring the various sectors of childcare delivery together to best understand the needs and provide solutions.

In addition to the recruitment and retention project, ELCCO meets monthly to update the local government liaisons on the state of local childcare, in attempts to monitor needs and pressure points. Several advocacy projects have been initiated at these monthly meetings to bring attention to the lack of \$10 a Day childcare in the community. The group continues to advocate to the Union of Municipalities for more financial support in the oversight of projects, in support of a strong childcare community. ELCCO looks forward to 2026 as we continue to support the economic and educational needs of the Oceanside community by promoting quality, affordable and accessible childcare.

Report of the Universal Access Qualicum Beach (UAQB) Roundtable for the
QCEWS Annual General Meeting. March 4, 2026

UAQB is advocating for people with mobility challenges. This roundtable has been actively seeking solutions to problematic accessibility barriers to residents who require electric scooters, wheel chairs, walkers or other assistive device for daily business and recreation activities.

Report of the Qualicum Region CommUNITY Schools Alliance (QRCSA) for the
QCEWS Annual General Meeting March 4th 2026

The QRCSA has recently been inducted as a QCEWS Roundtable. Its purpose is to advocate for community schools. This is a new Qz roundtable which has as its purpose to advocate and support the development of more community schools including a community education coordinator. Community schools have been in place in various parts of the province and the country for decades. Using Community Education principles these schools are having a strong positive effect on community life.

