



2019

Annual Report



Barry Janyk

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

6/22/2019

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Executive Reports

President's Report

Dave Wharton (Chilliwack Outdoor Club & Valley Outdoor Association)

Before I begin to write my President's Report, I always reread my previous report. I wouldn't want to be accused of being too repetitive with what I say! But of interest to me is that I noted the FMCBC had held three Board meetings since the 2018 AGM— Board meetings that were held with the newly designed, much smaller (in numbers) Board. I continue to believe strongly this was a good move for the FMCBC, and we now only have one more Board meeting prior to the 2019 AGM.

To suggest there have been no problems or no growing pains (or shrinking pains going from 40-plus Directors to 10) would be misleading. There have been issues to deal with as a direct result of reducing the number of Directors. But it speaks to the commitment of all Directors (and they all volunteer their time) that these issues have had thorough discussion at the Board table and have been mostly resolved.

I also must acknowledge the commitment of both FMCBC staff members, Barry Janyk and Stacey Santos. We certainly did not reduce their workload when we reduced the number of Directors! As our organization's President, I know how many hours we pay them both and I also know how many hours they work. And when it has been needed, I am certain there have been some hours of "volunteer work" by both, which highlights for me a key issue being faced by the Board: that at times there are too few dedicated individuals to attend to important issues in a timely manner. So, as we move forward following this year's AGM, I think it will be a priority that we look to establishing or revitalizing some core committees to ensure the priorities within the FMCBC are attended to efficiently and with consistency.

As you may know, the FMCBC is a member of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORC). And as the FMCBC is the provincial organization for clubs whose primary interest is non-motorized (non-mechanized and non-equestrian) backcountry recreation, ORC is the provincial organization that represents any and all backcountry recreation, including mountain bikers, bikers, equestrians, paddle sports and all types of motorized backcountry recreation such as the 4x4 community, dirt bikers, and ATVers, as well as hunters and fishers. The FMCBC is the only provincial organization that represents your interests within this diverse organization.

At first glance one wonders how ORC, with such a wide range of interests to represent, can ever get past the differences that would bring member organizations into conflict. But these organizations have more of a common purpose than dividing differences. And your voice is much stronger when we represent your interests to government and industry due to our ORC membership.

Earlier this year, ORC filled the vacant Executive Director position with the hiring of Ms. Louise Pedersen, and I know that your Executive Director, Barry Janyk, has had productive communication with Louise that will help to ensure a strong supportive relationship exists between the two organizations.

I am now in my sixth and final year as a Director with ORC, the last three as the Chair, so my above comments are a direct result of my experience representing you at ORC and representing ORC to the FMCBC Board. As I step down from ORC, you will continue to be ably represented as a strong FMCBC member has offered their name as a candidate for election to the ORC Board.

And to finish this note, I hope to see many of you at the 2019 AGM, this year hosted by the Chilliwack Outdoor Club, who I know will do a fine job. Although as yet I can not comment on the format or agenda for the AGM (a bit early as I write this in April!), I can say one thing with confidence: For those of you who will be attending the AGM with partners and spouses, there will be a good hike to Elk and Thurston Mountains for those who will **not** be attending the AGM, organized by a very capable longtime FMCBC member, my wife Dianne.



Treasurer's Report

James Spencer

Financials for the period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

The Administration and Communications Manager prepares bank reconciliations each month, and the Treasurer reviews it in detail. No discrepancies noted.

The Treasurer reviews the general ledger report and prepares monthly financials. The monthly reports are circulated to the Board of Directors and discussed at Board of Directors' meetings.

The FMCBC has transitioned to new accounting software that has greatly streamlined the required administration of finances.

Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2019

Cash balance is at \$81,013 of which \$50,000 is invested in a redeemable GIC.

The outstanding accounts receivable are at \$7,868, as of June 1 2019, \$5,535 is still outstanding.

Statement of Operations as of March 31, 2019

The final deficit is -\$23,241, which is in line with what would be expected from the approved budget, especially taking into account the departure of one of the larger member clubs. A substantial budget deficit was approved at last years AGM. Caution should be exercised when budgeting for a significant deficit as this is detrimental for the long-term financial viability of the FMCBC.

Memberships - Clubs membership dues are at \$54,516. This was less than the budget \$60,000. The FMCBC saw the departure of a large member club, however there was also a number of new member clubs.

The cost of a membership and insurance was respectively \$10 and \$8 per unit, which is comparable to the previous year.

Trail Markers - A second order of trail markers was placed during the year, causing an over spend. This over spend will be offset with a future revenue and the draft budget for the following year has been amended accordingly.

Insurance - The cost of insurance was higher than budgeted for. The total cost of insurance was \$33,367, whilst \$32,971 was collected from members for insurance dues.

Professional fees - the Lawyer who assisted with the work on the Right to Roam legislation was paid \$1,000 for their work and very generously donated \$1,000 back to the FMCBC. The fee was paid during 2018-2019, and the offsetting donation received in 2019-2020.

Cloudburst - given the financial pressures facing the FMCBC of a significant budgeted deficit as well as a large hit to revenue caused by the departure of the BCMC, it was decided by the Board of Directors, following recommendations from an ad-hoc finance committee, to suspend the print publication of Cloudburst. Grant funding or offsetting advertising could be sought should the print copies to be resumed.

Draft Budget 2019 - 2020

In preparing the forward-looking budget, it was anticipated that staffing levels would remain consistent, with the idea being it would be very difficult to offer the same or even similar level of service with a reduction in staffing.

The budget for General & Admin expenses was brought in line with spending for the preceding year and our knowledge of ongoing expenses.

It became apparent in our budget drafting process that another significant deficit could be expected without some attention to Revenues and Expenses.

In May 2019, the Board of Directors decided to recommend a change in price for Membership and Insurance in an attempt to help



secure the longer-term financial stability of the organisation. It was decided by the Board to put forward a recommendation that the price for membership fees raise to \$12 and the price of insurance to \$10. The remit of the FMCBC has expanded in recent years with no changes to the price and the insurance program is currently running at a loss despite the staff hours required to administer it.

Treasurer Position

I am resigning from the position of Treasurer. I will continue to serve until the AGM. I have completed the March 31, 2018 financials and Treasurer's report and have worked with Staff and the Board of Directors to prepare the next fiscal year budget. It has been a great pleasure to work with all of you.





FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2018 TO MARCH 31, 2019

| | Actual | Approved Budget | Actual vs. Budget | % Increase Decrease (Actual vs. Budget) | Comments |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| REVENUE | | | | | |
| Memberships - Clubs | 54,516 | 60,000 | (5,484) | -9% | *Expected to be ~ \$50,350 in light of BCMC departure |
| Memberships - Individuals | 223 | 165 | 58 | 35% | |
| Insurance Dues - Clubs | 32,971 | 33,224 | (253) | -1% | *Expected to be ~ \$32,000 in light of BCMC departure & with cost @ \$8 |
| Donations - General | 1,285 | 1,000 | 285 | 29% | |
| Donations - Travel Expense | 1,410 | 1,000 | 410 | 41% | |
| Grants | - | - | - | | |
| Advertising | - | - | - | | |
| Recovery - Trail Markers | 950 | 1,000 | (50) | -5% | |
| Other Revenue | - | - | - | | |
| Interest | 254 | 550 | (296) | -54% | |
| Subtotal | 91,609 | 96,939 | (5,330) | -6% | |
| Membership - Individual Dues Refund | - | - | - | | |
| Membership - Club Rebate | - | - | - | | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 91,609 | 96,939 | (5,330) | -5% | |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Salaries & Benefits | | | | | |
| Salary and Wages | 53,600 | 55,000 | (1,400) | -3% | |
| Statutory Benefits | 3,544 | 3,500 | 44 | 1% | |
| Total Salaries & Benefits | 57,144 | 58,500 | (1,356) | -2% | |
| General & Admin | | | | | |
| Office Expenses | 2,249 | 1,800 | 449 | 25% | |
| Trail Markers Purchased | 5,432 | 2,000 | 3,432 | 172% | |
| Meetings | 575 | 1,200 | (625) | -52% | |
| Travel | 5,811 | 6,500 | (689) | -11% | Directors AGM ~\$3950+Staff AGM ~\$950 |
| Telephone | 511 | 700 | (189) | -27% | |
| Memberships & Dues | 273 | 600 | (327) | -55% | |
| Promotion & Brochures | 409 | 1,000 | (591) | -59% | |
| Professional Fees | 1,085 | 500 | 585 | 117% | Lawyer who helped with R2R paid \$1,000, offsetting donation in 2019-2020 |
| Insurance - Directors' Liability | 12,840 | 1,663 | 11,177 | 672% | |
| Insurance - Clubs | 20,527 | 28,336 | (7,809) | -28% | |
| Newsletter | 2,757 | 5,500 | (2,743) | -50% | *Not anticipating further expenditure following BoD meeting |
| Donations | - | 500 | (500) | -100% | |
| Other Expenses | 482 | 1,500 | (1,018) | -68% | |
| Club Projects | 4,755 | 4,200 | 555 | 13% | |
| Total General & Admin | \$57,706 | \$55,999 | \$1,707 | 3% | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$114,850 | \$114,499 | \$351 | 0% | |
| SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY) | -\$23,241 | -\$17,560 | -\$5,681 | | |





FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 03/31/2019

| | MARCH 2019 | MARCH 2018 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash | \$ 81,013 | \$ 106,963 |
| Accounts Receivable - Club Fees and Other | 7,868 | 2,107 |
| GST Receivable | 29 | 340 |
| Trail Markers | - | - |
| | <u>88,909</u> | <u>109,410</u> |
| Capital Asset | | |
| Smoke Bluffs Property | 69,184 | 69,184 |
| | <u>\$ 158,093</u> | <u>\$ 178,593</u> |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 1,437 | \$ - |
| Deferred Revenue | - | - |
| | <u>1,437</u> | <u>-</u> |
| FUND BALANCES | | |
| General unrestricted | 30,698 | 51,198 |
| Internally Restricted - NTC | - | - |
| Internally Restricted - Club Project Fund | 8,211 | 8,211 |
| Internally Restricted - Contingency | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Capital Asset | 69,184 | 69,184 |
| | <u>158,093</u> | <u>178,593</u> |
| | <u>\$ 159,530</u> | <u>\$ 178,593</u> |

*Assessed @ \$156,600





**FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS OF BC
DRAFT BUDGET
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2019 TO MARCH 31 2020**

| | 2018-2019 Actual | 2018 - 2019 Approved Budget | 2019-2020 Budget | Comments |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| REVENUE | | | | |
| Memberships - Clubs | 54,516 | 60,000 | 61,284 | 5,107 members @ \$12 |
| Memberships - Individuals | 223 | 165 | 100 | 4 members @ \$25 |
| Insurance Dues - Clubs | 32,971 | 33,224 | 38,630 | 3,863 insurance participants @ \$10 |
| Donations - General | 1,285 | 1,000 | 2,000 | \$1000 additional expected from Right to Roam Lawyer offsetting unexpected expenditure from prev year (has been received) |
| Donations - Travel Expense | 1,410 | 1,000 | 1,000 | |
| Grants | - | | | |
| Advertising | - | | | |
| Recovery - Trail Markers | 950 | 1,000 | 3,900 | ~\$2875 expected from ORC Fund, ~ 3,600 available @ 25c each |
| Other Revenue | - | | 500 | Potential lawyer fees associated with SB, will not proceed unless DoS reimburses costs |
| Interest | 254 | 550 | 1,225 | GIC interest rate 2.45% |
| Subtotal | 91,609 | 96,939 | 108,639 | |
| Membership - Individual Dues Refund | | | | |
| Membership - Club Rebate | - | - | | |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 91,609 | 96,939 | 108,639 | |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Salaries & Benefits | | | | |
| Salary and Wages | 53,600 | 55,000 | 54,187 | Keep staffing levels consistent |
| Statutory Benefits | 3,544 | 3,500 | 3,793 | |
| Total Salaries & Benefits | 57,144 | 58,500 | 57,980 | |
| General & Admin | | | | |
| Office Expenses | 2,249 | 1,800 | 2,400 | Slight increase to account for quikbooks \$40 pm |
| Trail Markers Purchased | 5,432 | 2,000 | - | Extra trail markers bought in previous FY |
| Meetings | 575 | 1,200 | 1,000 | Reduce budget in line with 2018-2019 spending |
| Travel | 5,811 | 6,500 | 6,000 | Reduce budget in line with 2018-2019 spending |
| Telephone | 511 | 700 | 700 | Budget in line with spending, keep at same level |
| Memberships & Dues | 273 | 600 | 300 | Reduce budget in line with 2018-2019 spending, orc and ac |
| Promotion & Brochures | 409 | 1,000 | 500 | Reduce budget in line with 2018-2019 spending |
| Professional Fees | 1,085 | 500 | 500 | Potential cost of SB lawyer, expect offsetting from DoS |
| Insurance - Directors' Liability | 12,840 | 1,663 | 13,925 | Per quote from Insurer |
| Insurance - Clubs | 20,527 | 28,336 | 18,500 | Per quote from Insurer |
| Newsletter | 2,757 | 5,500 | - | Discontinued to save \$. Possibility to resume if can get funding |
| Donations | - | 500 | | |
| Other Expenses | 482 | 1,500 | 1,000 | Reduce budget in line with 2018-2019 spending |
| Avalanche Canada Event (Fall 2019) | | | 1,000 | Fed could incur venue costs, possibility to recoup some costs with raffles, sponsors etc |
| Club Projects | 4,755 | 4,200 | 4,195 | Donations from previous year plus Fed contribution of \$1,500 |
| Total General & Admin | \$57,706 | \$55,999 | \$50,020 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$114,850 | \$114,499 | \$108,000 | |
| SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY) | -\$23,241 | -\$17,560 | \$639 | |



Membership and Insurance Dues Schedule 2018-2019

| CLUBS 2018-2019 | Insurance Numbers | Insurance Dues Received | Membership Numbers | Membership Dues Received | Total Payments Received |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alberni Valley Outdoor Club | 39 | \$312.00 | 41 | \$410.00 | \$722.00 |
| ACC - Vancouver Island | N/A | N/A | 446 | \$4,460.00 | \$4,460.00 |
| ACC - Vancouver | N/A | N/A | 1125 | \$11,250.00 | \$11,250.00 |
| ACC-Whistler | N/A | N/A | 277 | \$2,770.00 | \$2,770.00 |
| Backroads Outdoor Club | N/A | N/A | 6 | \$60.00 | \$60.00 |
| Bear Mountain Trail Society | 5 | \$40.00 | 5 | \$50.00 | \$90.00 |
| Bowen Island Trail Society (new) | N/A | \$160.00 | 20 | \$200.00 | \$360.00 |
| Bulkley Backcountry Ski Society | 56 | \$448.00 | 56 | \$560.00 | \$1,008.00 |
| Caledonia Ramblers | 170 | \$1,360.00 | 120 | \$1,200.00 | \$2,560.00 |
| Central Okanagan Climbing Association | 6 | \$48.00 | 4 | \$40.00 | \$88.00 |
| Chetwynd Outdoors Society (new) | N/A | \$74.67 | 16 | \$66.67 | \$141.34 |
| Chilliwack Outdoor Club | 191 | \$1,528.00 | 203 | \$2,030.00 | \$3,558.00 |
| Chilliwack Park Society | 30 | \$240.00 | 30 | \$300.00 | \$540.00 |
| Columbia Valley Climbing Association | 5 | \$40.00 | 5 | \$50.00 | \$90.00 |
| Comox District Mountaineering Club | 148 | \$1,184.00 | 134 | \$1,340.00 | \$2,524.00 |
| East Kootenay Outdoor Club | 480 | \$480.00 | 45 | \$450.00 | \$930.00 |
| Fraser Headwaters Alliance | 26 | \$208.00 | 26 | \$260.00 | \$468.00 |
| Friends of Garibaldi Park | N/A | N/A | 3 | \$30.00 | \$30.00 |
| Friends of Strathcona Park | N/A | N/A | 9 | \$90.00 | \$90.00 |
| Hickory Wing Ski Touring Club | 22 | \$176.00 | 14 | \$140.00 | \$316.00 |
| Hike BC | 6 | \$48.00 | 6 | \$60.00 | \$108.00 |
| Island Mountain Ramblers | 103 | \$824.00 | 89 | \$890.00 | \$1,714.00 |
| Kamloops Hiking Club | 250 | \$2,000.00 | 250 | \$2,500.00 | \$4,500.00 |
| Kootenay Mountaineering Club | 405 | \$3,240.00 | 316 | \$3,160.00 | \$6,400.00 |
| Mountain Mentors | 78 | \$624.00 | 50 | \$500.00 | \$1,124.00 |
| Mt. Remo Backcountry Society | 44 | \$352.00 | 44 | \$440.00 | \$792.00 |
| North Shore Hikers | 293 | \$2,344.00 | 257 | \$2,570.00 | \$4,914.00 |
| North Vancouver Outdoors Club | 39 | \$312.00 | 32 | \$320.00 | \$632.00 |
| Outdoor Club of Victoria | 201 | \$1,608.00 | 177 | \$1,770.00 | \$3,378.00 |
| Ozalenka Alpine Club | 23 | \$184.00 | 14 | \$140.00 | \$324.00 |
| Penticton Outdoors Club | 62 | \$496.00 | 50 | \$500.00 | \$996.00 |
| Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society | 28 | \$224.00 | 73 | \$730.00 | \$954.00 |
| Quadra Island Outdoor Club | 35 | \$280.00 | 33 | \$330.00 | \$610.00 |
| SFU Outdoors Club | 49 | \$392.00 | 13 | \$130.00 | \$522.00 |
| Skaha Bluffs Park Watch Society | 8 | \$64.00 | 8 | \$80.00 | \$144.00 |
| Skeena Climbing Society | 52 | \$416.00 | 78 | \$780.00 | \$1,196.00 |
| South Okanagan Trail Alliance | 8 | \$64.00 | 8 | \$80.00 | \$144.00 |
| Tetrahedron Outdoor Club | 109 | \$872.00 | 109 | \$1,090.00 | \$1,962.00 |
| Valley Outdoor Association | 258 | \$2,064.00 | 195 | \$1,950.00 | \$4,014.00 |
| Vancouver Island Trail Association | 56 | \$448.00 | 25 | \$250.00 | \$698.00 |
| Vancouver Island Trails Information Society | 5 | \$40.00 | 5 | \$50.00 | \$90.00 |
| Vancouver Rock Climbing Group | 3 | \$24.00 | 3 | \$30.00 | \$54.00 |
| Varsity Outdoor Club Okanagan | 349 | \$2,792.00 | 349 | \$3,490.00 | \$6,282.00 |
| Varsity Outdoor Club - UBC-Van | 800 | \$6,400.00 | 773 | \$7,730.00 | \$14,130.00 |
| Victoria Outdoor Club Meetup | 70 | \$560.00 | 40 | \$400.00 | \$960.00 |
| | | | | | |
| Totals | 4512 | \$32,970.67 | 3,296.00 | \$55,726.67 | \$88,697.34 |



Staff Reports

Executive Director Report

Barry Janyk

This is my third report to the Federation after starting my work in March 2017. These 27 months have been both greatly rewarding and seriously challenging and I thank the Board and the membership for all the support they have provided both Stacey and me in the last year. It's greatly appreciated.

FMCBC is a complex organisation. As the name states we are a **federation** of clubs, and clubs - as we all know - can be complicated entities to begin with! Like Captain Kirk in Star Trek there are always interesting issues to attend to in the federation and I set my phaser accordingly! We are going through interesting times in the non-profit sector - specifically in the areas of interest in which we are involved – non-motorized backcountry access.

While we welcomed three new clubs this year (Bowen Island Trails Society , Chetwynd Outdoors Society and the Kamloops Outdoor Club), our first Associate member (the Squamish Access Society) and eight individual memberships, we lost the BC Mountaineering Club, the Alpine Club of Canada - Vancouver Island section and the 5 members of the Vancouver Island Trails Information Society who disbanded.

The primary reason clubs join the FMCBC is to participate in our comprehensive insurance program and the reasons clubs like ACC and BCMC depart is because they have attained their own insurance and can use the dues paid to FMCBC for their own special projects. While this is unfortunate – as I believe together, we are a stronger force to achieve our common objectives – it is understandable. One of the goals the Board has identified in its most recent review of the strategic plan is to become more relevant to the aspirations of **all** our members. The catch is: in order to accomplish this objective, resources are required!

The Fed works to tackle the higher levels of access matters such as provincial policy, legislation, budgets, etc. and yet must remain flexible enough to also concentrate on the critical issues that clubs identify and approach us to assist in.

Some of the “big picture” matters in which FMCBC is playing a key role in resolving, researching, responding or reacting to are familiar to our membership and close to their thoughts. A significant increase in the past two years to the province for commercial recreation tenure applications on Crown lands has become problematic not only for organisations such as ours who are attempting to respond meaningfully to their cumulative implications, but also for ministry and agency staff and First Nations who struggle to cope with the influx of complicated tenure applications. We are working with the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC to find out the details of what is behind this surge in tenure requests, what the results will be and what we can do about it.

We are collaborating with a number of other organisations to temper Destination BC's campaign that is seeking to market BC Parks for tourism and assist us in attaining greater resources for the parks and trails systems. This tourism promotion affects all areas of the province and is particularly hammering the Sea to Sky corridor.

In addition to the multitude of access issues in the Sea to Sky corridor, a number of individuals including myself, Jay MacArthur, Monika Bittel, Bryce Leigh and Rupert Merer have been advancing the Singing Pass access across Fitzsimmons Creek and into the back end of Garibaldi Park. Progress is slow but it is steady and we are making advances that should see tentative approvals shortly.

We continue to fight for the protection and creation of BC Parks. The protracted and successful campaign to resist the demise of Tetrahedron Provincial Park and our efforts to attain a large parcel of land in Princess Louisa Inlet in cooperation with the BC Parks Elders, the BC Parks Foundation and private interests are just a couple of examples of how the Federation makes a difference in BC.

We continue to work to find a permanent and satisfactory resolution to protecting the Smoke Bluffs in Squamish and forge an agreement that will ensure access to climbers and hikers now and forever. These matters are as complicated as the lands we currently hold and it takes time to resolve the many issues that affect them.

Digitally archiving the decades of historical records remains a priority for me. Given the irony of government, our application to the federal government for two summer students met all the criteria and was approved but the funds were exhausted on other program



“priorities”. While this is a set back I am optimistic that next year there will be another opportunity and I have been provided advice as to how best improve our application.

As members have been advised our lease at the current MEC retail outlet in Vancouver would increase from \$1/year to \$18,000/year when the new premises open. Despite our joint founders, it’s likely there will be no concession provided to the Fed. As previously advised, if a satisfactory lease arrangement can’t be negotiated, we will be moving in late September/early October.

Avalanches continue to kill and injure backcountry enthusiasts across the province and next fall we will be working on a collaboration that will see a great program provided in the lower mainland to help educate and inform the general public on the changing landscape and the new era of avalanche activity.

While generous donations to the Federation continue to come in, it’s hoped that with the creation of a dedicated Fundraising committee we can raise the much needed funds to do more.

Insurance, as will be reported later in the meeting, is not only becoming more expensive but also insurers are becoming more cautious in what and how they provide organisations like ours, needed coverage. By re-establishing the Risk Management committee I hope we can tackle some of the issues connected to our policies.

Finally, I have to say that the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC will only be as respected and effective as its members wish it to be. We have a great history and we share a valued organisation. You have a staff of two. We have extremely limited resources and it constricts our abilities. If the FMCBC is to excel – as I’m confident it is capable of doing! – then it can only come from the active and spirited involvement of our membership – the directors, the reps and the individual members. Only by working constructively, positively and collaboratively are we ever going to succeed in seeing our provincial backcountry assets begin to stabilise and improve. Staff desperately needs your help and support at this critical time – a time when we just ***might*** have a government situation that will assist us with our worthy endeavours. Please pitch in and help!

To close, I have to extend my sincere thanks to Stacey Santos who has been an amazing person to work with. Her sense of humour, her common sense, her wide range of technical abilities and her people skills are truly remarkable. The membership needs to recognize just how invaluable she is to our organisation. Without her I would be lost – and on many days I am! She is amazing and I’m so grateful to be her staff partner in the Fed!

Administration and Communications Manager Report

Stacey Santos

It goes without saying that there have been some big changes over the past year! This time last year we reduced our Board of Directors from 40+ to 11, and later in the fall our long-time staff member, Jodi Appleton, left our organization. I took over Jodi’s role as Administration Manager in October 2018 (all the while continuing on as Communications Coordinator) and have been extraordinarily busy ever since!

Under the new Administration and Communications Manager role, I take care of the Fed’s accounting, invoicing, government filings, mail, website, social media, e-news, Cloudburst magazine, Handbook, Groups.io, and all those other bits and pieces that spring up on a daily basis.

Accounting

I switched over our accounting system from spreadsheets and Sage to Quickbooks, which has been a truly positive transition. In addition to basic accounting tasks, all of our invoicing and payroll is now done through Quickbooks as well. Also, with Quickbooks, our Treasurer can go into the system and pull whatever reports he/she pleases without having to ask the Admin Manager for them.

Overall, it’s a smoother, more accessible, more collaborative and more succession-friendly system that saves us loads of time every month. Even though we pay a monthly fee to use Quickbooks, it pays for itself in no time. Thanks Quickbooks!



Cloudburst

The Spring/Summer 2019 issue of Cloudburst is now out! This issue, like the last one, is digital-only. I do hope that the print version will return again in the future but that depends on whether we can get a grant to cover the printing costs.

In the meantime, I've created a new website (cloudburst.mountainclubs.org) that will help Cloudburst reach more readers throughout the province. Not everyone loves reading a PDF, so the new website is a modern, blog-style website that will make it easier to share the articles, start conversations and spread the word about what the FMCBC and its members are up to!

Social media

Our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts continue to grow. If you haven't already liked or followed our pages, please do!

Website

A couple of years ago, I gave the website a facelift to give it a more modern look and to make it mobile friendly. But, I haven't had the time or the resources to tackle what lies underneath! There's so much outdated information on the website and there's no way I can make it current. The way it's laid out is impossible to manage and not particularly useful for the reader, either.

One of these days, we need to carry out a website overhaul, go through all of the information, and create a website that's manageable, inviting, and a positive representation of the Fed. It would be a huge job, but the resulting website would no doubt attract more interest and make it easier to see exactly what it is we do. Just some food for thought for the future!

Club Handbook

If you haven't checked out our [Club Handbook](#) yet, please do! It contains a wealth of information about the FMCBC and its operations and includes a hefty FAQ section that I handcrafted to address our members' most burning questions.

Trail markers

We decided to go back to a commercial trail marker provider this year, mainly because the high school couldn't keep up with the demand. This year we ordered nearly 3500 markers (about 275 lbs worth!!), all of which are spoken for.

We received a very generous anonymous donation towards the markers this year, so for this round of orders only, trail markers were billed at \$0.25 each, not \$1.

The donors were inspired by the volunteer efforts of FMCBC clubs throughout BC to build and maintain much needed trail infrastructure for the public benefit. The donation is to recognize all the volunteer efforts that go into trail building and maintenance -- work that often goes unrecognized by government, Destination BC and the public. Not only do club members volunteer their personal time and effort, but their clubs come up with money to pay for trail markers.

We know how important trail markers are to our clubs and to the safety of all trail users, so we will make it a priority to find a way to heavily subsidize the cost for not only next year, but all years moving forward.

Membership & Insurance Invoices 2019-2020

Clubs will receive invoices for membership and insurance fees shortly after the AGM. Because of the slight delay in invoicing, payments will be due by August 15th, 2019.

Also, beginning this year, I will be making a small change to the way clubs report their final membership numbers. In the past, we've sent out the final January invoices and then asked clubs to let us know if their membership number has changed. If the number had changed, we'd revise the invoice and send it back.

This was time consuming for both staff and clubs, and often resulted in inaccurate reporting. So, I will now be contacting clubs shortly after their year-end to gather their final numbers. For example, in early May I contacted all clubs with March 31st year-ends, in early June I contacted all clubs with April 30th year ends, etc.

This way, I only have to gather numbers from a few clubs at a time, which allows me to better explain the billing process and allows the club to submit accurate numbers, all without being caught up in a mad crush of "NEED NUMBERS NOW!!" in January.



As mentioned before, it's been a whirlwind year!! A big thanks to everyone for their feedback and suggestions on how to improve the way we do things here at the FMCBC, to our members for their patience when we tried something new and it didn't work out, and to all of the volunteers who dedicate so much of their time to move the important issues forward. And another big thanks to Barry for all of his help during this year of transition (particularly for patiently listening to me whine about Canada Post for 2 months straight). I couldn't have done it without his sense of humour and his get 'er done attitude!

Committee Reports

Southwest BC Recreation and Conservation Committee Report

Brian Wood & Monika Bittel, Committee Co-Chairs

Over the past several months, the SWBC Recreation and Conservation Committee has worked on a range of matters. The following highlights some of these issues and the work done by Committee members.

Singing Pass Trail and Access – Update on developments

The FMCBC, a number of SWBC outdoor clubs, and the Spearhead Huts Society are working to implement the Singing Pass Trail Access and Parking Proposal to improve public access to Garibaldi Park from Whistler and overnight parking. In the fall, a subgroup was created to implement the Singing Pass Trail Access and Parking proposal. The proposal includes a pedestrian footbridge across Fitzsimmons Creek near the Innergex IPP, more parking for overnight Garibaldi Park visitors (winter and summer), including at or near the Innergex IPP site, and the possibility of a shuttle bus/taxi service as an alternate transportation option to the footbridge. With the first Spearhead hut becoming operational in 2019, there appears to be greater interest and willingness by some of the stakeholders to resolve the access and parking issues. Total hut capacity with three huts will be 95 people. This doesn't include overnight visitors using tents and day hikers to the Park.

The current access options are too limiting and favour commercial interests. While the Whistler/Blackcomb lift system may be a preferred option for some, particularly in winter, it is far too restrictive (lifts are not operational year-round and lift hours are limited when in operation) and costly for many park visitors and others who don't want lift-assisted access. There is a need for reasonable, safer and less costly options for the public to access Garibaldi Park via Singing Pass.

Parking in Whistler is controlled by the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) and Whistler/Blackcomb. In the summer, there are only 6 designated spots in Lot 4 for overnight park visitors. Also, Lots 1–5 can be completely closed by events such as Crankworx. While the Singing Pass Trail Access & Parking proposal envisions parking at or near the Innergex site, there is currently no parking at this location. If parking is developed at or near the Innergex site, it will need to be managed to avoid the current problems at popular trailheads, such as Joffre Lakes Provincial Park. While a shuttle bus/taxi service would alleviate some parking pressures at the Innergex site, it would not address the need for overnight parking within the RMOW.

Carrying capacity also needs to be addressed. Both Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) and BC Parks have raised carrying capacity concerns about hikers accessing Garibaldi Park via the Singing Pass trail. They have not however raised concerns about the thousands of people accessing the Park via Whistler/Blackcomb lift systems in winter. If visitor numbers are going to be limited in some way, there has to be a better balance between the different access points.



Rainbow Lake winter non-motorized update

A new protocol for the 21 Mile/Rainbow Lake non-motorized area was implemented this year by RSTBC, after acknowledging that signs, maps, boundary markers and club information failed to get compliance by snowmobilers. RSTBC's plan was to install a gate and sign at the start of Callaghan FSR at the bottom of Powerline hill on the west side of HWY 99, i.e., at end of the cul-de-sac, where road turns from pavement to gravel. If compliance with the non-motorized zone surrounding Rainbow Lake and Gin & Tonic Lakes was not achieved within the first few months of winter, the access road would be gated and only open on "bad weather" days. Should the gate with bad weather day openings still fail to achieve compliance, then the gate would be permanently closed all winter and the entire area from Callaghan River to the ridge on Sproatt would be non-motorized, plus the existing area surrounding Rainbow Lake. The threat of losing the Sproatt area galvanized the snowmobiling clubs to take action and to actively educate snowmobilers about the non-motorized boundaries and monitor snowmobile incursions into the non-motorized zone.

Compliance with the non-motorized zone was much improved in the first three months of 2019, with very few instances of snowmobiles being in the non-motorized zone. The area with the greatest conflicts was Hanging Lake, which is motorized but also one of the prime ski touring destinations within the Rainbow Lake-Sproatt area. There will be a follow up meeting to discuss what was achieved this past winter. The challenge will be maintaining compliance with the non-motorized zone in subsequent winters and finding a solution to the conflicts in the Hanging Lake.

Cypress Backcountry Access Corridor – Winter 2018-2019

This winter there were no changes to the Backcountry Access (BAC) protocol, which permits access through the Cypress Resort Controlled Recreation Area between 7 am and 10 pm. However, the BAC signage was not as well maintained this winter, with insufficient BAC signs marking the corridor, particularly near the Cypress Lodge. There was also considerable confusion about Cypress Resort's new RFID gates, with no signage to guide park visitors around the gates. Park visitors should not have to pass through the gates, which are not operational until 9 am and not set up for BAC passes (the gates have to be manually opened by the Cypress Resort attendants).

BC Parks and Cypress Resort did implement the one-time-daily descent privilege, which permits backcountry skiers using the Black Mountain trail to descend via "Maelle Ricker's" ski run (aka Fork and Lower Fork) from the designated access point. Initially the access point was at the terrain park but after the dangers of the access point were brought to the attention of BC Parks and Cypress Resort, it is now near the top of the Eagle Express chairlift.

Towards the end of the winter season, Cypress Resort also restored the Hollyburn Hikers Access Trail, by removing their cross-country ski ropes and poles, after Alex Wallace brought the encroachments to their attention.

BC Parks is still not prepared to open the road gate prior to 7 am, citing increased plowing costs, which BC Parks says it can't justify based on the small number of people wanting earlier access to traverse the Howe Sound Crest Trail.

Providing Comments on Multiple Commercial Tenure Applications

Over the past several months, the FMCBC has commented on several commercial tenure applications, which have implications for existing public recreation use in the proposed tenure areas or adjacent recreation areas. The applications included:

- [Compass Heli Tourism](#), which applied for multi-use adventure tourism activities (heli-skiing and snowshoeing and heli-hiking, camping, paddle sports and glacier tours) in the Harrison Lake, Nahatlatch river and Kwoiek Creek areas. The proposed tenure terrain is valuable for remote, multi-day backcountry ski trips, but current use is low because of access difficulties. The Committee recommended that the operator implement an avoidance protocol, which should be posted on the company's website, along with contact information.



- [Further logging](#) in the “Donut Hole” in Skagit Valley—an area sandwiched between Manning and Skagit provincial parks. The FMCBC opposed this application in the interest of maintaining the long-term goal to incorporate the “Donut Hole” lands into our provincial park system.
- [Imperial Metals’ application](#) for a multi-year, area based permit to do exploratory work on their Giant Copper claims within the Upper Skagit River Watershed, the area also known as the “Donut Hole.” As above, the FMCBC opposed this application in the interest of maintaining the long-term goal of SEEC and BC Parks to incorporate the “Donut Hole” lands into our provincial park system.
- [Three applications](#) submitted in relation to a proposed wilderness lodge to be located near the top of Brohm Ridge. The FMCBC is asking that these three applications be denied. Ad hoc development should not be happening on Brohm Ridge, given its proximity to Garibaldi Provincial Park and the designated ungulate winter range. Rather than developing this attractive alpine ridge, extending the boundary of Garibaldi Provincial Park to include Brohm Ridge would go some way towards compensating for the extensive removal of parkland for the benefit of Whistler/Blackcomb.

Pinecone Burke Provincial Park – park management planning status

There have been no further developments with respect to BC Parks’ Pinecone Burke Provincial Park management plan. Vicki Haberl from BC Parks advised progress has been slow because of competing priorities. The next big step in the planning process is to complete discussions with First Nations.

FMCBC will be advised when there is an opportunity for public comment on a draft plan, and this will likely include an open house.

Member Club Grant Report

Stacey Santos, Administration and Communications Manager

Thank you to all those individuals and organizations that made a donation to the FMCBC in 2017-2018. Your donations made it possible for the FMCBC to support several of our member clubs and their projects last year. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about each of the following projects:

The [Alpine Club of Canada – Whistler Section](#) was awarded \$820 towards their **Kees and Claire Hut Safety Equipment** project.

The [Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Section](#) was awarded \$1000 towards their **Jim Haberl Hut composting toilet project**.

The [Mountain Mentors Society](#) was awarded \$350.00 towards their **2018-19 Winter Mentorship Program**.

The [Caledonia Ramblers](#) were awarded \$440 towards their **Avalanche Skills Training (AST1) Course**.

The [Island Mountain Ramblers](#) were awarded \$240.00 towards their **Mount Benson trail upgrade project**.

The [Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section](#) was awarded \$925 towards their **5040 Hut backcountry waterless toilet/outhouse project**.

The [Hickory Wing Ski Touring Club](#) was awarded \$980 towards their **Troll Lake Trail improvement project**.

The donations received by the FMCBC between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 went towards our 2019 Member Club Grant fund. The total funding available was \$4200.

All FMCBC Member Clubs in good standing were eligible and invited to apply for receive grant funds. The 2019 Grant Committee has



deliberated and will announce the grant awards at the AGM on June 22. The 2019 committee members include Jan Osborne (Kootenay Mountaineering Club), Andrew Drouin (South Okanagan Trail Alliance) and Mack Skinner (North Shore Hikers).

If your club is interested in applying next year, the applications will be ready by April 1st, 2020. Talk to your club's FMCBC Rep to learn more or email us at grants@mountainclubs.org for more information.

Unless specified otherwise, all donations to the FMCBC (including travel reimbursement donations) received between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020 will go directly towards our 2020 Member Club Grant fund. Thank you to everyone for making this a successful program!

Strategic Planning Committee – Report and Recommendations

Barry Janyk, Executive Director

Administration & Board issues

Most issues outlined in the *Administration & Board Issues* document have been resolved and day-to-day operations of the FMCBC are being well managed.

Staff are now seeking clear objectives of what it is the FMCBC wants to pursue. The preliminary recommendations and suggestions have been presented to the Board for possible further refinements for presentation to the membership at the June 22nd AGM.

The Committee agreed on a few basic principles:

- **advocacy is still a high priority for the FMCBC**
- **the previous Strategic Plan failed to achieve those objectives**
- **the FMCBC needs to attain consensus on what – and how - it wants to advocate**

The FMCBC must continue to support its clubs in their advocacy roles. The most effective advocates come from our clubs and their members – by those who have the best knowledge of the regions affected, by those experiencing the issues directly and by those who likely know the means to undertake the best strategies in their respective region.

Suggestions:

- **the FMCBC could do more drafting, vetting and/or improving volunteer and use agreements and contracts - tailored to each group – and that better reflect the clubs' tasks**
- **the FMCBC could provide grants to cover the cost of trail markers**
- **the FMCBC should take the lead on province-wide issues and offer support and resources to clubs to take on their regional issues**
- **the FMCBC could assist with training advocates in regions especially in 'Interest-based' as opposed to 'position-based' negotiations - perhaps even as an adjunct workshop at FMCBC Annual Meetings**

Province-wide issues are much larger components, such as FLNRORD (Rec Sites and Trails) and MoECC (BC Parks) systemic aspects related to funding, staffing, facilities, etc., Right to Roam legislation (and its implications), and other "big policy" issues. For regional issues, the FMCBC could offer varied levels of support and resources, depending on the needs and experience of the clubs tackling the issues. The FMCBC needs improved direction on province-wide initiatives.

If the FMCBC is to advocate, it must be mindful of costs and commitments

It's better to do a good job on key issues rather than spreading the FMCBC too thinly attempting to address the multitude of challenges. As is possible, the FMCBC could assume a more supportive/resource role for regions because it's a resources effective means of advocacy.



Resources must be found if advocacy is going to be successfully undertaken. While grants for general administration are unrealistic to access, special projects could attract grants that would include administrative resources. The FMCBC could embark on a concerted fundraising and funding initiative to finance identified initiatives. The FMCBC could utilize its existing resources for special projects.

Also, resources for clubs can be generated through broader partnerships, collaborations and in-kind contributions – often easier to obtain than funds.

Suggestion:

- **Identify and quantify specific goals and objectives the FMCBC has an interest in pursuing and determine the best possible means to attain the resources necessary to accomplish the tasks**

***Micro* advocating is the building block of *macro* advocating**

The FMCBC needs more club-level data to feed into province-wide advocacy

Suggestions:

- **Design a survey for member clubs that will result in a document the FMCBC can use to improve advocacy. The FMCBC can use the positive information/data to show that clubs are doing something that proactively benefits their regions and the province**
- **Illustrate the shortfalls in the provincial and regional systems and what clubs have undertaken to create benefits**
- **Obtain key data like numbers of volunteers and hours, how many trips/year, how many and what instructional courses are held, amount of provincial engagement with clubs, how many various designated section trails do they use, etc.**
- **Provide incentives for clubs to complete surveys such as trail markers, small grants, etc. knowing the data improves the FMCBC's ability to improve its resources**

Dave King can circulate data from the Caledonia Ramblers as an example of useful information to obtain from clubs.

Clubs need assistance to refine their advocacy skills

Suggestion:

- **Help clubs perfect their skills at FMCBC AGMs possibly by having guest speakers hold workshops and seminars on different aspects of advocacy**

Advocate more efficiently by collaborating with other organisations working on the same issue(s)

As an example, ORC's Access Committee that is essentially working on Right to Roam. Eventually, the FMCBC and ORC will both be doing duplicate work on parallel streams. Rather than spend scarce resources doing the same work, it would be to each organisation's benefit to figure out each other's strengths and weaknesses and determine how to work together to achieve similar goals.

Suggestion:

- **Have an FMCBC rep attend ORC's Access Committee meetings, obtain meeting minutes and/or liaise with the committee chair**

It was also mentioned that the Right to Roam issue remains a high priority for the FMCBC, particularly given the current formation of the provincial government. The FMCBC needs to continue to work with partner groups like ORC, CPAWS, Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club, etc. to really advocate for non-motorized access. However, taking on this issue in a serious way requires deeper and



likely shared resources.

The Board must decide what issues are – and will be – its advocacy priorities

The Board of Directors is the decision-making arm of the FMCBC and is responsible to determine what the current - and future - issues and priorities are and will be.

Suggestion:

- **The Strategic Planning Committee outline a process for the Board to bring advocacy issues into focus and either hand them off to regions (and/or offer support) or work with staff to define them at a broader, more ‘big-picture’ scale.**

2012-2014 Strategic Plan – 2013 update

Although many of aspects of these plans are complete, some are redundant (i.e. “engage an advocacy consultant”) and many aspects of the previous plans are ongoing. Goals such as “increase financial strength and stability”, “improve communications and increase awareness of the FMCBC’s achievements and role”, “advocate for access on private lands”, and “build partnerships with other organisations and businesses” have been – and are being – addressed and are current. These will be *eternal* priorities of the FMCBC.

Suggestion:

- **Provide access to previous planning documents to club reps as background. As these documents reflects an organisation that is significantly different from today’s FMCBC, they will need to be considered from that perspective**

Improve communications between the FMCBC, its clubs - and the public

Improving dialogue between all parties including our member clubs, Board and staff will reduce the perception, suggestion and potential for the FMCBC to be a “centrally run” organisation. This is currently being done via the ED’s monthly reports, as well Facebook, Twitter, the monthly enews and Cloudburst. The Board itself may wish to establish a regular communique to the membership – perhaps through the secretary.

The level of advocacy must reflect the level resources to undertake it

There are, of course, dozens of priorities the FMCBC could chase and only limited time, staff and finances. When the Board choses its objectives, they must be approved based on realistic existing – or attainable - resources to accomplish the tasks identified.

Duties, timelines, resources, and responsibilities for identified tasks must be assigned

Once the goals and objectives are identified a table should be created delegating the roles and responsibilities all parties involved will fulfil in order to achieve the *ranked* priorities and also include requisite budgets and expected timeframes.

