

\$12,531  
in  
Bursaries

2,269  
Event  
Attendees

8,000  
Children  
Under 19

17  
Live  
Events

1,200  
Newly  
Diagnosed  
Children

**act** Autism  
Community  
Training

# Annual Report 2012

2,671  
New Diagnosis  
Parent Packages  
distributed

90  
Bursary  
Recipients

20,210  
live  
training  
hours

Events in  
9  
Communities

36  
Speakers

103  
Volunteers

## 2012 Board of Directors

Mike Craig	President
Anne Millerd	Past-President
Mary Ellen Ross, Ph.D.	Vice-President
Anne McCaw	Secretary
Chris Duff	Treasurer
Kevin Berman, M.D.	Director
Joy Bischoff	Director
Peter Everett	Director
Helga Marshall	Director
Alison Narod	Director
Michael Price	Director

Biographical information on ACT's Board and Staff can be found at [www.actcommunity.net/about-us.html](http://www.actcommunity.net/about-us.html).

## 2012 Staff

Deborah Pugh	Executive Director
Louise Broadley	Manager Autism Information Services
Amy Severson	Manager of Training
Anjela Godber	Information Officer
Christine Hung	Information Officer
Kari MacDougall	Information Officer/ RASP Assistant
Vivian Walker	Event Planner
Kaitlyn Janzen	Receptionist and Administrative Support
Jan Gronlund	Accountant (to November 2012)
Linda Leung	Accountant (after November 2012)
Dominic Linder	Website/Marketing Officer

## ACT's Mission Statement

The mission of ACT – Autism Community Training Society is to provide excellent information and training, in accordance with international best practices. Our goal is to enable parents, professionals and para-professionals to support children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder to live productive, satisfying lives within their families and communities.

## ACT – Autism Community Training

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Email: [info@actcommunity.net](mailto:info@actcommunity.net) Visit: [www.actcommunity.net](http://www.actcommunity.net)

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – 2012

In 2012 ACT - Autism Community Training marked its eighth year as a registered not-for-profit society providing comprehensive information, training and support. All of our programs at ACT support our goal of enabling parents, professionals and para-professionals to support children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to live productive, satisfying lives within their families and communities.

The community level focus is key to our work, given the increasing number of children in British Columbia with a diagnosis of ASD. At the end of 2007 there were just over 4,000 children in B.C. receiving autism funding. Five years later, at the end of 2012, the number had doubled to over 8,000 diagnosed under age 19. In the year leading up to July 2012, 1,200 newly diagnosed children started to receive autism funding.

The sheer scale of this challenge forces ACT to constantly re-evaluate how we are providing support and to reach out to our community partners to engage their help. This report details the work we have done in 2012 and acknowledges many of the individuals who have made it possible.

ACT serves the families of 8,000 children; we also gather information and provide training to encourage better support for adults with ASD and their families — recognizing that children grow up and many adults will require ongoing support in order to reach their full potential. This is an area for which we receive no government funding. The tragic death of longstanding ACT volunteer Richard Benbaruj has strengthened our resolve to focus on providing resources that encourage better support of adults with ASD and their families.

Critical to ACT's approach to supporting families is that they be recognized as core members of the child's treatment team. Professionals may come and go; empowering parents and siblings with knowledge and strategies is crucial to enabling individuals with ASD to function in their homes, at school, at work and in

the community. The multi-faceted long-term impact of ASD on individuals and their families requires a team effort, supported by private and public funding, informed by research and respect for the individuality of people with autism.

ACT is, in essence, an information and resource hub on autism, providing vital information to both professionals and families. The information and training ACT provides, including online, are to empower communities, including family members, to engage in supporting individuals with ASD effectively. Families come to us for a range of information: contracting with service providers; effective advocacy; transitioning to adulthood and estate planning. We do not prepare all this information "in-house," although we generate a great deal.

In 2012 ACT's Information Database (AID) was launched to enable our users to access a range of resources on important topics, whether produced by ACT, Autism Speaks or other credible sources. We are selective in what is included — this increases protection for families from unethical commercial interests and saves them the time required to sift through the avalanche of information on the Internet.

Funding from the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is the core of ACT's income and allows us to provide information on our website and individualized support from our team of information officers for families of children and their professional teams. We greatly appreciate our collaborative relationship with MCFD staff, especially in the area of managing the Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP) — an important responsibility that ACT provides under contract.

Each year ACT strives to knit together all the funding we receive to maximize our impact. In 2012, in addition to answering more than 2,000 queries, we developed a chapter for ACT's Autism Manual for B.C. on "Contracting with Professionals," initiated the AID,

and, thanks to a grant from Autism Speaks, trained 12 volunteer parent facilitators from small communities throughout B.C.

ACT began as an organization devoted to providing professionals and parents the critical training needed to support individuals with ASD. Since 2005 we have trained nearly 10,000 individual parents, professionals and para-professionals. In one way or another, ACT has changed the lives of British Columbians affected by autism by giving their families and communities the knowledge tools needed to improve their lives.

ACT's training is largely self-supporting through registration fees. In 2012, ACT provided more than 20,000 hours of high quality, cost-effective training over 38 days at 17 events in nine communities across B.C. Trained caregivers, whether they are respite providers, childcare workers or grandparents are a huge support to families. Educators and community professionals who understand how to prepare young people with ASD for adulthood are equally essential. ACT is very proud of the positive effect that we have on the lives of children and adults with ASD in B.C. through our training program.

ACT listens carefully to the terrific feedback we receive from our registrants. We are inspired to provide innovative training that can impact how support is provided. ACT is sensitive to the financial pressures facing our registrants, particularly parents and para-professionals who travel to attend. We constantly seek

sponsors for our live and online events to make them more accessible and affordable.

ACT's accomplishments in 2012 are the result of a tremendous collaborative effort to maximize the impact of our resources. ACT has over 100 volunteers and their contributions are essential to our productivity. ACT's Advisory Council, Board of Directors, and, new in 2012, the Advisory Committee on Community Inclusion for New Canadians, are a vital source of insight and expertise. We also rely on our office and event volunteers and all those in communities across B.C. who facilitate our training and information work. These include those who contribute to our online videos, send us information on new resources in their community for the AID or provide a chapter for ACT's Autism Manual for B.C. I extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow board members and all the volunteers, donors and community partners who contribute to ACT's work.

Finally, I would like to recognize ACT's staff for their tireless efforts in maximizing the effectiveness of our resources as they collaborate with caregivers, community leaders, clinicians, researchers, social workers and educators, in B.C. and across Canada, to focus our resources on providing essential front-line support and information for individuals with ASD, their families and the professionals who work with them.

*– Mike Craig, President, ACT's Board of Directors*

## REMEMBERING RICHARD

Many of those who have attended an ACT event will remember Richard Benbaruj, our longest serving event volunteer and member of the ACT Advisory Council. In 2012, affected by mental illness, Richard took his own life. Richard was in many ways highly able but his autism, undiagnosed until he was a young adult, made it difficult for him to accept help, find a job and form lasting relationships. There are hundreds of adults with ASD in B.C. who urgently require support in the areas of mental health and employment. A strategic priority for ACT in 2013 is to focus attention on the needs of adults with autism. Our goal is to fund a position that will provide advice on programs and services for adults with ASD and to research the significant service needs that remain, particularly for those who, like Richard, are often denied service because their IQ is too high to qualify.





# REACHING OUT ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Facilitator Training for Rural Parents

ACT has travelled throughout B.C. since 2005, delivering dozens of workshops in smaller communities. Our Information Officers receive calls from parents and professionals from around the province, raising our awareness of the scarcity of services in smaller communities. To build and encourage community connections among parents of children with ASD in smaller communities, ACT applied to Autism Speaks Canada for funding to identify community leaders and provide them training to become community group facilitators. The goal was to reduce the sense of isolation experienced by families living in rural and under-served communities by helping them to become ac-

*"It was a great experience to meet others within the province and share info that helps our communities. There is a connection as we all live in small communities and can see how we are finding services and resources despite not being in a big city centre."*

tively engaged in building a community-based support network with other parents of children with ASD.

We hoped to identify seven potential leaders from across the province; we were delighted when 12 parents stepped forward. Within six months of the training, held in June 2012, ten volunteer facilitators set up or revived an existing parent support group. By the end of 2012, over 70 families were directly involved with groups led by these trained facilitators. These leaders remain connected to ACT, and have continued to raise autism awareness, grounded in evidence-based practice, in their communities as well as identifying local resources to contribute to ACT's Information Database (AID).



From top left: Sheila Seitcher (Harrison Hot Springs), Kristina Vanlierop (Langford), Kirstin Cain (Terrace), Maureen Sharp (Ft St John), Roberta Johnson (Quesnel). From middle left: Patricia Rousseau (Courtney), Ivy-Lynne Stein (Cranbrook), Kim Dragseth (Osoyoos). From bottom left: Ana Pakenham (Kimberly), Gretta Bakewell (Salmon Arm), Catrin Webb (Squamish), Hillary Lewis (Prince George)

Most importantly, the participants have formed strong and lasting bonds with one another and continue to actively stay connected through social media for information and mutual support. ACT would like to thank Autism Speaks Canada for funding this initiative.



## Find Us On Facebook

ACT's Facebook page reached over 500 fans and their networks in 2012. ACT developed this page as a community resource, posting links to events around the province, news stories and connecting our followers to new resources. Facebook friends in turn have shared our links, commented and offered opinions on our posts, and suggested items of interest to the autism community in B.C. Facebook provides ACT with another means of sharing stories and our special interests!

[www.facebook.com/AutismCommunityTraining](http://www.facebook.com/AutismCommunityTraining)

## **Immigrant Communities & the Challenge of ASD**

ACT's experience in supporting families by telephone, email and at events has made our staff acutely aware of the additional pressures facing those who are struggling with English and finding their feet in Canada. In Metro Vancouver, where 85% of new immigrants to B.C. settle, a third of children receiving a diagnosis of ASD from the publicly-funded British Columbia Autism Assessment Network have parents who require interpreters to engage in the diagnostic process.

Our staff members have received dozens of reports from parents from a variety of backgrounds that they and their children are suffering as a result of the misconceptions about ASD that are pervasive in their own communities of origin. Some parents have not told their own families that their child has ASD. Fear around acknowledging autism can delay treatment and create extreme stress for families. In 2012 ACT began creating partnerships in immigrant communities with enthusiastic support from professionals from a variety of cultural backgrounds to collaborate in developing materials to target new Canadians — a strategic priority for our work over the next several years. This kind of proactive support is crucial to ensuring all Canadians with ASD receive the help they need.

### ***One Family's Story***

Imagine that you come from a refugee camp where your child's only treatment for ASD was a bucket of water thrown on him to stop a meltdown. You are granted asylum in Canada and you dare to dream that one day your child will be able to learn. To your confusion, your son's new school tells you to take him home because they cannot manage him. This is the story we heard from a distressed single parent, a father who was a political refugee. ACT has worked with this father for nearly two years to help him advocate for his son. Local service providers were found who stepped up and helped the family find treatment and navigate the school system. Over this last year, intervention from ACT and other community agencies has resulted in a dramatic change for this family. The young teen with ASD is in school, is learning to communicate, and recently began to verbalize some of his needs. His proud big sister reports that not only can he learn, but that with support and training, she can teach him effectively. Only 18 months after arriving in Canada

with no English skills, she has been accepted into Douglas College's Behaviour Interventionist program! And their father has been able to find employment now that he is no longer constantly on call for the school.

## **ACT Advisory Committee on Community Inclusion for New Canadians**

This initiative was begun in 2012 to provide advice to ACT as we focus on the needs of new Canadians impacted by ASD. We appreciate the enthusiasm and commitment of the members of the committee, which includes participants from other provinces in recognition that this is a national issue.

- Anthony Bailey, M.D.
- Parbs Bains, M.Ed.
- Elina Birmingham, Ph.D.
- Sergio Cocchia
- Vikram Dua, M.D.
- Jonathan Down, M.D.
- Mayada Elsabbagh, Ph.D.
- Robin Friedlander M.D.
- Sophia Grewal, M.A.,
- Karen Kalynchuk, B.Sc.
- Grace Iarocci, Ph.D.
- Kyungjae Lee, M.S.
- Joseph Lucyshyn, Ph.D.
- Chris McIntosh, B.Sc.
- Pat Mirinda, Ph.D., BCBA-D
- Georgina Robinson, Ph.D.
- Marjorie Anne Tanaquin, B.A.
- Rosa Severy, Ph.D.
- Margaret Spoelstra
- Yasmin Ullah

## **ACT in Chinese**

Christine Hung, ACT Information Officer, has been working to create "ACT in Chinese," an area within the ACT Online Learning Community where information is provided in translation. There are also links to reliable Chinese-language resources internationally. ACT in Chinese is now accessible and free to users. The goal for 2013 is to encourage B.C. parents who are more comfortable when communicating in Chinese to use ACT in Chinese to provide online support to each other. ACT hopes that this will help break down the isolation that many families tell us they are experiencing.

# PROVIDING IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ON ASD & BEYOND

There were over 1,200 children diagnosed with ASD in B.C. in the 12 months leading up to July 2012. To meet their needs, and those of the thousands who have already received a diagnosis, ACT works hard to deliver evidence-based, family-friendly, positive resources and information: online, face to face and by telephone. Most of the information we provide is on ASD but much is relevant across special needs. Advocating within the school system, generic services available from MCFD, the challenges of toilet training, estate planning — these are needs that go beyond autism. ACT is committed to sharing our resources with the wider special needs community, including access to bursaries to reduce registration costs.

## The Red Folders: 2,671 NDPPs Distributed

The New Diagnosis Parent Package (NDPP) has proven to be a valuable tool in reaching out to the parents of newly diagnosed children in B.C. The NDPP contains resources on setting up an intervention team, managing autism funding and highlights the introductory-level online parent training that ACT offers.



Adam Elsharkawi assembles new diagnosis parent packages

These packages are distributed by diagnosticians, social workers and other community professionals. We package them in distinctive glossy red folders to ensure they are visible in the avalanche of information parents have to wade through in the post-diagnosis period. In 2012, 2,671 NDPP were distributed.

ACT owes a great deal to our hard-working office volunteers, Steve Lo, Adam Elsharkawi, Yasmin Ullah and Deborah Broadley, who assemble them, freeing up ACT staff for other projects.

## Presentations – Raising Awareness & Community Connections

Presentations by ACT staff and board members are an excellent way to connect with larger groups of community professionals about ACT's services and about the experiences of families and individuals with ASD as they navigate the various private and public systems in B.C. In 2012 ACT spoke with:

- 30 students at Capilano University's Autism Program;
- 60 student nurses at the University of British Columbia;
- 70 behavior consultants at the 2012 BC Association of Behavior Analysis Conference;
- 60 psychologists, psychiatrists, and general practitioners for *Autism Spectrum Disorders in Adulthood – Diagnosis and Management*, organized by UBC's Department of Psychiatry.

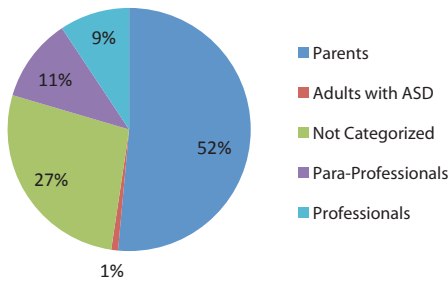


## Information Officers Provide Individualized Support

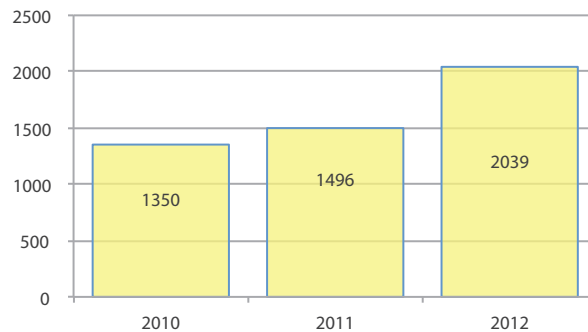
ACT employs a team of three information officers who fielded over 2,000 queries by telephone, email and in person in 2012, in English and Chinese. In between providing individualized support, ACT's Information Officers update our online resources including ACT's Information Database, present on ACT's services, and run information tables at public events.

*"[ACT] has played a major role in the way I have been able ... to help my son as he changes and the world of ASD changes. It is so difficult to get support when you need it if you don't have timely access to it."*

### 2012 Contacts by Category



### Number of Contacts 2010–2012



## New Resources for 2012 in ACT's Autism Manual for B.C.

*Living & Working with Children with ASD in B.C. – A Manual for Parents & Professionals* provides in-depth information on topics ranging from diagnosis to transition to adulthood. Currently the manual has 10 chapters providing reliable information contributed by many of B.C.'s top autism professionals. In 2012, ACT released a new chapter, "Contracting with Professionals on the RASP." This is included in every New Diagnosis Parent Package (NDPP) to help parents maximize the autism funding available to their child.

[www.actcommunity.net/autism-manual-for-bc](http://www.actcommunity.net/autism-manual-for-bc)

## ACT Information Database – New in 2012

ACT's Information Database (AID) is an online resource on our website designed to help parents and community professionals find practical resources to support children and adults with ASD in their communities. ACT's Information Officers added over 1,300 records in 2012. Users can search for:

- Family-friendly online articles & books
- Local service providers
- Recreational & community resources

ACT's goal is to support families and caregivers raising a child with ASD or other special needs. More records are being added each week as Information Officers evaluate and input new resources, often provided by professionals and parents keen to share information about their community.

**New!** Find online articles, books and helpful resources in your community with our easy-to-search Information Database.



[Advanced search](#)

[www.actcommunity.net/infodatabase](http://www.actcommunity.net/infodatabase)

# ACT'S WEBSITE – AN INFORMATION HUB FOR B.C.

ACT launched a redesigned website in 2011 to improve accessibility to relevant and reliable autism-related information. The new design has been a great success. In 2012, [www.actcommunity.net](http://www.actcommunity.net) averaged over 5,500 visitors per month, an increase of a thousand visitors a month over the previous year.

ACT's website is the hub of our information services, providing a way to organize resources sourced by our Information Officers or provided by our contacts across the province, around Canada and internationally.

ACT's goal for 2013 is to improve how we communicate and organize information online including creating subject guides for common subjects.

With the increasing number of children being diagnosed in British Columbia, and the growing adult population that requires information and support, we are committed to making resources accessible online for those who can make use of them.

The ACT website:

- Provides reliable information:
  - ACT's Information Database
  - ACT's Autism Manual for B.C.
  - Links to credible external resources
- Showcases opportunities to access learning and professional development:
  - ACT's Live Events
  - Online Videos
  - Post-Secondary Opportunities for Professionals
  - Bursary Information
- Highlights news and community links:
  - News from Across B.C. and Beyond
  - Non-ACT Events
  - Parent Support Groups Across B.C.
  - Participating in Autism Research
- Is searchable:
  - Registry of Autism Service Providers
  - ACT's Information Database

## OVER 50 ACT INFORMATION TABLES IN 2012

ACT catches up with old friends, new members of the autism community, and interested members of the public at our information tables. In 2012, ACT set up over 50 information tables at our live events, and at transition fairs, autism awareness events and conferences. ACT Information Tables are usually manned by staff but we often rely on board members and community volunteers — another example of how important volunteers are in stretching ACT's human resources.



ACT Information Officer Kari McDougall introduces parents to ACT resources at the Vancouver Convention Centre

# REGISTRY OF AUTISM SERVICE PROVIDERS - 2012 UPDATE

ACT has managed the Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP) since 2005, under contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. MCFD establishes the criteria for the RASP, setting the educational and experience requirements that professionals need to meet. Advice is provided by the RASP Advisory Panel, who meet three times a year. The panel includes parents, behavior consultants, speech language pathologists, an occupational therapist and teaching staff from Capilano University, Douglas College and the University of British Columbia, as well as representatives from MCFD and ACT.

Since 2005, the number of providers on the RASP has grown significantly but still has not kept pace with the number of families looking for skilled professionals, especially in smaller communities. This reflects the significant increase in the number of children diagnosed with ASD in B.C. In early 2007, 4,360 children under 19 were receiving autism funding in B.C.; by the end of 2012, over 8,000 children had a diagnosis entitling them to funding. These staggering figures align with international prevalence rates of 1 in 88 children diagnosed with ASD.

While 57 new RASP professionals were added to the RASP in 2012, 54 left the RASP; most either retired or moved away. A positive trend is the increase in the number of Behavior Consultants who have been actively improving their credentials in what is still a new field. Over half now have certification from the U.S.-based Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

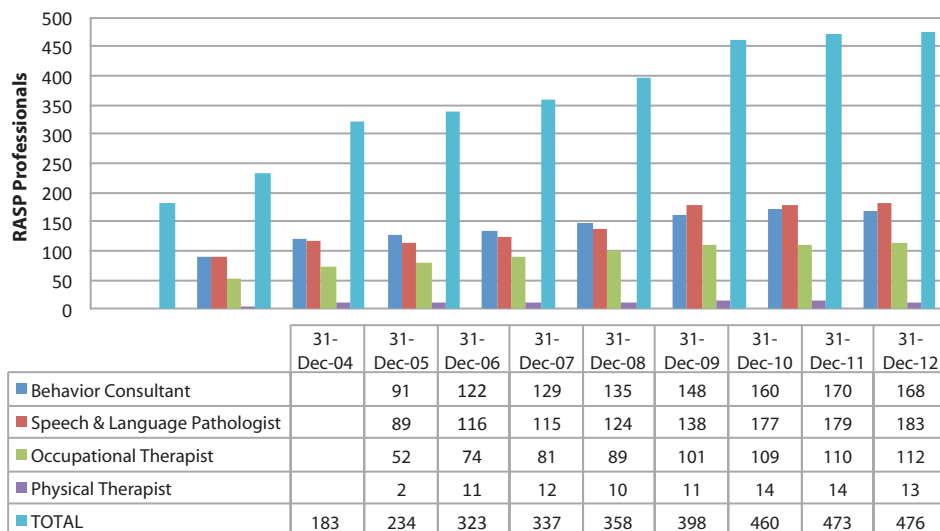
## RASP Advisory Panel Members

- David Batstone, Ph.D.
- Leslie Clark
- Miriam Elfert, Ph.D.
- Mary-Ann Fulks, M.Sc., OT
- Laura Grow, Ph.D.
- Bonnie W. Johnson, Ph.D.
- Pat Mirenda, Ph.D.
- Shannon Muir, M.Sc., RSLP
- Richard Stock, Ph.D.
- Nicholas Watkins, M.Sc.
- Karen Bopp, Ph.D. is the MCFD representative

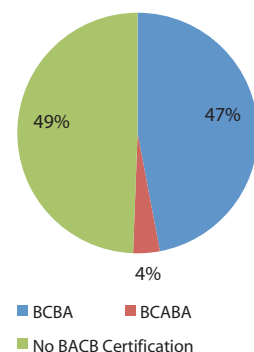
Organizational support is provided by ACT staff members Deborah Pugh and Louise Broadley.

For more information on the RASP Panel, see [www.actcommunity.net/rasp](http://www.actcommunity.net/rasp)

## RASP Professionals 2004 – 2012



## Behavior Consultants with BCBA & BCABA Credentials



# DELIVERING COMMUNITY-LEVEL TRAINING

## Live Events: Learning and Making Connections

A major focus of ACT's work is providing training to parents, community professionals and para-professionals on autism-related topics. Since 2005 we have trained nearly 10,000 people in B.C. — many have registered for multiple events. As autism is complex, it is necessary to provide a variety of training opportunities to appeal to participants, from an introductory level to more advanced professional development. The learning at these events is not restricted to the presentation — our attendees enjoy the opportunity to meet, sharing insights and information.

In 2012, ACT provided:

- Over 20,000 hours of live training to 2,269 attendees
- 17 events over 38 days in nine communities from Fort St. John to Victoria
- Online registration for the convenience of parents and professionals
- Supplemental materials online for event attendees
- Our largest event ever — 550 people attended the Vancouver Convention Centre to hear “Michelle Garcia Winner and Carol Gray Together”



Amy Severson, ACT's Manager of Training (right) listens to a parent participant

## 2012 Live Events Locations



*“I have learned to think ‘long-term’ and ‘big picture’. I am thinking more about how current issues and strategies will have impacts throughout the future (on my child).”*

*“Never underestimate the potential of a person with ASD. My son is doing things I never thought possible and hearing the adult speakers (with ASD) inspires me about what more he will do.”*

[www.actcommunity.net/events](http://www.actcommunity.net/events)



**Volunteers: Essential to ACT's Work**

With only 10 staff, ACT relies heavily on volunteer support. In 2012, office volunteers provided 425 hours of work, compiled over 2,500 New Diagnosis Parent Packages, assembled over 2,000 event nametags, and stuffed thousands of envelopes.

Volunteers are equally essential to the delivery of our live events. They assist with registration, book sales and distribute evaluation forms. Many are students who benefit from free registration to ACT's outstanding events as well as parents who volunteer to support our work. In 2012, 49 volunteers contributed 943 volunteer hours at live events; they received 450 hours of free training. A win-win for our community.



Volunteers Kaori Ohashi, Chantal Juilfs & Marjorie Tanaquin take a well-deserved break

*Since our beginnings in 2003, volunteers have been critical to ACT's effectiveness. Members of our Board of Directors, event and office volunteers, ACT's Advisory Council and the RASP Panel, all play important roles. We also recognize the leading clinicians and educators who share their knowledge through our online videos and ACT's Autism Manual for B.C. On behalf of the thousands of individuals with ASD and their families in B.C. who benefit from the efforts of all of ACT's committed volunteers, we extend our deep appreciation.*

Deborah Pugh, Executive Director,  
ACT – Autism Community Training

Thank you to our event and office volunteers:

- |                   |                       |                   |               |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Christine Baker   | Rodney Garreck        | Sara Nicol        | T. Ying Zhong |
| Tracey Barry      | Sarah Goudal          | Kim Nicol         |               |
| Shaheen Bhagudi   | Corinne Hansen        | Aurore O'Grady    |               |
| Brenna Boland     | Alyssa Idler          | Kaori Ohashi      |               |
| Deborah Broadley  | Susan James           | Laurie Phipps     |               |
| Lissa Buckler     | Dean James            | Claudya Proulx    |               |
| Wanda Carisse     | Chantal Juilfs        | Ben Reiman        |               |
| Heather Clarke    | Yearin Kim            | Maggie Schaeffers |               |
| Andrea Cunningham | Iryna Kolesnyk        | Sophia Schweitzer |               |
| Elise Doerksen    | Samantha Kwon         | Marjorie Tanaquin |               |
| Patrick Dwyer     | Laura Lane            | Angella Taylor    |               |
| Danielle Eeuwes   | Chung Yin (Kimberley) | Yasmin Ullah      |               |
| Jemana Elsharkawi | Law                   | Danielle Watson   |               |
| Adam Elsharkawi   | Steve Lo              | Fay Yen           |               |
| Katherine Gantz   | Debbie McPherson      | Rita Yeung        |               |
| Betty-Ann Garreck | Sherry Nassrin        | Kate Zhao         |               |



Volunteer Laurie Phipps from Kamloops

[www.actcommunity.net/volunteer](http://www.actcommunity.net/volunteer)

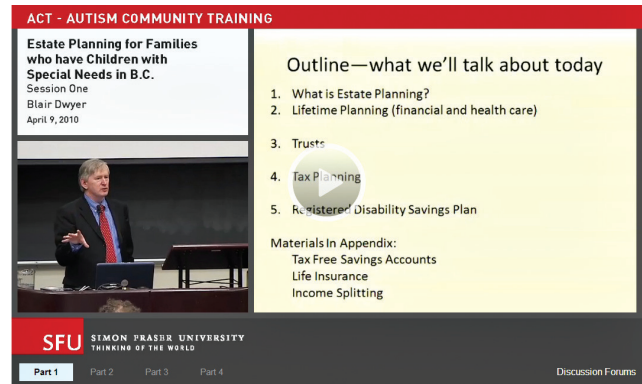
## Online Videos: Watch Where, When and As Often As You Like

Not everyone can attend ACT's live events; B.C. is a huge province and parents and professionals are very busy people. When possible, ACT records our live events to address these challenges, so that interested viewers can watch and learn when it is convenient for them. These online videos are available by subscription with an Internet connection.

In early 2012, we released a new video, *Estate Planning for Families who have Children with Special Needs*, presented by Blair Dwyer, one of Canada's top tax lawyers. It was developed for parents who are looking ahead to providing financial security for their children with special needs. We also worked on a video of Dr. Karen Bopp's presentation at the 8th Annual Focus on Research, *Best Practices in Early Intervention: Helping Families Build the "Team."* At the end of 2012, ACT had eight online videos available, with two more in production for 2013.

*"My husband and I watched (the video) as a couple, which was really helpful for planning and mutual support. It also helped us bond over supporting our son. For us, it provided an organizing theoretical perspective to develop a plan, which was important when we have six or so professionals working with him, all of whom have their own ideas about how we should handle it."*

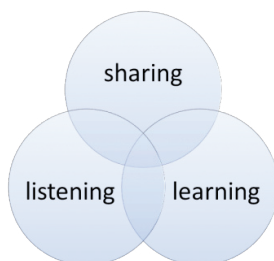
[www.actcommunity.net/videos](http://www.actcommunity.net/videos)



Thank you to the professionals who have contributed to the AOLC:

- Karen Bopp, Ph.D. – *Best Practices in Early Intervention*
- Jill Calder, M.D. – *Practical Autism Treatment*
- Blair Dwyer – *Estate Planning for Families*
- Vikram Dua, M.D. – *Mental Health and Individuals with ASD*
- Suzanne Jacobsen, Ed.D. – *What is ABA?*
- Vicki Lundine M.Ed. & Catherine Smith, M.Ed. – *Transitioning from High School to Work*
- Pat Miranda, Ph.D. – *Toilet Training for Everyone*

## ACT Online Learning Community: Sharing, Listening, Learning



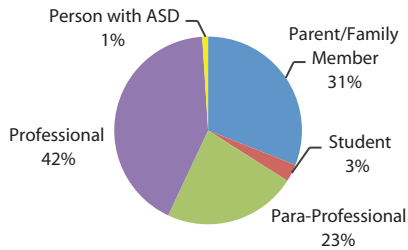
The ACT Online Learning Community (AOLC) is an online space for those with an interest in engaging with others in the autism community through community forums where they can discuss books, ACT videos, the materials posted after a live event or the issues impacting the autism community. As high speed Internet becomes more accessible, the AOLC will provide an important platform to increase communication and learning about ASD, especially for those living in isolated communities and for caregivers who find it challenging to participate in live events.

# BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER – ACT TRAINING IN 2012

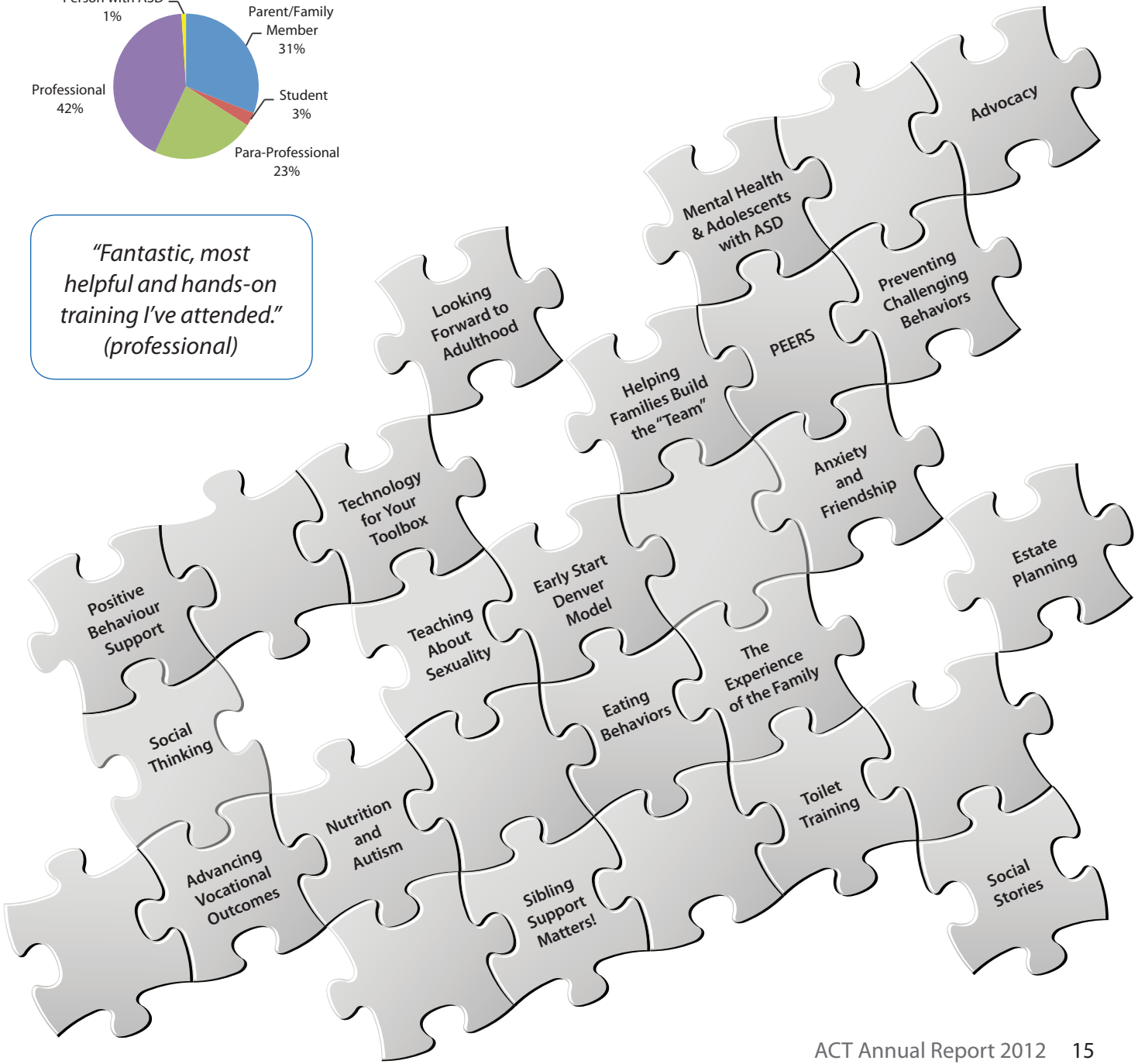
## Live Events: Learning and Making Connections

ACT provided a broad range of training at different levels for mixed parent and professional audiences, with some specialized events primarily for professionals. Thirty-four speakers — including leading researchers, educators and clinicians from across North America — tackled a variety of subjects in 2012.

### 2012 ACT Event Attendees



*"Fantastic, most helpful and hands-on training I've attended."  
(professional)*



# PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL COLLABORATION

ACT participates in many initiatives to ensure we have current information about autism services in B.C. and across Canada. We are also involved in establishing strategic priorities both provincially and nationally through our involvement in the following organizations:

- National ASD Surveillance Committee – Public Health Agency of Canada
- Canadian ASD Vocational Working Group – Advisory Committee
- UBC Department of Psychiatry Developmental Disorders Program – Advisory Committee
- Special Education Partner Group (SEPG)
- Steering Committee of the Pacific Autism Family Centre (PAFC)
- UBC's Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Autism (CIRCA)
- Douglas College Classroom and Community Support Department Advisory Committee
- Community Living BC Committee – Positive Support Initiative
- Neuropsychiatry Planning Task Force – BC Children's Hospital

## ACT ADVISORY COUNCIL

ACT's Advisory Council is made up of representatives from around the province and from a variety of professional backgrounds, all of whom volunteer their expertise to enable ACT to provide an effective service to families and individuals with ASD. Many of our Advisory Council members are parents who are active in communities from as far north as Dawson Creek, east to Fruitvale, south to Victoria, with many communities in between. They represent a diverse resource of experiences, enabling ACT to keep in touch with the needs of families living in a range of circumstances. Our professionals play an essential role in ensuring that we continue to keep current with best practices in the diagnosis and treatment of ASD and provide unbiased and credible information to families. For biographical information on the members of the ACT Advisory Council, please see [www.actcommunity.net/about-us/advisory-council.html](http://www.actcommunity.net/about-us/advisory-council.html).

David Batstone, Ph.D.  
Steve Blackwell  
Dana Brynelsen  
Margaret Clark, M.D.  
Vikram Dua, M.D.  
Kim Dragseth  
Blair Dwyer  
Betty-Ann Garreck

Sarah Goudal  
Elizabeth Hartney, Ph.D.  
Janice Harvey  
Sue Henke  
Valerie Ish  
Suzanne Jacobsen, Ed.D.  
Randy James  
Gerry Kysela, Ph.D.

Joseph Lucyshyn, Ph.D.  
Chris McIntosh  
Pat Mirenda, Ph.D.  
Shannon Muir  
Jo-Anne Seip  
Sue Wastie  
Catrin Webb  
Carol Ywan



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACT relies heavily on our community partners to help us deliver information and training, to supplement the core funding we receive from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. ACT's partners provide expertise, funding, sponsorship, volunteers, promote our events and offer us, in the case of Simon Fraser University, excellent facilities in downtown Vancouver. Our very deep appreciation to:

- Autism Speaks Canada
- Autism Kamloops
- British Columbia Association for Behaviour Analysis
- Canucks Autism Network
- Capilano University's Autism Department
- Douglas College - Disability and Community Studies Department
- Dwyer Tax Lawyers
- Edith Lando Foundation
- Fraser Valley Autism Society
- Lochside Elementary School
- Ministry of Children and Family Development – Vancouver Island Region
- NeuroDevNet
- Pacific Autism Family Centre
- Simon Fraser University's Autism Lab
- Sinneave Family Foundation
- UBC Adult Autism Clinic
- UBC's Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Collaboration in Autism (CIRCA)
- UVic's Centre for Autism Research, Technology, and Education (CARTE)

## ACT BOOK TABLE: STARTING CONVERSATIONS AND BUILDING THE BURSARY FUND

The ACT Book Table is a great opportunity for event attendees to talk to experienced volunteers and staff who can suggest books that are a good fit. Books and conversations go together, helping to build social connections and opportunities for learning. Selling books is labour intensive but it is rewarding for ACT to see people excited about finding resources for those they are supporting. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, ACT raised over \$11,000 from book sales in 2012 which supported our bursary fund.

*"I purchased a total of 9 books ... right on target. Thanks for the help of volunteers of ACT." (Parent)*



ACT'S Past President, Anne Millerd, advises attendees on buying the right book at the ACT book table

# DONORS



D W Y E R TAX LAWYERS



ACT is very grateful to all the donors and sponsors from B.C. and across Canada who provided support in 2012. This funding comes via the United Way, Canada Helps and through direct contributions. To all those who support ACT via donations, sponsorship or by in-kind contributions, we thank you.

The following is a list of donors and sponsors for 2012:

- **\$10,000 - \$25,000** – Autism Speaks Canada; Ministry of Children and Family Development – Vancouver Island Region
- **\$5,000 - \$10,000** – Dwyer Tax Lawyers; Edith Lando Foundation; Inukshuk Foundation
- **\$1,000 - \$5,000** – Export Development Canada, in recognition of Mike Craig; Sinneave Family Foundation
- **\$500 - \$1,000** – Blair Dwyer; three anonymous donors in memory of Anne Brown, mother of Jackie Brown
- **\$100 - \$500** – Romy Chan, In Memory of Hugo Chan; Louise Broadley; Deborah Pugh; Dave Singh; Team Telus Cares; St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church; United Way of the Lower Mainland; United Way of Calgary and Area
- **Under \$100** – Troy Metzler, Amy Waldner, Annie Wolverton, Arlene Gallagher, Dennis Mischaud, School District 41, United Way of Victoria; Anonymous, “in honour of Lee Ann and Craig”; Thrifty Foods

[www.actcommunity.net/donate](http://www.actcommunity.net/donate)

# BURSARIES

ACT works to keep our training financially accessible for parents and caregivers for children with diverse special needs. In 2012, ACT provided \$12,531 for 90 bursaries to parents, self-advocates, para-professionals and professionals in the form of reduced registration fees. We give priority to applicants who have to travel from outside their region to attend our events and/or are experiencing financial hardship.

*“I am a foster parent of two children diagnosed with FASD. [I am applying for a bursary because of] high travel costs, low budget for professional development and very little opportunity in the North Island. I want to be able to share what I learn with my colleagues.”*

Bursaries are funded through donations to ACT, revenue from our live events and book sales and sponsorship. For example, in 2012 the Edith Lando Foundation made it possible to bring professionals from around B.C. to attend PEERS training focused on helping more able individuals with ASD develop social awareness.

Unfortunately we could not provide bursaries to all who requested them in 2012. In 2013 we are projecting that we will need \$30,000 to fully meet the level of requests received and to ensure that financial barriers do not limit access to community-level training. For 2013 ACT will seek sponsorship in order to make all of our online offerings free to users in recognition that these are a valuable resource to families around the province and the professionals and para-professionals who support them.

[www.actcommunity.net/bursary](http://www.actcommunity.net/bursary)

# ACT'S FINANCIAL POSITION IN 2012 – LOOKING FORWARD

The results of ACT's operations in 2012 were positive. Revenues were over \$1.2 million, a 9.4% increase over 2011. We recorded a slight deficit of under \$2,500 reflecting a virtual break-even year. At the end of 2012, ACT's total cash resources amounted to approximately \$200,000, indicating a strong financial position.

ACT earned 60% of our 2012 income through our contract with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). The rest of ACT's income was generated by event fees, video subscriptions, sponsorship, book sales and donations.

Traditionally ACT has raised money through our large Vancouver events to fund bursaries and the many aspects of our work not fully funded by our MCFD contract—including the ACT Online Learning Community (AOLC). However, like other not-for-profits, we have been feeling the chilling effects of the general economic downturn over the last several years. After a difficult year in 2011, 2012 was a relatively successful year for ACT financially. Our revenue and expenditures came close to balancing, while we provided a larger number of registrants with more

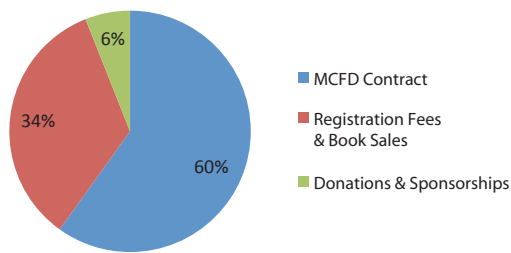
hours of training than in 2011, as well as reducing our staff and office costs.

In 2013, ACT will increase efforts to find additional sources of revenue to increase provision of effective information, training and support for individuals with ASD and their families. This is required because of the dramatic increase in the numbers of children now being diagnosed with ASD. In addition, the number of adults who require information support across a range of needs compels us to increase our efforts.

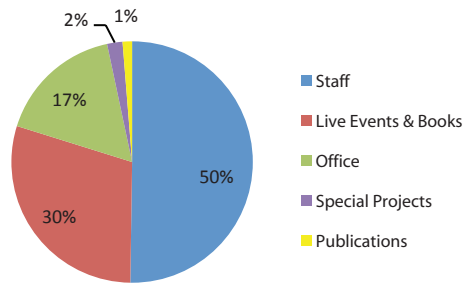
To improve our services to meet these increasing demands, we will continue to rely on the support of our community partners, donors, sponsors and those many volunteers who make ACT such an effective organization.

We appreciate all the efforts of members of the autism community to fund our programs and urge you to consider ACT when deciding on your charitable donations or sponsorship commitments. ACT's charitable tax number is #861691236RR0001.

**2012 Revenues**



**2012 Expenses**



*ACT's audited financial statements for 2012 are available upon request.*

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '2,000+ Info Requests'.

**2,000+**  
Info  
Requests

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '1,300 AID Records'.

**1,300**  
AID  
Records

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '500 Facebook Likes'.

**500**  
Facebook  
Likes

**ACT - Autism Community Training**

#105 - 2250 Boundary Road, Burnaby, B.C., V5M 3Z3

Telephone: 604-205-5467 or toll-free 1-866-939-5188

Email: [info@actcommunity.net](mailto:info@actcommunity.net) Visit: [www.actcommunity.net](http://www.actcommunity.net)

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '6,867 Receive News Round-Up'.

**6,867**  
Receive  
News  
Round-Up

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '8 Online Videos'.

**8**  
Online  
Videos

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '476 RASP Professionals'.

**476**  
RASP  
Professionals

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '50+ Info Tables'.

**50+**  
Info  
Tables

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '66,929 Website Visitors'.

**66,929**  
Website  
Visitors

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '11 ACT Board Members'.

**11**  
ACT Board  
Members

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '12 Facilitators Trained'.

**12**  
Facilitators  
Trained

A grey puzzle piece with a white outline, containing the text '10 ACT Staff'.

**10**  
ACT Staff