

## **BC SPCA Regional Council Combined Activities Report**

2022-2023 Governance Year

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Prepared by:

Membership and Governance, Assistant  
Chair, Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley/Sunshine Coast  
Vice-Chair, Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley/Sunshine Coast

### **Background Information**

Regional Councils gathered, via electronic means, in May/June 2022, September/October 2022, and February 2023. There are four Regional Councils: Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley/Sunshine Coast, Thompson/Okanagan/Kootenays, Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands/Powell River, and Cariboo & North.

- There are 44 Members who sit on the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley/Sunshine Coast Regional Council.
- There are 11 Members who sit on the Thompson/Okanagan/Kootenays Regional Council.
- There are 17 Members who sit on the Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands/Powell River Regional Council.
- There are 14 Members who sit on the Cariboo & North Regional Council.

In addition to the formal Regional Council meeting series, Regional Councils met informally in December 2022 to discuss proposed Bylaw changes. In February 2023, Regional Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs met with BC SPCA staff to share information about how the Regional Councils were functioning.

### **Regional Council Meeting Topics**

During Regional Council meetings, many topics and information reports were brought to the Regional Council for discussion.

- Received reports on activities of the Board of Directors for review.
- Received the Regional Manager and Staff Reports, which highlighted data, important updates, and developments in each of the Regions. Information shared includes, but is not limited to:
  - Board election information
  - Pet food bank statistics
  - Shelter incoming/outgoing data
  - Major facilities updates
  - Community events
  - Humane education initiatives
- In each series of Regional Council meetings, Regional Councils received informational presentations on the following topics:
  - History of the Humane Movement in BC
  - BC Housing Pilot Program - Keeping Pets and People Safe in Supportive Housing
  - Update on the new organizational structure

- Strategic Planning Timeline
- Received new standing document, the Primer on the Role of the Regional Council for comment.
- Contributed to the Regional Council engagement survey.

### **Continuing Education Presentations**

This year, Regional Council Members from across the province participated in eight continuing education webinars delivered by BC SPCA staff and industry/professional experts on the following topics:

- Welfare of Small Animals with Meghann Cant
- Animals is Scientific Research with Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy
- Ethics and Morals of Animal Use with Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy
- 50 Years of Animal Welfare with Dr. David Fraser
- UBC Companion Animal Welfare Research with Dr. Sacha Protopopova
- The Violence Link with Dr. Rochelle Stevenson

### **Regional Council Activities**

This year, Regional Councils voted on goals to explore areas of focus for the groups. Two overarching goals emerged for all Regions:

1. To contribute to the strategic planning process
2. To increase Regional Council representation for all Community Animal Centres in the Region

Further time is required to reach these goals due to the strategic planning timeline and recruitment efforts.

In addition to exploring goals, Regional Councils provided feedback through various means:

- By participating in a survey and an online meeting, Regional Councils advised the Board of Directors on proposed amendments to the BC SPCA Bylaws. These proposed amendments were sent to Members for voting.
- Through surveys and feedback forms, Regional Councils have provided input on topics such as:
  - The strategic planning timeline
  - The functionality of the Regional Councils
  - AnimalKind pet services standards
  - Provided comments for several Position Statements drafted by the Animal Welfare Committee.
- In February 2023, Regional Council Chairs and Vice Chairs attended a workshop conducted by WATSON, a third-party consulting company, which aimed to help develop Board skills and Board/Committee functioning.