Vancouver Society
of Children's Centres

VANCOUVER SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Annual Report **2025 – 2026**

EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

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Message from the Board Chair and CEO

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of what we have accomplished together in support of children and families across our community. These achievements are made possible through the dedication of our employees, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the ongoing support of our government and community partners. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who helps advance VSOCC's vision and strengthen the services we provide.

2025-2026 was a year of growth, innovation, and organizational strengthening for VSOCC. We continued to deliver high-quality, inclusive early learning and childcare programs while advancing our strategic priorities in pedagogy, workforce development, operational excellence, equity, and expansion.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to exceptional early learning experiences that support children's growth, well-being, and lifelong learning. Through ongoing investment in educator professional development, we continue to foster a culture of inquiry, reflection, and innovation that enriches children's learning and strengthens professional practice.

Families remain central to everything we do. Throughout the year, we strengthened family engagement and continued to advance equity, inclusion, and accessibility through partnerships that support children with diverse needs and improve access for vulnerable families.

We also invested in our people and operations, strengthening leadership development, succession planning, employee engagement, technology systems, and organizational infrastructure.

The shortage of licensed childcare spaces remains a significant challenge in Vancouver. VSOCC is committed to being part of the solution and was honoured to be selected by the City of Vancouver to operate new childcare centres at Coal Harbour Elementary School, Oakridge Civic Centre, and Marpole Community Centre. Expanding beyond the downtown core marks a significant milestone in growing VSOCC's community reach. Together with other planned projects, these centres will create hundreds of new childcare spaces for Vancouver families in the years ahead.

Research continues to demonstrate the social and economic value of investing in childcare. By working together across governments and the sector, we can help build a childcare system that is accessible, affordable, equitable, and sustainable for current and future generations.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the families who place their trust in VSOCC each day. Together, the accomplishments of this past year reflect both the strength of our organization today and our commitment to serving more children, families, and communities in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Claudia Baerwolff
Chair, Board of Directors

Bernice Scholten
CEO

Our Mission

We develop and deliver excellent quality, inclusive child care services in collaboration with government, community and business partners

Our Vision

Empowering children and families to reach their full potential

Our Values

Life-long Learning

Children are capable, competent, naturally inquisitive and learn best through play. We nurture children's natural desire to wonder and learn, and create safe learning environments that provide endless opportunities to explore, experiment, and meet their fullest potential. Educators are professional, qualified, reflective role models and co-constructors of learning who continuously challenge themselves to grow alongside children and families.

Diversity and Inclusion

We embrace diversity and create environments of acceptance, respect, understanding and inclusion. We commit to learn, understand and appreciate each person's unique attributes, abilities, and cultural history and ensure these are recognized and valued in our programs and work places.

Employee Well-being

We care deeply about our people and make every effort to bring out the best in each other. Teamwork, trust and employee well-being are vital to a positive workplace. We support and encourage each other when things are challenging or difficult. We are dedicated to professional and personal growth and invite opportunities to learn together.

Strong Partnerships

Trust is the foundation of every relationship and we are defined by the quality of our connections with children, families, government and community partners. Families are the first and primary teachers and caregivers who have the most important role in promoting their children's well-being, learning and development. We engage families and community partners in creating a feeling of connectivity, belonging and support.

The Vancouver Society of Children's Centres (VSOCC) is a non-profit organization providing licensed childcare since 1995. In partnership with government, community and business partners we design, develop and operate childcare facilities in the City of Vancouver. VSOCC currently operates 33 licensed childcare programs offering 728 spaces in 15 locations. Licensed childcare programs include group care for children ages three months to kindergarten and school age programs.

Centres

ATELIER CHILDREN'S CENTRE
396 - 825 Homer Street

BAYSHORE GARDENS CHILDREN'S CENTRE
200 - 581 Cardero Street

CHARLESON CHILDREN'S CENTRE
1378 Richards Street

DOROTHY LAM CHILDREN'S CENTRE
188 Drake Street

ELSIE ROY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
150 Drake Street

INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE CHILDREN'S CENTRE
680 Abbott Street

CROSSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
55 Expo Boulevard

THE JUNCTION CHILDREN'S CENTRE
1059 Main Street

LIBRARY SQUARE CHILDREN'S CENTRE
301 & 401 - 345 Robson Street

THE MARK CHILDREN'S CENTRE
100 - 1362 Seymour Street

QUAYSIDE CHILDREN'S CENTRE
1011 Marinaside Crescent

SAPPHIRE CHILDREN'S CENTRE
1170 West Pender Street

SEA STAR CHILDREN'S CENTRE
1451 Homer Street

WATERFRONT CHILDREN'S CENTRE
505 - 1067 West Cordova Street

WEST VILLAGE CHILDREN'S CENTRE
131 West 2nd Avenue

Strategic Priorities

Quality Child Care and Learning

Deliver excellent, inclusive childcare and learning opportunities in a safe environment.

- Educators embed the BC Early Learning Framework in daily practice.
- Family engagement practices ensure families are informed, included and actively involved in collaborative reflection, communication and children's learning experiences.
- Program environments are safe, sustainable, and intentionally designed to facilitate learning, curiosity, inquiry, and children's well-being.
- VSOCC playgrounds and gardens nurture children's connections to land, place, and nature, promoting well-being, environmental awareness, and belonging.
- VSOCC's food program supports children's physical and emotional well-being by providing healthy, sustainable, and diverse foods that foster positive relationships with food.

Employee Care

Build and retain a healthy, capable, and engaged workforce where employees are valued.

- VSOCC has a pool of qualified candidates who have the necessary skills, accreditation, knowledge, and experience to meet current and future staffing needs.
- High performing and high potential employees are identified and developed to assume leadership positions in the near, mid, and long term.
- Newly hired, transferred, and promoted staff are valued, engaged contributors and well-integrated into their teams.
- VSOCC employees are dedicated, enthusiastic contributors on their teams and committed to the organization. Employees are encouraged and supported to maintain their well-being.
- Employees have the knowledge and skills to confidently perform their responsibilities, comply with regulatory requirements and meet strategic objectives.
- Working together, supervisors and employees plan, monitor and review performance.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Increase capacity to deliver attainable, equitable, diverse and inclusive childcare spaces and workplace environments.

- VSOCC is reflective of the communities where we operate. All families and employees feel included, valued, and respected.
- VSOCC's policies, practices, and programs foster accessibility, inclusion, and equity by welcoming and supporting children, families, and communities of diverse identities, abilities, backgrounds and socio-economic circumstances.

Organizational Capacity

Enhance and evolve organizational capacity to allow us to scale up and meet the demand for more childcare spaces.

- Technology systems are efficient and scalable.
- Information technology structure is secure, efficient, and effective in supporting all areas of the operation.
- Staff and program structure support growth and align with funding requirements.
- Sustainable practices support environmental responsibility and organizational resilience.
- VSOCC maintains high quality facilities and assets that are safe, functional, and sustainable over the long-term

Growth

With partners, collaborate and support the creation and development of new childcare spaces.

- VSOCC maintains strong partnerships with municipal and provincial governments to stay informed of childcare strategies, identify growth opportunities, and influence new facility development.
- New childcare facilities are developed and operationalized in full compliance with licensing standards, delivering safe, high-quality care that supports children's well-being and development.
- VSOCC identifies and supports new growth opportunities, including submission of proposals for operation of new facilities, and the design and construction of high-quality childcare facilities.

2025 – 2026 Highlights

2025-2026 was a year of growth, innovation, and organizational strengthening for VSOCC. Through a continued focus on high-quality pedagogy, family engagement, workforce development, operational excellence, inclusion, and the expansion of childcare capacity, VSOCC is strengthening its ability to meet the evolving needs of children, families, employees, and communities. Significant advancements in professional learning, digital transformation, food services, facilities management, and new centre development position the organization for continued growth while remaining committed to providing exceptional early learning and childcare experiences for all children and families.

Quality Child Care and Learning

VSOCC continues to strengthen high-quality, inclusive early learning by deepening family engagement, enhancing pedagogical practice, and investing in educator learning. Throughout the year, centres hosted numerous family engagement events that celebrated children's learning, cultural identities, creativity, and community connections. Families participated in curriculum-focused events, learning celebrations, seasonal gatherings, documentation galleries, collaborative projects, and reflective conversations that strengthened the connection between home and childcare programs.

A significant organizational focus was the ongoing partnership with the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (ECPN). This multi-year collaboration supports educators and leaders in examining children's learning, transitions, pedagogical documentation, and reflective practice. Through learning circles, supervisor training, curriculum planning days, professional development events, and ongoing pedagogical coaching, educators strengthened their ability to make learning visible and align practice with VSOCC's pedagogical commitments.

Professional development remained a priority. Educators participated in organization-wide curriculum planning, pedagogical leadership training, inclusion-focused workshops, supported childcare training, neurodiversity education, duty-to-report training, leadership development, and learning focused on children's well-being, rest, relaxation, and respectful relationships.

Employee Care

VSOCC maintained a stable and engaged workforce throughout the year. Recruitment efforts focused on both internal talent development and strategic external recruitment, helping the organization maintain low turnover and minimize vacancies despite ongoing sector-wide staffing challenges.

Leadership succession remained a key priority. The Program Supervisor Training Program continued throughout the year, supporting the development of future leaders and preparing internal candidates for upcoming supervisory and management opportunities, including the opening of new childcare centres. New supervisor candidate cohorts were launched, strengthening the organization's leadership pipeline.

The organization also strengthened human resources practices through policy reviews, implementation of a Safe Reporting Policy, annual Privacy and Confidentiality training, employee engagement initiatives, payroll process improvements, enhancements to WorkSafeBC claims management, and updates to health and safety procedures. Preparation for collective bargaining was also undertaken as the collective agreement reached expiry.

Diversity, Equity And Inclusion

VSOCC continued to strengthen its commitment to equitable access and inclusive practice.

The organization's partnership with Vancouver Public Health expanded support for vulnerable and low-income families seeking childcare. The initiative was recognized as a promising approach to improving access to childcare and reducing barriers for families. The partnership continued to evolve, resulting in additional placements for families and improvements to referral and enrolment processes.

Throughout the year, VSOCC collaborated closely with Supported Child Development and other sector partners to advocate for children requiring additional support while addressing ongoing sector-wide funding challenges.

Organizational Capacity

Considerable progress was made in modernizing systems, processes, and infrastructure to support the organization's operational efficiencies, effectiveness and continued growth.

Digital Transformation

VSOCC continued development and implementation of several strategic technology initiatives, including:

- Sage APA electronic payment capabilities to support EFT transactions and reduce manual cheque processing.
- Refinement of the Waitlist and Enrolment Application.
- Enhanced cybersecurity planning, security monitoring, and system upgrades.
- Advancement of digital HR and onboarding processes.

Food Services

The Food Services Department completed a comprehensive review of menus, recipes, and food production processes. New menus were developed, reviewed by a Registered Dietitian and aligned with Child Care Licensing Regulations and Canada's Food Guide. Implementation across VSOCC centres has begun, strengthening nutritional quality, consistency, and operational efficiency.

Facilities and Asset Management

The organization enhanced its preventative maintenance and asset management systems through expanded use of maintenance management software, improved asset tracking, facility upgrades, playground restoration projects, lease renewals, and proactive planning for aging infrastructure and regulatory changes.

Financial Stewardship

VSOCC successfully secured key funding streams, completed major reporting requirements, maintained insurance coverage, implemented budget planning processes, and prepared for annual audits while maintaining strong operational and fiscal oversight.

Growth and Expansion

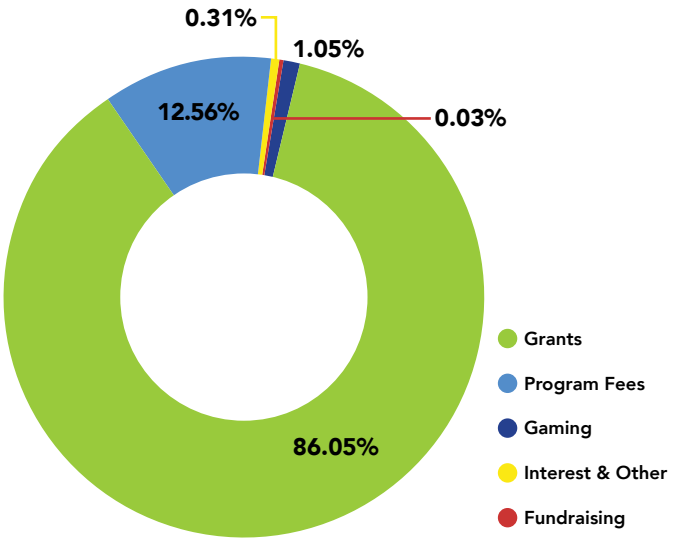
A significant organization achievement in 2025-2026 was continued progress toward expanding childcare capacity across Vancouver.

The new Coal Harbour Children's Centre advanced from construction to substantial completion, with occupancy and start-up planning well underway. Additional major projects, including Marpole Community Centre, Oakridge Civic Centre and Firehall at Beatty Street are also progressing through construction phases.

VSOCC continued collaborating closely with the City of Vancouver, developers, architects, and community partners on multiple future childcare developments across the city. These projects position the organization to significantly increase childcare capacity in the coming years and support growing demand for high-quality childcare spaces.

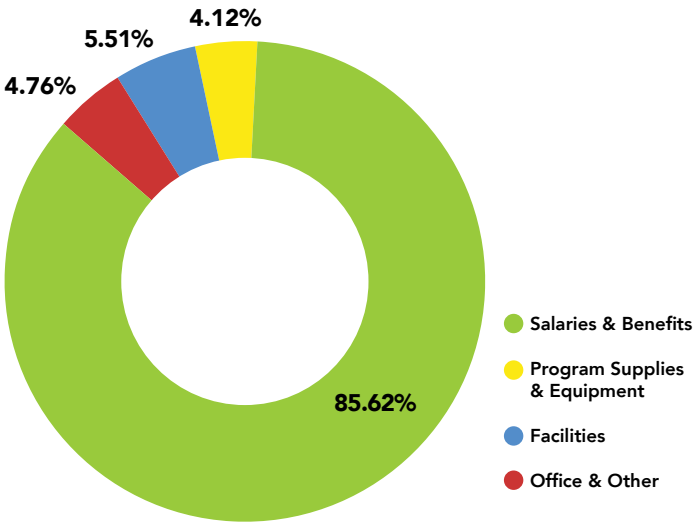
Financial Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2026

REVENUE



$21,481,017

EXPENSES



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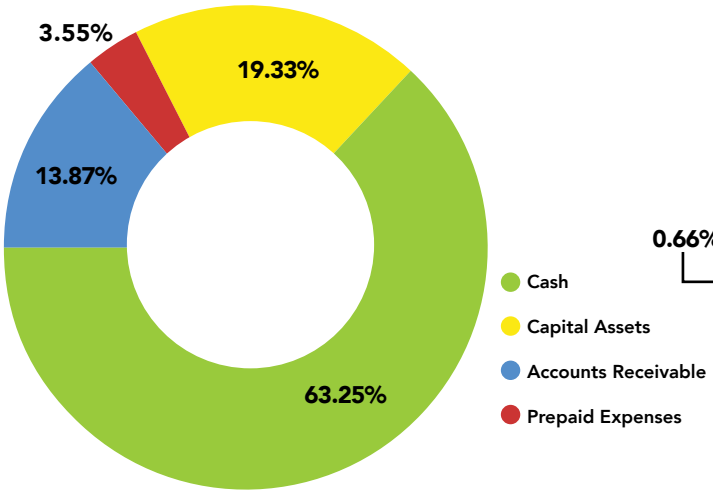
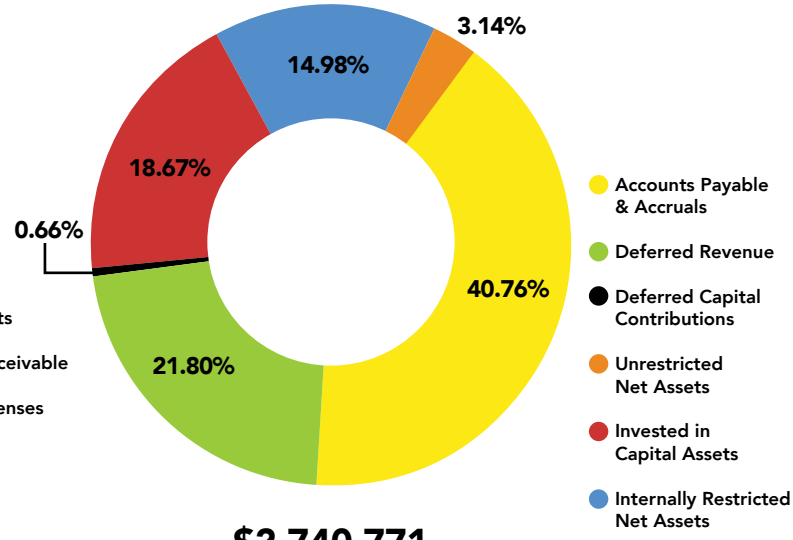
Financial Position at March 31, 2026

ASSETS



$2,740,771

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS



$2,740,771

VSOCC's audited financial statements were completed by BDO. A copy of the 2026 audited financial statements is available upon request.