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President's Report – Annual General Meeting October 6, 2016

I would like to start by welcoming you to our new Tin Town office. I hope you have had a chance to look around. Although there were some concerns about whether we'd be okay with the move, after Marcie performed her magic and kind and caring businesses and individuals stepped forward to make it happen, we found that we truly do love it here. Thank you, Marcie, for having faith that we would.

This year YANA reached a 30 year milestone. It is amazing that Sandra Williams' vision in 1986 is stronger today than it has ever been. There have been times of struggle during those 30 years, but the community and core groups of volunteers have always managed to keep Sandra's vision alive. Our mandate has not changed. We provide accommodation and funding to Comox Valley families who need to travel outside the community for medical treatment for a child or for a pregnant mother. The beautiful work of Jody Macdonald is on display to remind us of the reasons we are here and the way we proudly represent this community.

I thank our staff, Marcie and Ocean, for their constant dedication and their continued efforts to be the best they can be and to ensure that YANA maintains a position of trust and high regard in the community. We are at an all time high for community awareness through print media, social media, events and community engagement.

The fact that all of our board members have chosen to stay on for another year is an acknowledgement of their dedication as well. We have a great team who work together to accomplish great things. I thank all of them for the efforts they put in to attend and contribute to our meetings, for sharing their expertise on various committees, for representing YANA at community events and for always having the best interest of

YANA as their number one priority. I actually think they all want to stay just because our meetings are so much fun.

Our YANA-led fundraisers continue to surpass our goals, both in outreach impact and financial success. These events require an incredible effort by our staff, our board and our volunteers and they are successful because of the support of our community. Many third-party fundraisers held throughout the year provide additional funds to support our cause and enable us to enhance our services while keeping within our mandate.

I can't acknowledge our successful year without acknowledging the many individuals, businesses and organizations that keep us in their hearts as they choose how to share their charitable donations. We are honored that they have put their trust in us to use their donations wisely.

And last our gratitude goes to the amazing families who are the reasons we exist and who give us the inspiration to carry on Sandra William's dream. They are the brave ones and we are so honored to be able to share the community's generosity with them.

It's been a very enjoyable year as the President of YANA. I am proud to sit on this board and to have an excuse to spend many volunteer hours in this office. I love the people, the cause and the inspiration all around me. As Lesley says, it's way better than being at home dusting.

Thank you.

Judy Cryer | YANA President