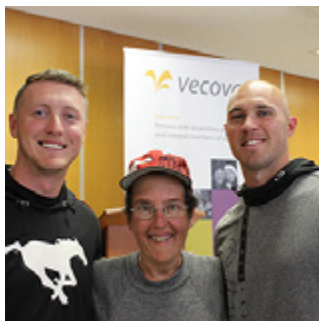


Growing, Sharing, Leading

Annual Report 2015 - 2016



GROWING, SHARING, LEADING

A Message from our CEO

"It is my pleasure to write this message as Vecova embarked on yet another year of providing the best support to clients, excellent service to customers and growing stronger in our connections in our community.

This has been a dynamic year, focused on one of our biggest assets - the strength of our experience. As I reflect on the past months, I am drawn to our legacy, which calls on us to leverage our knowledge. In 2015, we responded by growing understanding, sharing our stories and being strong leaders in our community.

We have helped clients and customers seize opportunity at every stage of their lives, recognized vital transitions and led by example. Together with our partners and stakeholders we celebrated those who championed our cause, and stepped forward to help give people of all abilities the support and knowledge they need to create a limitless future." - Joan Lee



Mission: Building the capacity of persons with disabilities and enriching communities through leadership, innovation and collaboration.

Vision: Persons with disabilities are valued and integral members of society.

Highlights



Empowering Abilities

Learning to play sports doesn't come naturally to every child. Regardless of ability, a playground can be a minefield of anxiety. When someone has difficulty with motor planning skills, sometimes having a safe place to simplify and practice movement is what it takes to succeed. This year, our Recreation Centre welcomed a new program called Empower Abilities for children with mild to moderate motor delays and disabilities. Over 30 children have received individualized attention from a new team of therapy aides, and a Vecova-based physical therapist.

[Click here to watch the video online.](#)



Voices of Inclusion

How we fulfill our mission takes many forms. The reward we seek is to witness the unfolding of a future that many have worked hard to build. This year, we are proud to share the many ways Vecova has made an impact in the community.

[Click here to watch the video online.](#)

A Creative Partnership



Partnerships are a chance to engage the community in understanding the contributions and value of people with disabilities. When we are connected to the places we live, work and play, we truly belong. In 2015, we became partners with TELUS Spark through their Community Connections program. This collaboration has opened the door for those we serve to explore educational opportunities in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and math in an environment geared towards all ages and cognitive abilities. In the first months alone, 36 individuals have visited the centre, opening up new avenues for exploration and inspiration.

[Click here to watch the video online.](#)

"I believe this is a world of opportunity."

Taylor Eveleigh - Vecova client

GROWING



5% More Visits

225,267 Calgarians used our Recreation Centre's inclusive programs, services and facilities. 90% of patrons reported satisfaction with our programs.



Up 2.5%

Despite fewer containers purchased in Alberta in 2015, the Vecova Bottle Depot recycled 15.8 million bottles and cans.



46% Increase

Attendance at Vecova's Professional Supports Education series grew to 327 people from a range of disability service organizations.



A Lifetime of Support

Life is an evolution of change, and having a disability is no different. When dementia happens your daily life can undergo dramatic shifts and physical challenges. Vecova has remained on the forefront of this critical need. This past year, we expanded our Complex Needs Living Supports to include a new home designed especially for people who are also experiencing the effects of dementia. This specialized home is providing support for 4 individuals who have successfully transitioned from other living environments.



Growing Together

Building a workforce invested in the success of an organization is a mark of distinction. Despite challenges in the Alberta economy our workforce grew by a remarkable 17% this past year, as we grew to serve more people with complex needs, helped young adults transition into adulthood and benefited from strong customer relationships within our social enterprises. We also celebrated 45 employees who reached long-term service milestones.

"Exploring our connection to others is a lifelong process, one that brings us both enriching experiences and meaningful relationships."

Donna White - Vecova Community Access Manager

SHARING



Building Connections

Over 25 new formal partnerships and connections were made with organizations and businesses providing opportunities that matched individual interests or needs.



Community Ambassador

A partnership with the Calgary Stampeders football team connected us with the mentorship and support of Quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell.



People Engaged

We boosted our social media to engage 4,419 people online, and were featured by news organizations locally and across Canada.

Innovations in Wellness

Being active and engaged in your community means having new experiences and a chance to make new friends. In 2015, Vecova's Wellness Services, Community Access team began re-thinking what we know about disability and how to be an active member of the community. The result has been a shift to providing a new array of volunteer, leisure and civic engagement activities targeted to an individual's unique needs and age. By expanding connections and networks, new aspects of our lives can be discovered and strong relationships can be built.



Impact & Investment

There is transformative power when a charity shares its story and builds bridges through volunteering. Over the past year, Vecova was thrilled to welcome over 60 new volunteers to our organization. More than 30 were corporate volunteers who rallied to help us clean up after a summer storm and assisted our social enterprises. 30 more community volunteers joined forces with our Fund Development team to support us at events and help fundraise.



Inspired giving builds strong and caring communities.

[We would like to thank all our 2015 donors. Click here to read the full list on our website.](#)

"A strong workforce is one inclusive of all skills and talents..."
Mayor Naheed Nenshi - Proclamation of National Disability Employment Awareness Month

LEADING



2015 Bottle Pick-Up

The social enterprise was reimaged under "Your Empties Change Lives" and we gave our fleet of trucks a new and colourful makeover.



100% Employer Satisfaction

Employment teams earned top marks from the local business community.



51 Organizations Across Canada

Benefited from our industry-leading Medication Administration training program.



Limitless Futures

Graduating from high school is just one of many milestones of becoming an adult. Often the supports and relationships from childhood fall away, and the future can be overwhelming and vast. This past year, we expanded our successful employment program with the Calgary Board of Education to develop a new and groundbreaking program for Returning Grade 12s. These students had access to specialized coaches that helped them explore the many important choices and prospects for meaningful employment as they entered adulthood. Together our 2 highly acclaimed programs created 82 work experience opportunities, and mentored teachers and students at a critical and often overlooked juncture.

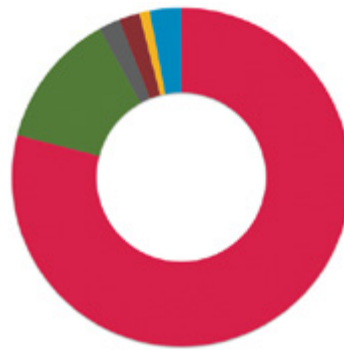


Standard of Excellence

An organization's commitment to accountability and transparency is the mark of a leader. In 2015, we sustained our legacy of distinction by being awarded the highest accreditation from the Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS). Achieving a "Creating Excellence Together" Level 2, including the additional standing of delivering services for complex needs, is a testament to our distinct vision and the strength of our experience. Vecova was also acknowledged for the major research contributions we have made to the disability sector.

2015-16 Financials

2015 REVENUE



- Government of Alberta-Disability Services Contract 79%
- Net Sales 13%
- Service Contracts 2%
- Provincial/Municipal/Other Grants 2%
- Fundraising 1%
- Other 3%

2015 EXPENDITURES



- Service Delivery 92%
- Facility Maintenance/Capital Renovations 4%
- Infrastructure Costs 4%

Board of Directors



Neil Mackenzie
Chair



Greg Campbell
Vice-Chair



Jeanette Pick
Secretary



Steve Twible
Treasurer



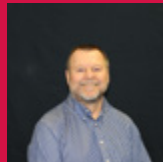
Joan Lee
CEO



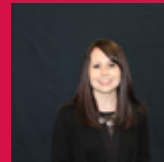
Dr. Dorothy Badry



Colin Friesen



Don Holloway



Meredith MacDonald



Dr. Lary Mosley



Dr. Nancy Moules

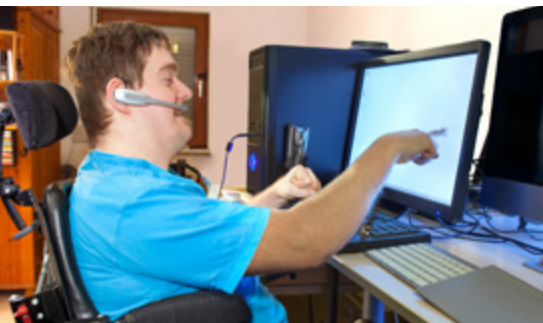


Geri Price



Ivan Sierralta

"It had great, speedy service and it is for a great cause."
- 2015 Bottle Depot customer



Our lives are enriched
when we value and include
each other.

