

## **Introduction: BCVRS Committee Members**

**Lisa Anderson Kellett – Communications Officer**

**Jodi Birley – Video Project Coordinator**

**Ava Hawkins – Liaison to Telus**

**Nigel Howard – Liaison to CRTC**

**David MacDonald – Treasurer**

**Susan Masters – Letter-writing committee**

**Kimberly Wood – Liaison to Canadian Association of the Deaf**

### **A brief background:**

The British Columbia Video Relay Services Committee (BCVRS), established in 2008 by Wayne Sinclair, Monte Hardy, Cecilia Klassen, Susan Masters, and Ava Hawkins, all submitted interventions to this proceeding 2013-155. BCVRS is a grassroots, wholly volunteer-based committee that consists of Deaf people and their allies. The committee then convened a series of town hall meetings to get feedback and to be endorsed to communicate with the CRTC that VRS services were a vital subject needed in our community. This later evolved into liaising with various organizations to ensure accurate representation

The BCVRS is a community group who has diligently worked to gather and relay the views of our Deaf Community.

BCVRS came together for the purposes of:

- Advocating for the best Video Relay Services possible in BC;
- Collecting the views regarding VRS, IP-Relay, the VRS trial from the Deaf Community;
- Representing the BC Deaf community's views to the CRTC, and telecom providers
- Disseminating information to the Deaf community regarding Video Relay Services, and CRTC or telecommunications updates.

As an information hub, the BCVRS has managed its own website (bcvrs.ca), in ASL and English, tweeted over 1,000 messages, and managed messages from around 4,500 individuals within 13 VRS-related facebook groups, including letters, petitions and comments indicating a desire for a VRS in Canada.

The BCVRS has successfully hosted two nation-wide rallies attended by 650 – 1,324 supporters, at eleven different locations across Canada, both in January and September 2013.

The BCVRS Committee is also unique in that we have already experienced Video Relay Services as participants in the 18-month Telus-Sorenson trial.