



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2018

SOS Children's Village B.C. Awarded National Accreditation

Surrey, British Columbia SOS Children's Village B.C. is thrilled to announce that **the charity has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA)**. SOS Children's Village B.C. provides the following services to children in foster care, youth aging out of care, and at-risk youth: The SOS Village in Surrey, Transition to Adulthood Program, Youth Housing Year Intensive Program, Counselling, Expressive Art/Play Therapy, Neurofeedback Training, Learning Club Program, Camp Recreation Cultural Exploration Program, Sounds of Learning Music Program, and Caregiver Support Program. SOS B.C. also has a fee for service program called Parent Driven Autism Services, available to anyone.

It took SOS Children's Village B.C. nine months to achieve accreditation. **Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services.** COA evaluated all aspects of SOS B.C.'s programs, services, management, and administration.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. **The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce.**

COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability **by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.**

"We are so proud to have join the ranks of COA accredited agencies and look forward to embracing an organizational culture of continuing quality improvement in all aspects of our operations," said Douglas Dunn, executive director of the charity.

To achieve COA accreditation, SOS Children's Village B.C. first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff, and clients.

Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that SOS Children's Village B.C. had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.



An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the U.S. State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioural health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.COAnet.org.

SOS Children's Village B.C. offers its services to children in foster care, youth aging out of care, and at-risk youth in the Lower Mainland. SOS B.C. has been providing these vital, high-demand, and life-changing services since 1986. Learn more at www.sosbc.org.

About SOS Children's Village BC

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization and cares for fostered, orphaned, or abandoned children. It has existed for over 65 years with presence in 134 countries and 572 Villages. British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada. SOS Children's Village BC provides homes, a supportive community, and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

-30-

For more information please contact:

William Brennan, Manager of Communications
SOS Children's Village BC
T: (604) 574-2964 ext. 104
E: williambrennan@sosbc.org Web: www.sosbc.org

Please visit our Media Room: www.sosbc.org/news-events/media-room