Annual Impact Report
2016-2017

“A beacon of light on a very dark and arduous path.”

hswc.ca
OUR VISION
We envision a day when all women and their children are valued and lead healthy lives – supported, connected to the community, and violence free.

OUR MISSION
The Howe Sound Women’s Centre Society promotes women’s equality and the empowerment of women and their children. We work from a feminist perspective. By responding to, and working for change, we honour the diversity of women’s lives, and meet the evolving needs of the women and their children throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor.

STORY OF THE TURTLE
The turtle is a powerful spirit representing inspiration, healing and strength. Turtles are rooted in the most stable of elements, the earth, which sustains us all from the time we are born.

In tribal creation stories, the turtle told the creatures of the earth: “I have a large, strong back. Ask Sky Woman to come and have her children on my back so that they can grow up among the creatures of the earth and learn early the harmony in which we should live.”
What a gift it has been to be a part of this organization for another year. It has been an honour and privilege to be the president of the Howe Sound Women’s Centre Society. For six years I have been witness to the dedicated care and service of the staff and volunteers of this amazing society. You are a creative, diverse group of individuals caring for the lives and well being of women and children throughout the corridor. From front line workers in transition houses and drop in centres, to counsellors and program directors, all the way to administrative staff, faithful volunteers and the ED, I have seen a dedication to the work of ending violence in the corridor that is immeasurable. Every day you come closer to reaching “a day when all women and their children are valued and lead healthy lives - supported, connected to the community, and violence free.”

It has been a pleasure to work closely with Megan Reynolds as ED throughout the last year. I truly believe she has been the perfect fit for this organization at this time. As the president of the board I can tell you that we currently have a dedicated, committed, strong and faithful board at the helm who seek to assist in continuing to build an even stronger organization.

As I looked back over the accomplishments of the last years I realized we have created some great dreams and visions that are coming to fruition. At this time last year many of the following were just beginning or about to begin and today we have over a year behind us of:

- Offering sexual assault response and prevention projects for the Sea to Sky Corridor
- Building relationships with other community organizations, specifically focusing on efforts to prevent homelessness and improve the affordable housing opportunities within Squamish. The work of the “Integrated Housing Solutions Group” has done a lot of research and as they roll out their findings I am sure we will see a positive impact in Squamish and the corridor.
- Staff have reported feeling supported and safer in their roles with a new benefits program to support their lives beyond work.
- Board meetings have become more streamlined and the work of updating board governance policies, constitutions and bylaws is near complete.

As a board, we regularly reflect on the strategic plan which holds four specific goals to assist living out the vision of the society. In the next five years we seek to enhance programming for women, deepen programming for children, expand housing programs, and improve profitability of our business units. I believe that as a society we have taken leaps and bounds to enhance the programs in each of these areas, and have dedicated work happening within each goal.

I want to repeat an acknowledgement I made last year. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for all you do. Daily you work with individuals and families who are facing pain and struggle. Your care for women and children is changing lives and building a better world. I know you face days when your work is hard, discouraging and even depressing and you wonder if it is worth it all. Let me assure you it is. Even if you make one life a little better it is worth all you do. Remember to “never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

Thank you to all who contribute to this amazing organization through work, volunteering, and financial donations. We appreciate all that you do.

Sincerely,

Karen Millard
Board President
As we wrap up another year at Howe Sound Women’s Centre Society, it’s an opportunity to pause and reflect on what we’ve accomplished over the past twelve months. Doing so reminds us of the paradox between progress and knowing there is still so much work yet to be done. We are motivated and committed to creating change for the future, but we would be remiss if we didn’t first celebrate the many acts of kindness and resiliency that take place each day in the lives of the women and children we serve.

Our core focus continues to be on providing crisis interventions, supports, resources, referrals and advocacy to women and their children who are experiencing violence and abuse in relationships, or who are at risk of homelessness. We do this by providing emergency transitional housing through Pearl’s Place Transition House in Squamish and Pearl’s Safe Home in Pemberton. As women transition from emergency shelters, we are able to provide affordable housing and rental assistance through our affordable housing units and the homeless prevention program. We provide ongoing emotional and practical support for those who have or who are considering leaving an abusive relationship through the Squamish and Whistler Women’s Drop-In Centres, where we also offer multicultural outreach services for women (Squamish), and counselling to children who are navigating the difficulties of violence, abuse, or high conflict in the home. As women transition from crisis, we provide employment resources, job skills development and specialized employment services through our partnership with Back In Motion, Inc. We would not be able to deliver these core services were it not for the financial and operational support of BC Housing, the BC Ministry of Justice, the BC Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation / WorkBC, the BC Ministry of Finance, the District of Squamish, the Resort Municipality of Whistler, and the many donors and customers who support Pearl’s Value & Vintage.

This past year marked a major milestone for Howe Sound Women’s Centre Society, as we celebrated our 35th year of service on the traditional territories of the Squamish and Lil’wat First Nations. Our anniversary celebration was a reminder of how compassion, care and support for women and families from our community has spanned decades. It kicked off with the 35 Days of 35 Campaign, a 35 day fundraising and awareness campaign focused on sharing stories of impact from those who have experienced violence and abuse. Awareness of the campaign was driven by a fundraising challenge, whereby our friend Clasina van Bemmel committed to match funds donated over the 35 days. In total, we raised over $57,000! Those stories of impact live on with our new website, which has been re-designed to better meet the needs of those we serve and our community of supporters.

One dream realized this past year was the coordination of Trauma Informed practice for sexualized violence first responders and frontline workers. This training brought together over 100 service providers throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor to develop a collective understanding of the impacts of trauma, and how we can adapt services to improve supports and increase access to justice for survivors.

Looking ahead, the Four Directions identified in our 2020 Strategic Plan will continue to guide our way forward as we work to enhance services throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor.

To that effect, we are actively engaging with BC Housing and other stakeholders for the addition of a full-service transition house in Whistler, so that women and their children are able to stay in their home community as they transition out of an abusive living situation, rather than being moved to Squamish or Pemberton. In partnership with Sea to Sky Community Services, Squamish Helping Hands Society, and Squamish Senior Citizens Home Society, we have developed a comprehensive action plan for stakeholders to address the affordable housing crisis in Squamish, and plan to expand our housing policy efforts further north to Whistler and Pemberton. We will continue to work in partnership with the BC Ministry of Justice Public Safety and Solicitor General to increase resources for our Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling programs in Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton to provide more 1:1 support to children, youth and families, and lead the development of a community-based response to sexual assault and prevention for the Sea to Sky that includes the active participation of all stakeholders. We believe that by collaborating to offer trauma informed, culturally sensitive care at each point of contact, we will better meet the needs of sexual assault survivors and improve outcomes in the criminal justice system. We will continue to build on the success of our social enterprise Pearl’s Value & Vintage to help us grow in a strategic and sustainable way. We also remain committed to an organizational culture that supports the professional development and well-being of those who form the heart of our organization: our staff, volunteers, and board. We will continue to adapt our programs and services to meet the needs of those impacted by the multi-generational trauma of colonization and residential schools. We will lift those most vulnerable as we rise to the challenge of ending violence and other forms of social, economic and cultural oppression in society.

There is much to do in the years ahead, but if we build on the vision, strength and commitment of the women who founded our organization 35 years ago, I believe we can make huge strides forward. Please join us in the journey as we work toward ending violence and creating equality for all.

Megan Reynolds
Executive Director
## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS 2017*

*For the year ended March 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>812,867</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearl's Value &amp; Vintage</td>
<td>447,843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Contract Services</td>
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<td>Rental</td>
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<td>Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets</td>
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<td>Other revenue</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,610,383</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising and promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amortization</td>
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<td>Bad debts</td>
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<td>Bank charges and interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conferences and workshops</td>
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<td>Consultant fee</td>
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<td>Fundraising and events</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Meals and entertainment</td>
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<td>Memberships and licenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on long-term debt</td>
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<td>Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
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<td>Staff and client travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subcontract</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Telecommunications</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss on disposal of capital assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,467,600</strong></td>
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**EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR** .................................... 142,783

* Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.
MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Leadership & Administration
Megan Reynolds, Executive Director
Shana Murray, Community Program Manager, Squamish
Suzan Lemmers, Community Program Manager, Whistler/Pemberton
Ashley Oakes, Community Engagement Coordinator
Sarah Saunders, Executive Administrator
Diane Jackson, Bookkeeper

Women’s Programs
Heidi Nielsen, Squamish Drop-In Centre and Transition House Support Worker
Lynnæa Le Drew, Squamish Drop-In Centre, Multicultural & Transition House Support Worker
Kelsey Rose, Whistler Drop-In Centre Coordinator
Sarah Hart, Employment Services Facilitator & Curriculum Manager
Priscilla Belanger, Employment Resource Specialist
Tanya Linsell, Employment Services Facilitator/Job Placement Specialist
Shannon Cooley-Herdman, Transition House Support Worker/Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Children, Youth & Family Programs
Andrea Sentesy, Children, Youth & Family Counsellor
Sheila Sherkat, Children, Youth & Family Counsellor
Sarah Manwaring-Jones, Youth Education Coordinator & Children, Youth and Family Counsellor
Larissa Parker, Children, Youth and Family Counsellor

Housing Programs
Deanna Enders, Transition House Coordinator
Marie McKinney, Transition House Support Worker
Rhonda Lochbaum, Transition House Support Worker
Donna Billy, Transition House Support Worker
Ivy Debinski, Transition House Support Worker
Shelly Toth, Transition House Support Worker
Ann Butler, Transition House Support Worker
Lauette Stiees, Transition House Support Worker
Navpreet Saroya, Transition House Support Worker
Aidee Valesco Arenas, Transition House Support Worker/Store Receiver & Sorter
Allison Gilchrist, Pearl’s Safe Home & Homeless Prevention Support Worker
Janis Horwat, Pearl’s Safe Home Volunteer
Darla John, Pearl’s Safe Home Volunteer
Chana Kleinman, Pearl’s Safe Home Volunteer
Angela Bradbury, Pearl’s Safe Home Volunteer
Tami Jenkins, Pearl’s Safe Home Volunteer

Pearl’s Value & Vintage
Kate Harvey, Store Manager
Darlene Maloney, Assistant Store Manager
Diana King, Floor Supervisor
Doreen Boyle, Retail Staff
Tracy Ferguson, Receiver Sorter
Helen Horvat, Receiver Sorter
Christina Mussell White, Volunteer
Shelley Dobos, Volunteer
Yasmin Rollinson, Volunteer
Karen Bint, Volunteer
Gilllan Callard, Volunteer
Ginny Dick, Volunteer
Roxanne Mooney, Volunteer
Kent Halverston, Volunteer
Anne Handy, Volunteer
Susan Magnuson, Volunteer
Sharon Fields, Volunteer
Erna Bywater, Volunteer
Eleanor Ness, Volunteer
Jackie Stevenson, Volunteer
John Stevenson, Volunteer
Gennie Goodwin, Volunteer
Anne Bracey, Volunteer
Dora Wint, Volunteer

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the countless volunteers who help out with our programs and fundraising events throughout the year.
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS

WOMEN’S CENTRES

Squamish Drop In Centre
The Squamish Drop-in Centre is dedicated to creating a safe, non-judgmental, caring and healthy community for women and their children to seek support and resources. Drop-in services include: crisis support, information, advocacy, referrals, assistance with government and non-government forms, computer and fax machine use, and more. We continue to see growth and demand for these programs. We have a highly skilled, dedicated drop-in support team and volunteers who share their time and knowledge to help deliver this important community resource. The Squamish Drop-in Centre is open Monday through Thursday 10am – 4pm.

Multicultural Outreach Program
Our Multicultural Outreach Program in Squamish strives to provide culturally safe one-on-one support services guided by the principles that put women’s safety first, respect the rights of women to make choices and decisions based on their understanding of their needs, and respect each woman’s perspective and individual situation. Services include: crisis support, safety planning, outreach, help with forms, information and referrals to other organizations as needed, help navigating systems, advocacy, local accompaniment and more. Support is available in a variety of languages by phone.

We are currently translating information about our programs in several languages to increase immigrant and refugee women’s awareness of supports available to them.

Moving forward, we will continue to work towards ensuring our approach to services reflects the diverse experiences of women in need of support and are responsive and flexible in meeting their needs. Multicultural Outreach services are available Tuesdays between 10am and 4pm at the Squamish Women’s Drop-In Centre.

Whistler Drop In Centre
The Whistler Drop-In Centre offers crisis intervention support service as well as violence and sexual assault prevention and education programs. In addition to these services we host a weekly yoga program including childminding, an ongoing prenatal program, a monthly Mom and Tot drop-in support group with guest speakers and self-defense classes.

The Whistler Drop-In Centre serves the unique and diverse needs of all women, bringing together women and families of various cultures and ages, including Multicultural and First Nations communities. We know that this work contributes to the social fabric of the community, the social attachment of its residents, and contributes to the well-being of our community and society at large. The Drop-In Centre programs give all women in the community the opportunity to build their village of support, gather tools and resources, and prevent isolation, which in turn fosters wellness and a sense of community. In addition, by offering various volunteer opportunities to over 25 women, the Whistler Drop-In Centre provides local opportunities for personal development, career exploration and a chance to give back to the Whistler community.

We have marked days of significance and participated in community awareness events such as: Sisters in Spirit Vigil in honour of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls, International Day of the Girl - Sparkle and Grit Film Night, Raising our Voices - International Women’s Day Celebration of Music, Prevention of Violence against Women Week and more. Through events, education and awareness, the Whistler Drop-In Centre contributes to positive social and cultural change in our community, showing residents and visitors alike that Whistler is a community that cares.

WOMEN’S PROGRAM STATS

Drop-in Centre Squamish
Drop-in visits, women – 1902
Drop-in visits, children/youth – 214
Support phone calls – 140
1:1 Emotional Support – 501
Vouchers to Peals Value & Vintage – 336
Volunteer hours – 1725
Drop-in yoga, women – 520

Drop-in Centre Whistler
Drop in visits, women – 1131
Drop-in visits, children/youth – 431
Support phone calls – 72
1:1 Emotional Support – 364
Volunteer Hours – 309
Drop-in yoga, women – 255

HOUSING STATS

Pearl’s Place Transition House
Women served – 64
Children served – 39
Bed nights, women – 885
Bed nights, children – 514
Average stay – 19
Support calls – 230

Pearl’s Safe Home
Women served – 14
Children served – 7
Bed nights, women – 181
Bed nights, children – 69
Average stay – 13
The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator role has now been active for 21 months and, with new project funding, community education initiatives have informed our direction for the past year. With Civil Foreiture Grant Funding (CFO) from the Province of BC, we sought to improve the regional response to sexual assault by providing local service providers training in best practices. At the end of January, 2017 we were privileged to deliver Trauma-Informed-Practice training by Canadian expert, Dr. Lori Haskell to over 100 participants from the Sea to Sky Corridor.

More project deliverables included commissioning a literature scan titled “A Canadian Perspective On Sexualized Violence Against Women: Key Highlights” (Vanessa Fernando, MSW). The author who uses an intersectional lens to provide insight and recommendations based on a selection of literature and research from the past five years. This information is being adapted to a power point presentation to be posted to hswc.ca as a public education tool.

Later this spring, we will be delivering a workshop focused on increasing the cultural competency of local service providers in order to improve supports and access to justice for Indigenous survivors who have experienced current or historical sexualized violence.

Our second major project this year was made possible with grant funding from the RCMP Family Violence Initiative Fund and the support of School District 48. Nine sexual assault prevention presentations of “Beyond High School: The Red Zone” were delivered to over 230 senior high school students in the Sea to Sky Corridor to help them prepare for their departure from the familiar home setting to post secondary education and living independently. The goal of the project was to prevent sexualized violence amongst young adults by informing them about consent, healthy relationships, risk factors associated with sexual assault, increasing protective factors for themselves and their peers, and the law as it relates to sexualized violence, including sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. The presentations were developed through fall 2016 and early 2017 and were co-facilitated with members and staff from Sea to Sky Policing Services (RCMP) and RCMP Victim Services.

In terms of advocacy and building public awareness, regional issues related to sexualized violence and sexual assault response led to interview requests from the media, including, The Squamish Chief, Pique Newsmagazine (Drug Facilitated Rape/High Rates of Sexual Assault Police Files called “Unfounded or Baseless” in Whistler), The Whistler Question, ViceNews.ca and on CBC Radio’s “Early Edition” on the business-hours-only availability of medical-forensic examinations (rape kits) in Squamish.

Lastly, a guiding outcome measurement framework was created in early 2017 to inform our Society’s sexualized violence response and prevention strategy for the next three years. As we continue to work for new funding sources to support ongoing initiatives in this area, we have committed interim funding for this role for the next year to ensure this important issue receives the focus and attention it needs to ensure improved outcomes for survivors.
WOMEN’S PROGRAMS

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OF BRITISH COLUMBIA/BACK IN MOTION REHAB INC.

The Employment Program of B.C. (EPBC) is an integrated system of employment services and supports available to all British Columbians who are seeking employment and are legally eligible to work in Canada. EPBC offers employment services in one-stop centres known as WorkBC Employment Service Centres or “ESCs”. The mandate of the program is to ensure that everyone has access to the supports and services they need to find and keep work. This is achieved through individualized case management, employability skills workshops, one-to-one career guidance, financial supports to assist clients in looking for work or starting new work. The EPBC is delivered in Squamish and Whistler by Back in Motion Rehab Inc.

Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017, WorkBC served the following numbers of clients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Visits</th>
<th>Total Unique Visits</th>
<th>Total clients in personalized employment services (case management)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Squamish</td>
<td>3660</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistler</td>
<td>1622</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ministry statistics from the EPBC program demonstrate that clients who engage in case management services, and complete all the steps of their return to work plan, have an 80% employment success rate.

Why is WorkBC an important service to women, primarily women survivors of violence?

Securing stable and suitable work for women, particularly women survivors of violence, is an integral component of empowerment. By linking the supports and services of HSWC with the supports and services of the EPBC program, a woman gains access to a spectrum of services that help her meet the immediate needs of herself and her family; a safe place to live, food, clothing, transportation, access to education, and a means to achieve her goals beyond just the day-to-day. To help bridge the gap between the services and supports offered through the HSWC and EPBC, three HSWC employees work within the WorkBC employment service centres of Squamish and Whistler, while retaining the designation of HSWC Service Provider.

Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017, WorkBC served the following numbers of female clients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total number of female clients accepted to case management*</th>
<th>Total number of female clients who secured work through case mgmt. services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Squamish</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whistler</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ministry statistics from the EPBC program demonstrate that clients who engage in case management services, and complete all the steps of their return to work plan, have an 80% employment success rate.

Some of the ways we’ve contributed to the mission and mandate of the HSWC include:

GREATFULL.CIRCLE, SQUAMISH

On March 8, 2017, in celebration of International Women’s Day, our Squamish WorkBC team in partnership with the Squamish Nation Employment & Training team coordinated a moderated panel discussion featuring five panelists representing the diversity of women in the Sea to Sky Corridor’s workforce. The event was held at Totem Hall and surpassed our attendance goals with 53 guests! The event was a huge success and fostered open and honest discussion about the challenges and successes of women in the workforce. Some great connections were made across the communities represented in Squamish and the resounding feedback was to turn this into an annual event.

LIL’WAT CULTURAL COMPETENCY EVENT FOR EMPLOYERS, WHISTLER

On February 7, 2017 Lil’wat Nation and Whistler WorkBC partnered in delivering a pilot First Nations Cultural Competency Workshop for Whistler area employers. The goal was to educate employers on working with our Lil’wat First Nations and create an open conversation about how we can best move forward together. Forty-five people attended the workshop, which provided an overview of the Lil’wat Nation including cultural behaviors, beliefs and how to exhibit cultural sensitivity when working with First Nations.
FIRST NATIONS PROGRAMS

“As a First Nation’s woman, it’s personally taken me twenty years to heal. While I didn’t go to Residential School, I am considered a 1st Generation Survivor of Indian Residential Schools. My father and grandparents went to Residential Schools and I lived the impacts of violence and racism as a woman in my community. I moved away from Squamish for more than 20 years to work and raise my family, and since moving back five years ago, I’ve worked with this community in Child and Family Services and Health Services for the Squamish Valley, where we are still working on the ‘effects’ with families – especially our women and children.”

Canada’s Prime Minister is working on ‘reconciliation’ of our First Nations People, by participating in Healing Events and including our First Nation People when he has an event. We see that as a good start, but also see there is a long way to go. Canada has a long history of violence and oppression of Indigenous culture due to colonization and the residential school system, and the unresolved trauma has been passed on from generation to generation. Of particular concern are the ongoing impacts of racism, violence, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation for Indigenous women. In fact, Aboriginal women and girls are at a significantly higher risk of violence. almost three times more likely to be violently victimized than non-Aboriginal women, suicide-rates are 4-5 times above mainstream averages, and the list goes on.

As an organization intent on serving the needs of all women in society, Howe Sound Women’s Centre is renewing its focus on enhancing programs, services and supports for Indigenous women and their children.”

– Christine (TlatlaKwot) Baker, Squamish Nation Member, Manager for Squamish Valley Operations, and Director with Howe Sound Women’s Centre Society Board of Directors.

WOMEN’S WISDOM

This past year, we launched a new program titled ‘Women’s Wisdom – an Outdoor Healing Journey’. The program was made possible due to a generous donation from the Oloman family, in honour of their daughter, sister, and partner Aidan Oloman, who was passionate about empowering women to gain physical, emotional and spiritual strength through outdoor pursuits. The program, facilitated by Sarah Manwaring-Jones and Heidi Nielsen, ran every Tuesday and Thursday for the month of September, and provided women with an opportunity to explore inner landscape, learn new skills, and build trusting friendships. Activities included journaling, creating art and moving close to nature, rock climbing, silent walking in the estuary, poetry and abstract painting. During the last week, the participants created a final art project based on their experience and the theme of ‘Transition’. This program aligns with our mission of supporting local women and expands the spectrum of our programs to support all demographics of women. We will be facilitating another group in September 2017.
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLING

The Children, Youth and Family Counselling Program offers specific individual, family, and group counselling services for children and youth ages 3—18, and their families that have experienced violence, abuse, or conflict in the home, including families that are going through a difficult separation or divorce.

The Individual Counselling Program has a psycho-educational approach which utilizes a variety of tools (art, play, discussion) to create an opportunity for children to deal with the traumatic events in their lives in a safe, confidential and nurturing environment. The goals of the program are to help children and youth cope with difficult events by working with them on problem solving skills, expressing feelings in healthy ways, safety planning, increasing self-confidence and self-esteem and much more.

The Group Counselling Program offers many different types of groups depending on the need in each community. Last year HSWC ran one Girl Power Group in Squamish focusing on building friendships, empowerment, self-esteem, self-expression, community and sharing of stories and experiences; two Divorce and Separation Groups one in Squamish and one in Pemberton with a focus on the changing family, hard to handle feelings and healthy ways of coping with them, and sharing experiences in a safe, nurturing environment, and a Healthy Relationship Group at Pemberton Secondary.

We were pleased to offer our 4th annual Girls Summer Day Camp in Squamish for girls ages 8 – 11 and our 2nd annual Girls Summer Camp in Whistler for girls aged 8 - 10. The Girls Summer Camps are all about loving who we are and increasing self-confidence. This is facilitated by providing the opportunity for girls to learn more about themselves through self-expression and self-care, building connections through friendships, and connecting with community and nature. What’s more, the continuity of the Girls Summer Camps was secured well into the future when private donor Niki Vankerk committed to cover the operational costs of the camps and ensure access for families in need for the next five years. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, Niki!

The Youth Education Program is a school-based educational presentation that encourages discussions with children and youth on healthy relationships, bullying (including cyber bullying), boundaries, how to keep safe, community/on-line resources and more. Presentations were delivered to over 325 grade 10 students in Squamish and Whistler in 2016. Statistics show that children as young as 9 are having difficulties with peer relationships, one in seven Canadian children aged 11 to 16 are victims of bullying, and 1 in 5 Canadian teens have witnessed online bullying. This program is made possible with the generous support of Fortis BC and the BC Society of Transition Houses.

HSCW believes a continued focus on prevention work is important and will make a positive impact on the reduction of violence, abuse and conflict that a child or youth may experience in their lifetime.

The Children, Youth and Family Program Team continue to offer passionate, caring, and non-judgmental services and have incredible knowledge, resources and skills to share with the Sea to Sky community members that need them most.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Squamish</th>
<th>Whistler</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual counselling hours</td>
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<td>Parent counselling hours</td>
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<td>Number of children helped through support groups</td>
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<td>Girls’ Summer Camps</td>
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<td>Youth Education Program</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamish (grade 10)</td>
<td>239</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PEARL’S PLACE TRANSITION HOUSE
The Support Team at Pearl’s Place Transition House are thankful to the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation for a donation that allowed for the purchase of new furniture such as a sofa, computer desk, night tables, end tables, lights, area rugs, and bed bug proof mattresses and personal lockers for residents. The feedback received from both staff and residents regarding the additions to the Transition House has been very positive.

As a medium barrier Transition House, staff continue to do all they can to ensure the safety of all women accessing our services. One of the newest safety measures has been providing staff with training in the administration of Naloxone. Pearl’s Place Transition House, along with several other HSWC sites, will have kits on site in the event a woman accessing our services becomes an unsuspecting victim of the negative effects of a fentanyl overdose.

PEARL’S SAFE HOME
Given the current housing challenges and increasing rates of relationship violence in the Sea to Sky Corridor, Pearl’s Safe Home has seen a significant increase in stays over the past year. Due to the lack of housing options in the region, we frequently find ourselves providing shelter when we feel the woman’s options pose a risk to her or her children’s mental and/or physical health and wellness.

In the past year Pearl’s Safe Home has nearly doubled the number of clients we have temporarily housed and nearly doubled our total bed nights. This increase in numbers is unsettling but serves to highlight the importance of Pearl’s Safe Home and Affordable Housing programs.

Operation of Pearl’s Safe Home would not be possible without the support of dedicated and compassionate volunteers from Whistler, Pemberton and Mount Currie.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Our two cozy rental housing units in Pemberton have been home to two women and three local children for the past year. The two bedroom unit has been rented to a mother with two young children and the one bedroom unit has been rented to a mother with one young child. During the time these women have been with us both have managed to secure regular employment and childcare. This is due in part to the proximity of the units to town and in part to the stability the housing has created in their lives. The comfort and security our housing has provided has been greatly appreciated by both families.

We continue to pursue the purchase of additional rental units and it is our hope that BC Housing will continue to support and develop our much needed affordable and supportive housing programs.
When reflecting back on the past fiscal year, there are many wins to celebrate. We had the busiest year yet! Our number of customers served is up 27% over the previous year, and our annual budget was exceeded by 20%! We are incredibly grateful to our loyal customers and the generosity of Squamish and the Sea to Sky Community for their donations. This has also been a record year for the amount of donations received. In part, we attribute this success to the current population boom in Squamish.

Proceeds from Pearl’s Value & Vintage go to support under funded programs of the Howe Sound Women’s Centre Society including the Squamish and Whistler Women’s Drop-In Centres, and the Children Youth & Family Counselling programs. Therefore, as Pearl’s continues to increase its profitability, more women and their children can access our programs and services. Pearl’s also provides clothing and household goods at no cost to women leaving our emergency transitional housing, and we issue over 500 vouchers each year to individuals in need through our emergency voucher program. Pearl’s also donates to other charities in need and supports other non-profit programs in Squamish such as Squamish Helping Hands Society and Sea to Sky Community Services Society.

During the past year, we have updated our website to give it a fresh new look and to inform our customers and donors about us. We have also increased our presence with social media, including Facebook and Instagram. We also feature a daily sale in the store which has been wildly popular with our customers. Every day of the week, we post a department such as clothing, housewares and shoes, and that department is featured at 50% off for the day.

Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly over the past year to create the organized, visual appeal that the store has today. Customers have noticed the difference and complimented us on how far we have come. We are excited about the year ahead and feel that we are well positioned with our seasoned staff and incredible volunteers to enjoy another successful year.

Every item tells a story... every purchase supports women and children in need.
We are grateful for the generosity of these Individual Donors:

Lisa Alberto
Sheila Allen
Margaret and Larry Baker
Kevin Banks
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Amber Turnau
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Peter Wunderlich
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Doris Zurcher
Marla Zucht

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