

THANK YOU SO MUCH
FOR COMING THROUGH THIS JOURNEY WITH ME.
I HAVE LOVED AND LEARNT
THROUGH ALL THE DIFFERENT
TOPICS WE TALKED ABOUT.
YOU HAVE HELPED ME
A GREAT DEAL BY SHARING YOUR
EXPERIENCES AND THOUGHTS.
I THANK YOU FOR THAT!
THIS JOURNEY HAS ALLOWED ME TO GROW
AND BECOME A STRONGER PERSON! THANK YOU!

**WOMEN
AGAINST
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



MISSION STATEMENT

WAWAW Rape Crisis Centre works to end all forms of violence against women. Guided by our feminist anti-oppression philosophy we challenge and change thinking, actions, and systems that contribute to violence against women. We provide all women who have experienced any form of sexualized violence with support and healing, and engage with youth to develop leadership for prevention of future violence.

VISION

A society where all women are free from violence.



WAWAW board members (from left):

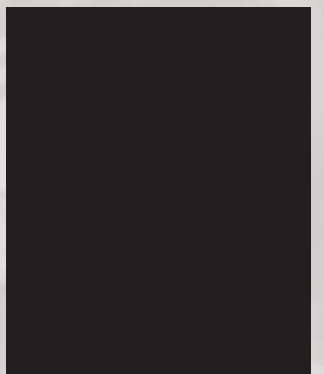


TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT & VISION

1

COUNSELLING PROGRAM

5

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

7

VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

9

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

11

CARE ABOUT GENDERED VIOLENCE AGM REPORT

13

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

15

COUNSELLING PROGRAM

Written by Stephanie Reifferscheid,
Counsellor

“It helps me realize that what happened to me is not my fault.”

-WAVAW Client

“I now realize I’m a feminist and I feel empowered and not so alone in that.”

-WAVAW Client

This last year was filled with inspiration, insight, appreciation, admiration and respect for the 287 women who requested our counselling services. **The women we serve range in age from 14 to 70 years, and 47% of the women were under the age of 30.** They came from a wide diversity of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, including the Caribbean, Asia, the South Pacific and Africa. Several were Indigenous to Canada and many identified as being of European backgrounds or Caucasian.

It’s this diversity of women that provides the richness and fullness of our organization. While women come to receive support and knowledge from us, they leave WAVAW with a deeper understanding of women’s wisdom and connectedness. The connectedness stood out for many of the women who received counselling services. One woman said:

“I felt safe and supported by my fellow group mates and group leader. I gained more strength with each discussion. Felt part of something and connected with other women.”

Of course, feeling safe enough in the world and with others is a fundamental aspect of our work. An equally important vision for feminist counselling is women’s appreciation and connection with themselves as women in the world. In supporting women on their journeys of recovery, we encourage them to give themselves the gift of themselves; to gently and lovingly embrace all of who they are; and create relationships with themselves, other people and our world while grounded in that understanding.

In sharing their most precious and vulnerable selves with WAVAW counsellors and sometimes group members, the women took the emotional risk of facing some of the most painful and difficult realities of their lives. To take such courageous steps requires trust that they will be supported in a very gentle, skillful process that holds their emotional and cognitive experience safely and respectfully. Women receive such services from WAVAW counsellors.

We were excited to receive a generous one-time donation last year to provide more women with individual and group counselling. That donation

“I don’t blame myself and have placed the responsibility where it is deserved.”

-WAVAW Client



allowed us to hire another counsellor for one year. As a result, women received 100 more counselling sessions during the 2012-2013 portion of the contract period and our lengthy waitlist was decreased by 3 months during that time.

Even still, 85 women will wait for 10-12 months for counselling over the next year. 120 new women request our services every year and the number continues to grow. Despite the high demand for individual counselling by women survivors of sexual assault, government has not funded any real increase in counselling positions since the inception of the service in 1993.

It seems clear that women’s experience of sexualized violence is a health issue. 30% of our referrals come from the health sector, and 55% of women requesting service identified concerns about their mental health and/or addictions. Yet violence against women is not given the funding or attention that is given to many other types of less lethal health

concerns, even while sexual assault is the one crime that showed an increase in police reporting this year.

Funding for healing support is minimal and funding for attitudinal change prevention work is non-existent. **90% of survivors of sexual assault are women and more than 90% of perpetrators are male, yet government refuses to implement a gender lens through which to make their legislative and administrative decisions.** Their vision and mandate for governance makes no mention of women, women’s equality or initiatives to end violence against women or to achieve women’s equality.

Given the lack of will to acknowledge the inequities that women face on different fronts in our society, the struggle for women to stay safe, let alone thrive, will continue unabated. In this environment, the sustainability of organizations that both provide services and advocate for change is being placed in real jeopardy. ♀

“Thank you sincerely for all the work you do. Your support and advocacy makes this city and this world a better place. You give strength and solidarity to many women beyond even those you’ve worked with directly.”

- Donor

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Written by Izabela Krekora; Manager of Fund Development

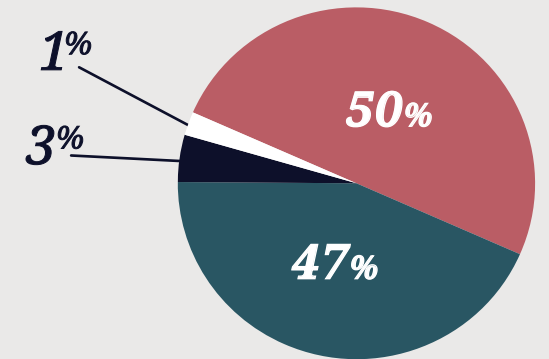
We often hear how collective action is required to end violence against women, and it is. **At WAVAW we are honoured to have this collective action demonstrated through 8,834 donors donating to WAVAW in the last year.** Our donors are our primary source of revenue and we know that it is through their donations that we have kept our doors open for the last 30 years, and it will be through their gifts that we will keep our doors open until our vision, which is a society where all women are free from violence, is realized. I hope you continue reading this report and learn of all the profound and important work that WAVAW is able to accomplish because of donations.

The 2012-213 year, has definitely been a busy year for the Fund Development Team. We had many successes, such as receiving the largest online donation \$10,000 in WAVAW history, obtaining new government funding for new projects and strengthening our engagement with donors through thank-a-thons. However alongside our successes, WAVAW has also been faced with a significant challenge: a decrease in phone donations. In the 2012-2013 year WAVAW’s phone donations, which we receive through

calling our donors, were significantly lower than in previous years. As donations are the primary source of WAVAW’s revenue, our direct services were in jeopardy. However, although we did undergo severe internal cuts, our leadership team managed to sustain all our staff and all our services for women hurt by sexual assault. The Fund Development Team is working to strategically shift from phone donations and grow our direct mail, monthly donor and online donation programs.

This past year, as with our previous years we continue advocating for additional government funding, as we believe critical services for women should be wholly funded by the government. In addition we continuously propose programs and services when new government funding becomes available and in the 2012-2013 year we were successful in receiving new funding for the following projects:

The C.A.R.E. About Gendered Violence Program at Vancouver Community College (VCC), funding provided by the Status of Women. This is a two year project dedicated to reducing violence against young women at VCC.



“Without out donors, WAVAW’s services and programs for women and for the community would cease to exist.”

– Izabela Krekora, Manager of Fund Development

The Network of Young Aboriginal Leaders Program, funding provided by BC Gaming. The Network is composed of Aboriginal Youth who are creating positive social change in their communities.

24 Hour Crisis Line bus advertising on buses throughout Vancouver for one month, funding provided by the Department of Justice.

In addition to these new projects, WAVAW submitted yearly government proposals and applications for our continuing services and were successful in receiving funding for another year from the Ministry of Justice, City of Vancouver, BC Gaming, Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth and United Way.

Another key focus for the past year was to increase public awareness of WAVAW and our services. As we know that many women, family members and friends of survivors, require our services but might not necessarily be aware of them. Moreover, with greater public awareness, we can have greater influence in shifting thinking and actions that contribute to violence against women.

We increased our public profile in the 2012-2013 year through the following initiatives:

Developing a brand new, user-friendly, and engaging website.

Devising a 15 second spot and adjacent campaign that aired during Fashion Week, and highlighting the message: “It’s Fashion. Not a Justification for Rape.”

Building our online community with fresh social media content including our own blog.

WAVAW staff joining a diverse range of local professional networks.

And of course, featuring our 24 Hour Crisis Line ad on buses throughout Vancouver. We also rely a great deal on our volunteers and community members to promote WAVAW’s services and our social change message and we thank you for having these challenging but very much needed conversations with your peers. ♡

VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

Written by Dalya Israel – Manager of Victim Services and Outreach Programs

It has been another incredible year in the WAVAW Victim Service Program. I often think that the name Victim Services doesn't quite encapsulate what it is that we provide and the work we do with women. I am reminded of the depth of the work we do with women: the specialization that is required to advocate and navigate systems with women; the nuances of supporting women to engage with systems that we know are flawed, but are still required; and the suffering that we witness, as well as, the strength and resilience that women embody after being impacted by sexual violence. This work we call "Victim Services" entails such a range of services and I am so incredibly honoured and proud to lead this team of staff women who do this profound work. It also gives me great honour to share how WAVAW's Victim Services has supported and worked alongside women this year.

This past year, our Victim Services Workers welcomed 110 new women into the program who required support navigating systems after a sexual assault. We also continued supporting 75 women who had come into the program in previous years and were continuing their journey. **This past year we answered 763 crisis calls during office hours and 1582 crisis calls after hours through WAVAW's 24 Hour Crisis Line.** Our 24 Hour Crisis Line is an integral service in the organization as it offers a unique continuity of care for all the women we serve, as well as offering resources and support to

other community workers and community members including friends and family members of survivors. **Additionally, in the 2012-2013 year we had the opportunity to accompany and support 51 women through their visit to see the Sexual Assault Service at Vancouver General Hospital.** This piece of work is unlike any other service we offer and entails a level of intimacy, trust and courage that is unparalleled. The women I have supported over the years in this capacity have never ceased to amaze me that in times of suffering and horror there can also be laughter, strength, hope and bravery. The conversations that we have in those examination rooms can be radical and generative. We invite women to stand on the shoulders of women who have come before them and have not only survived but thrived after sexual assault. We can invite them to place responsibility for the assault on the person that is actually responsible, the person that chose to commit a violent act against them and felt entitled to their body. Often times, these moments, hours after a sexual assault has occurred, set women on their path to healing. These are vital moments. **This year we made 2,180 emotional support, case status and advocacy calls. We spent over 60 hours in Police and Crown interviews and over 30 hours in the court house with women while they testified.** We supported 53 women to apply for benefits from the Crime Victim Assistance Program, 38 women with other forms and 2 women with Victim Impact Statements to support Judges in sentencing decisions.

Frontline service delivery is only half of the work that we accomplish in the Victim Service Program. We are also responsible for violence prevention and public education. When you are working for an organization such as WAVAW and applying a feminist anti-oppression decolonizing lens to your work, what this means is educating to shift attitudes about women's worth in society and advocating for systemic change. I am excited to share the significant systemic advocacy and education we have been a part of this year!

Last summer, WAVAW was successful in obtaining a grant from the University Of Alberta Law School to work with a law student and conduct a research project titled "Seeking Justice in a Rape Culture". All of our systemic advocacy is a response to barriers encountered by the women we serve, this project looked at how the attitudes of Crown Counsel and the Judiciary play themselves out before the courts. Many claim that Justice is blind and the Criminal Justice System is objective, we believe Justice is not blind and that the Criminal Justice System is subjective. In fact we believe that most of the sexual assault cases before the courts are seen through a rape culture lens. This project has been incredibly fruitful and has invited us to continue talking about the work we do and the need to educate even those in positions of power, such as Crown Counsel and the Judiciary. We've had opportunities to deliver the findings at conferences in post-secondary institutions, frontline worker professional development and with the Federal Government.

Similarly we had been hearing from women that the access to Post Exposure Prophylaxis to prevent HIV (HIV PEP) was unjust in BC, that the guidelines

put forward by the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS were out-dated and that being sexually assaulted should be enough to have the option to take the HIV PEP. We undertook research to look at the guidelines that existed across Canada and found that Ontario was the only Province in Canada that had a universal HIV PEP program. This means for any women sexually assaulted in Ontario they are offered the option of taking HIV PEP because sexual assault itself is seen as a risk factor to women's health. **Whereas in BC and many other provinces across Canada women are required**

to answer questions about the lifestyle, neighbourhood and health status of the man that sexually assaulted them to determine if they fall into a 'high risk' category. This leaves many women without the option of taking the medications if they are concerned about exposure to HIV during their assault. We have been advocating in the HIV/AIDS sector, across Canada for National guidelines that would make the Ontario model standard for all women across this country. We've had opportunities to speak to this hope and need for change at a sexualities conference, HIV/AIDS conferences and with our partners at BC Women's Hospital.

I hope I have adequately shared with you that we play a pivotal role for women navigating the medical and criminal justice system after a sexual assault and the services WAVAW provides are essential for women. Standing on the shoulders of feminism and all the women warriors that have come before us when we confront systemic inequality and are seeking justice is an option all women should have. It has been a phenomenal year!! I look forward to sharing 2012-2013 with you soon. ♡



The *Educational Outreach Program* continues to grow and we are happy to share some of the highlights from the 2012–2013 year with you:

At WAVAW, we don't want to just heal women from the impacts of violence with direct services and then have them step outside into this world that hurts them again. We want to change the minds, actions and systems that contribute to violence against women. We accomplish this through our Educational Outreach Program by conducting workshops, presentations, online campaigns, and media interviews.

Over the past year, WAVAW participated in over 90 different educational outreach requests and initiatives including workshops, talks, information tables, trainings, marches, and protests. Requesting organizations included colleges, universities, high schools, youth groups, hospital staff, and community organizations and topics ranged from healthy relationships, to anti-oppression and ally work, to culture of violence, to feminist support skills, to sexism and sexual assault. We received many repeat requests and also many first time requests, demonstrating that WAVAW continues to be an important resource in the Lower Mainland.

We would not be able to do this important work, if it was not for our volunteers and donors. Our donors fund the Educational Outreach Program while our volunteers, who have completed WAVAW's 11-week crisis line and outreach volunteer training workshops, table at events and speak about WAVAW's services and advocacy. ♀



This year, our Raise It Up violence-prevention program for youth, is reaching an even wider audience of teachers through province-wide conferences and professional development days with the Vancouver School Board. Raise It Up was developed by WAVAW, BC certified teachers and WAVAW's Youth Council, to be easily integrated into BC school curriculums and facilitated by teachers. Raise It Up looks at the root causes of violence and gives students the language and tools to be upstanders.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Written by Ariana Barer – Coordinator of the Volunteer & Outreach Programs

WAVAW was honoured to be the keynote presenter at youth-led conference for 150 grade 7 students. This conference was organized by grade 12 students for the grade 7 girls in their feeder schools. We had the opportunity to speak to them about healthy relationships and fighting rape culture.

WAVAW participated in 1 Billion Rising, a global campaign to end violence against women and girls organized by V Day and the author of the Vagina Monologues, Eve Ensler. We joined in to dance, strike, and rise against violence.



C.A.R.E. ABOUT GENDERED VIOLENCE AGM REPORT

Written by Alana Prochuk - C.A.R.E. About Gendered Violence Coordinator

This year marked the introduction of an exciting new collaboration between WAVAW and Vancouver Community College (VCC): C.A.R.E. About Gendered Violence. This initiative, funded by WAVAW donors and Status of Women Canada, aims to get the VCC community thinking and talking about gendered violence and working together to create an action plan for campus safety.

WAVAW recognizes that gendered violence is an urgent and widespread issue in post-secondary settings: about 80% of female undergraduates have survived some form of violence in a dating relationship (Statistics Canada, 2006), and an estimated 20-25% of undergraduate women experience rape or attempted rape during their college years (Campus Violence White Paper, 2005). If you or somebody you care about studies or works at VCC, rest assured that WAVAW is working to help VCC challenge these disturbing statistics and make campus culture safer for people of all genders.

We're building strong partnerships with the VCC Community. Some highlights so far include:

Forming a C.A.R.E. Steering Committee made up of ten diverse campus service providers and

identifying an additional eight members who will sit on the C.A.R.E. Taskforce starting in the fall.

Making contact with over 500 students through information tables and with over 175 students and 35 staff members through workshops and presentations (most workshop participants report increased knowledge about gendered violence and motivation to take action).

Recording insights about college dynamics and suggestions for change from VCC students and staff at meetings and workshops.

Reviewing nine VCC policies relevant to gendered violence prevention and response

And this is just some of the work that is being accomplished at VCC! The best part of the project is the positive feedback we have heard so far from VCC students, staff and faculty.

This is what they are saying about C.A.R.E:

"I got involved [in C.A.R.E.] in memory of two wonderful human beings in my life who died too young due to gender violence. [. . .] Hopefully lives will be saved from the action that will be taken to educate VCC students and employees."

– C.A.R.E. Steering Committee Member Ginny Cathcart, VCC Centre for Instructional Development.



"VCC recognizes an urgency to address the issue of violence against women on Canadian campuses and the important role that our organization can play in raising awareness, influencing public policy and examining the root causes of violence against women. [. . .] We remain steadfast in our belief that our collaboration in this project will reap positive benefits for our students, staff and faculty while promoting a safe and comfortable learning environment for all."

– Dr. Sal Ferreras, VCC Vice-President of Education and Student Services



"I learned about how I can help this organization to end gendered violence."

– Student workshop participant

"I know more about sexual assault, and what I can do if a friend tells me she has experienced [assault]."

– Student workshop participant

"This is a great collaboration for VCC/WAVAW."

– Staff workshop participant

Indeed it is, and we look forward to the work ahead of us. 



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Written by Ariana Barer – Coordinator of the Volunteer & Outreach Programs

Who are the women volunteering at WAVAW? How do they end up here and what do they do to support the organization?

Our volunteers are world travelers, business owners, counseling and social work students, moms, daughters, artists... and most importantly women who care deeply about supporting survivors and ending violence in our society.

WAVAW volunteers donated 9296 hours in 2012/2013. They are an essential part of the WAVAW community, without which we could not work the way we do to support survivors and advocate for a safer and more just society. The value WAVAW receives from its volunteers includes expanded service capacity, increased skill sets, fund development, industry expertise, and the genuine privilege of meeting and working with a range of interesting and talented feminists.

In 2012/2013, WAVAW held two crisis line trainings, one in September 2012 and one in January 2013. Each of the 22 women who completed this 11-week training program participated in over 100 hours of training.

This is how our volunteers give to shape WAVAW and our community:

WAVAW's Board of Directors gave 1242 hours through their leadership and vision at monthly board meetings, thank-a-thons, board trainings, board interviewing, and board committee meetings.

Crisis Line Volunteers contributed 7206 hours through our training program, after-hours crisis line shifts, and monthly meetings.

Educational Outreach Volunteers contributed 80 hours through support group assistance, outreach/tabling in the community, and co-facilitating workshops with staff.

Office Volunteers supported the organization with 768 hours through graphic design, reception, fundraising/development, and organizing tax receipts.

