

# WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

A Place for All Women



Annual Report 2010-2011



**Mission** Believing that every woman has the right to control her social, economic and physical circumstances, the West Kootenay Women's Association promotes equitable treatment of women and enhances public awareness of feminism. Together, we can celebrate diversity by honouring women of every race, class, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, age, size, and spiritual or political belief.



### **WKWA Coordinating Collective 2010-2011**

Top row: Bobbie Ogletree (Board), Pamela Loeppky (Board), Tamara Abramson (Fund Development and Outreach Coordinator), Tasha Bassingthwaighte (Executive Director), Mary Lou Napora (Bookkeeper), and Lisa McGeady (Treasurer). Bottom row: Jane Byers (Secretary), Beth Seed (Program Coordinator), Maibrit Sorensen (Board Chair), and Gitta Ridder (Board).

“Being on the CC is one of the most satisfying volunteer positions I have had. I get to spend time with creative women and use my skills to enhance the very important work of the Women’s Centre.”

## Drop-in at the Women's Centre

The **drop-in** is our biggest project. This past year we had just over **2,500 visits** to the drop-in during the 12 hours we are open each week. Women can access resources, such as free food, clothing, toiletries, counseling, books from our large library, free internet and computer services, kids' play area, kitchen, and secure mailing address.



The living room space in Women's Centre is the main drop-in space.

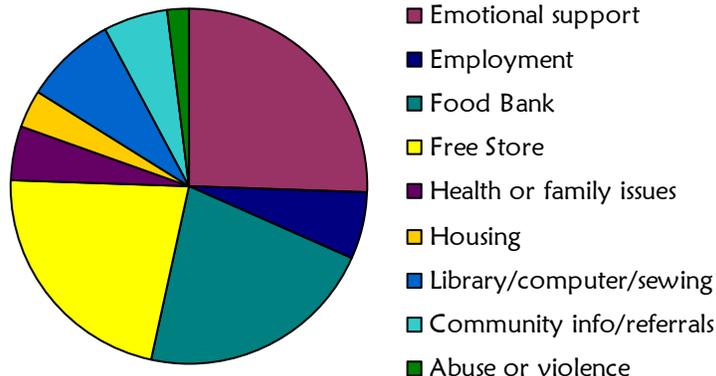


The free store is a well utilized service at the drop-in.

“In the past I have had to make use of the food and clothing resources provided by the Women's Centre. Now as a volunteer I have the opportunity to give back by continuing to use my skills.”

### Why Do Women Use the Drop-in?

Stats 2010-2011



## Report from Board Chair and Executive Director

Maibrit Sorensen and Tasha Bassingthwaighte



We've seen lots of positive changes at the Women's Centre this past year. In terms of some of the year's **key achievements** we've:

- Had an exceptional celebration for the Centennial International Women's Day on March 8, 2010. We celebrated by hosting a series of entertaining and educational theatre, music and dance performances from each era of the past hundred years. We had more than 200 audience members, 35 performers, and 30 volunteers. It was an event to remember! See page 5 for photos.
- Improved our communication, including a new brochure, an updated website, a monthly email update, a facebook page, an open house (for all genders), and now this annual report. In addition, we continue to have a seasonal newsletter sent to all members. It is our hope that these changes make it easier for you to stay in touch with what is happening at the Centre and to let community members who are unfamiliar with the Centre learn about us.
- Enhanced our volunteer program in order to better support our amazing volunteers. There are now monthly intake sessions for new volunteers and monthly gatherings for all volunteers of the Centre to meet, socialize, and support each other.



- Expanded the archives of KootenayFeminism.com, the historical digitalization of feminism in the West Kootenays. The project lead, Dr. Marcia Braundy, won the prestigious Barbara Roberts Award from the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women for her work on this project.
- Partnered with different social services to expand the network base of services, including SelfDesign High for our youth program, Selkirk College for our strategic plan, and ANKORS for a project working with women with addictions experience.

**Our funding** has unfortunately continued to be a concern for the Centre, as we have no secure year-to-year funding. The BC Gaming Commission gave us some funding this year (about one-third of what we need to run the Centre), although many women's centres were again cut. We are only able to keep our doors open with the huge support from individuals in the community (see the donor list on page 9). Thank you so much to all of our donors who make the Women's Centre possible!

**The coming year** will be a year of deepening and stretching. Over the fall and early winter we are working on a three year strategic plan, thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College. We are also stretching out to reach women of different ages and abilities who could benefit from the Women's Centre. As a first step, we are renovating the Centre so that people with mobility issues can better access our services. In the new year we are starting both a youth project and a project for seniors.

“I hope the Women’s Centre will be able to continue its vital role in our community for many generations to come, so that our daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters will know the feeling of being part of a supportive community.”



★  
★  
★  
International  
Women's Day 2011



## Jessie's Story

The Women's Centre is visible from the street—that is all I know about it in the fall of 2009 when I came in the front door with my three year old son, looking for help. When Beth asked me if I needed anything I started crying and she listened to my story. I was pregnant with twins and in a relationship with the father which was tumultuous, confusing, and frightening. She said she had been in a similar situation and gave me the number of a counselor.



When I was ready, I contacted the Women's Outreach worker. She helped me to understand what I was dealing with and what forms abuse can take. In the next year I relied on the

**“We have made use of the Women's Centre regularly as a place of peace, comfort, and safety.”**

Women's Centre for supplemental food and free clothing for my four children and myself. I joined the textile project to bring some income and a sense of pride and control into my life. This spring I was

able to leave the house of my abuser by moving to the Nelson Transition House. I eventually found a home for my children and myself in a beautiful, healthy, safe, well-supported area.

We have made use of the Women's Centre regularly as a place of peace, comfort, and safety where we eat, rest, gather resources, and connect with support and friends. My children enjoy our time there and ask to stop in often. My ten year old daughter has decided she wants to work there when she is old enough.

**“The Women's Centre is an integral part of my community. It offers a place to belong and be accepted without judgment.”**

## Huge thanks to our volunteers!

The Women's Centre simply could not function without our large number of committed volunteers. In the past year, our approximately 100 volunteers have worked a total of 3350 hours, which includes:

- 800 hours in the drop-in
- 425 hours in the free store
- 150 hours of garden work
- 850 hours for events
- 775 hours of governance and administrative work
- 350 hours on the digital archival project

This year's volunteers include:

Aga Wrobel	Jennifer Doucette	Miguel Rodriguez
Alex Collin	Jessica Dawn Ogden	Miles Crombleholme
Allison MacDonald	Jessica Pignataro	Minna Pietarinen
Amanda Pheaney	Jill Zinger	Miriam Needoba
Amberstar Pyper	Josette Laforge	Nancy Rosenblum
Ana Seed	Joy Green	Nicole Binette
Ania Stachniak	Judith Maltz	Nuzzla Izmirli
Aspen Switzer	Julie Glynn	Pam Loepky
Bobbie Oggletree	Julie St. John	Penny Stephenson
Bonnie Baker	Keith Bassingthwaighte	Rachel Hickey
Bonnie Nilsen	Kelly Daczewit	Randy Shaak
Briana Lyon	Leslie Cairn	Rebecca Afford
Camelia Moran	Lillith Swetland	Roxanne Heiden
Carla Nemiroff	Linda Mackie	Sage Anise
Carol Prochaska	Lisa McGeady	Sandra Hartline
Casey Hicks	Lisel Forst	Sandra Nelkin
Charly Baxter	Liz Richardson	Shannon Lanaway
Cindy Henderson	Lynn Chartier	Shawn Lamb
Collen Driscoll	Maibrit Sorensen	Sherri Kyle
Darian Young	Mara Yirka	Shino Shimpo
Diana Potyok	Marcia Braundy	Slava Doval
Erin Rooney	Margaret Anne Murphy	Sue Donovan
Fran Flesaker	Marilyn Pollard	Tao Dryden-Edey
Gail Neufeld	Marlene Houghton	Tina Guay
Gitta Ridder	Marsha Brown	Ursa Jeanettechild
Gloria Curry	Marya Folinsbee	Veronica Vella
Hannah Hadikin	Maureen Petit	Vita Luthers
Jaimie Harlacher	Meg Stewart	Wendy Richard
Jane Byers	Michelle Mungall	Will Ferguson
Jennifer Craig	Michelle Tottenham	Yvette Janzen



## Penny's Story

Three years ago, I had a car accident that left me physically unable to work and also left me with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Because of the accident, I lost my job and with it many of my social interactions. I was having panic attacks, depression, and anxiety.

A year after the accident I was asked to volunteer at the Women's Centre Drop-in. I knew it would be a bit of a challenge, but that it

could also help me heal. I agreed to do it because I had been helped by the Women's Centre in the past and wanted to give back, as well as wanting to stretch myself. The Women's Centre felt like a safe place to try this because if a stressful situation happened, I knew I would be supported.

Volunteering gave me a reason to get up in the morning and pull myself out of my depression. And if there was a day I couldn't pull myself

out of my depression, there was someone there to take over from me and also someone to give me support. Volunteering at the Women's Centre has helped me physically, emotionally, and psychologically. It has given me back a sense of purpose and contribution, plus new friendships.

Over my time here, my confidence has built such that I have felt able to stretch myself and help in other ways including planning events, selling raffle tickets, and staffing booths.

“Volunteering at the Women's Centre...has given me back a sense of purpose.”

“The Women's Centre provides so much, from the very simplest things, like a couch for napping on a rainy day, to a place to fall apart and be listened to and honoured.”

## THANK YOU!

*Each year the West Kootenay Women's Association raises about two-thirds of its annual budget from sources in our West Kootenay communities. We applaud you for your generosity and support. We also wish to acknowledge the many other donors who are not listed who have given in-kind gifts. Each contribution honours the hundreds of women and children who benefit from the presence and services of the Nelson & District Women's Centre.*

### Individuals

Alex and Ann Atamanenko	Jennifer Lehman	Myrriah Miranda
David Dobie	Kimberly Horrocks	Nancy Rosenblum
Doris Kaplan	Lisa and Matt Ruther- glen	Pegasis McGauley
Eleanor Manson	Lorile MacKave	Robert Heffeshoff
Esther Popkin Clurman	Margaret Mooney	Ruth Beck
Eva and Alfred Walters	Margaret Wood	Sandy and Gary Price
Grant Clubine	Margret Stegman	Tamara Abramson
Isabelle Trozzo	Michelle Mungall	Yara Rosechard

### Businesses and Groups

BC Gov't Service Employee Union	Kootenay Pride
Bank of Montreal	Lions Club of Nelson
Bia Boro	Pharmasave
Cnd. Union of Postal Workers	Poulin Agencies
Confed. of Canadian Unions	Scarlet Rose & Company
Eagles – FOE Ladies Aux. #22	Shoppers Drug Mart
Friends of Nelson Elders	Tarasoft
Hospital Employees Union	Trillium Soaps
Kalesnikoff Lumber	Yasodhara Ashram Society
Kootenay Food Co-op	

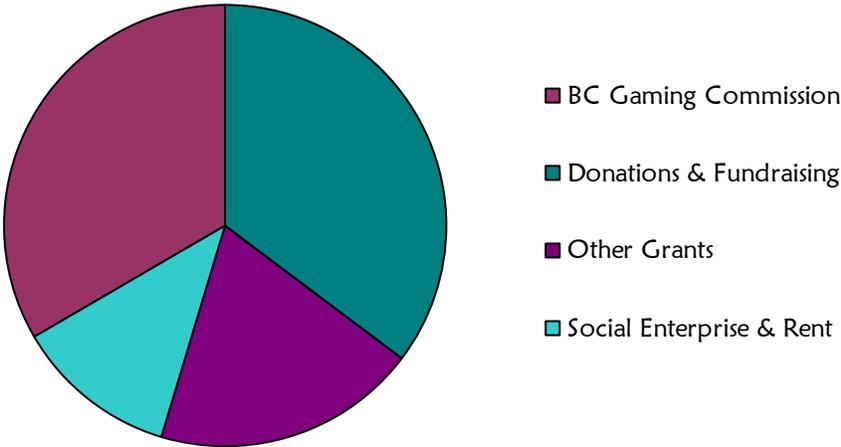
### Foundations and Grant Providers

BC 150 Heritage Legacy Fund	Columbia Basin Trust	Irving Barber Foundation
BC Rehab Foundation	Columbia Kootenay	Ministry of Advanced Education
BG Gaming Commission	Cultural Alliance	Osprey Foundation
City of Nelson	Enterprising Non-Profits	RDCK Areas D, E, F, H
	Health Sciences of BC	

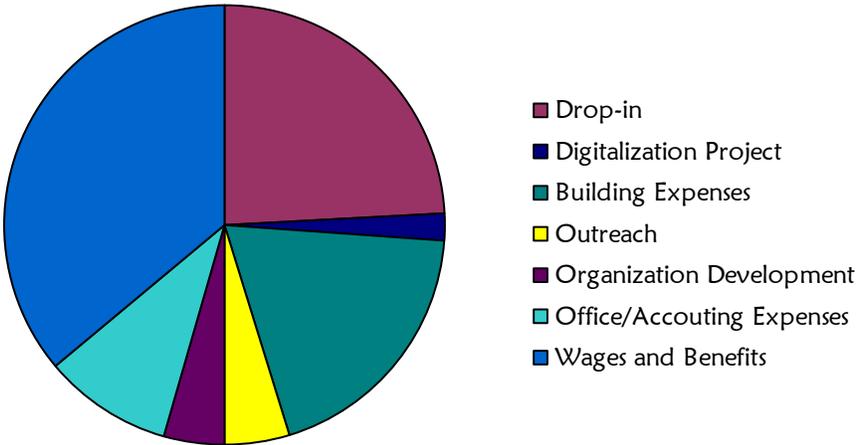
# Financials

For the 2010-2011 fiscal year, our revenues were \$94,966 and our expenses numbered \$100,840, leaving a deficit of \$5,844. 33% of our funding came from the BC Gaming Commission, while 35% come from local donations and fundraising initiatives, with the remaining funds from other grants, social enterprise and rent. For detailed information, please see our financial statements.

### Sources of Funding 2010-2011



### Expenses 2010-2011



## How You Can Help

- Become a member
- Introduce others to the Women's Centre
- Volunteer
- Make a donation of money or food
- Serve on a committee
- Attend our fundraising events
- Hold a fundraiser



## Membership and Donation Form

Membership is available to people of any gender. It is a sliding scale of \$15 to \$40, or four hours of volunteer time. Donations above \$20 are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This is for:  Membership

Donation

I am interested in finding out more about volunteering.

I would like to receive monthly email updates.

## WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of:



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250-352-9916

[www.nelsonwomenscentre.com](http://www.nelsonwomenscentre.com)