

2014-2015 Annual Report



We are pleased to be sharing this Annual Report with you. It's been a great year at the Women's Centre, and difficult to choose just a few stories for this report. Having two Co-Directors to share the job of managing the centre has been a highlight of the year, and has resulted in some new programming (you'll read more about My Grandmother's Kitchen further down), a new strategic plan that will guide us into 2018 and some new systems to keep us organized internally. We hope you enjoy reading this - and here's to another year of building healthy community and empowering women.

Highlights from this year...

Food Security Focus

With our new kitchen has come a new project: My Grandmother's Kitchen, a series of workshops on kitchen and food skills. So far, we've had a variety of workshops from composting to Korean food to cookie making to animal butchery. We've also had a huge increase of food donations we are redistributing to those who need it in our community. Food has been identified as a need for the Women's Centre community for years, and it feels wonderful to be able to step into this role further.



Community Events

This year, we had strong collaborations with other organizations in order to put on some well-attended and informative events. These include the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (December 6th), Take Back the Night, Community Connect Day, the Women's Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (February 14th), and One Billion Rising. For more photos, see the third page of this report.



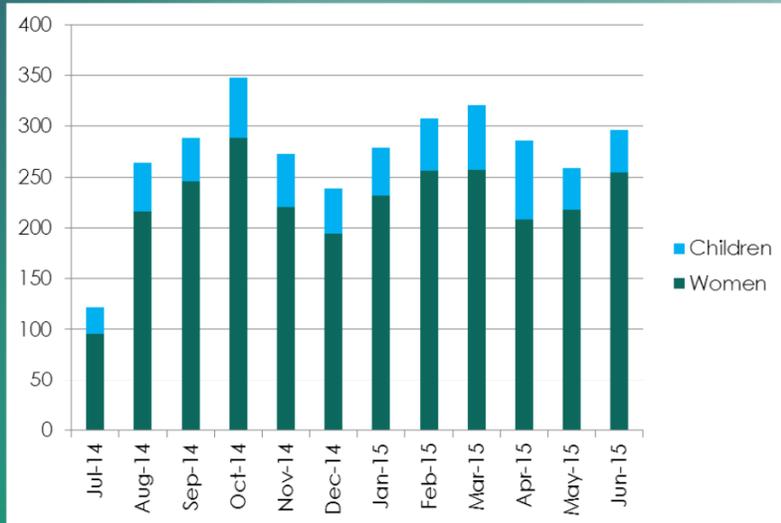
New Logo and Look

The Women's Centre has a new logo! A huge thanks to Julie Breton, who donated her time and energy into creating a logo that aligns with our communications strategy. We like it because it represents a couple of different ideas which resonate deeply with us - our community that exists within a bigger community, the different stages of women's lives (maiden, mother, crone), our inter-woven lives. It is clean and simple and light - and while still symbolic, also open to different interpretations. We hope you like it as much as we do! We've also launched a new website (at www.nelsonwomenscentre.com) and have completed the renovations in the drop-in space we started last year. Big thanks go out to Roxanne Kazimer for the website redesign.



The Drop-In

July 2014 to July 2015



3,267
visits

Clothing
Donations



16,634 lbs

Volunteer
Time



1,316 hrs

Our Vision:

Women's equality in a world free of oppression.



Our Mission:

Creating healthy community through providing support for women and advancing gender equality.

A Place for People Like Me

Jean has been coming to the Women's Centre for over seven years; at first she came only to drop off donation items, until she realized that it was a place that *she* could come to! Her initial impression of the Women's Centre was that it was for "someone else – not for people like me" – but as soon as she saw that there were things that were interesting and relevant to her, Jean began participating in events, volunteering and getting information from the Women's Centre. Despite being in Nelson for over 20 years, Jean found it hard to meet people, and when she realized that a community existed at the Women's Centre, she began participating in classes and other events. A business owner, wife, mother and grandmother, Jean leads a busy life, spending a lot of time caring for others, and not really focusing on herself. The Women's Centre offers a place where she can come and escape, learn new things and make connections with other women who are open and accepting – and enjoy! Because of the Women's Centre, Jean feels more connected to community and nourished.





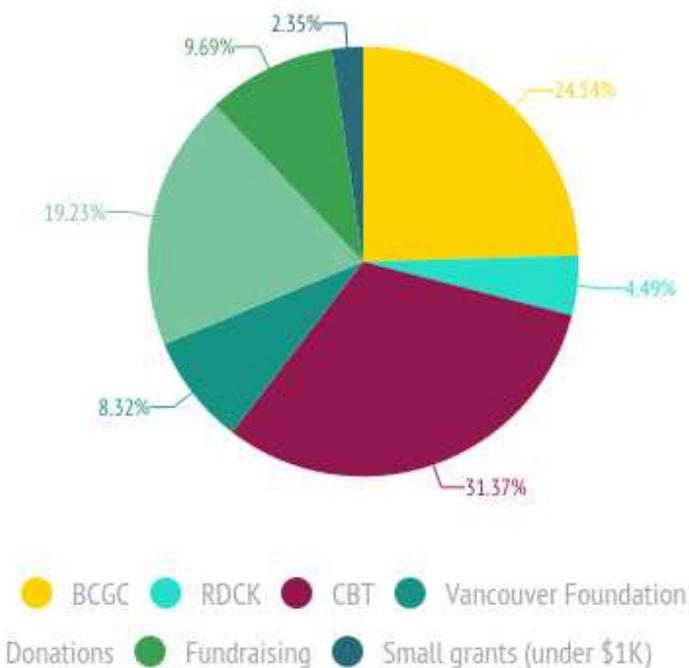
Women's Centre events (from top left, clockwise): Community Connect, Dec 6th, Community Connect, Take Back the Night,



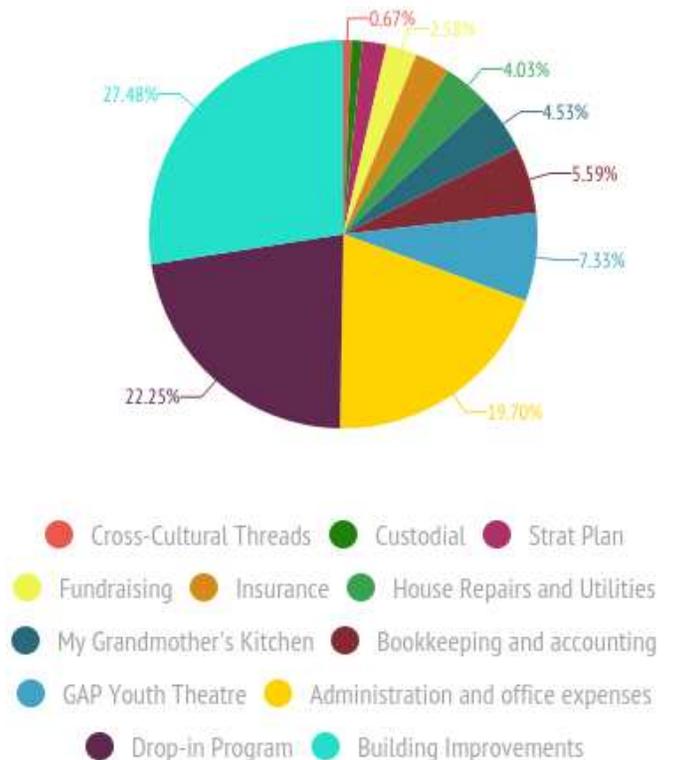
Financial Information

This year our revenues were \$136,085. Our fiscal year expenses were \$98,077 and \$37,282 were invested in our renovations, leaving a surplus of \$1,726. For more information, please see our financial statements which can be found on our website at www.nelsonwomenscentre.com.

Revenue 2014-2015



Expenses 2014-2015



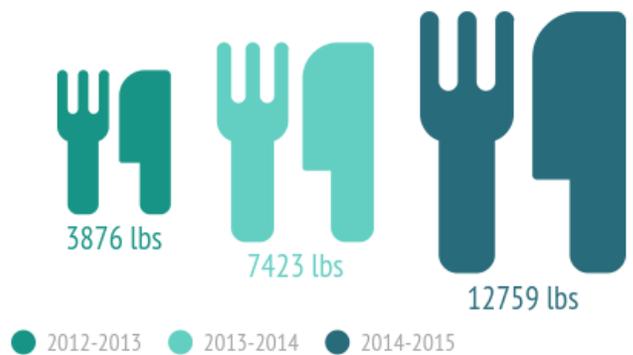


Look at how our donations have grown!

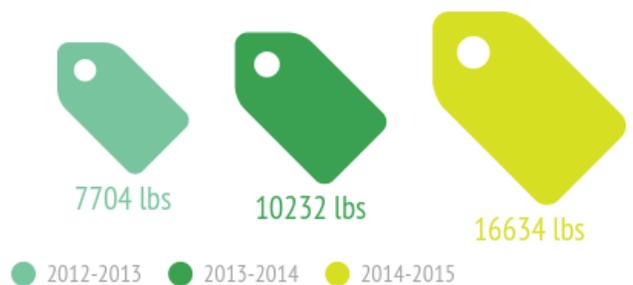
Over the past three years, our food donations have more than tripled, while the clothing donations have more than doubled. This means more free food and clothing get to the people who need it most in our community.



Food Donations Over 3 Years



Clothing Donations Over 3 Years



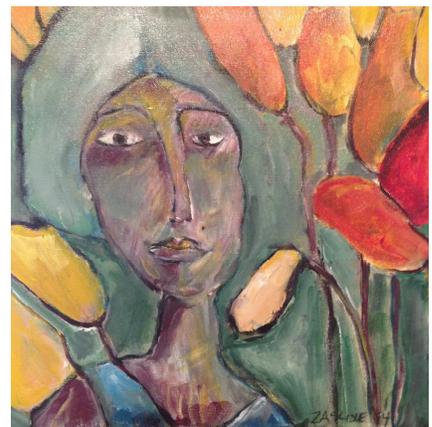
How Can I Help?

The Women's Centre is grateful for the support of community members, who contribute each year in countless ways! We could not offer the services that we do without your help, and are always looking for both donations and volunteers. Our list of volunteer needs includes people to help us pick up and sort donations, peer counseling, joining the Board of Directors and event organizing. We are also always gratefully for donations of money (which is put toward basic costs that allow us to keep running) and staples (such as toilet paper, tea, produce, and coffee).

A huge thanks to all of our financial donors!

Ann and Alex Atamanenko, Elena Banfield, Tasha Bassingthwaighte, Catherine Bastick, Bet Bateman, BC Gaming Commission, Kayln Beka, Blue Mule Espresso Bar, Canadian Labour Congress, Columbia Basin Trust, Dixie Champ, Elizabeth Clark, Ben Conroy, Jenny Craig, Linda Crossfield, Gloria Currie, Alison Cutts, DIG Garden Centre, Pat Dooley, Slava Doval, Natasha Edney, Tira Evans, Faith Gilpin, Health Sciences Association of BC, Bev Hergott, John Hordyck, Hospital Employees Union Nelson, Jordana Isaacson, Kalesnikoff Lumber, Kootenay Savings Credit Union, KL Skins Natural, IODE, Marilyn Kolstad, Kootenay Co-op, Elaine Langlois, Laura Tiberti, Jennifer Lehman, Ingrid Liepa, Nelson Lions Club, Pamela Loepky, Madelyn Mackay, Lorna Marsh, Lisa McGeady, Tanya Momtazian, Shiraz Moola, Carron Mulligan, Nelson & District Credit Union, Nelson United Church Women, Bobbie Ogletree, Osprey Community Foundation, Surairait Parry, Laura Pereverzoff-Ong, Minna Pietarinen, Heather Pillicelli, Marilyn Pollard, Christina Posnickoff, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Kathleen Rogers, Nancy Rosenblum, Hannah Roy, Selkirk Women's Awareness Group, Isabel Trozzo, Vancouver Foundation, Eva Walters, Judy Wapp, Weigand Memorial Foundation, Marg Wood, Yasodhara Ashram

...and many thanks to the countless others that have donated in-kind items, time and support!



By Keira Zastlove