



West Kootenay Women's Association 2025 Annual Report



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The West Kootenay Women's Association gratefully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Ktunaxa, the Syilx, and the Sinixt peoples, and is home to the Métis and many diverse Indigenous persons.

WKWA VISION:

Equality in a world free of oppression.

WKWA MISSION:

The West Kootenay Women's Association promotes the equality and empowerment of all women, gender diverse individuals, and their children through advocacy, education and the provision of services and supports that meet their needs.

WKWA PURPOSES (FROM OUR CONSTITUTION):

- To promote and advocate for equitable treatment of all women and gender diverse individuals, in the belief that they have the right to control their social, economic and physical circumstances, including freedom from violence and all forms of discrimination.
- To welcome and collaborate with women and gender diverse individuals of every race, class, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, age and spiritual or political belief.
- To establish resources and to supply services of a charitable and educational nature to those who use the Women's Centre.
- To cooperate with other organizations that have objectives similar to the objectives as the West Kootenay Women's Association.
- To operate as a non-profit organization to administer and employ its property, assets and rights for the purpose of promoting or aiding in the promotion of the welfare of all women and gender diverse individuals.
- To receive, acquire and hold gifts, including donations, legacies and devices, to support the work of the Nelson & District Women's Centre.

OUR VALUES

- Inclusivity-focused: Committed to embracing diversity in all our efforts.
- Intersectional Feminism: Empowering every marginalized voice.
- Equality: Advocating for equal status, rights, and opportunities for all.
- Equity-Led and Partnered: Modeling fairness in every partnership.
- Consensus-Based: Decisions made through shared agreement.
- Passionate: Driven by WKWA vision, mission, and purposes.
- Resilient: Commitment to unity in our evolving organization.
- Accountability: Upholding WKWA principles with integrity, while dismantling colonial structures within our organization.
- Bridge Builders: Strengthening relationships with West Kootenay communities.

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- Compassion: Practicing empathy and compassion.
 - Respect: Honouring each individual's dignity.
 - Kindness: Fostering a caring community.
 - Connection: Building authentic bonds within and beyond WKWA.

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- Safety: Intentionally creating secure and supportive programming.
 - Accommodating: Meeting unique needs with flexibility.
 - Welcoming Spaces: Creating warm, open, and inviting spaces.
 - Unique Programming: Dedicated to women, gender-diverse individuals, and their children.
 - Accessible Resources: Providing relevant and essential support.

REPORT OVERVIEW & ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

The 2024–2025 fiscal year marked a powerful and memorable chapter in the life of the West Kootenay Women’s Association (WKWA). As we celebrated 50 years since we first incorporated with the mission of advocating for gender equality and equity, we also experienced a time of reflection, growth, and renewed commitment to our mission. We moved forward together, guided by our values and strengthened by the incredible resilience, passion, and care of our members, staff, volunteers, and broader community.

At the Nelson & District Women’s Centre, we continued to offer safe, inclusive, and trauma-informed services for women and gender-diverse individuals. From our cornerstone Drop-in Resource and Referral Program to expanding initiatives like the Queer Drop-in, Youth Empowerment Series, and the counselling practicum program, we witnessed the transformative impact of creating space for connection, healing, and empowerment.

Our community’s generosity was a shining light this year. While we faced a decrease in grant funding, we saw a remarkable increase in donations and fundraising revenue. This support is not only a reflection of trust in our work—it’s a testament to the strength of our community and its shared commitment to equity and justice. Thanks to careful stewardship, we ended the fiscal year with a surplus, positioning us for continued stability and growth in the year ahead.

Strategic planning was another major achievement this year. Together, our Coordinating Collective and staff team developed and began implementing a new three-year strategic plan. This roadmap is guiding us to achieve our goals as an organization.

Our 50th Anniversary was a heartfelt celebration of legacy and progress. Through events like RIFT, the Winter Solstice Celebration, and International Women’s Day, we created space for reflection, joy, and community connection. These gatherings remind us that celebration itself can be a form of resistance, healing, and hope.

As we move forward, WKWA remains grounded in our purpose: to centre the voices and experiences of those most impacted by systemic oppression, and to create spaces of safety, inclusion, and empowerment for all. None of this would be possible without our committed volunteers, donors, members, sponsors, and staff: thank you for believing in this work. Thank you for standing with us and for helping us imagine and build a better world.

- Lee Joy, Executive Director

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

This year has been one of thoughtful stewardship and community support. Total revenue for the year was \$181,243, a decrease from the previous year, primarily due to a decrease in grant funding.

We saw a increase in donations and fundraising by nearly 300%, which demonstrates the strength and commitment of our community. Included in this figure, is a donation of \$25,000 that was left to WKWA by longtime member Margret Wood. This support helped WKWA continue to deliver vital programming and services despite the decrease in grant funding.

We kept overall expenses low with a final total of \$152,806. The majority of expenses were staff wages, ensuring we could maintain quality programming. We carefully managed operational costs and were able to lower utility costs with last years addition of solar panels to our building.

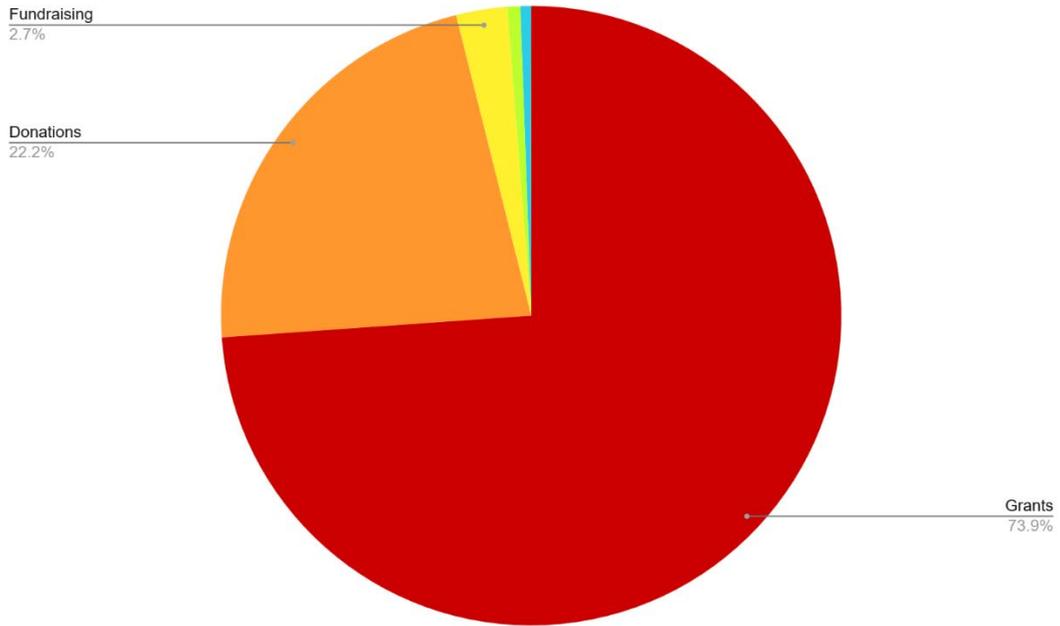
In the end, we finished the year with a surplus of \$28,437 which we carried over into the next year to help us move forward with confidence and stability.

We are deeply grateful to our members for your continued support, generosity, and engagement. Your contributions make our work possible.

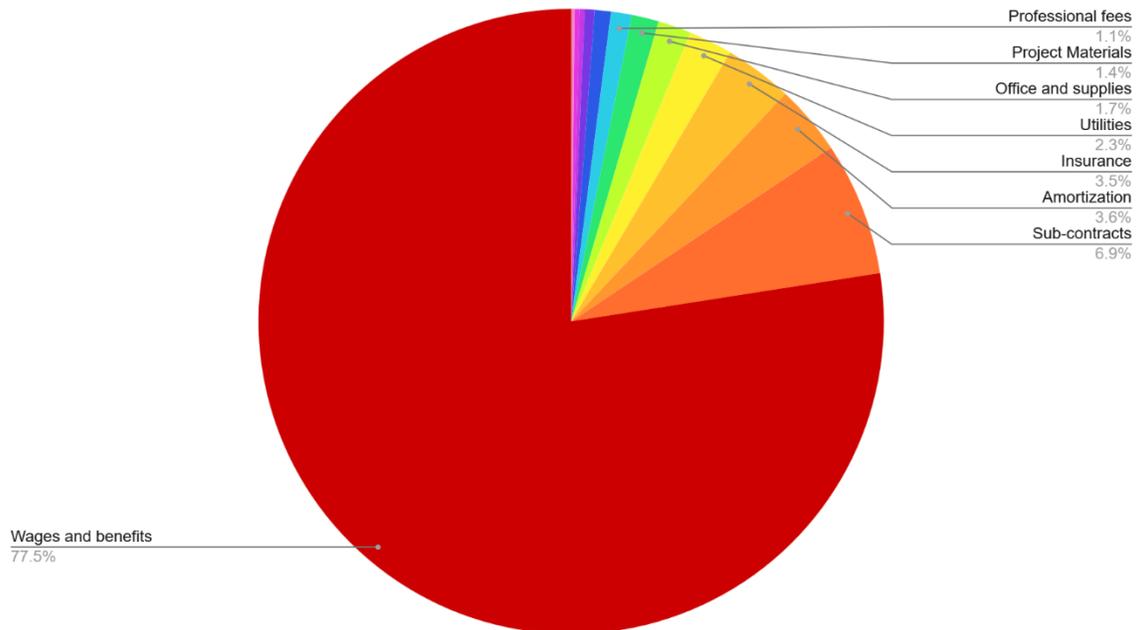
2025 Grant Revenue

Funder & Grant	Program	Amount
BC Community Gaming	Drop-in Resource & Referral Program	\$22,500
BC Association of Farmers Markets	BC Farmers Market Coupons	\$600
BC Association of Farmers Markets	Participant Transportation Assistance	\$200
Columbia Basin Trust: Non-profit Advisor Program	Strategic Planning	\$2626
Columbia Basin Trust: Event Sponsorship	50 th Anniversary Celebration	\$500
Columbia Basin Trust: Event Sponsorship	Winter Solstice Celebration	\$300
Heath Sciences Association (carried forward)	Youth program/Operations	\$3500
St. Saviors: community Grant	Drop-in/ Operations	\$750
Telus Community Boards Grant (carried forward)	Youth Drop-in	\$20,000
Vancouver Foundation: Recovery and Resiliency	Operations + Programming	\$72,000

WKWA Revenue



WKWA Expenses



THE NELSON & DISTRICT WOMEN'S CENTRE

Message from the Nelson Women's Centre Programs Manager

This past year has been one of connection, learning, and deepened community bonds here at the Nelson Women's Centre. We've continued to grow, welcoming women and gender-diverse folks into our space to support and care for one another.

My heart has been warmed by the genuine connections I see every day. From old friendships to blossoming relationships, from familiar faces to first-time visitors. The Centre continues to work hard to foster true inclusivity, and I'm extremely proud of the intergenerational and diverse community we're building.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Each team member brings a unique set of skills that make our shared vision of acceptance and care possible. Thank you to everyone who brings their open-hearted and caring selves to the Women's Centre. Watching the way you all show up for yourselves and for each other is incredibly inspiring. I'm excited to see what we can create together in the year ahead!

-Anna Jauncey, NDWC Programs Manager

Drop-In Resource and Referral Program

Our Drop-in program provides a welcoming and safe space for women, gender-diverse individuals, and their children to access vital services. These include free food, clothing, personal hygiene supplies, counselling, referrals to community resources, education, skill-building opportunities, and access to feminist literature and technology. Offered three days per week, this program served 310 unique individuals with over 1,693 visits throughout the year. Thanks to generous donations, we distributed 3,645 pounds of food and 3,770 pounds of gently used clothing to those in need. Funding for this program came from the BC Community Gaming Grant and the Vancouver Foundation Recovery and Resiliency Grant.

Queer Drop-in

Our monthly Queer Drop-in events created a welcoming space for 2SLGBTQQIA+ folks and allies to connect and engage in activities including rail trail walks, coffee meetups, movie nights, and craft evenings. This program was supported by RDCK Resident Directed Grants.

Youth Empowerment Series (YES)

The Youth Empowerment Series welcomed young people together, fostering community and trust while equipping participants with valuable life skills. It also introduced youth to the Women's Centre as a safe and supportive space for accessing resources and support.

Counselling Practicum Program

We were proud to host five counselling and social work practicum students from various institutions, offering free counselling services to Drop-in participants. This program was highly valued by those who accessed support, and we hope to continue to expand the program as funding allows.

Volunteer Program

Our Volunteer Program is essential to the success of the Women's Centre. This year, 27 dedicated volunteers contributed 890 hours across 149 days, assisting with food pickups, organizing the free store,

gardening, meal preparation, snow removal, peer counselling, and much more. The Rooted in Community Volunteer Training (RIC) was offered twice, each time providing eight weeks of education on equity, community service, and intersectional feminist principles to prepare volunteers for their roles.

Food Sustainability and Equity Project

Although unfunded, our coordinators and volunteers maintained the community garden, offering plots to service users and hosting workshop days. Produce was shared among participants or used in Centre meals. We continue to seek funding to support a dedicated coordinator to sustain and grow this initiative.

BC Farmers Market Coupon Program (BCFMCP)

For the second year, we partnered with the BC Association of Farmers Markets to provide coupons for local fresh produce. This year, 29 participants received \$27 worth of coupons per week over 16 weeks, enhancing food security and literacy. Additional transportation and food literacy workshop funding supported program participation and impact.

Service User Round Table

These periodic meetings give space for service users and volunteers to share their feedback about programming at the Women's Centre. Facilitated by a staff member and director, concerns that can be addressed promptly are handled by the staff team, and more complex matters are passed on to the Coordinating Collective (CC) and discussed at the monthly CC meetings.

Workshops Hosted

- Travelling Speaker Series with AJ Withers (Simon Fraser University)
- Althaea Herbals Workshops (2)
- Craniosacral with Raine Walker
- Pasta Sauce Workshop
- KSWAG Gatherings (space rental)
- Knitting Group (space rental)
- Leather workshop with Brit Barkhouse
- Communication workshop
- Rental space offered for various groups

EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

- Annual General Meeting
- National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women (in partnership with Violence Against Women in Relationships Committee)
- Winter Solstice Celebration
- 2nd Annual RIFT (Renewing Intersectional Feminism Together) Fundraiser at the Royal
- GRL PWR: International Women's Day Celebration & Fundraiser at the Royal
- Nelson Pride Parade
- 50th Year Celebration at the Nelson Museum

WKWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year, 16 directors served on the Board of Directors. Their commitment, vision, and resilience have been vital in guiding WKWA through a year of meaningful growth and important milestones.

Our Board successfully developed and began the initial implementation of a comprehensive 3-year strategic plan, created with support from the Columbia Basin Trust Strategic Advisor Program. This plan has provided clear direction and a detailed work plan to help WKWA reach our goals to be an accessible, visible leader of inclusivity conversations within our community, solidify organizational roles and responsibilities, and ensure that our unique programs align with WKWA’s vision, mission, and values.

This year the board focused on navigating capacity limitations and clarifying expectations around roles and responsibilities for directors and committee members. As a small but determined organization, WKWA relies heavily on the time and expertise of our Board and committees. The board has been committed to recruiting more community members to serve on committees to help distribute the workload as well as ensure our team reflects the rich diversity of the West Kootenay community.

Our Directors:

- Kerry Marsland, Treasurer (May 2021 to AGM 2024)
- Deena DeWitt, Secretary (October 2023 to AGM 2024)
- Christine Deynaka, Board Chair (June 2023 to July 2024)
- Megan Southam, Director (July 2023 to July 2024)
- Patricia Johnston (November 2024 to August 2025)
- Jacquelin Corcoran (November 2024 to March 2025)
- CURRENT Lauren Penfound (AGM 2023 to AGM 2025)
- CURRENT Jamila Hennings (April to AGM 2025)
- CURRENT Shaina Hutchinson (April to AGM 2025)
- CURRENT Jaspreet Batra Kaur (November 2023 to AGM 2025)
- CURRENT Kai Kafriksen (AGM 2023 to AGM 2025) – Reapplying for 6month term
- CURRENT Slaine Sutherland (November 2024 to AGM 2025) – Reapplying for 1-year term
- CURRENT Shamim Pourfarshomi (November 2024 to AGM 2025) – Reapplying for 1-year
- CURRENT Kristen Skriver (April 2025 to AGM 2025) – Reapplying for 1-year
- CURRENT Launa Aspeslet (April 2025 to AGM 2025) – Reapplying for 1-year

STAFF TEAM

The WKWA is fortunate to be supported by a small but passionate and committed team of staff members who embody our values and vision. Together, they foster a welcoming, inclusive, and empowering environment for all women, gender-diverse individuals, and their children.

Our leadership team remains strong and stable, providing consistent guidance and support that enables the Women's Centre's programming to thrive. Over the past year, we have seen wonderful team members come and go, and we are grateful for the contributions of each individual who played a vital role in our growth and development.

Our Staff Team

- Malia (Lee) Joy, Executive Director (January 2023 to Current) (CC)
- Anna Jauncey, Programs Manager (February 2023 to Current) (CC)
- Anna Jauncey, Social Media and Marketing Coordinator (February 2023 to Current)
- Stacey Fitzgerald, Drop-in Coordinator (January 2024 to July 2024)
- Lauren Notley, Queer Drop-in Coordinator (April 2024 to September 2024)
- Lauren Notley, ON-CALL Drop-in Coordinator (April 2024 to Current)
- Heather-Lynn Austin, Drop-in Coordinator (September 2024 to April 2025)
- Marissa Tonus, ON-CALL Drop-in Coordinator (October 2024 to Current)
- Zohra Azizi, Youth Drop-in Coordinator (March 2025 – April 2025)

The dedication and expertise of our staff are essential to the success of the Women's Centre. Their compassionate approach and steadfast commitment ensure that everyone who walks through our doors feels supported, empowered, and valued.

We are incredibly proud of our team and are excited to continue to foster positive change while building a stronger, more inclusive community in Nelson and the West Kootenay region.

OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The West Kootenay Women’s Association extends heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals, organizations, and local businesses who have generously supported us throughout the past year. Your cash contributions, in-kind donations, and ongoing encouragement have been invaluable to sustaining our work and advancing our mission.

To our steadfast members, dedicated volunteers, compassionate staff, and committed donors — thank you. Your time, energy, and belief in a world free of oppression and violence inspire us every day. Together, you make the vision of the WKWA a reality, providing vital services and creating welcoming spaces for women, gender-diverse individuals, and their children.

We are deeply appreciative of the community that surrounds us and the partnerships that strengthen our efforts. Your ongoing support allows us to continue fostering safety, empowerment, and connection for everyone.

A special thank you to our generous sponsors and supporters

Kootenay Koop	The Capitol Theater
Althea Herbals	Ruth and Shelby
The Royal	Anna Jauncey
Hume	Blue sky clothing
Private Giving Foundation	Nelson Olive Oil
Greater Groove	Torchlight Brewing
Eddy’s Music	Pixie Candy
Patagonia	Yum Son
St. Saviors	Sprout Eatery
Althea Herbals	Notably Bookish
Strategic Giving Foundation	Intuit Dance Studio
Greater Groove	Scout Boutique
Eddy’s Music	Eden’s Edge
Strutters Boutique	Dominion Café
Kootenay Comedy	Taylor and Mae
Margaret Wood	Horse and Snake Vintage
Nelson Road Kings Car Club	Love from Lupa
Ashram Society	Bia Boro
Kootenay Ladies Organization	Secret Garden Toys
Dance Umbrella	Loot
The Royal	Eileen Nicolina
Beauties	Isis Essentials
Cantina del Centro	Abacus Beads
Save on foods	Cowans Office Supplies
Esprit de la femme	Oso negro Coffee
Patagonia	SilverKing Soya Foods

Additional thanks,



vanouver
foundation



Columbia Basin **trust**

