



BC Society of
Transition Houses

24 HOUR Census Fact Sheet

*A One-Day Look at Transitional Housing and
Children Who Witness Abuse Programs in BC & the Yukon
2009*

On November 3, 2009

119 Transition House, Second Stage House, Safe Home, Children Who Witness Abuse and Outreach programs in British Columbia (BC) and the Yukon participated in BC Society of Transition Houses' (BCSTH) first ever 24-hour census count of our Member Agencies programs. The following is some of the information that these programs shared about the services they provided during the 24-hour survey period.

1. In one day... **454 women and 355 youth and children** were helped in person by BCSTH Members.

“An elderly lady finally was able to walk away from her abuser after 60 years and come into us.”

“A young woman with two young children left an extremely abusive relationship. After being on the waitlist for 6 months I was finally able to offer service.”

“Many low income families are coming to our community because of the low cost of housing. Unemployment in our community is very high as is the stress levels in families. There is also more children attending the program for a few months and then having to leave the community because of employment possibilities. There are also less support systems comprised of friends and family because of so many people moving.”

2. In one day... BCSTH Members responded to **850 service-related calls.**

“I have a waitlist and received a call from a woman today who desperately wanted to see me very quickly. I can only safety plan with her and refer her to other services. Otherwise she has to wait for my service to be available.”

3. In one day.... **230 people** received **training or public education** from BCSTH Members.

“We were able to talk to a group of seniors about our programs and tell them about our safe home network”

4. In one day... **522 women, men youth and children** were **turned away** by BCSTH Members.

“A woman with 3 children couldn't access outreach program because we don't provide childcare.”

“No resources to accommodate 'after hour' services (after 5 pm and weekends). Waitlist grew!”

5. The **number one reason** program staff gave for having to turn women away was a **lack of funding.**

“There is a budget for \$4 per person per day after all other expenses are allocated. It would be lovely to be able to say ‘yes, I would love to buy you an avocado!’ on shopping day.”

“There is a clear lack of professional interpretation and translation services. These services are available, however, there is a cost attached to it and we do have a budget.”

“Women will be killed because they have no options but to stay in an abusive relationships due to the cut backs, we will see more abusers become more violent which has a ripple effect on cost for health care, police, courts, economy, the children see the abuse and those children are our future.”

6. **Rural and remote areas face additional challenges** because of the few services offered in their areas.

“We are a small rural community and there is no form of public transportation other than a taxi. Getting women to come to appointments and access the services is a challenge.”

“We are the only shelter in our area so we have to try and meet all of the services because there is nowhere else to refer these women. We are the only support for women fleeing abuse, dealing with homelessness, drug and alcohol issues, mental health. So as long as we have room in the shelter we are trying to accommodate everyone because where else do we send them?”

7. In one day... BCSTH Members across the province are able to **make a difference.**

“A young woman with two small children phoned to say "thank you" to a staff woman who provided support during the woman's stay at the shelter several years ago. This woman is now in a job retraining program for women who have left violent relationships, has enrolled in college, and is looking into counselling training and perhaps doing a practicum with a Transition House.”

“Today our Older Women's Counsellor successfully moved a resident from Third Stage Housing into the home of her dreams. The woman is embarking on a new business venture, thrilled with her new life.”

“My staff rocks every day and they are good, caring women and men who do this work for the passion they have to end violence and its’ effects against all.”