

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 | 2024



BC SOCIETY OF TRANSITION HOUSES



**"You helped me. I could not just see me trying to do this all on my own
and I wondered, what do I do?"**

- Program Participant



LETTER FROM THE BCSTH BOARD CHAIR & THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear BCSTH Members,

As reflected in this comment, BCSTH extends our gratitude to members for their ongoing commitment to ending violence against all women, children and youth in BC and standing together as a community to build safety and hope for survivors and their families. The 2023- 2024 Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect on the dynamic BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH) membership and the work we do together as a collective.

As the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director of BCSTH, we recommit to supporting you to the very best of our abilities through leadership, training, advocacy and the development and distribution of resources. While your focus is 24/7 support for those experiencing and at risk of violence, our mandate and focus is to listen and to advocate for you, our 133 members and counting.

Key November 2023 BCSTH 24 Hour Census findings show that in just one day, 140 Women's Transition Housing and Supports Programs (WTHSP) and 68 PEACE Programs served 2,222 women, children and youth experiencing violence and at risk of violence. However, a further 825 women, youth and children were unable to be served by these life-saving services, and there were 673 children and youth on waitlists for PEACE Program services. 56% of the PEACE Programs and 30.7 % of the WTHSP had waitlists (combination of Second Stage and Transition Houses). More than one third of the houses (34.3%) were at or over capacity during the time. More than half of the programs were operating with just one staff during 10-24 hours during the 24 hour period. These numbers clearly demonstrate the need for more capacity for the Women's Transition Housing and Supports and PEACE Programs in BC. We call on the government to increase funding for these support services to enable them to meet the needs of all women, youth and children who are unsafe in their homes and have experienced violence or are at risk of violence.

BCSTH recommits to advocacy moving forward to ensure there is increased capacity to meet the needs of those you support day and night.

Examples of BCSTH advocacy efforts over this year include:

- Ongoing consultations on the BC Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan, [Safe and Supported](#), that included under the plan's prevention pillar, funding for the Violence is Preventable (VIP) school-based prevention and awareness program under the Bi-lateral agreement with the federal National Action Plan (NAP).
- Regarding affordable housing needs and gender-based violence (GBV), consultations and collaborations with the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA), BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA), Health Sciences Association of British Columbia (HSABC), Co-operative Housing Federation of BC (CHF of BC), BC Housing (BCH) and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).
- BC Housing consultations on the Women's Transitional Housing Supports Fund of 2018 and 2023, emergency management and service continuity, Women Centred Design, and Reconciliation and Decolonization.
- Regarding the application of GBA+ analysis to policies and legislation, engagements with provincial and federal governments to ensure that all women, children and youth are not left behind.
- Ongoing meetings with Police Victim Services of BC (PVS BC) and Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) and relevant provincial government ministries – Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG), BC Coroner's Office, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions (MMHA), Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Attorney General (AG), Ministry of Health (MOH), as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) – on intersecting portfolios and issues including waitlists and funding needs, rising rates of femicides and GBV, and access to justice challenges.
- Provincial and federal testimony in concert with members regarding budget priorities, emergency preparedness, access to justice, homeless prevention, transportation and address confidentiality issues with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC).
- Representation on the Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) Board of Directors and Provincial and Territorial Advisory Committee.

The Annual Report provides highlights of the BCSTH Team's dynamic work and accomplishments and it is an honour and privilege to work alongside them. The Team's work is inspired by the connection and collaboration with you and the women, children and youth you support.

Looking forward, the BCSTH Board has adopted a new [Strategic Plan for 2024–2028](#) that will:

- OPTIMIZE Member Supports & Wellbeing
- DISRUPT The Status Quo
- INCREASE Positive Media Presence and Passion for Feminist Work
- SECURE Diversified, Creative, Sustainable Funding

We welcome our membership to this multi-year commitment where we set a course to strengthen and expand the impact of BCSTH and our dedicated members.

This year at the Annual Training Forum (ATF), October 23 – 25, 2024, [Strength in Solidarity: Weaving Communities & Generations](#), BCSTH will recognize the 20th Anniversary of the [Violence is Preventable \(VIP\)](#) community which coincides fittingly with the [Safe and Supported](#) plan's recognition and funding of VIP as an essential prevention program, along with the [Cedar Blankets](#) Project which in the past 5 years has supported BCSTH members to build culturally safe wraparound supports for Indigenous women and their children. We hope to see you there to learn together about innovative prevention efforts and culturally relevant supports for women, children and youth to build safe communities for all and a vibrant future for generations here and yet to arrive.

In Solidarity,

Tina Dayer, Chair, Board of Directors

Amy S. FitzGerald, Executive Director

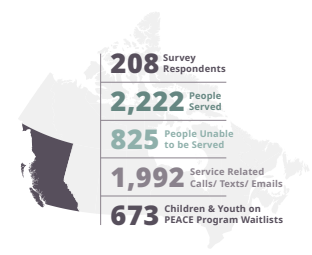
MEMBER SUPPORT & ADVOCACY

Membership Supports

- **Addressing Period Equity** – With generous funding from Shoppers Foundation for Women’s Health, BCSTH launched an initiative addressing period poverty. Working with project partners Aisle and Joni, BCSTH distributed sustainable menstrual products and gift cards to women and girls accessing BCSTH member programs, as well as staff working in these programs. To ensure equity and diversity, a focus was given to rural, remote, and Indigenous community members who may have more limited access to sustainable period products. In August 2023, a total of \$98,000 worth of products and gift cards were distributed to 76 member organizations across BC and Yukon.
- **Welcome Home Kits** – With generous funding from [SPARC BC](#), BCSTH distributed ‘Welcome Home Kits’ to support families and individuals moving into 12 new Second Stage and Long-term Housing programs. The ‘Kits’ were provided in the form of gift cards to 258 new residents of these programs, allowing them to purchase small kitchen appliances, bedding and linens, cleaning supplies or any other essential items to help make their new homes more comfortable.
- **Cellphone Distributions** – In 2023, through a generous donation and partnership with SPARC BC, 1,055 cellphones were distributed to women, children, and youth accessing 58 BCSTH member organizations.
- **Member Meetings** - In 2023-2024, BCSTH hosted 24 virtual regional meetings for Executive Directors and Program Managers in its 7 regions, as well as 5 in-person program meetings at the Annual Training Forum. During these meetings, BCSTH provided key sector and government updates, as well as updates on BCSTH’s advocacy and projects. These meetings facilitated opportunities for member programs to connect and share emerging issues and challenges unique to their own communities.

Consultations

- Ongoing consultations with RCMP for a province wide policy as to interactions with WTHSP. After joint advocacy with MPSSG, RCMP have agreed to adopt a province wide policy and will develop it in concert with BCSTH and its membership and BCH and MPSSG. The policy will become part of their annual required training.
- BCSTH consulted on the province’s new sexual assault policing standards.
- BCSTH consulted on the proposed changes to the Crime Victim Assistance Act to enhance the support for victims of crime, survivors, and witnesses.

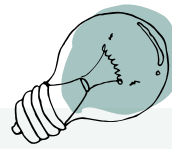


“I love this team and appreciate all of you and all the support that you have given me over the years You make life better.”

- BCSTH member



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



151 RESPONDENTS

- MOST PARTICIPATION FROM REGION 2 (40)
- MOST PARTICIPATION FROM ED, DIRECTOR, MANAGERS (55)
- FRONTLINE STAFF AT WTHSP (44)

REASONS FOR BEING A MEMBER OF BCSTH

- 1 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES & ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM
- 2 INFORMATION ABOUT THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) SECTOR (E.G., NEWSLETTER, LISTSERV)
- 3 PROGRAM SUPPORT (E.G., REGIONAL MEETINGS, SUPPORT WITH CONTRACTS & GOVERNMENT ISSUES, EMAIL/PHONE SUPPORT)

MOST IMPORTANT MEMBER BENEFITS

- 1 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM
- 2 MEMBER RATES FOR ONLINE/IN-PERSON TRAINING AND ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM
- 3 PROVISION OF RESOURCES (TOOLKITS, PROMISING PRACTICE GUIDES, TEMPLATES, CAMPAIGN RESOURCES ETC.)
- 4 ADVOCACY (CLOSE 4TH)

PREFERRED METHOD OF TRAINING DELIVERY

- 1 IN-PERSON TRAINING
- 2 VIRTUAL FACILITATED TRAINING (ON ZOOM)
- 3 ONLINE SELF-PACED TRAINING (ON THINKIFIC)

FAMILIAR BCSTH PROJECTS

- 1 PEACE FOR CANADIAN CHILDREN & YOUTH
- 2 BCSTH BURSARY FUND
- 3 REDUCING BARRIERS

REQUESTS FOR FEE FOR SERVICE TRAINING TOPICS

- 1 SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS
- 2 SUPPORTING WOMEN WHO USE ALCOHOL AND/OR SUBSTANCES
- 3 TRAUMA & VIOLENCE-INFORMED PRACTICE

OVERALL SATISFACTION



95% (SATISFIED/VERY SATISFIED)



5% REMAINING NOT SURE

BCSTH LIBRARY

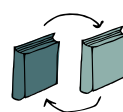
The BCSTH Library provides free access to resources that support BCSTH members and staff in their work with women, children and youth. Topics of particular interest this year included substance use and addictions, anxiety and stress management, leadership and management, communication, and resources for working with children.



161 NEW RESOURCES WERE ADDED TO THE LIBRARY



35 NEW BORROWERS WERE WELCOMED TO THE LIBRARY



1,052 RESOURCES WERE CIRCULATED TO 62 BORROWERS



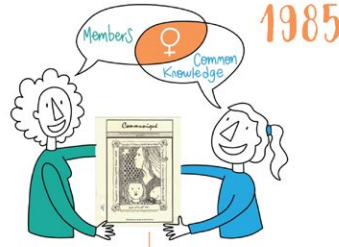
47 MEMBER-WRITTEN REVIEWS OF RESOURCES WERE ADDED TO THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

45 YEARS OF BCSTH

1978-2023

FIRST STEPS

Women from five transition houses met to discuss forming a society to explore common interests, provide training support, and advocate for transition house funding. The five transition houses were located in Coquitlam, Langley (Ishtar), Vancouver, Vernon and Victoria.



1980 1990



- 1982 First AGM
- 1984 BCYSTH formally registered as a society
- 1985 First newsletter - *Communiqué*, a quarterly publication
- 1987 Community Visibility project



- 1992 Core funding for BCYSTH with Ministry of Social Services; 41 CWVA Programs launched
- 1994 First training for front line TH workers; published How to Establish a Transition House manual; BCYSTH Library
- 1995 Established Prevention of Violence Against Women Week in partnership with Ministry of Women's Equality
- 1996 Opening of "Why Don't You Just Leave?" art show
- 1998 Development of standards for transition houses and safe homes
- 1999 Hosted Creating a Legacy of Hope, international conference on children exposed to family violence



2009



2016

- 2020 COVID Resource webpage; Virtual training; Virtual ATF; BCSTH Transportation project launched
- 2021 PEACE for Canadian Children & Youth launched; Women-Centred Housing Design project launched
- 2022 Sheltering Pets and People and Teen Digital Dating Violence Toolkit (online only) published; Keys to Home project launched; New website launched
- 2023 BCSTH Legal Toolkit revised; Hosted Building Up!: Training on Women-Centred Longer Term Housing Provision

2000 2010 2020 2030

- 2002 Safe Homes for Older Women pilot projects and publication of What's Age Got to Do with It? A Handbook for Service Providers on Working with Abused Older Women in BC and the Yukon and accompanying video and discussion guide
- 2003 Integrating Diversity training and Difference in Transition House Work training
- 2004 VIP pilot project launched; Family Law and Women's Management training
- 2005 Published How to Establish Specialized Refuge and Support Services for Older Abused Women and Developing Support Groups for Older Abused Women
- 2007 Produced 3 VIP videos, a guide for teachers and a second edition of Violence is Preventable: Building Partnerships between Children Who Witness Abuse Programs and BC Schools
- 2008 Initiated petition for a death review committee to document and review femicides
- 2009 First 24 Hour Census

- 2010 Name changed to BC Society of Transition Houses; Yukon formed its own coalition
- 2011 First in-person Reducing Barriers training
- 2012 Love Doesn't Hurt campaign featuring Ryan Kesler
- 2013 First weekly electronic member newsletter
- 2014 Building Supports: Housing Access for Immigrant and Refugee Women Leaving Violence project launched
- 2015 Reaching Out With Yoga project launched
- 2016 Technology Safety project launched
- 2017 CWVA Program name changed to PEACE
- 2018 You Are Not Alone campaign won BC Association of Broadcasters' Humanitarian Award; Getting Home project launched
- 2019 BCSTH Bursary Fund launched; Technology Safety & Privacy Toolkit published; BCSTH at the 4th World Conference of Woman's Shelters in Taiwan; Cedar Blankets project launched



2023 CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES 45 YEARS & COUNTING!

Due to space limitations, this timeline presents many, but not all, of BCSTH's successes. It's been a busy 45 years!

"Thank you for all the amazing, imperative work that you do. I find the Regional Meetings, and the website with all the trainings and resources very beneficial. Also, I have had very positive experiences reaching out for support to BCSTH staff. I appreciate that a lot."

- BCSTH member

BCSTH TRAINING & ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM

In fulfilling our Strategic Plan, BCSTH continues to strengthen and expand training opportunities to support the professional development of anti-violence workers across the province. Here are a few highlights from 2023-2024 that we are proud to share with you:

- Over the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, over 800 online self-paced courses were completed by anti-violence workers in BC and beyond.
- Over 300 anti-violence workers attended the Annual Training Forum in October 2023 in celebration of BCSTH's 45th anniversary.
- Feminist Leadership training was developed and delivered in 7 communities across the province, with a total of 91 participants. Participants included Women's Support Workers, Coordinators, Program Managers, Child and Youth Advocates, Victim Services Workers, Executive Administrators, Human Resource Managers, Legal Advocates, Counsellors, Directors, and Executive Directors.
- Reducing Barriers trainings were delivered in-person in 6 communities across the province, supporting BCSTH member programs to address barriers to support for women experiencing varying levels of mental wellness and/or substance use.
- In partnership with St. John Ambulance, 316 anti-violence workers received training in nasal naloxone administration and harm reduction, and free nasal naloxone kits were distributed to member programs across the province.
- BCSTH hosted webinars with community partners including Warm Hearts Pet Safe Havens, Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) and CanTalk.
- Three new self-paced online courses were developed, including [All Ages Welcome: Supporting Older Women in Transition Housing Programs](#), [Emergency Management and Service Continuity Program Planning](#) and [Foundations in Women-Centred Housing](#).
- Customized fee-for-service trainings were delivered to several member organizations and community partners across the province.

"It felt empowering and exciting to be here!"

"I feel very excited to bring back this learning to my organization to share with others and use myself!"

- Feminist Leadership training participants



PEACE & VIP

The Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment (PEACE) Programs provide psycho-educational support for children and youth experiencing domestic violence. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the 87 PEACE Programs across BC accessed the following supports:

- A three-day comprehensive in-person training event for PEACE Program counsellors that comprised of a two-day PEACE Program Foundations and a one-day Violence is Preventable (VIP) Program Foundations Training, delivered to 51 participants. This three-day event marked the first in-person PEACE and VIP Program Foundations training since February 2020. BCSTH thanks the trainers and presenters for their invaluable contributions to the development and delivery of this training.
- Two keynote sessions at the 2023 BCSTH Annual Training Forum that included presentations by Lexa Smerdal and Mary Teegee, where both presenters spoke to the need for Indigenous-informed practice when working with children and youth, calling for sector-wide recognition that conventional approaches are not sufficient in addressing the needs of Indigenous communities. Presenter Audace Garnett spoke to navigating tech-facilitated and online teen violence, focusing primarily on online dating violence and the role of technology in abusive relationships.
- Webinars on supporting children and youth in the PEACE Program experiencing tech-facilitated gender-based violence in partnership with Women's Shelter Canada's Tech-Safety Project, and the practical and healing value of PEACE Program groups, presented by long-time PEACE Program counsellor Jayde Martins.

Violence is Preventable (VIP) is a free, confidential, school-based violence prevention program for school aged children and youth who have experienced violence delivered by PEACE Program counsellors.

- During the 2023-2024 school year, VIP was being offered by 51 PEACE Programs throughout the province.
- In March 2024, BC government announced funding of \$1,398,000 to enhance PEACE and VIP programs. This was one of the first announcements under the prevention pillar of [Safe and Supported](#), BC's Gender Based Violence Action Plan. The new funding will support more PEACE counsellors in schools enabling the VIP program to reach more than 7,000 students and staff. The funds will support increased VIP site honoraria over the next 2 years along with enhancements to the VIP curriculum and a report analyzing the impact of PEACE waitlists on VIP delivery.



BCSTH PROJECTS

PEACE for Canadian Children & Youth



BCSTH's first national project, carried out in partnership with Women's Shelters Canada, wrapped up at the end of March 2024. In its 3 years, [PEACE for Canadian Children & Youth](#) delivered training and mentorship in both French and English to 275 shelter workers from 132 organizations in every province and territory in Canada. These totals include the participation of 30 Indigenous shelters.

Breaking the isolation of workers in northern, rural and remote communities was one of the most significant outcomes of the project, which had a lot of success in making connections and building relationships among shelter workers across Canada. Discovering they are not alone in the challenges they face doing this very difficult work, made all the harder in the context of small communities with limited resources, enhanced everyone's ability to provide service and support to vulnerable children and youth in shelter and their families.

We gratefully acknowledge project funding from Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada and send out a huge thank you to all our PEACE counsellors who so willingly took on the work of mentoring and sharing the PEACE approach with workers from coast to coast to coast!

Tech Safety Projects

- **[Accessibility, Assistive Technology and Inclusion \(AATI\) Project](#)** - This project developed resources for anti-violence programs to increase accessibility for people with disabilities and reduce the impacts of gender-based violence. BCSTH worked collaboratively with [WSC's Tech Safety Canada](#) to develop a resource toolkit addressing survivors with disabilities experiencing technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), and organizations interested in learning more about the use of assistive technology. This project was made possible thanks to the generous funding of a MPSSG Civil

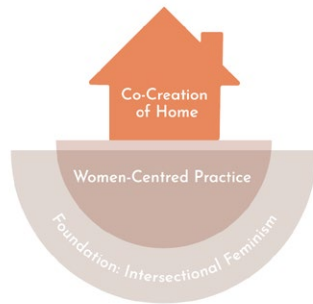
Forfeiture Grant, as well as the expertise shared by an Advisory Committee of anti-violence workers and specialists in gender-based violence prevention and disability advocacy. The project produced training webinars and an online resource toolkit related to assistive technology.

- **[Compass Project](#)** - The Compass Project developed a publicly available and interactive online tool to support survivors and anti-violence workers in navigating the non-consensual distribution of intimate images (NCDII). The tool provides information about options for legal action, support, and tech safety procedures in the context of non-consensually shared intimate images. Compass was made possible through generous funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage, and with the support of frontline workers and tech safety experts who shared their knowledge, experiences, and expertise in the tool's review.
- **[UN CWS67](#)** - BCSTH colleague Rhiannon Wong was part of the Canadian delegation of tech & gender-based violence thought leaders at the [United Nations Council of the Status of Women](#) and presented as part of the panel The Signal for Help: Innovation to shift from stigma to support.
- **[Intimate Images Protection Act \(IIPA\)](#)** - BCSTH engaged in an ongoing consultation with the BC Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) regarding the non-consensual disclosure of intimate images and the impact on victims and the role for the IIPA. IIPA came into effect January 29, 2024. BCSTH's Tech Safety Project staff trained the CRT staff and the new MPSSG Intimate Images Protection Service Unit which supports CRT applicants and NCDII victims.



Keys to Home Project

The [Keys to Home project](#) provides capacity building through training and organizational support to the member programs of BCSTH who are expanding their mandates from temporarily sheltering women and children experiencing violence to providing safe long-term housing options for vulnerable populations in BC. Keys to Home is a collaborative project and works closely with an Advisory Committee, which includes BC Non Profit Housing Association, Co-operative Housing Federation of BC, BC Housing, Aboriginal Housing Management Association, Vancity Community Foundation, and Women's Shelters Canada. Through this project, a new housing curriculum was developed including the Developing Women-Centred Housing Toolkit and an online, self-paced course, Foundations in Women-Centred Housing.



Women-Centred Housing Design Project

This project produced the [Women-Centred Housing Design Toolkit](#). The Women-Centred Design Toolkit was a CMHC 2024 Housing Research Awards recipient and was awarded the prestigious Gold Roof Award for housing research excellence. The toolkit demonstrates opportunities in the design of housing to enhance the suitability of living spaces for women and their dependents, taking an intersectional lens to the housing space design needs of women that includes their experiences of violence and trauma, gender, single parenting, family size and composition, lifestyle, and age and needs of children. The toolkit is available as an online interactive toolkit and is offered in both English and French.

Building Up! 2023



BCSTH was awarded funding through CMHC to deliver an in person training, Building Up! 2023, to support our members with long-term housing design, development, and provision.

The Building Up! Training events took place on October 17 – 20, 2023 with 29 participants joining from across BC. This training showcased innovative approaches to housing design, development and operations to provide more long-term housing solutions for women and their children experiencing, or at risk of, violence in BC. This training empowered BCSTH member organizations in their strategic plans to develop and operate long-term housing. The training blended up-to-date housing information, presentations, and panels from experts on design, architecture, operations, and funding.

Emergency Management & Service Continuity Planning

Funded by the Red Cross, BCSTH worked with a service continuity expert to develop, train and pilot an 8-stage process of developing an [Emergency Management & Service Continuity \(EMSC\) Program](#). The project aimed to build capacity within BCSTH and its member organizations by developing accessible and relevant risk assessment tools and EMSC program planning templates as well as training to support members in attaining and maintaining fluid and effective functional levels of service when experiencing external disruptions from climate emergencies, hazard disruptions and disasters. The 8-stage process has been translated into an online platform which provides step-by-step instructions on how to complete the corresponding templates and tools required to identify organizational vulnerabilities and service continuity strategies to develop a fulsome organizational EMSC program. Many thanks to the pilot sites: Ann Davis Transition Society, Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society, Princeton Family Services Society, Kamloops YMCA BC, Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society and BCSTH itself. BCSTH will continue this work over the next 16 months - training and supporting members to develop their EMSC plans.

Transportation Project

The [BCSTH Transportation Project](#) enhances access to safe and reliable transportation for women experiencing, or at risk of, violence in Northern BC.

This year, the Project hosted a workshop during the BCSTH ATF to bring together member organizations and transportation providers from Northern BC to discuss transportation challenges in the region and explore solutions. As well, we expanded our informative transportation posters to additional Northern communities, including Prince George, Fort Nelson, Vanderhoof, the Peace Region, Terrace, and Fort St. James. These posters create awareness among community organizations and women in Northern communities about transportation options and available funding resources.



Cedar Blankets Project

The [Cedar Blankets Project](#) tests promising practices to reduce barriers for Indigenous women and their children accessing non-Indigenous transition houses and safe homes. Employing a women-centred framework, the Cedar Blankets wraparound service delivery model supports non-Indigenous programs to develop culturally safe spaces, decolonized policies and relational service practices while promoting increased access for Indigenous gender-based violence survivors. Some of this year's highlights include:

- Supporting each pilot site's allyship activities through a Community of Practice and continued to support Indigenous Women's Councils and engagement with local Indigenous communities.
- Traveling to the pilot sites to produce key stakeholder interview videos describing the effect of the Cedar Blankets Project on their houses and communities.
- Pilot sites continue to collect input from Indigenous women survivors of violence regarding the impact of the Cedar Blankets Service Delivery Model. This information will inform the final report and future Cedar Blankets engagements.



"Thank you for being there for all of us, for all the trainings provided, for the advocacy and information. Everything is done professionally and with a lot of care for this community of practice. I really appreciate each and every one of you!"

"I am continually impressed by the commitment and professionalism of the BCSTH team."

- BCSTH member

BCSTH Bursary Fund

During the past fiscal year, BCSTH successfully launched one round of the [BCSTH Bursary Fund \(BBF\)](#), awarding 26 women a total of \$69,400 to pursue education and self-employment opportunities. This year's applicants had a wide range of goals including ECE certification, videography and photography entrepreneurship, BAs in Social Work and Psychology, counselling and social services certification, accounting diplomas, hairstyling courses, trauma facilitation and more. Since the inception of the BBF in 2019, BCSTH has been able to support 146 women and 206 children, awarding \$400,085 in funding to successful applicants. A total of 61 BCSTH member organizations from all 7 regions across BC, along with their 117 staff supported the candidates with their successful applications and provided them the opportunity to strengthen their educational and economic capacity and security following experiences of violence.

In January, the BBF [Evaluation Report](#) was published. Surveys and interviews with bursary recipients found that receiving a bursary gave women hope for the future, helped them to keep going, improved their mental health and well-being, improved their relationships with their children and enhanced their safety. Anti-violence workers who participated in the evaluation reported enhanced job satisfaction, a boost in morale and a sense of hope after supporting women to receive a bursary.

Through a 3-year grant from Social Venture Partners Vancouver, BCSTH is working to grow the BBF so it can provide flexible financial assistance to more women with experiences of violence and help them to achieve safe, meaningful and productive lives for themselves and their dependents.



"Everything my family went through gave me a heart to help other families in my community." "I want to heal! And, I want to help others thrive!"

Legal Projects

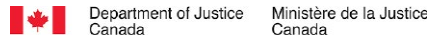
- **Family Law Advocacy Information and Resources (FLAIR) for PEACE** - This year, the [FLAIR for PEACE](#) project developed resources to support PEACE Program Counsellors with legal information, primarily focused on family law issues. The project includes a toolkit, which is available online and in hard copy, as well as a series of webinars led by experts on a variety of legal and access to justice issues. An in person presentation to PEACE Program Counsellors about FLAIR for PEACE was held at the PEACE training conference in March 2024.
- **Safe Supports** - BCSTH was asked by the Ministry of Attorney General to plan, design and conduct a series of focus groups for individuals with lived experience of intimate partner violence to inform the implementation of the Safe Support Court Worker, which is a joint initiative between the Federal and Provincial government. BCSTH called on its member base and organized six focus groups with women across BC. The project coordinator collected input about participants' experiences with the family law system. Key findings were presented to the Ministry of Attorney General in a final report.
- **Revision of Legal Toolkit** - The [BCSTH Legal Toolkit](#) was updated, expanded and distributed to members to reflect noteworthy changes in the BC legal system that have taken shape between the original toolkit's publication in 2016 and July 2023.



"It's very much appreciated to help women like me who want to study, when they are in that phase of life where they think life is ended, but I got a new life and hope to fulfill my dreams. Thank you"

- Bursary Recipient

FUNDERS



DONATIONS

BCSTH is grateful for generous financial donations and in-kind contributions of many individuals, community partners and businesses. Thank you for your kind and thoughtful contributions supporting the work of BCSTH and our member programs to empower women, children and youth to live safe and healthy lives free from violence. Special thanks to Associated Engineering Ltd., Church of St. Francis in the Wood, Hydro One and TD Bank Group.

BCSTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karlee Grant

(Region 1, Vancouver Island and Powell River)

Neena Randhawa

(Region 3, Fraser Valley)

Brooke Belkin

Board Vice-Chair & Secretary (Region 4, Kootenays)

Alix Dolson

(Region 5, Okanagan)

Michele Jones

(Region 6, Cariboo)

Tina Daye,

Board Chair (Region 7, Northern BC)

Syma Nehal

Board Treasurer (Member at Large)

VISION

The BC Society of Transition Houses envisions communities free from violence for all women, children and youth and gender diverse individuals.

MISSION

The BC Society of Transition Houses is a member-based organization that, through leadership, education, support and collaboration, enhances the continuum of services and strategies to respond to, prevent and end violence against all women, children and youth and gender diverse individuals.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION


**THS SOCIETY OF TRANSITION HOUSES
(dba BC SOCIETY OF TRANSITION HOUSES)**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(restated)

As at March 31		2024	2023
	notes	\$	\$
Assets			
Current			
Cash		2,839,145	1,682,547
Accounts receivable		188,191	71,185
GST recoverable		28,925	12,655
Prepaid expenses		14,171	16,681
		<u>3,070,432</u>	<u>1,783,068</u>
Long-term			
Tangible capital assets	4	20,568	28,850
Intangible capital assets	5	1,088	1,722
		<u>21,656</u>	<u>30,572</u>
		<u>3,092,088</u>	<u>1,813,640</u>
Liabilities			
Current			
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities		227,828	119,117
Accrued salaries		14,458	16,285
Deferred contributions	6	2,173,577	1,039,809
Deferred revenue		12,300	7,950
Deferred capital contributions	7	2,399	3,365
		<u>2,430,562</u>	<u>1,186,526</u>
Net assets			
Invested in capital assets		19,257	27,207
BCSTH bursary fund	8	117,419	117,419
Internally restricted contingency fund	11	262,630	262,630
Unrestricted		262,220	219,858
		<u>661,526</u>	<u>627,114</u>
		<u>3,092,088</u>	<u>1,813,640</u>

Approved by the Board




see accompanying notes

mahmoud virani inc

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

**THS SOCIETY OF TRANSITION HOUSES
(dba BC SOCIETY OF TRANSITION HOUSES)**

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31		2024	2023		
	Operating fund	BCSTH bursary fund	Total	Total	
	notes	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue					
Contributions	9	2,691,969	2,783	2,694,752	2,230,211
Donations		10,820	51,800	62,620	28,718
Membership dues		34,800	-	34,800	33,713
Registration fees		32,000	-	32,000	30,719
Training		178,300	11,159	189,459	152,172
Merchandise sales		1,593	1,102	2,695	1,957
Interest		81,683	5,556	87,239	51,765
Amortization of deferred capital contributions		966	-	966	966
Other & expense recoveries		14,953	-	14,953	670
		3,047,084	72,400	3,119,484	2,530,891
Expenses					
Amortization		11,982	-	11,982	9,396
Bursaries		-	72,400	72,400	142,297
Consultants		675,890	-	675,890	475,169
Fees for services & honorarium		226,285	-	226,285	367,163
Membership & registration		7,352	-	7,352	3,447
Newsletter, printing & materials		226,522	-	226,522	14,150
Office		102,943	-	102,943	64,957
Professional development		4,170	-	4,170	3,814
Professional fees		22,807	-	22,807	43,787
Rent & utilities		112,463	-	112,463	106,667
Salaries & benefits		1,153,700	-	1,153,700	960,443
Subsidy		48,577	-	48,577	80,730
Training & conference		205,117	-	205,117	111,086
Travel & accommodation		165,811	-	165,811	91,055
Website & IT		49,053	-	49,053	30,317
		3,012,672	72,400	3,085,072	2,504,478
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year		34,412	-	34,412	26,413

The full audited financial statements are available upon request at info@bcsth.ca.

see accompanying notes

mahmoud virani inc



BC Society of
Transition Houses

The BC Society of Transition Houses' office is located on unceded Coast Salish territory, shared by the Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) and səliilw̓'ətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

BC Society of Transition Houses
Suite 325, 119 W. Pender St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 1S5

For more information about the BC Society of Transition Houses
please visit our website at

www.bcsth.ca