



**WAVAW**  
rape crisis centre

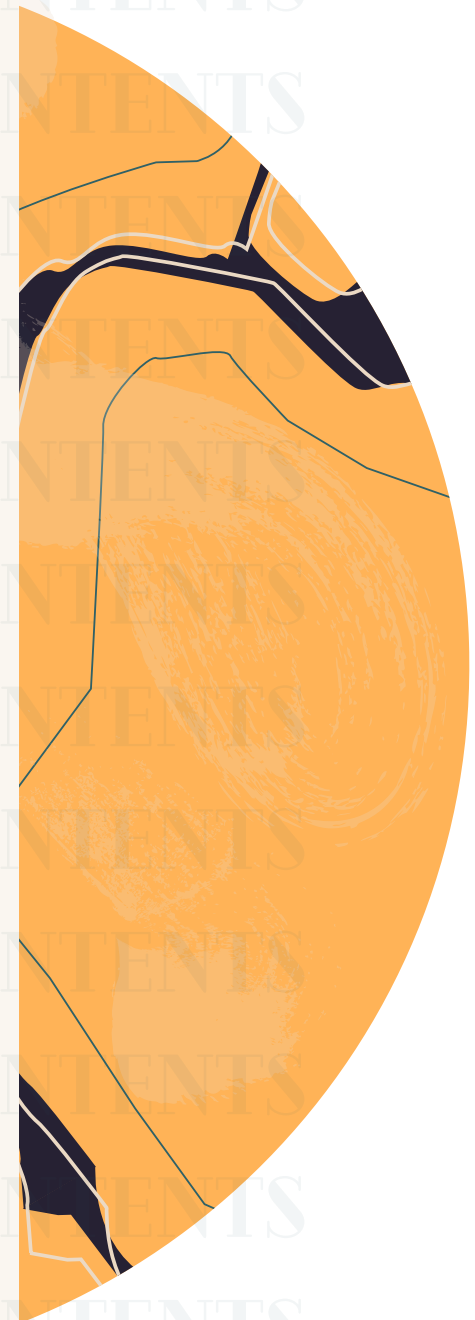
# ANNUAL REPORT

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS, SHIFTING SOCIETY

*Reflections on Truth, Grief and Connection*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Values.....	3
A Message From Leadership .....	4-5
Counselling Program .....	6-8
Victim Services Program .....	9-10
Meaningful Inclusion Project .....	11-12
Volunteer Program .....	13-14
Fundraising Program .....	15-16
Social Change Work .....	17-18
Transformative Justice Pilot Project .....	19-20
Fiscal 2020 - 2021 Program Stats.....	21
Financial Overview .....	22



## MISSION STATEMENT

We are a feminist, anti-oppressive, decolonizing rape crisis centre operating on unceded Coast Salish Territories. We provide support services to survivors of sexualized violence with shared experiences of gender oppression: women, Two-Spirit, trans and/or non-binary people. We advocate for social and systemic change through education, outreach and activism.

## VISION STATEMENT

A world where people of all genders are valued and live free from sexualized violence.

## VALUES

We are feminists who acknowledge and name systems of oppression and the impact of colonialism on Indigenous and other marginalized communities.

### WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE

We respond to calls for action from the communities we serve and recognize our opportunities for growth.

### WE ARE NON-JUDGEMENTAL

We create spaces for survivors to define their needs without judgment.

### WE ARE SURVIVOR CENTRED

We honour that survivors are experts of their experiences and have the right to choose.

### WE ARE INCLUSIVE

We honour and centre different ways of being and knowing.

### WE ARE VISIONARY

We are leaders at the forefront of service provision and social change.

# A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Writing this year's leadership message has been a profound experience.

There are many cultures and traditions that invite us to pause and reflect at the brink of a new year and, in so many ways, our annual report invites us to pause. It's our new year. Each year, this report invites us to reflect and look back on the themes in our work supporting survivors and shifting society, the anti-violence sector, the world, and the day to day of the past year at WAVAW.

This past year has reminded us, once again and in new ways, that we are inextricably linked across false borders and nations. These are realities that many of us on the front lines of social justice know deeply. COVID-19 seems to have woken more of humanity up to this reality, due to the devastating toll the it has had on so many people's lives.

While this pandemic rages on, there continue to be many shadow pandemics occurring at the same time. The roots and impacts of these pandemics still need to be addressed. On-going colonialism, imperialism, white supremacy, anti-Blackness, anti-Asian racism, misogyny, transphobia, homophobia and opioid poisoning are causing so much more grief, isolation for survivors and marginalized communities.

## WAVAW RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

### 2020 - 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully transitioned to virtual programming with a minimal disruption in service delivery
- Launched Remembering Our Ancestors - a virtual workshop series for Indigenous survivors
- Secured \$191,055.45 in emergency funding to sustain services throughout COVID-19
- Secured funding to launch an innovative Transformative Justice pilot project
- Launched WAVAW Connect - a text and chat extension of our Crisis & Information Line
- Hosted Streaming for Survivors: WAVAW's first streamer-led, digital fundraising campaign

Over the past year we have watched survivors, staff and community be so impacted by grief and isolation due to these systems of inequality intersecting with surviving sexual violence and COVID-19. We have lost survivors and community members to the opioid poisoning crisis. We have witnessed the truth telling of survivors of residential schools being validated for what they have known to be the truth for decades: that children went missing and never made it home. We have had to hold the grief of knowing that, while those children never made it home, those who did, haven't received the love, care, and support they deserved as our first people's and whose land we have stolen and settled upon. We have seen systems that were created to displace people and prioritize profit over human life continue to cause more harm than care; witnessing the murders of Black and Indigenous lives at the hands of police and medical systems.

Grief can be and is heavy, it can be overwhelming. Our grief can keep us isolated. In this past year when we were being told to stay home and to isolate to save lives, in the absence of being able to be together, it became so apparent that connection is absolutely necessary to combat overwhelming grief and isolation and is required to stay alive. Connection is also at the heart of sexual assault work; survivors cannot heal in isolation from a systemic issue.

At WAVAW we quickly adapted in early days of COVID. We had to adjust the ways in which we offered connection in the past. Since we could no longer meet in person we moved to the phone, we launched WAVAW Connect, we launched a survey to ask survivors what they needed from us to feel like we were still on their journey with them. What that looked like on the ground; we've sent our colouring books, care packages, ran virtual art workshops, launched our zine virtually, ran a brand new series for Indigenous Survivors called Remembering our Ancestors.

Within our own teams we took the time to learn about our own need for connection. What that meant for our staff and volunteers and how we can be together both in grief and working towards still feeling supported. How we can center both survivors, and center our own need for connection. We know connection is healing. We know to combat grief and continue to speak our truth we need to be connected, honoured and seen.

While we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we can and must see this as an opportunity to recalibrate systems of inequity. This is the time to listen to survivors' truths, to listen to those most affected by inequity, to listen to those that are not afforded safety as they move through this world. We have an opportunity to create a more equitable, safer, balanced world that can be born out of our collective grief, rooted in truth and centred around connection and care. Now is the time.

# COUNSELLING PROGRAM

248 SURVIVORS ARE ON A 2.5 YEAR-LONG WAITLIST TO ACCESS ONE-TO-ONE COUNSELLING

Over the past year, we as individuals, communities, organizations and policy makers and institutional structures have been forced to face some traditionally un/intentionally hidden and ignored truths. We collectively witnessed the harm that institutions and systems of oppression perpetuate on a daily basis. And through it all, the painful truth is that in times of hardship it is the bodies, the livelihood and ultimately, the lives of marginalized peoples that are the most impacted. As the available support and resources (both external and internal) decreased, the rates, impacts and severity of sexualized and gender-based violence increased. This is a truth told to us through the voices of survivors and supported by the 'official' statistics and this is a truth that resulted in a collective grief held by many who are rooted in the work of anti-violence.

During this year, WAVAW's Counselling team was called to action and despite our multitudes of internal changes, our team did the best we could to adapt, stand with survivors and continue to fight for a world free from sexualized violence.

For some time, our ability to offer in person services was paused as we considered the safety for both Survivors and our staff. During this time, we launched phone and video counselling. This afforded us the ability to support Survivors who may have otherwise not have had access to services. In addition to offering services to local Survivors, expanding our platforms allowed us to work with several Survivors who had had to move for safety or Covid related reasons, and Survivors who were calling in from remote areas where formal support for sexualized violence was scarce, if existing at all.

The rates for sexualized violence have increased and so has our waitlist. Our current waitlist for individual counselling stands at 284 people, and our waitlist for support groups exceeds this at 306. With our intersectional lens applied,

we triage youth, trans, non-binary, elder and Indigenous survivors, however our waitlist numbers still translates to a waiting period of approximately 2.5 years for most Survivors needing support. While this is a hard truth, we are doing our best to keep connected with survivors as they wait. Our counselling team has created a monthly newsletter, which contains a psych ed piece and an accompanying therapeutic practice. This allows for Survivors to engage in some directed form of healing on their own. Through the mailout, Survivors are invited to call our crisis line if they require immediate support, and since the launch of this initiative, 2 documented Survivors have followed up on this invitation where they received life affirming services.

Throughout our time of change, we, as a program and organization were able to continue standing into our work. The particulars from each stream of counselling can be found bellow.

This year we have been forced to cope with ambivalence and adapt quickly. The distortions, denials, othering, and silencing that allows for our colonial structures to operate, were altered, moving us closer to truth. We saw the impacts of global warming with the increased temperatures and forest fires. We saw how the creation of imagined borders, once told would keep us safe, in fact could and did not. We bore witness as many were killed at the hands of police and stood in solidarity with our Indigenous communities as they uncovered the bodies of their stolen children. And while coping with this, we grieved as the rates and severity of gender based violence increased. Yes, many truths were brought into the forefront this year and are no doubt rooted in grief, but truth ultimately leaves room for us to move closer to healing, and that is what WAVAW's counselling program has strived to do. Everyday we support Survivors of sexualized violence by leaning into inconvenient and hurtful truth, witnessing individual and collective grief, and walking with each Survivor towards healing. Rooted in anti-violence and armed with truth, skill, intuition and analysis we are doing the grass roots daily work of shift society towards a liberated future.

## COUNSELLING PROGRAM

### **83** new referrals

**46** to general counselling

**12** to Inclusion counselling

**11** to Indigenous counselling

### Launched **virtual one-to-one Counselling sessions**


**1,008** one-to-one Counselling sessions

**19** support group sessions despite social distancing mandates

Launched **Remembering Our Ancestors** a virtual workshop series

# COUNSELLING PROGRAM

- Sexual Assault Counselling
- Indigenous Counselling
- Inclusion Counselling
- Families of MMIWG2S
- Support Groups
- Counselling at Accessible Partner Locations across Metro Vancouver



"I have never wanted to connect with the Indigenous parts of myself. But through doing this work with WAVAW, I slowly began to feel proud of my heritage. I didn't realize I had been missing this part of my identity until I found it. I am grateful for this new way of knowing myself"

- Indigenous Survivor at WAVAW

## Sexual Assault Counselling

COVID-19 invited WAVAW to take stock of our current counselling services and dismantle barriers in accessibility. Over the course of this year, our general counselling stream provided a total of 633 individual counselling sessions. Within the context of the pandemic, we developed a new vision for our program, including expanded support group offerings, new internal practices, and a hybrid of platforms to offer services on.

## Indigenous Counselling

This year, our Indigenous counselling stream provided a total of 113 individual counselling sessions and 21 group sessions. We launched our first round of Remembering our Ancestors, an Indigenous based workshop series, facilitated by Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Activists. This series centered on traditional dance, storytelling, women and two-spirit teachings and the medicine wheel. We kept connected on the front lines through participating in committees and offering services at partnering organizations.

## Inclusion Counselling

Over the course of this year, our Meaningful Inclusion counselling stream provided a total of 262 individual counselling sessions. Our entire team in this stream has changed over the course of this year, allowing us the time to pause and rebuild our program, which included developing a vision for a support group for Trans survivors of sexualized violence.



# VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

The spirit of our victim service program has always been to be on the front lines responding to crises on a minute by minute, hour by hour basis. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we were hit with a freeze that we had never experienced before. Survivors stopped accessing services in large numbers and our crisis line, accompaniment services, and victim service workers were hit with radio silence. We found that many survivors did not feel that what they went through warranted care. Many thought that in a pandemic, the devastating impacts of the violence that they experienced somehow paled in comparison to what other folks were going through at the time. As we saw the world open up slowly, we again began to connect with survivors.

Survivors started accessing services once again. We quickly realized that the radio silence was due to being in isolation in unsafe spaces, folks having to move 'home' and unable to obtain privacy, deeply held victim blaming beliefs. We saw how the culture that surrounds victim blaming is so deeply tied to how folks access services; many did not feel entitled to do so. The pandemic has reminded us of the hard truths of the impacts of sexualized violence; these truths are heavy and full of grief. As far as we think we have come, something like COVID will always remind us that backlash is just around the corner. The reality is that we continue to live in a world that tells folks to not get raped. In this context it takes no time before survivors are back to a place where they feel as if they need to be silent or ashamed about what happened to them. As survivors came back to accessing services, we were able to remind them that what happened to them was not their fault. No one deserves violence, ever. We had opportunities to celebrate survivors by thanking them for reaching out and reminding them that they deserve care, autonomy and connection.

While we grieved the temporary loss of in person services, we were able to celebrate ways in which our services became easier for some folks to access. With virtual sessions, clients no longer had to travel, pay for transportation, or arrange for childcare. We realized that survivors had very little privacy during the pandemic and were not always able to call our crisis line. As a result, we launched WAVAW connect, an online platform that allowed for survivors to safely instant message or

**“LAUNCHING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS HAS CHANGED THE FUTURE OF SERVICE DELIVERY AT WAVAW. BY ATTENDING TO BARRIERS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WE ARE DISMANTLING ACCESS BARRIERS SURVIVORS HAVE ALWAYS FACED”.**

**- WAVAW VICTIM SERVICE WORKER**

# VICTIM SERVICES

## CONNECTING SURVIVORS TO THE SUPPORT THEY NEED WHEN THEY NEED IT

- Funded in part by the Government of British Columbia, WAVAW launched a SART team to provide emergency sexual assault support services
- Launched WAVAW Connect - a text and chat extension of our Crisis & Information Line
- Reinitiated WAVAW Hospital Accompaniments at Vancouver General Hospital which ceased due to COVID-19
- Leveraged technology in order to offer safe and secure victim services over tele and video platforms

text message a Victim Service Worker for Crisis Line Support so that more folks had access to the support they needed, this was a fundamental adjustment to meet the needs of Survivors during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic

This year we were also able to launch our Sexual Assault Response team to expand the crisis based interventions our Victim Services team can take on. In the early days of the SART team we have been able to build a foundation for the team, align our intake process with feedback we have received from survivors, and ensure that our team is available for accompaniments to court, police, hospital and mental health intake appointments. This has increased our Victim Services team ability to adapt and meet the needs of survivors in more meaningful ways. With these new positions it additionally allows for our Victim Services workers to focus on longer term pieces of work with Survivors.

This year was unprecedented in so many ways. While we continue to navigate the pandemic, we will continue to hold the course with survivors, be available to support navigating systems and crises, and always meet survivors where they are at.

**“SURVIVORS NEED TO BE ABLE TO CONNECT WITH US, EVEN IF THEY CAN’T PICK UP THE PHONE TO CALL OUR CRISIS & INFORMATION LINE. WAVAW CONNECT ALLOWS SURVIVORS TO ACCESS SUPPORT EVEN WHEN ISOLATING WITH THOSE WHO HAVE HARMED THEM”**

- DALYA ISRAEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# MEANINGFUL INCLUSION

WRITTEN BY FELIX GILLILAN (THEY/THEM)

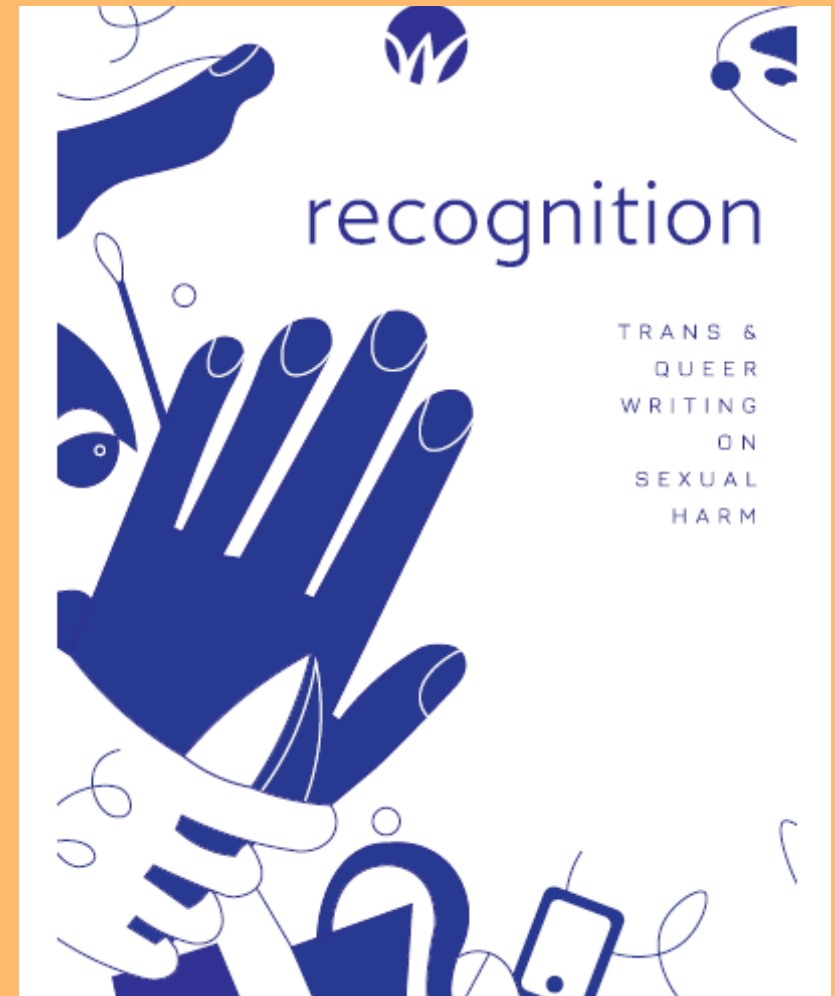
In 2020, WAVAW's trans inclusion work shifted from being internally focused on developing our trans specific services, to externally focused through our new Meaningful Inclusion project.

Through our new project, we're evaluating our inclusion services to get a sense of what is working well and what can be improved, as well as talking to other anti-violence workers, community leaders, and anyone with something to say about what violence against trans people looks like. Eventually, in 2025, we'll produce a promising practices blueprint that will stand as a substantial resource for other organizations across Canada who want to increase their support for trans survivors.

I often think about how we started our trans services back in 2017 - what I wish had been available for us, what lessons were hard-won, and how our instincts lead us in the right direction. Now, we're able to create the resource I wish we'd had. We're committed to creating something that will bring together the wisdom of survivors, advocates, and trans communities to push back against trans exclusionary feminism and create support services designed with trans people in mind.

When I tell people about the new project, I usually either make a joke or breathe a heavy sigh when I tell them that we launched it on April 1st, 2020. Just a few weeks after COVID was declared a global pandemic. Our new five-year project had a meagre little kick-off, launched via a short email sent from my phone.

COVID has shaped every aspect of our new work. This project, which initially intended to include travelling around the province offering workshops and advocating in sector spaces, has become a matter of communicating what trans people have been telling us for years: sexual violence does not happen in a vacuum. Bodily autonomy is about healthcare and housing as much as it is about sexual violence.



This is what it means to queer antiviolence: to refuse to see issues in binaries, or to draw sector lines around our needs that so deeply permeate each other. Just as smoke crawls over colonial borders to irritate our lungs, without caring who drew a line where, the pandemic has served to remind us that a housing emergency is a sexual violence emergency. It has reminded us that a violation of bodily autonomy at the doctor's office - where trans people are routinely inspected for medical curiosity - can be indistinguishable from sexual violence. Sexual violence against trans people can't happen in a world where trans people are valued and have a safe place to go home to.

This past year, we also saw the beginning of our Transformative Justice work. TJ is something many equity seeking groups have been practicing for decades, often based on principles from Indigenous communities since well before colonization. The need for TJ has felt connected to our trans inclusion work since the beginning; when I first asked queer and trans people what they dreamed of from antiviolence, they often replied that community healing and accountability outside of carceral systems was an important goal.

To me, this demonstrates the adage that it's not enough to invite equity seeking groups to the table; we must be willing to build a new table that works for them. It's not enough for us to increase trans peoples' access to support services that were designed for cis women.

Both our Meaningful Inclusion project and our TJ work has offered us space to look at the ways queer community is a place of belonging, and at the same time can be a place of harm. The ongoing history of stigma and pathologization that trans people face make it hard to talk about violence between queer people, and there is often silence in the name of protecting the reputation of our communities. We often tell advocates it is useless to think of queer-on-queer violence outside of the context of heterosexism, and that their role is to help undo the homophobia and transphobia that create the conditions for violence. Queer people, meanwhile, find ourselves navigating the high stakes of a community that can be both life-saving and violent. Especially during COVID, when we have relied on each other for the necessities of life, it is essential to think of antiviolence in terms of healing whole communities and breaking cycles of violence.

In fact, when it comes to surviving a pandemic, you won't find a much better example than queers. Our queer elders have already normalized conversations about transmission, risk, and community in the AIDS crisis. We know every trick in the book about how to get groceries to a friend in need. And most of us have survived isolation before, in a world that is reliably hostile to us. Trans survivors show us every day how to build a better world, and they are showing us how to get through COVID with our communities stronger than ever.

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

BY AMANDA HERRON (SHE/HER)



"I think I've grown my support skills so much throughout this training. I've discovered a whole new meaning of support and I've really learned how to show up and hold space for people. The workshops have always opened my eyes to new perspectives on social issues and how the world works against survivors and their experiences. I am now more motivated than ever to provide service and I also feel more confident in my abilities to speak with callers on the line."

- WAVAW Volunteer

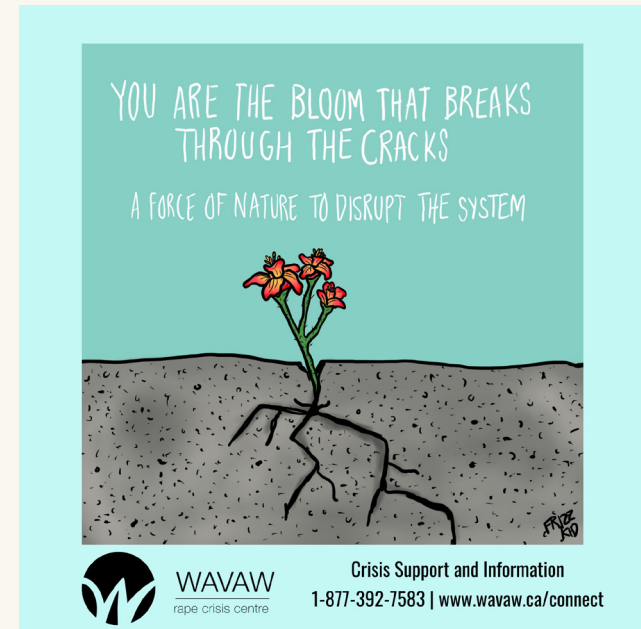
In a recent essay, social justice facilitator adrienne maree brown points out that, "since the beginning, Covid has asked one thing of us: act collectively." As I reflect on this past year and the collective actions taken by WAVAW's volunteers, I am struck by a sense of awe. During a time when our volunteers were living with a sense of prolonged uncertainty and coping with grief that was difficult to name, they ensured that survivors were able to receive the care they deserved during a pandemic that pushed many of those we serve further onto the margins. What was also true is that as we physically distanced ourselves in service of safety and community care, we continued to grow our ability to show up for one another, intentionally nurturing the connection and practices that strengthen our work to center survivors.

This past year, I witnessed an aliveness, a spirited presence within the volunteer program that illuminated the dedication and heart that WAVAW volunteers bring to this work. This energy was not new but it is notable given the collective trauma that our volunteers were navigating while providing support on the crisis line. In a similar vein, in preparation for the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 Crisis Line and Support Group Volunteer Trainings, we were flooded with an unprecedented number of applications from folks eager to commit to supporting survivors' healing. These trainings were also held virtually for the first time in WAVAW's history – an adaptation that bolstered accessibility – and those who attended embodied a vitality that was felt through our respective screens.

One trainee articulated this better than I can: she shared that because the training was online, she expected to feel depleted after four hours of screen-time. However, after almost every workshop, she felt invigorated and connected to the community that holds us up and makes this work possible.

This energy carried over into other aspects of our work as well. To adapt to the loss of learning in person and connecting around areas of growth and celebration, we moved our monthly meetings online and saw a marked increase in the number of volunteers who attended regularly. We also peppered our Slack channels with resources that were available for survivors in lockdown and tips for challenging calls. Our volunteers shared resources that included suggestions for survivors who find wearing masks challenging and for those who were triggered by feeling stuck, told they can't move or leave their homes. We also collectively kept our ears to the ground to make sure we were aware of specialized support for BIPOC survivors who were and continue to experience increased violence due to white supremacy and racism that was both exacerbated by and publicized during the pandemic. In the midst all of this, volunteers also shared their tender moments on the line. One of these messages read: "I had a call that felt so transformative and resulted in dreaming up emerging futures together. The caller said WAVAW saved their life."

These points of connection sustained our work this last year and acted as a balm for the challenging climate we navigated together. Throughout the pandemic, our 24-Hour Crisis Line remained fully staffed by a team of brilliant folks who simply practiced doing what WAVAW has always done in new ways: countering the individualistic nature of trauma as a team that managed to gravitate even closer together in a time of need.



# FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

As a non-profit, we are used to navigating the social, political and economic trends that make WAVAW's funding so precarious. From the devastating post-election closure of all Status of Women Canada offices by one political party, to the #MeToo movement – WAVAW has almost four decades of experience developing programs and sustaining services in the face of so much uncertainty. In 2020 came the COVID-19 pandemic - ushering in an entirely new set of challenges and the “silver-lining” invitation for much needed creativity, innovation and growth.

In the first weeks of the pandemic, the fundraising team was filled with momentum and energy as we leveraged our resources and sought out laptop and cell phone donations to support our transition to virtual service delivery. After a few months, we were writing to our community saying things like “unprecedented times” and “staying connected while apart” - phrases that now, almost a year later, feel as cliché as they do deeply relevant. And then came June 2020, a month that solidified our greatest fear: the pandemic was here to stay. With this realization, came the feelings of grief that our adrenaline and a desire to sustain our services had kept at bay for so long.

The first loss that we grieved on the fundraising team was the cancellation of the Scotiabank Marathon – the cornerstone of our largest fundraising campaign of the year. For eight years, this race has supported us to raise critical, unrestricted funds that allow us to sustain our free-of-charge services. The uncertainty of how we would fill this projected \$100,000 gap in funds was the beginning of a domino affect, and we braced ourselves for more losses as social distancing and the economic impacts of the pandemic took hold of our community of supporters.

But from the ashes of grief arose the power of connection. From the moment that we announced the cancellation of the marathon, our community went beyond grieving alongside us, and inspired us to take action so that no survivor would fall through the cracks. The pockets of those who had economic security grew deeper, and the collective grief we shared inspired many new donors to join our community. Between April 1st, 2020 and March 31st, 2021, 2191 donors made 8,652 gifts to ensure the sustainability of WAVAW's work supporting survivors and shifting society; despite the new barriers caused by the pandemic.

***“I DIDN’T FACE THE FINANCIAL STRAIN OF THE PANDEMIC THAT SO MANY FOLKS DID , SO I WAS INSPIRED TO DONATE A LITTLE BIT MORE TO MAKE UP FOR THOSE WHO COULD NO LONGER GIVE AT ALL”***

When you are faced with new barriers, you are forced to be innovative. The anticipated loss of funding sources also inspired us to stretch our creative muscles – coming up with new ways for folks to support survivors of sexualized violence despite the social distancing mandates. Connecting in digital spaces inspired us to launch Streaming for Survivors – our first ever, streamer led digital fundraising campaign. Over the course of 72 hours, more than 32 streamers, podcasters, gamers and table-top role-players raised over \$27,000 for survivors.

Our commitment to making supporting survivors accessible led to SOLD – our first annual virtual silent auction where local businesses, artisans and vendors

generously donated their goods to benefit survivors.

As fundraising records were broken and our community of supporters grew, we realized that many of the barriers to support we dismantled this year existed long before the pandemic and that these new avenues to support that we created would outlive it. As we look ahead to a second year of service delivery in a global pandemic, we are grateful for the growth it demanded, the innovation it fostered and the creativity it invited. Thank you for supporting survivors of sexualized violence. We couldn’t do what we do without you.





# SOCIAL CHANGE - CREATING A FUTURE FREE FROM VIOLENCE

We always say at WAVAW, the last thing we want to do is bandage up survivors and send them back out into the world that has harmed them; and will continue to harm them through rape culture and other systems of oppression.

Supporting survivors and providing them with space to heal is at the root and core of our identity, it is in fact, our origin story. Shifting society and changing the conditions that allowed sexual harm to happen in the first place is equally as vital to our identity, the essence of who we are and the thing that will have the most profound long-term impacts on our community, our world and therefore survivors lives.

During the past year COVID has required that we “do” our Social Change work from home and in isolation which has been a very significant change. We went from being in person at rallies, protests, marches, workshops, conferences and art shows, to so much zoom! Doing social change from home initially felt antithetical to the spirit of collective change.

We spent time grieving these realities and quickly adjusted to see this time as an opportunity to engage more of the world on issues that were so deeply important to us at WAVAW.

We used the new online reality to reach audiences that were curious, committed, ready and hungry to grow and learn.

We produced new blogs specifically related to the intersections of COVID and Sexual Violence; we hosted webinars on “Returning to an Unsafe World” where we discussed the truth about the shadow pandemics that have been at play for decades before COVID became a new reality. We supported arts community to have hard conversations about Sexual Harm and how to make communities safer for everyone. We supported service providers to respond to the cascading effects of sexual harm in a pandemic after folks felt safe enough to return to access support services.

We walked our walk and launched our Transformative Justice pilot project after hearing from Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, and racialized survivors that we needed to change how the Sexual Assault and anti-violence sector envisioned services.

Social Change also has to be about us at WAVAW, TJ is allowing us to live into, and, integrate the truths we have learned from Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous and other racialized communities about their service needs.

While adjusting to our new distanced normal we have had to give up and grieve being together in person, we are infinitely grateful for the opportunity to continue our Social Change work and use our knowledge and expertise to influence society towards a change that is absolutely vital to our collective growth and survival. We deeply believe that a new balanced world grounded in acknowledging truth, caring deeply about our interconnectedness, and honoring one another for all of who we are is possible. This will be the world that no longer enables the conditions for sexual violence to happen; it is a world we hold onto in our hearts.



**“EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT HOW QUARANTINE IS ISOLATING, BUT FOR ME... THIS IS THE SAFEST I HAVE EVER FELT. EVER SINCE MY ASSAULT, BEING OUT IN THE WORLD HAS FELT UNSAFE. THE TRUTH IS, I DONT WANT TO RETURN TO A WORLD WHERE VIOLENCE HAPPENS”.**

- ANONYMOUS SURVIVOR ACCESSING WAVAW

# TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PILOT PROJECT

Grief is a feeling that has always permeated our work with survivors of sexualized violence. Grief for their life before the trauma of their assault and for their bodily autonomy. We also often support survivors through the grief that they experience when they interact with systems after their assault.

Working with survivors of sexualized violence for nearly 40 years has given us first-hand experience to know that engagement with the police and the criminal legal system to bring charges against perpetrators doesn't necessarily provide the feeling of justice, regardless of the outcome. Interaction with these systems often cause significant traumatization, harm, and disempowerment after violence. For many survivors, going to the police is a non-starter because of valid concerns of not being perceived as a "perfect victim". This is especially true for survivors whose identities or communities are stigmatized or criminalized, and where their lived experience has proven that approaching the police has made their communities less safe, not more.

In March 2020, just as the world entered the first year of a global pandemic, WAVAW launched a

two-year Transformative Justice Pilot Project. Funded in part by the Vancouver Foundation, and delivered in partnership with Just Outcomes, this innovative project utilizes a transformative justice framework and draws on the wisdom of restorative justice approaches. This pilot project is an attempt to expand options for survivors, victims, and all harmed by sexual violence. It aims to centre the needs of survivors and create safety and freedom for survivors to imagine and actualize their personal healing and accountability needs beyond the criminal legal system.

TJ at WAVAW requires us to consider and challenge the conditions, culture and/or community in which the harm became possible, so that accountability becomes achieved on a personal and collective level. Like all work we do at WAVAW, TJ is survivor-centred, meaning those who have been harmed by violence have their safety, healing and accountability needs addressed and centred.

Beginning in April 2021, we will commence our first of five TJ processes. Launching a pilot project within the context of a global pandemic has been just as exciting as it is overwhelming.

Despite the barriers of remote work and the additional strain on our organizational resources cause by the pandemic, we allowed ourselves to dream of the future of WAVAW's service delivery and allowed ourselves to be inspired by the opportunities that TJ can offer survivors, those who have caused harm and the communities where harm took place.

A considerable amount of thought, reflection, learning, and knowledge has been placed in constructing the TJ Pilot Team, service delivery methodology, and the approach we will take when working with participants, including the survivors, people who have caused harm and broader community members. The Pilot Project leverages both transformative and restorative justice approaches, however, it is not an offender-centered, diversion-from-incarceration process or program. TJ's non-punitive approach to responding to violence does not mean that it is "going easy" on people who enact violence or cause harm. This methodology is grounded in seeing the humanity of both survivors and those who've caused harm, as we have learned that it's only within this humanity that becoming accountable for harm and violence is possible.

Transformative justice at WAVAW is not a perfect, one-size-fits-all approach. It doesn't fulfill many of our desires to see people who cause harm punished or ostracized and this is intentional. Instead, TJ holds onto the inherent dignity we deserve as humans, knowing that eruptions of violence in the form of sexual assault and rape aren't isolated incidents, but require many conditions to become possible because of patriarchy, colonialism, and rape culture just to name a few.

WAVAW acknowledges that Transformative Justice and Restorative Justice processes and practices have existed in communities for centuries. We're grateful to the teachings of many brilliant BIPOC, LGBTQ, disabled and chronically ill activists, practitioners, and community members that have been responding to violence within their communities for decades. These brilliant folks include Mariame Kaba, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Sarmarasinha, adrienne maree brown, Mia Mingus, Shannon Perez-Darby, generationFive, the Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective, Communities Against Rape and Abuse (CARA), Daria (@accountabilitymapping), Creative Interventions, and Rania el Mugammar. We attribute their wisdom and experience to help us root our pilot project and practice in our anti-oppressive values and commitments to a survivor centered approach.

# WAVAW 2020-2021 AT A GLANCE

**1560**

DAYTIME CALLS



**1802**

AFTER HOURS CALLS

**49**

HOURS SUPPORTING SURVIVORS  
REPORTING THEIR ASSAULT TO THE POLICE

ACCOMPANIED

**20**

survivors seeking  
medical attention  
at the hospital



**118**

NEW INTAKES TO THE  
VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM

**94**

HOURS SPENT AT THE COURT  
HOUSE SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

**SUPPORTING SURVIVORS. SHIFTING SOCIETY.**



CRISIS LINE  
VOLUNTEERS WERE  
ON CALL FOR

**5716**

hours

**1424**

hours available of  
text/chat support

**41**

educational outreach  
activities



WAVAW BENEFITED  
FROM THE AMAZING  
TALENTS OF

**31**

active  
volunteers

LAUNCHED **5** NEW PROGRAMS  
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

- TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE PILOT
- SART EMERGENCY SERVICES
- REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS
- WAVAW CONNECT
- VIDEO AND TELE-SERVICES



**83**

NEW REFERRALS TO THE  
COUNSELLING PROGRAM

**1008**

ONE-TO-ONE COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS OFFERED

**19**

SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS  
OFFERED AT WAVAW AND  
PARTNER LOCATIONS

**8652**

DONATIONS  
FROM

**3191**

DONORS

**514**

MONTHLY DONORS

**916**

DONATIONS FROM DIGITAL  
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**1501**

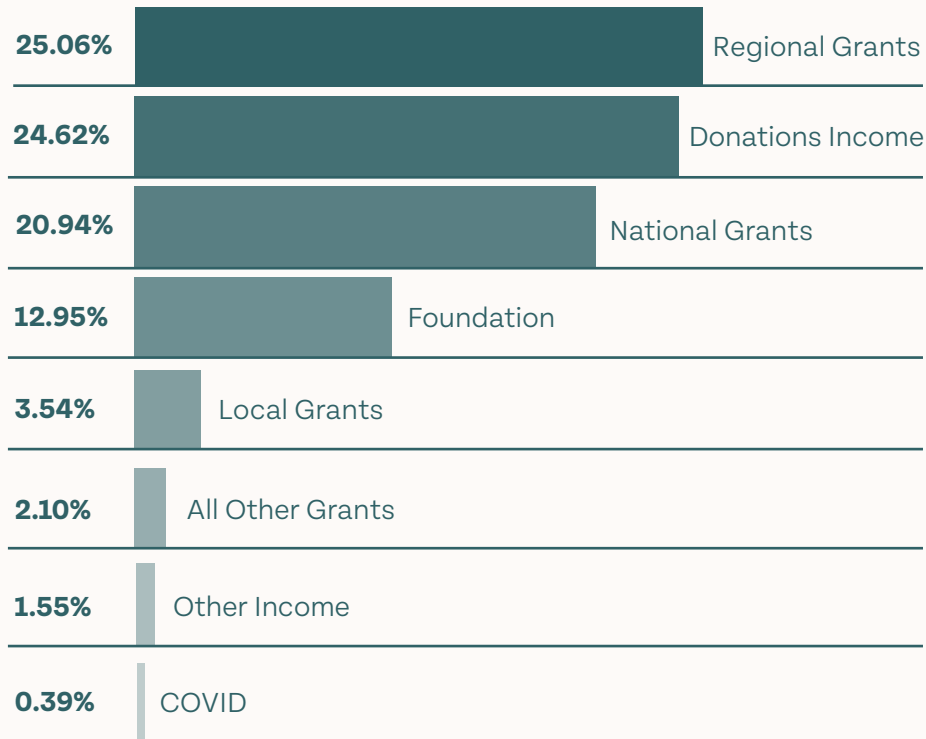
FIRST TIME DONORS



# WAWAW'S 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR

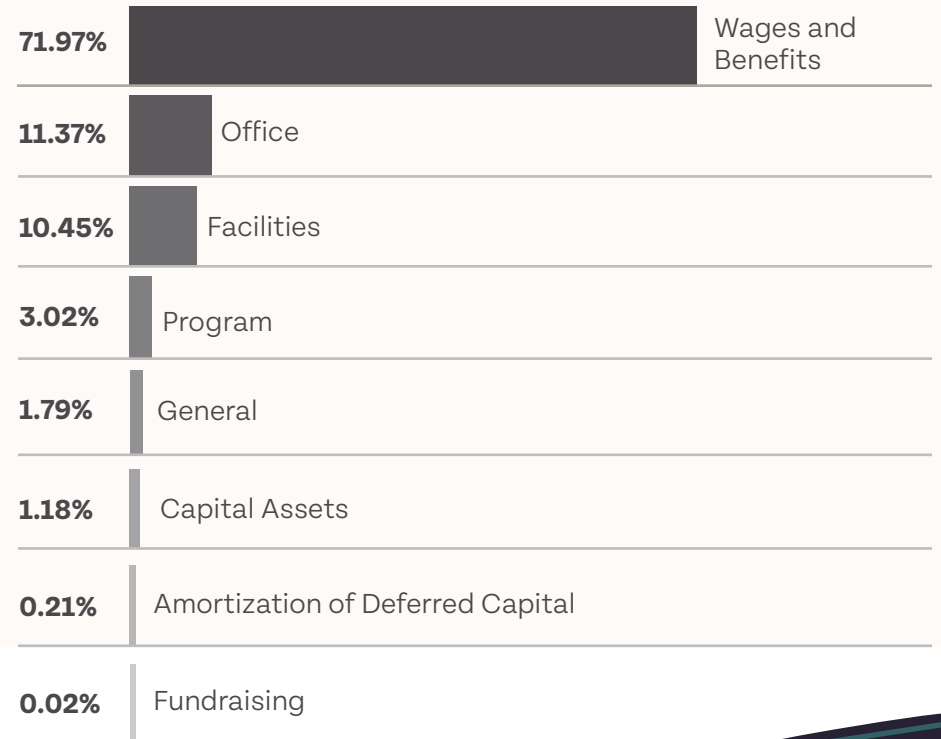
## SUMMARY OF REVENUE

Total Revenue: \$2,041,200.80



## SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$1,797,745.44

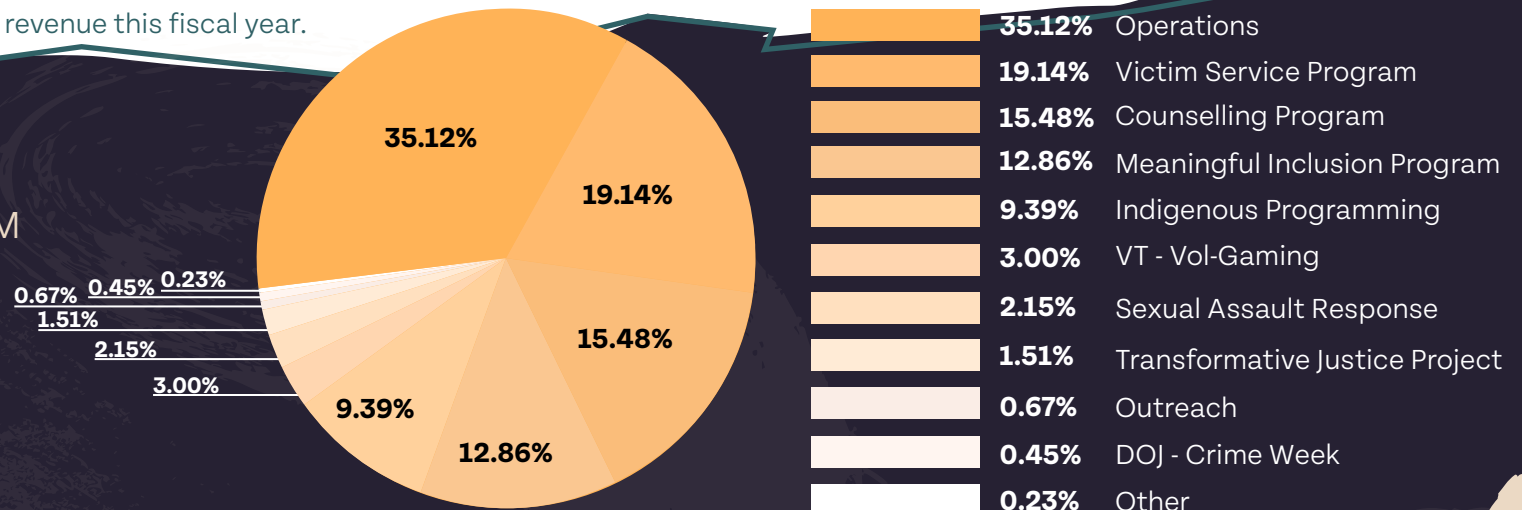


The above is a demonstration of funds accrued in 2020 - 2021. WAWAW had \$526,645.41 in deferred revenue this fiscal year.

## EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

- TOTAL

Expenses: \$1,797,745.44





**WAVAW**  
rape crisis centre

## **2019-2020 Leadership Team**

Dalya Israel  
Executive Director

Zahra Lalji  
Manager of Counselling Program &  
Clinical Supervision

Emily Oswald  
Manager of Fund Development

Ashley Teja  
Manager of Victim Services

Sylvana Hof  
Manager of Operations

## **2019-2020 Board of Directors**

Trina Prince - Board Chair

Amy Ashmore  
Sasha Burden  
Maria dela Cruz  
Emeline Fox  
Jas Jhooty  
Naz Kohan  
Sophie Medwell  
Priscilla Omulu

### **24 Hour Crisis Line**

1-877-392-7583

2405 Pine Street  
P.O. Box 46851  
Vancouver, BC  
V6J 5M4, Canada

### **Office Hours**

(Mon-Fri, 9-5)  
604-255-6228  
admin@wavaw.ca

**[www.wavaw.ca](http://www.wavaw.ca)**