
CANADIAN NETWORK OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS & TRANSITION HOUSES

Annual Report

January 2013 – March 2014

A letter from the Co-Chairs of the Board

Our first annual report is the opportune time to thank you for the confidence you have provided to your Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses. We are thankful for the commitment and involvement of our members in the Network's ongoing work since we were officially incorporated in November, 2012. We recognize the support, training and public awareness work carried out by shelter staff at the local, regional and provincial levels in all regions of the country: many efforts accompanied by incredible commitment!

We also want to recognize Lise Martin, our Executive Director, who is determined, pragmatic, diplomatic and ...patient. She defends and promotes the interests, accomplishments, and priorities of the Network and its provincial members at the national level. We commend her hard work and her relentless commitment. Welcoming her in the position of Executive Director has brought renewed energy to our Network!

We thank our partners for their collaboration in a number of areas which has allowed us to fulfill our mission. We salute our partners in the women's movement, in community based organizations and in universities for their collaboration as agents of change who have engaged in their respective environments in the areas of public awareness, training and support and in defending the rights of vulnerable populations.

This was a busy year for the Network. Our work in advocating for a national action plan for violence against women is ongoing. We have finalized and approved our Bylaws. Much work remains to be done in order for transition houses and their workers to be recognized as an unmistakable source of expertise. What remains front of mind is the need for women, and their children, who have survived violence and often face multiple obstacles, to receive the best possible services, with the goal of responding to and ending all forms of violence and abuse.

All of our members have significant demands on their time to advance their work provincially/territorially and despite this have demonstrated time and time again, their commitment to advance our work together. We are proud of the work we have collectively achieved.

Manon Monastesse and Jan Reimer
Co-Chairs

A letter from the Executive Director

Having begun my position on April 1, 2013, I have had the pleasure of being the Network’s first Executive Director for just over one year. Although a great deal of groundwork was laid in the period leading up to the Network’s incorporation, the Network is a young organization. Beginning to secure financial stability was a priority during this first year as was the development of new partnerships and the strengthening of previously established partnerships. This first year has provided me with a number of learning opportunities and I thank all of our board members who have been generous with their time and expertise. Special thanks to Jan Reimer and Manon Monastesse who were always available at the other end of the line.

The work, knowledge, and expertise of the 400+ shelters working with women who have experienced violence has, for too long, not been given due recognition. It is my hope that the Canadian Network can amplify their voices in the coming year. I also look forward to creating opportunities for shelters to learn from one another and to eventually organize a second national shelter conference.

I am cognizant of the challenges before us, however, having a unified voice on violence against women provides us with opportunities for moving forward. It is with enthusiasm that I look forward to working with our members to continue to grow our national Network.

Lise Martin
Executive Director

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Canadian Network of Women's Shelters & Transition Houses

In 2009, drawn together by a shared vision to end violence against women, a number of provincial shelter associations began envisioning and giving shape to the [Canadian Network of Women's Shelters & Transition Houses](#). Together, we have become a national, collaborative voice for change. The Network was incorporated and became a charitable organization in November 2012.

The Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses brings together 12 provincial and territorial shelter networks which represent over 350 shelters across Canada. Its two main axes of activity are centered on 1) public engagement leading to long term transformational change and 2) knowledge exchange amongst shelters leading to the development of improved practices to ultimately improve the lives of women survivors of violence and their children.

Shelter workers across the country recognize that services alone will not put an end to violence against women. Representing a unified voice that works to make violence against women a priority, the Network, along with its member shelters, is committed to working towards long term systems change.

Our Beliefs

- We believe that governments and societies are responsible for ensuring women's human rights.
- We believe that violence violates women's human rights and equality.
- We believe that the women's shelter movement plays a critical leadership role in the provincial/territorial, national and global effort to end violence against women and their children.

"Coming from a life of abuse, I have never been treated with such kindness and respect."

- Shelter Voices 2014

Our Work

A Space for Collaboration

The Network helps to create opportunities for our members and their member shelters to come together, exchange ideas, learn from one another and share resources. Exciting new ideas are born, best practices are promoted and transferred and those who work in our challenging field feel more connected and supported. All of this helps ensure that the women and children who turn to shelters and transition houses receive the most effective and compassionate support possible.

A Unified Voice

A unified and strong voice means the issue of violence against women is on the agenda at a national level. It means the vital role of shelters and transition houses is understood and valued. It means hope to women experiencing violence everywhere.

A Conduit for Innovation

The Network channels the energy and reach of our member organizations and partners. Together, we build on the strengths of our diversity to conduct research and find innovative solutions to serious challenges affecting women in this country and around the world.

"Oftentimes, I am in awe of the resilience of the women we help. It truly amazes me."

- Shelter Voices 2014

CNWSTH Board of Directors (2013-14)

Jan Reimer (Co-chair) / Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

Manon Monastesse (Co-chair) /
Fédération des maisons d'hébergement
pour femmes

Diane Delaney (Secretary) / Provincial
Association of Transition Houses and
Services of Saskatchewan

Lyda Fuller (Treasurer) / YWCA
Yellowknife

Caron Statham / Help and Hope for
Families Society

Deena Brock / Manitoba Association of
Women's Shelters

Ellen Ridgeway / PEI Family Violence
Prevention Services

Emma Sharkey / Transition House
Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
Laurie Parsons / BC Society of Transition
Houses

Louise Riendeau / Regroupement des
maisons pour femmes victimes de violence
conjugale

Pamela Harrison / Transition House
Association of Nova Scotia

Susan Young / Ontario Association of
Interval and Transition Houses

CNWSTH Staff (2013-14)

Lise Martin / Executive Director

Stephanie Moore / Project Coordinator
(Part-time)

Patricia Hendrick / Financial Officer (Part-
time)

CNWSTH Volunteers (2013-2014)

Emily MacDonald

Maryellen Gibson / Loran Intern

Zeynep Karman

A Successful First Year – Looking Back

The Network believes in leveraging the expertise and lessons learned in our member organizations. For this reason, we prioritize a scale-up model whereby the national Network facilitates the transfer and implementation of models, projects and events that have had successful outcomes for one or more of our member organizations.

We began to implement this model with two initiatives which originated with our Alberta member, the [Alberta Council of Women's Shelters](#).

Shelter Voices

A national survey of shelters

Our first pan Canadian survey of shelters was carried out in November, 2013. Building on the annual survey carried out by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, and working with our provincial and territorial member associations, outreach was done to shelters in all areas of the country. In total, 242 shelters responded to the on-line survey, representing a response rate of 73%.

[Shelter Voices](#), launched on March 5th, 2013, is the name we chose for the survey as we wanted to highlight the voices behind the numbers. *Shelter Voices* provides a snapshot of life in a shelter on a particular day as well as an overview of the work of shelters – the types of prevention initiatives they are involved in, the extent to which they have specialized services for marginalized women and their major challenges. It also provides insight on what change shelter workers feel needs to happen to make things better for abused women and their children. The data from this survey provided the Canadian data for the [Global Survey of Shelters](#).

Engaging Men

Breakfast with the Guys

The national office organized a Breakfast with the Guys, an event which is held on an annual basis in Calgary and Edmonton. Network members have also organized a Breakfast with the Guys event in Winnipeg and Halifax. The objective of the event is to engage male leaders in how they can take action on the issue of violence against women.

A roundtable discussion was held with 23 male leaders in Ottawa. Charles Bordeleau, Ottawa Chief of Police, and Alex Munter, CEO of the Children's Hospital of Eastern ON, led off the discussion. The event was a success in that it brought together a diversity of male leaders. There was consensus that the depth of the discussion provided the male leaders an opportunity to reflect on how they can have an impact on violence against women in their respective environments and within their leadership roles. The event was organized in partnership with White Ribbon.

National Action Plan on Violence Against Women

In October 2013 we released [*The Case for a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women*](#), a major study which outlines how Canada would benefit from a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women (NAP on VAW). Having a NAP on VAW would among other things, ensure 1) consistency across and within jurisdictions in policies and legislation that address VAW, 2) consistent approaches to prevention of and responses to violence against women, and 3) a shared understanding of the root causes of VAW.

Since the release of the study, the Network has brought together a number of partners to work on the collaborative development of a blueprint for Canada's NAP on VAW.

Engaging in Knowledge Exchange

In January 2014 we began a two year project which will allow us to develop a standardized *model practice guide* to ensure that newly adopted model shelter practices are implemented for maximum effectiveness, regardless of the shelter or the model practice. The guide will get to the “story behind the manual” and will include tools and resources to facilitate the identification and implementation of model practices.

“It is demanding work that never ends but it is so important – seeing women in control of their lives”

- Shelter Voices 2014

Outreach and Partnership Building

Violence against women must be addressed from a multi-sectoral and intersectional perspective. This is why expanding our partnerships and collaborating in various initiatives is a key part of our work. In addition to partnering with our provincial and territorial shelter and transition house associations and their members, the Network works with and builds on the efforts of multiple partners who share the vision of bringing an end to violence against women.

During this first year we have collaborated with the Making Women Count Project, have partnered with the Canadian Women's Foundation to produce two tip sheets on VAW, have organized a men's public engagement event with White Ribbon, are a collaborator in the CLC / Western University pan-Canadian study on domestic violence and the workplace and as a member of the Global Network of Women's Shelters, participated in their annual meeting.

Financial Statements



KELLY HUIBERS McNEELY
P R O F E S S I O N A L C O R P O R A T I O N

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses

We have reviewed the statement of financial position of Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses as at March 31, 2014 and the statements of revenue and expenditures and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussions related to information supplied to us by the Organization.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations

Kelly Huibers McNeely
Professional Corporation

Stittsville, Ontario
May 23, 2014

Authorized to practise public accounting by
The Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

106B McGonigal St. W.
Arnnprior, Ontario K7S 1M4

9 Emily Street
Carleton Place, Ontario K7C 1R9

16 Gore Street West
Perth, Ontario K7H 2L6

5992 Hazeldean Rd.
Stittsville, Ontario K2S 1B9

Phone: 613-963-1430 (1-866-999-1339)

Fax: 613-686-3960 (Perth local 613-267-3949)

acctg@khmpc.ca

CANADIAN NETWORK OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND TRANSITION HOUSES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(Prepared without Audit)

As at March 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$ 174,586 | \$ 67,658 |
| Accounts receivable | 278 | - |
| Government remittances receivable | 4,024 | 29 |
| Prepaid expenses | 6,565 | 1,292 |
| | \$ 185,453 | \$ 68,979 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 4,225 | \$ - |
| Government payables | - | 1,006 |
| Deferred revenue | <u>158,277</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | 162,502 | 1,006 |
| NET ASSETS | 22,951 | 67,973 |
| | \$ 185,453 | \$ 68,979 |

CANADIAN NETWORK OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND TRANSITION HOUSES
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
(Prepared without Audit)

For the year ended March 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| REVENUE | | |
| Grants | \$ 62,049 | \$ - |
| Donations | 5,850 | 10,000 |
| Contributions | 15,406 | 66,000 |
| Memberships | <u>15,700</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>99,005</u> | <u>76,000</u> |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Human resources | 96,447 | 5,054 |
| Honoraria and professional fees | 16,877 | 1,211 |
| Meetings | 1,416 | 636 |
| Facilities | 22,462 | - |
| Materials and supplies | 694 | 178 |
| Insurance | 1,599 | - |
| Office and administration | <u>4,532</u> | <u>948</u> |
| | <u>144,027</u> | <u>8,027</u> |
| NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURES) | (45,022) | 67,973 |
| NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR | 67,973 | - |
| NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR | <u><u>\$ 22,951</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 67,973</u></u> |

CANADIAN NETWORK OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS AND TRANSITION HOUSES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (Prepared without Audit)

For the year ended March 31, 2014

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) | | |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net revenue (expenditures) | \$ (45,022) | \$ 67,973 |
| Net change in non-cash working capital items: | | |
| Accounts receivable | (278) | - |
| Government remittances receivable | (3,995) | (29) |
| Prepaid expenses | (5,273) | (1,292) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 4,225 | - |
| Government payables | (1,006) | 1,006 |
| Deferred revenue | <u>158,277</u> | <u>-</u> |
| NET CHANGE IN CASH | 106,928 | 67,658 |
| CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR | 67,658 | - |
| CASH - END OF YEAR | <u>\$ 174,586</u> | <u>\$ 67,658</u> |

Acknowledgement of Supporters

Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Canadian Union of Public Employees
Canadian Women's Foundation
Justice Canada
National Union of Public and General Employees
Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association
Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation
Parlee McLaws LLP
Public Service Alliance of Canada
Status of Women Canada
UNIFOR
United Food and Commercial Workers of Canada
United Steel Workers