



central okanagan
elizabeth fry
society

COMMUNITY REPORT

2020-2021

Empowering survivors of violence.

Promoting justice.

Seeking an end to poverty.



Working with communities
Interior, Lower Mainland,
& Northern Vancouver Isl.



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.

COMMUNITY REPORT

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society (COEFS) respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan peoples. We recognize our privilege to live, work, and serve our community on this land, and take responsibility in providing culturally competent and anti-oppressive practice throughout all the services we provide. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples as they mourn and seek truth about their missing children. We take accountability to raise awareness and educate ourselves to create change in a structurally broken society.

WHO WE ARE

We are a feminist organization that is dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence, providing support services, and advocating for survivors who move through the court system in the Central Okanagan Valley. Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society achieves this purpose through a variety of prevention and intervention services in collaboration with community partners.

OUR PROGRAMS

Central Okanagan

YOUTH PREVENTION

Programs available to girls, boys, non-binary & LGBTQIA2S+ youth.

- Girls United
- Tough Guise

SPECIALIZED VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Crisis response, risk assessment, safety planning, court support & accompaniment, practical, mental & emotional support to adult & child victims of domestic & sexual violence.

HIGHEST RISK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE

COEFS works with RCMP Domestic Violence Unit, Women's Shelter, Corrections & Child Protection to intervene when there is an assessed risk of serious bodily harm or death.

SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELLING CENTRE

Through the Adult Counselling Program (ACP) & Sexual Abuse Intervention Program (SAIP), we provide individual & group trauma-informed therapy for adult, youth & child survivors of sexual violence.

VICTIM SERVICES OUTREACH

Mobile short-term counselling & services for at-risk women.

INDIGENOUS OUTREACH

Dedicated Outreach & Victim Services for Indigenous survivors of domestic & sexual violence.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

Provides legal information, resources & support from pre-charge to post incarceration for criminalized women.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CEASE)

Provides presentations, workshops and information to create awareness about sexual exploitation.

Message from our Executive Director & Board Chair

The 2020-2021 year has been a unique and challenging year for all of us as individuals and as an organization supporting survivors of violence. When the pandemic closures began in March 2020, the thought of the risks and challenges impacting lives today has quite frankly, been surreal. Despite these challenges, we have learned to adapt, innovate, and move forward. This past year has highlighted the importance of being vigilant in our vision to support and empower all survivors of domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, and violence.

While 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience physical domestic and/or sexual violence, the grim reality of these statistics is that somebody that you know or yourself has experienced an act of abuse (World Health Organization). In this past year, COVID-19 has played a drastic contribution to these statistics and highlighted the needs of so many experiencing gender-based violence in a time of pandemic disruption. Despite isolation and restrictions making it challenging to get those critical supports or to leave unsafe situations, reports continue to indicate the increased rates of survivors requesting help.

The Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society (COEFS) has experienced a drastic increase in demand for services while working with the same or less capacity levels. Unfortunately, large wait times became the norm and new ways to respond were and continue to be foremost in our strategies. While no one could predict the length of the pandemic, it is not surprising to see how many people need vital supports.

We remind ourselves that we have the privilege to work and serve on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) peoples. We educate ourselves and acknowledge the history, cultural genocide, sacrifices, and strength of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people. This past year has highlighted the plight of our Indigenous brothers and sisters and the grief of lost families and children. Discriminatory experiences continue for those who are Indigenous, racialized, LGBTQIA2S+, people with disabilities, and new immigrants. It is no surprise that those experiencing discrimination are at higher risk and incidences of gender-based violence. COEFS is committed to working together to provide the necessary supports that meet cultural and individual needs. We stand in solidarity with those impacted by violence.

During this pandemic year, COEFS provided critical services to 1675 individuals. An additional 11,162 supports were provided via brief services and responses to inquiries all while following restrictions and during a time when courts, schools and many work offices were closed. The challenges of COVID-19, experienced by so many, resulted in new ways of working, personnel changes, and an overall anxiety during these times. Despite these challenges, the year also provided opportunities for growth, innovation and demonstrated the resiliency of our organization and overall community. COEFS continued to make sure survivors of violence remained a top priority and as essential workers in the community, our personnel worked tirelessly to make support services readily available and accessible.

The Board of Directors and I would like to acknowledge the work of everyone at COEFS and of our community partners for their excellence in supporting those in need while working in pandemic times. Thank you for your commitment, courage, and strength! This work can not be done alone. We are continually encouraged and inspired by how our community comes together to make meaningful differences for those in need. We are grateful and we thank you all for your continued support of our mission! Together, we will create a safe community for all!

Warm regards,



Christine Mahoney
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Mahoney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gillian Henderson
Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gillian Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Our Mission

To support and empower survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, exploitation, or violence.

Community Impact



11,162

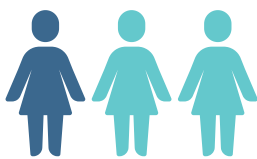
The number of brief services & general inquiries we provided (phone, walk ins & referrals)



1675

provided critical services to 1675 individuals

Why we're needed



1 in 3 women experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Violence against women tends to increase during every type of emergency, including epidemics

6X

The homicide rate among Aboriginal people was 6 times higher than that of non-Aboriginal people

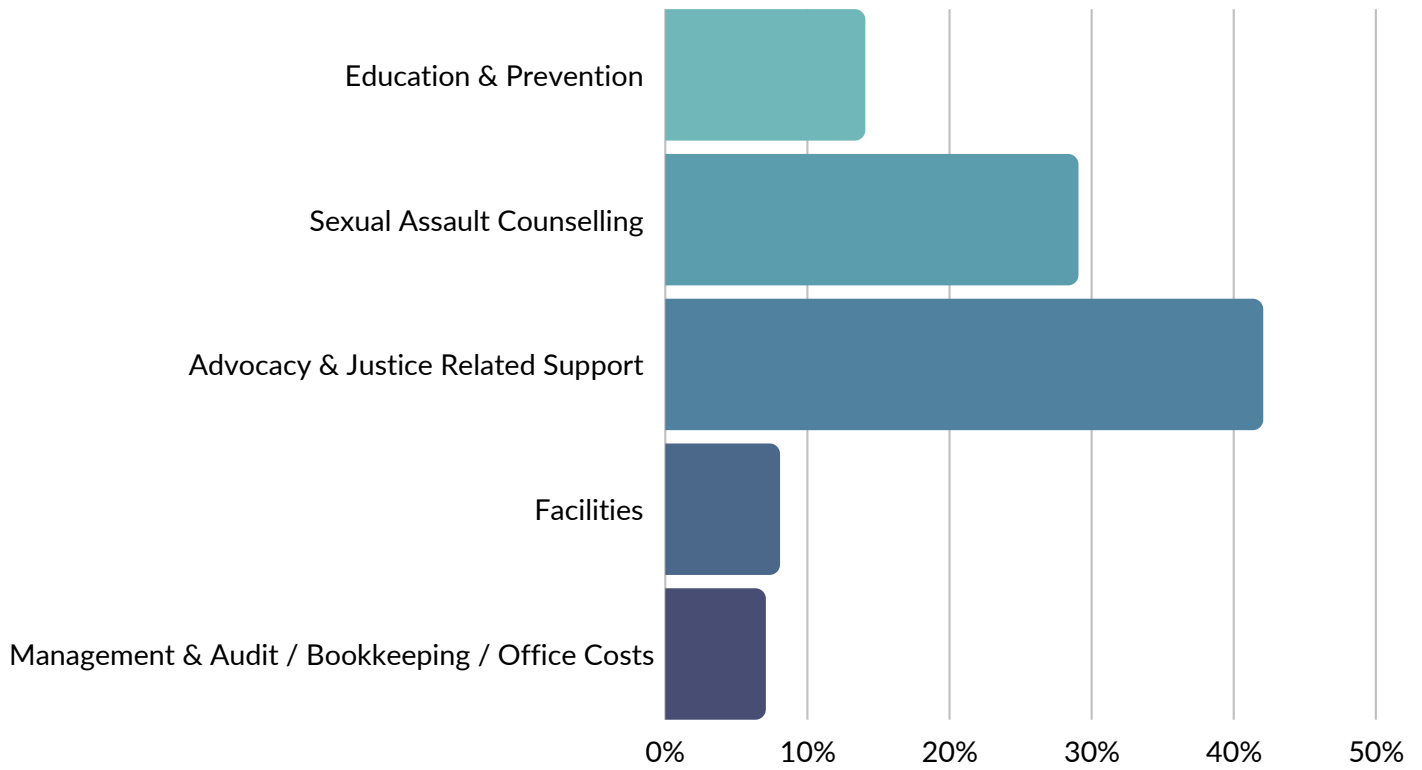
11,000,000+

More than 11 million Canadians have been physically or sexually assaulted since the age of 15

"As stay-at-home orders expand to contain the spread of the virus, women with violent partners increasingly find themselves isolated from the people and resources that can help them."

-The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality

Use of Funds



Our Donors

A huge thank you to our donors for their generous contribution to help support and change lives in our Central Okanagan community. Without your help, we could not provide the critical services that we do!

- Aileen M. Sim
- Ana Luyben
- Anne Williams
- Avril Paice
- Bailey Larusson
- Becca Bryson
- Bellamy Homes Inc.
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Blair & Kelly Wilson
- Blanche Kingdon
- Breanne Benoit
- Brendon Rothwell
- Cameron Kipp
- CanadaHelps
- Central Okanagan Foundation
- CFUW Kelowna
- Chelsea Anderson
- Chrissi Stronach
- Christine Semeniuk
- Colette Kinderdyk
- Colleen Wright
- Danny Cooper
- David & Judith Gunderson
- David Horvath
- Diana Imrie
- Donna Anthony
- Dorrie Luyben
- Eagle Homes (Ellis Family Fund)
- Elena Ivanova
- Ending Violence Association of BC
- Francine Portelance
- Fraser McDicken
- Giulia Feeny
- Global Citizen
- Gwendoline Steele
- Hargot Jandu
- Heather Harrop
- I'm All Courage
- Jackey Zellweger
- Jackie Niblock
- Janet Rak
- Jeet Panghali
- Jennifer Simpatico
- Jessica & Joe Klein
- Jodie Foster
- John Roberts
- Jordyn Stolar
- Judy Funnell
- Kamila Vejvoda
- Kate Cumming
- Kate Ogorova
- Kathleen Lortie
- Kayla Wallis
- Keith Cavanaugh
- Kelly Lee Bennett
- Kendra Mcfarland
- Kim Brozer
- Kim Foxon
- Kim Hamel
- Kyle Trautman
- Lane Merrifield
- Lea Gray
- Leah Emde
- Leanne Wruck
- Lindsay Hammond
- Lorraine Richmond
- Louise Grant
- Louise Odell
- Lucy Snider
- Lynn-Ann Coburn
- Marissa Strukoff
- Maxine DeHart
- Megan Lauridsen
- Megan Turcato
- Melina Moran
- Melissa Berg
- Miah Olmsted
- Mirela Johnson
- Modo Yoga Kelowna
- Monica Arduini
- Monica Good
- Myrna Park
- Natalia Penuela Gallo
- Natalie Forssman
- Nathalie Soon
- Nicholas Abelardo
- Nicole MacDonald
- Nina George
- Norm Harrop
- Pacific Region Elizabeth Fry Society
- Patricia Scarlett
- Pauline & Reg Keilty
- Pauline Kelly-Brandes
- Pearce Hahn
- Peggy Henderson
- Pia Mateo
- Priebe Family Foundation
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- Rachael Spyker
- RCMP
- Read Between the Signz
- Rebecca Smith
- Reid Schretlan
- Renae Clarkson
- Rhys McKnight
- Rotary Club of Kelowna
- Roxanne Rustad
- Ryan Smylski
- Sandrine Leece
- Sarah Coffey
- Satoshi Tomoda
- Savannah Bagshaw
- SDM/PHX Life Foundation
- Shandra Smith
- Sheila Perepalkin
- stephanie delios
- Sueyora Gayle
- Sydney McMahan
- Tessa Tesluk
- Tina Bootsma
- Tina Joslin
- Twila Amato
- Tyson Markewich
- University of British Columbia
- Valerie Belcourt
- Victoria Braun
- Watson Road Elementary School
- Zach Jackman
- Zach Neufeld
- Zach Slaughter
- Zoe Plant

Our Volunteers & Board of Directors

During these unprecedented times, volunteer roles and community organization needs have changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. What has not changed is the dedication and abundance of volunteerism. We thank everyone who has reached out to support! As the restrictions ease, we look forward to connecting with everyone who wishes to support our work.



Board of Directors:

- Gillian Henderson
- Brittany Denny
- Nicole Cantley
- Leneigh Bosdet
- David Horvath
- Katie Krebs
- Claire MacLeod

Our Board of Directors are a dedicated group of individuals with diverse knowledge and skills as well as a passion to end gender-based violence. They reflect hard work and dedication in a variety of community sectors including human resources, post-secondary education, finances and legal matters. They provide the organization with invaluable collective experience in regards to anti-violence work.

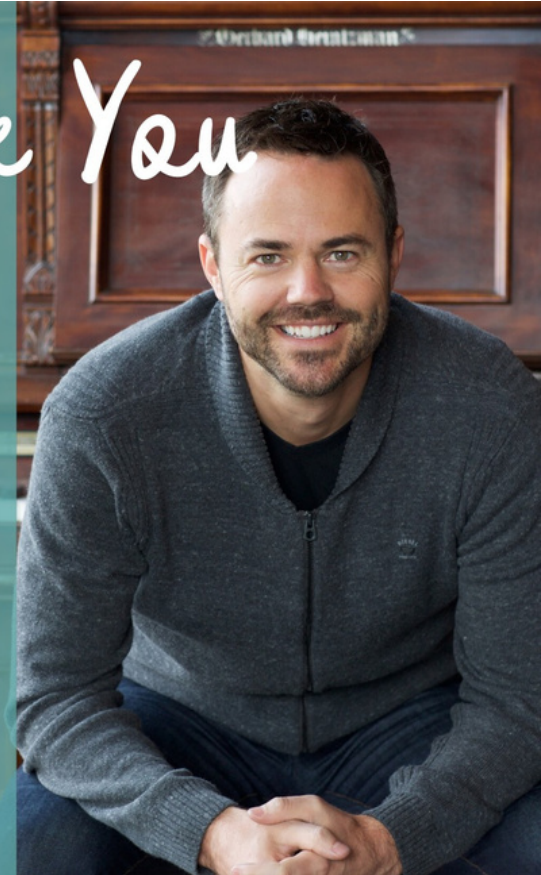
Thank you to our community for their support to empower survivors!

Thank You

Lane Merrifield

for your generous donation of **\$10,000** for our services to provide safety & support to survivors & all those at an increased risk of domestic & sexual violence due to COVID-19.

Together, we can create a community of safety, dignity and equality for all.





www.coefs.ca



Central Okanagan
Elizabeth Fry Society



@ElizabethFryCo



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Donations can be made online at www.coefs.ca or by cheque to the COEFS office.
Charitable Registration Number: 13121 - 4371 RR0001

