



central okanagan
elizabeth fry
society

COMMUNITY REPORT

2022-2023

Support and empower survivors of intimate
partner and sexual abuse, exploitation, or
violence



Services supported by:



KGH FOUNDATION
Kiwanis Legacy Fund





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

Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society (COEFS) is a registered charity providing Community Based Victim Support Services to all Children, Youth and Adults who have suffered Child Abuse and Neglect, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Abuse or Sexual Assault.

We provide specialized, trauma-informed sexual assault counselling for all ages and gender identities, regardless of police involvement.

Last year we provided over 6,503 services from Peachland to Lake Country and Oyama.

OUR PROGRAMS

SPECIALIZED VICTIM ASSISTANCE

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

HIGHEST RISK INTIMATE PARTNER 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 practical and emotional support services for at-risk individuals who have experienced sexual & intimate partner violence.

INDIGENOUS OUTREACH

- Dedicated Outreach & Victim Services for Indigenous survivors of intimate partner & sexual violence.

Message from our Executive Director & Board Chair

Resistance and Resilience. Those words have been front and centre for me this year. 2022-23 has been challenging in so many ways. Affordability for housing, food, and wages is not keeping up with the economic demands.

When trying to leave an abusive situation, whether leaving alone or with children, it brings additional barriers when affordability and availability of housing are also a factor. Honouring resistance is something I like to acknowledge. When life feels uncontrollable, we resist in many ways. We try to find solutions to manage what we cannot control. The same can be said about surviving abuse. We safety plan, strategize how to de-escalate, and often find creative ways to help keep ourselves safe in unsafe situations. These are some ways we show our strength in survival.

I am reminded daily of the resilience of people who are survivors of traumatic events. To reach out for support, counselling, advocate for themselves, and move forward toward healing. It is easy to see the gaps in society where we need to do better, but there is also a time to sit in what we are doing well.

I am so grateful to lead this team of compassionate, skilled Victim Service Workers and Trauma Counsellors, who spend their days sitting with people while they share their trauma and assist them in their healing.

In completing my first year as the ED for this society, I have enjoyed meeting other community partners, sharing my experiences and working towards providing the best referrals for our clients. I have had the pleasure of being part of our Regional Board of Directors, who are a dynamic group of humans working hard, under a feminist lens, towards systemic change in the gender-based violence sector. I am also appreciative to have a supportive Board of Directors who are ready to meet when needed and have shared their wisdom and knowledge with me.

Every year we see increases in the number of clients we serve. When our aim is to one day see a society free from violence, it is easy to get caught up in that data. I celebrate that more people know what we do and are reaching out to find change and support for themselves. When they do, we will be here, and hopefully, no one will have to face it alone.



Chantal Banman
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chantal'.

David Horvath
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Horvath'.

Our Mission

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

Community Impact



6503

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



478

The number of clients we provided sexual trauma counselling to.



700

Amount of Files opened in 2022-2023

Why We're Needed



One woman or girl is killed every 48 hours



Fewer than

10%

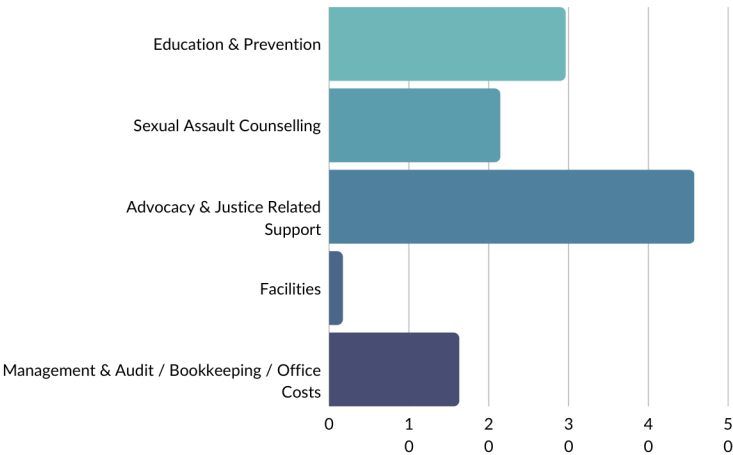
of sexual assaults in Canada are ever reported to police.

11,000,000+

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



Use of Funds



Our Donors

Every generous contribution to our cause represents the gift of safety and the opportunity for survivors of abuse to embark on a fresh journey towards a brighter future.

Our ability to deliver essential services in the Central Okanagan community relies on the unwavering support of our compassionate donors, who are positively impacting thousands of lives.

- Affinity Family Wellness
- Aidan McVea
- Aimee Jensen
- Allison Engel
- Andjefa Whitehouse
- Andrea Bertoia
- Angela Lambrecht
- Arlene Janousek
- Barb Pullan
- Beau Klatt
- Beki Hardcastle
- Bernard Penner
- Bill & Hilda Silversides
- Bin 4 Burger Lounge
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- Tim Light
- Todd Bannatye
- Traci Angus
- Tracy Schmidt
- United Way BC / Southern Interior
- Valerie Dragvik
- Valerie Hoekstra
- Velveeta Krisp
- Vernon Book Volunteers Society
- Wayne Bridges
- Wendy Hanna
- Werklund Foundation
- Wes Kmet

Our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors comprises a committed team of individuals who possess a wide range of knowledge and skills, coupled with a deep commitment to eradicating gender-based violence. They embody diligence and dedication, with expertise spanning various community sectors, such as human resources, post-secondary education, finance, and legal affairs. Together, they bring invaluable collective experience to the organization's anti-violence efforts.

- David Horvath – Chair
- Brittany Dennis – Treasurer
- Nicole Cantley – Secretary
- Claire MacLeod – director
- Elizabeth Cook – director
- Connie Frank – director



Our Community Partners

We are fortunate to have a strong network of dedicated community partners. These partners play a pivotal role in empowering survivors and helping support the Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society. Together, we work towards ensuring that our community members have access to a variety of crucial resources and services. We thank them for their ongoing efforts in the anti-violence sector.

- Child Advocacy Centre (CAC)
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
- Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through Research (SOAR)

Thank you for helping us create a community of safety, dignity & equality!





www.efryokanagan.com



Central Okanagan
Elizabeth Fry Society



@ElizabethFryCo

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Donations can be made online at www.efryokanagan.com or by cheque to the COEFS office.

Charitable Registration Number: 13121 - 4371 RR0001