



## City of Richmond

6911 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Telephone (604) 276-4000

www.city.richmond.bc.ca

June 26, 2003

File: 1085-02

City Clerk's Office

Telephone: (604) 276-4007

Fax: (604) 278-5139

Ms. Katharine Kent, President  
Richmond Women's Resource Centre  
110-7000 Minoru Boulevard  
Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5

Dear Ms. Kent:

**Re: Funding for Richmond Women's Resource Centre**

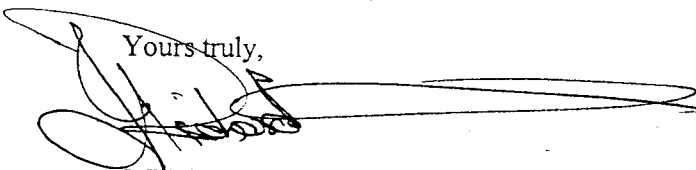
In response to your request dated June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, and to our conversation of June 26<sup>th</sup>, this is to confirm that arrangements have been made for you to appear as a delegation on the above matter, at the General Purposes Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003, at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room (M2.001), Richmond City Hall.

I understand you will be providing me with either a copy of your submission, or a written summary thereof, prior to the Committee meeting.

Committee procedures allow five minutes for you to make your presentation, not including any questions which Committee members may ask. This five-minute limit is strictly enforced to ensure that all business for the meeting is dealt with.

Please conclude your presentation with a specific request on what you are seeking by appearing before Committee as a delegation.

Yours truly,



J. Richard McKenna  
City Clerk

JRM:daw

pc Mayor and each Councillor with copy of letter  
GM, Finance and Corporate Services

  
RICHMOND  
*Island City, by Nature*



**RICHMOND WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE**  
110-7000 Minoru Boulevard  
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 3Z5  
Tel: 604 279-7060 Fax: 604 279-7069  
[www.richmondwomenscentre.bc.ca](http://www.richmondwomenscentre.bc.ca)

June 19, 2003

Mr. Jim Bruce  
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
City Hall  
6900 No. 3 Rd  
Richmond, B.C.  
V6Y 2C1

Dear Mr. Bruce:

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre is again going to be because of changes in the B.C. Gaming Commission's application submission dates. Previously, registered non-profits could apply each year after their AGMs were over and their financial statements available. Organizations have now been "categorized" into sports, arts, social services, etc. Previously, we would have sent in applications by the end of June and normally received word of funding by September or so. Now, our category allows submissions August 1 to Dec. 31, with no decisions or monies distributed until after January of the following year.

In previous years, any monies received had to be dispersed by the organization's year-end. Ours is March. Therefore, we dispersed monies received in December of 2002 by March of 2003. After the fact, we were told that because of the new changes, we would not have had to disperse that money by our year-end!

As well, all funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal, Women's and Community Services is withdrawn for Women's Centres as of the April 1, 2004 fiscal year. This amounts to \$47,000 in operating monies per Centre.

We are currently making every effort to canvass members and local businesses for funds, but this is difficult over the summer. Last year our Fall canvass did raise \$14,000. The Board has authorized staff time cuts from four to three days a week and reduced our budget from \$130,000 to \$112,000.

*Slightly amended  
from original  
after consultation  
with staff July 2.  
Please use the  
ATTACHED as the  
letter. Thanks.  
K. Kent*

We have a fund-raising event planned for late October which will hopefully net us another \$15,000; however, our current monies will run out end October. It costs approximately \$11,000 per month to staff, facilitate programs and keep the Centre open. New monies are not forthcoming from Federal or Provincial (B.C. Gaming) sources until after January 2004, and for some of it, possibly as late as March.

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre was proud to be part of the original team organizing for Caring Place over the more than fifteen years that it took to see our dream of a combined services setting come into existence. We want to continue to be a part of that team and to offer services and programs to the women of Richmond. Currently, we are the only organization providing advocacy help to those involved in B.C. Benefits social assistance matters.

The Women's Centre has been working with the RCSAC Poverty Response Committee over the past two years and the Centre has recently applied for funding from both the Law Foundation and United Way for Advocate training and an Advocacy Service program, which will be available for both men and women. RCSAC does not wish to administer this program and our Centre has been asked (given approval of the above funding grant requests) to provide space for this much-needed program starting in September on Fridays and/or Saturdays when our Centre is otherwise closed. We approved this, contingent on the required funding being received, at our June Board meeting because we feel strongly that it is our responsibility to assist in this important community need.

In view of the all the above information, we would like to submit a request to the General Purposes Committee for up to \$12,000 to assist in bridging our "money gap" from November 2003 to end January 2004.

We would be happy to appear before the Committee at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Katharine Kent  
President  
(Home phone and e-mail 604-278-2715 kkd1@telus.net)

BUDGET 2003/04

REVENUE

MWE	47,184.00	- eliminated March 31, 2004
Status of Women <i>Canada</i>	25,000.00	- project-oriented
City of Richmond	12,000.00	- "wish" list
BC Gaming	0.00	- none until <u>at least</u> January 2004
United Way	700.00	
Other Grants	6,000.00	
Programs	1,500.00	
Memberships	2,500.00	
Donations	10,000.00	
Fundraising	6,000.00	
Interest	200	
TOTAL	111,084.00	

EXPENSES

Total payroll	87,726.00
accounting and legal	1,132.00
fundraising	0
printing and promotion	2,300.00
courier and postage	1,300.00
insurance	600
bank charges	100
offices supplies	2,800.00
resource materials	100
travel	0
networking	0
meeting expenses	0
subscriptions/memberships	200
conferences/training	500.00
copier	2,160.00
rent	9,483.00
telephone	2,640.00
internet	1,000.00
program expenses	600.00
TOTAL	112,641.00
	-1,557.00

**PROGRAM COST BREAKDOWNS**

<p><b>Community Access Program (CAP) - free to all women</b></p> <p>Program expenses 70.            Office supplies 330.            Facilities 2,500.            Promotion 186.            Administrative support 7,384.  <b>Total 10,470. /110 women = 95.18</b></p>	<p><b>Computer Training -- members free, non-members \$5 mo x 100 = 500.</b></p> <p>Program expenses 30.            Office supplies 330.            Facilities 1,500.            Promotion 186.            Administrative support 5,954.  <b>Total 8,000. - 500/200 w = 37.50</b></p>
<p><b>English Conversation -- membership \$20 x 50 &amp; \$5 x 50 = 1250.</b></p> <p>Instructor 2,000.            Program expenses 100.            Office supplies 330.            Facilities 950.            Promotion 186.            Administrative support 5,954.  <b>Total 9,520. - 1250/100 w = 82.70</b></p>	<p><b>Holistic Health - \$5. donation x 200. = 1,000.</b></p> <p>Program expenses 70.            Office supplies 330.            Facilities 200.            Promotion 186.            Administrative support 5,954.  <b>Total 6,740. -- 1,000/200 w = 28.70</b></p>

<b>Income Tax Preparation – free to low-income women</b> Program expenses 25. Office supplies 50. Facilities 60. Promotion 186. Administrative support 869. <b>Total 1,190./80 w = 14.87</b>		<b>Micro-enterprise Program – membership \$20 x 40 = 800</b> Facilitator/speakers 1000. Program expenses 110. Office supplies 330. Facilities 1000. Promotion 186. Administrative support 3,877. <b>Total 6,503. – 800/ 40 w = 142.57</b>
<b>Peer Support – free to all women</b> Peer Support Coordinator 4940. Program expenses 70. Office supplies 330. Facilities 950. Promotion 186. Administrative support 5,954. <b>Total 12,430./150 w = 82.86</b>		<b>Volunteer Program – membership \$20 x 25 &amp; \$5 x 25 = \$625.</b> Program expenses 70. Office supplies 330. Facilities 2500. Promotion 186. Administrative support 10,537. <b>Total 13,623. – 625/50 w = 259.96</b>
<b>Welfare Advocacy – free to all women</b> Advocate 1,200. Program expenses 100. Office supplies 330. Facilities 950. Promotion 186. Administrative support 3,996. <b>Total 6,762./30 w = 225.40</b>		

**SUPPORT GROUPS – memberships required \$20 & \$5. (but probably less than half of the participants do have memberships so have not deducted from cost amounts)**

<b>Caring Sisters Mental Health</b>		
Program expenses	30.	
Office supplies	330.	
Facilities	200.	
Promotion	186.	
Administrative support	2,201.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,947./12 w = 294.70</b>	
<b>Custody and Access</b>		
Facilitator	2500.*	
Program expenses	70.	
Office supplies	330.	
Facilities	950.	
Promotion	186.	
Administrative support	3,619.	
Childcare	1,000.*	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,655./6 w = 1442.50</b>	
		<i>* Costs will be reduced</i>
<b>Chinese Single Mothers</b>		
Program expenses	50.	
Office supplies	330.	
Facilities	450.	
Promotion	186.	
Administrative support	2,201.	
Childcare	1,000.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,217./100 w = 42.17</b>	
<b>Iranian Women's Group</b>		
Program expenses	70.	
Office supplies	330.	
Facilities	950.	
Promotion	186.	
Administrative support	2,201.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,737./8 w = 467.12</b>	

<b>Women in Transition</b>	
Program expenses	70.
Office supplies	330.
Facilities	450.
Promotion	186.
Administrative support	3,619.
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,655./ 40 w = 116.37</b>





www.ltgov.bc.ca

## OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

June 2003

As the representative of Her Majesty, The Queen of Canada, I am pleased to extend warm greetings on the occasion of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre Association Multi-Cultural Potluck Party marking the year-end of the English Conversation class.

The many facets of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre Association include providing the support, guidance and training for new immigrants. The tools and programs are tailored for women from a variety of backgrounds. The combined resources available through volunteer services inspire and empower the individuals involved.

Thank you for your valuable contribution to the Richmond community and best wishes to all those attending for an enjoyable evening!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Iona".

Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC  
Lieutenant Governor

**RICHMOND WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE**  
110 - 7000 MINORU BLVD.  
RICHMOND, BC V6Y 3Z5  
TEL: (604) 279-7060

# **The Herstory, Risk and Survival of BC Women's Centres**

May 2003

## BC Coalition of Women's Centres

100 Mile House • Campbell River • Chetwynd • Comox Valley • Cranbrook • Fernie • Fort Nelson •  
Fort St. John • Golden • Grand Forks • Howe Sound • Kamloops • Kelowna • Kitimat • Nanaimo •  
North Shore • Penticton • Port Alberni • Port Coquitlam • Queen Charlotte Islands • Quesnel •  
Richmond • Ridge Meadows • Sunshine Coast • South Surrey/White Rock • Surrey • Terrace •  
Vancouver • Vernon • Victoria • Westcoast • West Kootenays • Williams Lake  
[www.bcwomen.cjb.net](http://www.bcwomen.cjb.net) • [bcwomen@telus.net](mailto:bcwomen@telus.net)

# The Herstory, Risk and Survival of BC Women's Centres

Prepared by the Steering Committee of the  
BC Coalition of Women's Centres

Benita Bunjun – *Vancouver Status of Women*  
Anne Burrill – *Contact Women's Society, Williams Lake*  
Debra Critchley – *Vernon and Area Women's Centre*  
Sharon Goldberg – *Surrey Women's Centre*  
Dodie Goldney – *Kamloops Women's Resource Centre*  
Liza Haldane – *Terrace Women's Resource Centre*  
Colleen Hoglund – *Fort Nelson Women's Resource Society*  
Cindy L'Hirondelle – *Victoria Status of Women Action Group*  
Heidi Wurmman – *Golden Women's Resource Centre*

With funding from:  
*Status of Women Canada*  
*Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services*

May 2003

BC Coalition of Women's Centres

[www.bcwomen.cjb.net](http://www.bcwomen.cjb.net)

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## Executive Summary

Community Women's Centres have existed in British Columbia since the 1970's. The majority of these Centres grew out of the strong grassroots feminist movement that was occurring at the time. These Centres exist in all regions of the province, serve women from all backgrounds, and exist in both rural and urban areas. Women's Centres in BC have always strived for inclusivity as well as accessibility in their services.

Women's Centres provide a wide range of services for women that do not exist in other organizations. They often also house other provincial contracts such as Transition Houses/Safe Homes Programs and Stopping the Violence counselling programs.

The current reality of Women's Centres in this province is that they are seeing a large increase in demand for services while at the same time looking ahead to when their provincial funding will be cut on March 31, 2004. The provincial cuts that have already occurred have been hitting women particularly hard and Women's Centres have been feeling the effects as more and more women are asking our Centres to fill the void created by the cuts. The cut to our provincial funding next March will also be disastrous for Women's Centres. This is because the provincial funding has been our only operational funding. It is also devastating as some Centres rely on this funding for more than 80% of their overall funding.

There are a number of Centres that are at immediate risk of closure once this funding cut is implemented. 18 Centres have made it clear that without this operational funding from the provincial government, they may have to close their doors within 18 months. Other risks include the loss of facilities and/or paid staff, geographical risk and a hostile political climate.

Women's Centres in BC have spent a lot of their time in the past year looking at what options exist in order to keep the doors open once provincial funding ceases. Eight viable options were assessed by the BCCWC Steering Committee. It was found that none of the options would allow Women's Centres to carry on their work in the manner that they have been. Any implementation of the options would change the core work of Women's Centres, would affect the systemic work that they do

and would affect their ability to remain autonomous, accessible non-profit agencies.

Women's Centres do work that is vital for women, their communities and for the entire province. The work is done on a continuum from direct services to individual women to work on a larger systemic level. Without strong Women's Centres doing women-centered work, this important work will not be done.

## I. Introduction

The BC Coalition of Women's Centres came together informally in Oct. 2001, through an e-mail discussion list (e-list). The purpose of the Coalition has been and continues to be support, sharing of resources and working for change. The Coalition has 33 members and a Steering Committee of 9: 8 regional reps and the information and communications technology coordinator.

Status of Women Canada provided the Coalition with its first funded project. The project had a range of objectives, but primarily building Women's Centres capacity through the Coalition was the main focus. The Coalition has become very successful in a number of ways: the Coalition has representation in many provincial, regional and community groups and activities.

Stable funding for Women's Centres is more at risk now than it has been in many years. Exploring options and working towards the long-term sustainability of Centres is currently the Coalition's main focus.

The British Columbia Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services has been identified as a funder of this paper as well. Although they provided no direct funding for this work, some Centres used a portion of a one-time grant of \$3,000.00 provided by this Ministry to provide support and help them participate in the work of completing this document.

The BC Coalition of Women's Centres would like to acknowledge and thank the membership of the Coalition for their commitment and work in completing this document. The Coalition is successful because of the honesty, courage and tenacity of members in getting this far in such a short time.

This document will be used to further discuss and explore the future of Women's Centres with local, regional, provincial and federal governments. In addition, the paper will be widely circulated throughout BC and Canada.

## II. Profile of BC Women's Centres

### Herstory

Local grass-roots feminists founded the majority of community Women's Centres in the 1970's. Funding for Centres has changed many times over the years; most Centres currently receive a combination of Federal and Provincial funding for a range of programs, projects and services. In the beginning, Centres were typically situated in houses in residential neighbourhoods. Over the years, that has become a challenge for women in many communities, and now Centres are, more often than not, located in office-type environments. A small number of Centres do not pay rent, as their City or municipality provides space to them for free or at a substantially discounted rate.

There are 37 Women's Centres in BC in the following communities: 100 Mile House, Campbell River, Chetwynd, Comox Valley, Cranbrook, Fernie, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Golden, Grand Forks, Howe Sound, Kamloops, Kelowna, Kitimat, Nanaimo, North Shore, Penticton, Port Alberni, Port Coquitlam, Queen Charlotte Islands, Quesnel, Richmond, Ridge Meadows, Sunshine Coast, South Surrey/ White Rock, Surrey, Terrace, Ucluelet, Vancouver, Vernon, Victoria, West Kootenays, Williams Lake, and Vancouver.

These Women's Centres operate as non-profit organizations; about half of these have charitable tax status. Volunteer board members or collectives govern the activities, staff and direction of Centres. Membership ranges from around 20 up to hundreds of members, depending on the size of the community.

Co-coordinators, administrators, project coordinators, practicum students, volunteers and researchers carry out the work of Centres.

Women's Centres generally have two main focuses that all the work of the Centre relates to:

- Improving the status of women through political, social, economic and legal actions on a local, provincial, national and global scale

- Providing direct services to women in the community determined by local needs

## Funding

Currently, the only core funding Centres receive is from the Province of BC, Ministry of Community Aboriginal and Women's Services, in the amount of approximately \$48,000.00 per Centre per year. This provincial funding provides for some direct services, events and advocacy for women in the community. Some of the services\* offered are:

- ✓• drop-in and referral
- crisis counselling
- ✓• free telephone, fax, photocopier, computer use
- ✓• support groups
- ✓• resource library and information
- ✓• advocacy
- ✓• public education
  - clothing exchanges
  - hot lunches
  - job-re-entry programs *We have a micro-Enterprise course for women interested in setting up their own businesses.*
- ✓• self-help groups
- ✓• umbrella for other groups to meet and become established
- ✓• meeting space for women's groups
- ✓• women's events including Take Back the Night, IWD and Dec.6th
  - community coordination, especially on the issues of VAWIR
- ✓• community leadership on issues that affect women
  - housing registries
- ✓• newsletters
- ✓• volunteer opportunities
- ✓• volunteer training
- ✓• free legal clinics/workshops
- ✓• social opportunities
  - parenting support
  - community kitchens
  - safe homes
  - emergency shelters

(\*Not all Centres offer all or the same services.)

Through other provincial contracts a small number of Women's Centres also have:



- transition houses
- *Stopping the Violence* counselling services
- *Specialized Victim's Assistance and Counselling* program
- *Children Who Witness Abuse* program
- job placement programs
- ✓ • poverty law services

In the past two Six Month Descriptive Reports (July 1, 2001—December 31, 2001 and January 1—June 30, 2002), submitted to the BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, all Women's Centres indicated that they are busier than ever. There has been a marked increase in poverty-related calls and violence-related calls. The reports indicate that in 2001, all 37 Women's Centres combined received over 300,000 calls and drop-ins.

A large majority of Centres have had to decrease their staff and the hours they are open to the public, in recent months. This comes as a result of changes to the provincial administration of Gaming funds, and cuts to other non-core funding contracts held by many Centres. Direct Access Gaming funds make up anywhere from 5 to 59% of Women's Centres annual budgets.

Many Centres receive Status of Women Canada funding for initiatives each year. The initiatives periods are one to three years, with only a handful of Centres receiving multi-year funding. Only a few receive Status of Women funding for more than one initiative at a time.

### Activities of Women's Centres

The last eighteen months have been particularly challenging for women and women's organizations in BC. In many communities across the province, Women's Centres are the "catch-all," especially when related services are no longer in place.

Centres in rural and remote communities have the biggest struggles. Women's Centres in these rural communities have become "everything to everyone." The lack of access to technology in some of these Centres further compounds the problems.

Many Centres are now finding their work re-directed, in large part due to cuts in women's services in the province. Women's Centres are struggling to keep up not only with increased demand, but also with rapidly

changing needs. Changes to income assistance regulations, legal aid services, disability benefits and childcare, to name a few examples, are also adding a huge amount to workloads at Centres.

Women's Centres are often the only voice in British Columbia on women's issues. Women's Centres are taking the risks, speaking out and challenging systems that affect women's equality. Women's Centres are true equality seeking organizations. The ways in which that is done varies from community to community depending on a number of factors: the economic climate, the political climate, community support, directives from organizational memberships, et cetera. Attached is a sampling of some of the media work done by Centres throughout the province.

In 2001 the BC Coalition of Women's Centres (BCCWC) was created. The Coalition's mission statement is to "seek an end to the violence, poverty and other human rights abuses experienced by women in British Columbia, by supporting and promoting both independent and coordinated social change action among Women's Centres and other equity-seeking organizations."

All of the Centres in BC, with the exception of the Vancouver Women's Health Collective, Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (Vancouver), Philippine Women's Centre (Vancouver) and South Asian Women's Centre (Vancouver) are actively participating members of the BC Coalition of Women's Centres.

The BC Coalition of Women's Centres has been active and involved in many actions, events and projects in the last year.

Women's Centres are represented on a large number of community boards, committees, commissions, councils and groups, including municipal social planning councils, labour councils, violence against women in relationships committees, university and college community advisory bodies, anti-poverty groups, youth and family committees, employment services Steering Committees, crime prevention committees, anti-racism groups, safer community committees, drug and alcohol boards, transgender alliance groups, lesbian organizations and other community-based, provincial and national groups, as appropriate.