



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee  
From: Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning  
Re: RICHMOND WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE REQUEST FOR FUNDS

To Planning - Oct 28, 2003  
Date: October 7, 2003  
File: 1085-20-RWRC1  
file in 1085-01

Staff Recommendation

That the City award \$12,000 to the Richmond Women's Resource Centre.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 4

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY  
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the General Purposes meeting on July 7, 2003, the Richmond Women's Resource Centre (RWRC) requested that the City provide the RWRC with \$12,000 to prevent the December closure of the RWRC (**Attachment 1**), due to a shortfall caused by a change in the administration of B.C. Gaming Direct Access funds.

The following motion was introduced:

*"...that the request for funding from the Richmond Women's Resource Centre be referred to staff for report to Committee."*

As a result of the discussion, staff were directed to:

- *submit the report to Committee by mid-September*
- *include in the report, information on other organizations, if any, which would be affected by the change in BC Gaming Commission regulations relating to application submission dates, and to consider these organizations as well, in the preparation of the report; and*
- *provide an analysis on the duplication of services, if any, with respect to the programs offered by the Richmond Women's Resource Centre.*

The report is being presented in October 2003 because:

- the analysis of any duplication of services provided by the RWRC depends on the General Purposes Committee review of the City-authorized Social Services Inventory, being presented at October 20, 2003 General Purposes Committee meeting, and
- the RWRC will use its own program funds to cover its operating expenses until December, 2004 (**Attachment 2**).

### Findings Of Fact

#### 1. Provincial Gaming Funding Changes:

On April 1, 2003, the Provincial Government announced changes to its charitable gaming funds program. Four funding sectors were established:

- Arts, Culture and Sports
- Environment
- Human and Social Services (of relevance to this report)
- Public Safety

Initially, organizations were eligible to apply for Provincial gaming funds following their Annual General Meeting, when financial statements were made available.

As of April 1, 2003, applications under each sector are now reviewed by the Province at the same time of year to ensure that groups with similar programs and services are assessed equitably. The provincial application deadline for Human and Social Services is now December 31 of each year, and provincial grants are paid by March 31 of the following year.

**2. Effects of Provincial Funding Changes on RWRC:**

*(1) B.C. Gaming Funds Direct Access Program Administrative Changes*

Before and After Changes B.C. Charitable Gaming Funds Direct Access Program: Human and Social Services Sector			
Before April 1, 2003 Changes		After April 1, 2003	
Applied by:	Received Funds by:	Must Now Apply Between:	Will Receive Funds Between:
- RWRC could apply by June in any year	usually September	August - December	January - March

The extra four-to-six month delay in receiving provincial funding (i.e., September, 2003 to at least January, 2004) has created a funding shortfall for RWRC of at least four months, totalling approximately \$44,000 (\$11,000 per month).

*(2) Other Provincial Funding Changes*

As of April 1, 2004, funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal, Women’s and Community Centre for all women’s centres in the province will cease.

For RWRC, this amounts to \$47,000.00 in annual operational funding.

**3. Other Richmond Services Affected by B.C. Gaming Funds Direct Access Program Funding Delays:**

Please see the attached RCSAC Charitable Gaming Survey (**Attachment 3**), conducted in March 2003, regarding other Richmond organizations affected by B.C. Gaming Funds Direct Access Program funding delays. Additional organizations were identified in the recently completed Social Services Inventory.

Other Richmond organizations reporting to the RCSAC which experience funding delays because of the Direct Access program administrative changes described above are:

- Volunteer Richmond Information Services
- Richmond Family Place
- Heart of Richmond AIDS Society
- Disability Resource Centre
- Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society
- Canadian Mental Health Association, Richmond
- Richmond Alcohol and Drug Action Team (RADAT)

#### 4. Requests for City Support

Of the Richmond organizations experiencing Charitable Gaming funding delays, three organizations other than the RWRC have requested City funding (requests not part of the City Grants Program). One request, from the Heart of Richmond Aids Society, was specifically to bridge a provincial funding delay. The other two organizations, the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society and the Disability Resource Centre, have received funding from Council, although not specifically to address a provincial gaming funds delay.

*(1) Heart of Richmond Aids Society (HORAS)*

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Council agreed to provide \$10,000 to the Heart of Richmond Aids Society (HORAS), which experienced a five-month gap in funding due to the Charitable Gaming funding process, to allow for the continuation of a Project Coordinator/Counsellor.

*(2) Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society (RTES)*

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Council awarded \$22,000 to the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society (RTES), which had experienced an approximately six month delay in funding (this funding delay was not explicitly identified as the reason for the request in the RTES letter to Council, which addressed a general funding shortfall) (**Attachment 4**).

*(3) Disability Resource Centre (DRC)*

The DRC receives 28% of its funding from the City (\$70,000 per annum for 2002 and 2003) and has not requested additional funds from the City specifically to cover Direct Access funding delays.

#### 5. Duplication of Service

Results of the Social Services Inventory indicate that services provided by the Richmond Women's Resource Centre (see **Attachment 1** for program descriptions) are not duplicated by other organizations. While CHIMO also delivers programs specifically for women, these programs target women who have experienced abusive relationships.

#### Analysis

##### 1. Other Organizations Seeking City Funding

From the March 2003 RCSAC Charitable Gaming Questionnaire (**Attachment 3**), the RWRC receives 35% of its budget from provincial charitable gaming funds. The only other organization with an equally high percentage (35% – 40%) of their budget received from this source is HORAS.

Organization	RWRC	HORAS	RTES	DRC
% of Budget received from Direct Access gaming funds	35%	35 – 40%	20%	15%
Months of provincial funding gap (approximate)	6	5	6	6
Amount requested of City Council	\$12,000 (2003)	\$10,000 (granted in 2002)	\$22,000 (granted in 2003)	\$70,000 (granted per annum for 2002 & 2003)
Applied for 2003 City Grant	No	\$6,500	\$2,000	N/A
Received 2003 City Grant	NA	\$2,000	\$1,500	N/A

Richmond Family Place (RFP), receiving 20% of their budget from Direct Access Gaming Funds, is the only other organization reporting a sizeable portion of funding from this source. RFP will be using its capital fund to cover shortfalls.

### Premise

Given that:

- HORAS and the RTES were already provided with grants,
- the similarities in circumstances between HORAS and RWRC, and
- the substantially higher percentage of these organizations' budgets accruing from this source than that of other organizations,

the City might wish to consider providing the RWRC with the \$12,000 requested, as equitable treatment.

Both RTES and the DRC have received City funding but have not specifically articulated Gaming Funding lapses as reasons for their requests.

## **2. Future Provincial Funding for RWRC**

All provincial funding for the RWRC is expected to cease in March 2004. RWRC is currently seeking alternate sources of funding.

Note: Under these circumstances, if the City were to provide funding to the RWRC, it may only allow the RWRC to continue services for a few months, with closure being imminent unless other substantial revenue sources are found.

On the other hand, another Richmond service that faced closure due to the cessation of all provincial funding was the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Service (RCCRRS). In a policy reversal, the Province is now re-instituting up to 75% of its funding. While the women's resource centres are not anticipating such a funding reversal, the experience of the RCCRRS indicates that this possibility exists.

### 3. Future Provincial Funding Cuts

Further provincial funding cuts are expected in social and community services, and further funding delays may also occur.

### 4. Staff Action

Staff are currently preparing an "issues paper" for consideration by TAG regarding the need for a social planning policy framework and funding strategy to guide City decisions in the area.

### Financial Impact

If the City decides to fund the RWRC, the \$12,000 could be accessed from the Council Contingency Account (balance \$29,165 as of September 8, 2003).

### Conclusion

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre had requested \$12,000 for bridge funding due to provincial delays in charitable gaming funding.

There is no City policy upon which to base a recommendation for this request.

The recommendation that the City award \$12,000 to the Richmond Women's Resource Centre is based solely on precedent.



Lesley Sherlock  
Social Planner  
(4220)  
LS:cas



## 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**

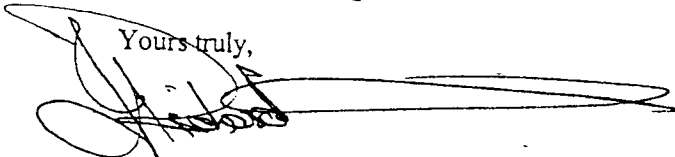
In response to your request dated June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, and to our conversation of June 26<sup>th</sup>, this is to confirm that arrangements have been made for you to appear as a delegation on the above matter, at the General Purposes Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 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.

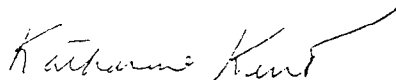
The Richmond Women's Resource Centre was proud to be part of the original team organizing for Caring Place over the more than fifteen years that it took to see our dream of a combined services setting come into existence. We want to continue to be a part of that team and to offer services and programs 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>

<p><b>Income Tax Preparation – free to low-income women</b></p> <p>Program expenses 25.            Office supplies 50.            Facilities 60.            Promotion 186.            Administrative support 869.  <b>Total 1,190./80 w = 14.87</b></p>	<p><b>Micro-enterprise Program – membership \$20 x 40 = 800</b></p> <p>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></p>
<p><b>Peer Support – free to all women</b></p> <p>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></p>	<p><b>Volunteer Program – membership \$20 x 25 &amp; \$5 x 25 = \$625.</b></p> <p>Program expenses 70.            Office supplies 330.            Facilities 2500.            Promotion 186.            Administrative support 10,537.  <b>Total 13,623. – 625/50 w = 259.96</b></p>
<p><b>Welfare Advocacy – free to all women</b></p> <p>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></p>	

**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 2,947.12 w = 294.70</b>	<b>Chinese Single Mothers</b> Program expenses 50. Office supplies 330. Facilities 450. Promotion 186. Administrative support 2,201. Childcare 1,000. <b>Total 4,217.100 w = 42.17</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 8,655.6 w = 1442.50</b> * cost will be reduced	<b>Iranian Women's Group</b> Program expenses 70. Office supplies 330. Facilities 950. Promotion 186. Administrative support 2,201. <b>Total 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 black ink, appearing to read "Iona".

Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC  
Lieutenant Governor

C.2

**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)



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# 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)

[bcwomen@telus.net](mailto:bcwomen@telus.net)

## 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.





## RICHMOND WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE

110 - 7000 Minoru Boulevard  
 Richmond, British Columbia V6Y 3Z5  
 Tel: 604 279-7060 Fax: 604 279-7069  
 www.richmondwomenscentre.bc.ca

July 23, 2003

Leslie Sherlock  
 Social Planner  
 City of Richmond

Dear Leslie Sherlock

This is a follow up to our telephone conversation yesterday. The Richmond Women's Resource Centre will have funds until December 2003 instead of the end of October as stated in our letter to the General Purposes Committee dated June 19, 2003 and presented to the Committee on July 7, 2003. The reason for this is that monies we receive from the Status of Women Canada (federal government) have always, previously, been pooled with other dollars in our general account. However, this year the lump sum we received was put into a separate account. The reason for this is that this money is project money and not operating dollars and in our precarious financial situation it would be tempting to spend those dollars on operating costs to keep the centre open. However, these dollars must last until March 2004 and the completion of the project for which the money is intended. Therefore, the original information given to the General Purposes Committee did not factor in the Status of Women Canada funds. What we have done since then was to anticipate drawing on a portion of that money in order to carry us through until December.

I hope this explanation is clear.

Sincerely

Karen Martin



**RCSAC** | RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

6 October, 2003

Ms. Lesley Sherlock  
Social Planner  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Lesley:

RCSAC Review of Gaming Commission Funding

As a result of comments made by a number of member organizations, RCSAC conducted a survey of the experiences with Gaming Commission funding in the year 2002/2003. The results were somewhat disappointing in that only six responses were received. However, a brief report on the findings is attached.

We intend to keep in contact with this situation in the current and future years.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JM' or similar initials, written over the word 'for'.

for  
Michael McCoy/Brian Wardley  
Co-Chairs, RCSAC

:BW

att.

# RCSAC

## Gaming Commission Funding Survey

### Summary of Results

RCSAC conducted a survey of its member organizations on the impact of cutbacks in Gaming Commission funding in the year 2002/2003. Only six member agencies receiving this funding responded. The highlights of the responses are as follows:

- 1) Four of the six agencies had experienced reductions in this funding, ranging between 20% and 45%. It is interesting to note, but possibly not significant because of the small numbers, that the two agencies which did not suffer a reduction were the most dependent on this form of funding.
- 2) Programs were definitely cut as a result of these reductions.
- 3) A further difficulty has been programmed into the application process for 2003/2004. Agencies have been classified into several categories and specific dates have been selected for the receipt of applications from each group. The "Social Services" category is the last group to apply and funding, if any, will be received in March 2004 at the earliest. As a result, there will be a long period between receiving consecutive funding payments.



## Charitable Gaming Questionnaire

Responses were received from: Richmond Women’s Resource Centre, Volunteer Richmond Information Services, Richmond Family Place, Heart of Richmond AIDS Society, Richmond Committee on Disability/Disability Resource Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association, Richmond.

**1. What percentage of Charitable Gaming funds is in your budget?**

Richmond Women’s Resource Centre (RWRC)	35%
Volunteer Richmond Information Services (VRIS)	2002: 8%, 2003: 5%
Richmond Family Place (RFP)	20%
Heart of Richmond AIDS Society (HORAS)	35-40%
Richmond Committee on Disability/Disability Resource Centre (RCD/DRC)	15.2%
Canadian Mental Health Association, Richmond (CMHA)	3.6%

**2. How does the current method of funding meet your operational needs?**

RWRC	Pays for a lot of staffing, rent, utilities
VRIS	The new “program” focus works for us as that is how we approached our applications in the past. The new “quarterly” intake-could have significant impact
RFP	Pays for two salaries in our drop-in program repair/maintenance expenses and for some promotional materials.
HORAS	Needs to be more funding, more certainty, available in less time
RCD/DRC	
CMHA	Most importantly it ensures our rent is covered and allows us to serve our consumers on statutory holidays.

3. What percentage of funds from Charitable Gaming has been lost in the recent cutbacks?

RWRC	Nothing lost yet
VRIS	43% in our 2002/2003 application
RFP	45%
HORAS	None
RCD/DRC	40%
CMHA	20%

4. What services are or will be lost as a result of these cutbacks?

RWRC	75% of staffing would be lost, so many programs will have to be cut back.
VRIS	Gaming funds support our Volunteer Centre programs and our information and referral services. Our agency will continue to provide current services, but no expanded or new programs, as a result of our 2002/2003 funding
RFP	None this year - e have cut back on some expenses. We still anticipate a deficit of about \$15,000 because of the gaming cut, but will be using money from our capital fund to cover the loss.
HORAS	n/a
RCD/DRC	We are looking at staff cutbacks that could lead to programs either being curtailed or eliminated
CMHA	We have already cut our Gardening Program, resource materials for our library, casual staffing and special projects for our Public Education Program. We will in the future have to cut our opening on statutory holidays.

5. What are the impacts of the cuts on your continued operations?

RWRC	Provincial cuts - we will be losing 100% of funding March 2004.
VRIS	If we are reduced again or cut completely in 2003/2004 this will significantly impact our ability to continue to provide services at the level we currently do, and with the staff complement that we have. This has a direct impact on other community agencies as well, as our services are provided for over 200 groups, associations or agencies-in particular volunteer referrals, training and capacity building programs.
RFP	Hopefully, none, we hope to raise money through other sources so our level of service remains the same.
HORAS	n/a

RCD/DRC	Peer support, job preparation training are just two areas that may be affected. We are scrambling to find additional funds to make up for the loss. As a result we are forced to use limited staff time for additional fund raising instead of serving our consumers.
CMHA	The continued cuts have forced us to relocate all of our programs to one location. The unfounded services we have been offering for years will be eliminated.

6. Have you experienced delays in receipt of funding from Charitable Gaming, and if so, how has this affected your operations?

RWRC	In the Fall, gaming was delayed a month. We were told it would be delayed four months. We had to consider closing our doors.
VRIS	Yes, up to 9 months. In anticipation of receiving funds our agency runs in a deficit position each month until funds are received.
RFP	W know there is always a 6-month wait; the challenge is we usually receive the funds 9 months into the fiscal year, making it difficult at that point to adjust our budget.
HORAS	Yes - caused a crisis
RCD/DRC	We have had to hold on while delays in funding was (??) delayed
CMHA	We applied in May 02 and received funds in January 03. We continued to offer the same services not realizing we would be faced with a cut in funding. Our decision would have been different had we known of the cuts.

**Additional comments.**

(From RCD/DRC)

The changes that I've seen proposed seem to be good at least on the surface. We like to think our centre has established its position in serving our broad base of consumers. Having to go through these constant changes, wondering if we will get funding or not, constant (*illegible*) our impact takes much needed energy away from the programs we provide.

Appendix A

September 14, 2001



Mrs. Lyn Greenhill, Acting Mayor  
and Members of Council,  
6911 No. 3 Rd.,  
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

Further to our meeting with Cathy Volkering Carlile General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and earlier conversations with a number of Council members, I am writing to request annual financial support for the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society's program. Support, similar to that which is provided by the City to many of the Sports and Recreational programs in the community.

This request is also a follow up on earlier presentations to Committee of Council and/or Council at which time both the Disability Resource Centre and the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society's programs were being discussed.

It has been the Richmond's policy to provide assistance to many sports and recreational groups in the community by way of provision of space in City facilities (indoor and/or outdoor) or through covering the rental of space and specific overhead costs (utilities, maintenance, as examples), including facilities at Riverport. It has been suggested to me that this same policy could be used to address the needs of our program.

At the present time our organization's program is moving to the recently constructed Indoor Riding Arena at Twin Oaks Riding Centre, at 13671 No. 3 Rd. A building which has an attached support area for our exclusive use. Over the next few months we will be expanding our program with the intent to include more people with disabilities in this recreational/therapeutic activity (with the focus still being on children with disabilities). This will involve increasing the hours of operation as well as the number of days the program is offered.

As you will see from the enclosed budget, the anticipated overhead costs which would qualify for the financial support I am requesting are similar to those of other groups which are being assisted in this manner. Leasing/use of facility costs will be about \$2,100 per month plus 1/2 of GST for a total of \$26,964. If some utility costs are included the total would be \$30,174 annually. These amounts are in keeping with funds provided or used by the City for other sports or recreational organizations.

4160 Railway Avenue ♦ Richmond, B.C ♦ V7C 3K2 ♦ Office: (604) 277-3158 ♦ Fax: (604) 277-4285  
Program Director: (604) 817-9631

- 2 -

The Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society is keenly aware that the City of Richmond is very proud of this program. A program which was originally initiated by the Special Needs Department within Recreation & Cultural Services, and is promoted as one of the recreational activities of the City for people with disabilities. It is one of the very few special recreational activities for children with disabilities and one of the only year-round program(s) under the City's umbrella that exists for special needs children in the community..

If you have not already visited our new facility at Twin Oaks Riding Centre, I invite you to do so at your convenience. Please give me a call @ 604-277-3158 or call Max Read our program director @ 604-817-9631,

Thanking you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

*Frances Clark*

Frances Clark  
Chair

c.c. Cathy Volkering Carlile, General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
George Duncan, Chief Administrative Officer