

Archive.
MWB
Reports &
Evaluations

WEO 012(GRT) 05/04 (Revised)	WOMEN'S CENTRES Operational Funding Program	Ministry of Women's Equality
---------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

SIX MONTH DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Please find enclosed a 6-month reporting form for Operational Funding. A report must be completed by each Women's Centre in British Columbia that receives financial assistance through the Women's Centre Operational Funding Program of the Ministry of Women's Equality.

The information entailed in these reports will provide centres and the ministry with information to support and develop programs for women in the province.

A summary of the 6-month reports will be prepared and shared with funded centres. Included in the summary will be a review of client statistics and current issues faced by Women's Centres across the Province.

For period: Jan. to June 1999
Women's Centre: Nelson & District
Contact Name: Sally Smith, Co-ordinator

1. Client Statistics

Number of women per month receiving direct assistance from the Centre (e.g.: counselling, workshop participant, support groups, etc.) 400 +

Number of women per month using the Centre on a drop-in basis (e.g.: need information, etc.) 685 +

2. Volunteer Statistics

Number of Volunteers 50

Average number of hours/month/volunteer 2 to 30

Drop-in volunteers generally do two hours per week. Other volunteers may spend anywhere from 2 to 12 hours a month doing a myriad of tasks including delivering newsletters downtown, typing, posting, photocopying, helping organize events, library work, phoning, maintaining statistics, yard work, writing, updating membership database, maintaining pamphlet racks and bulletin boards, carpentry, public speaking. Our librarian puts in about 16 to 20 volunteer hours a month.

Members of the coordinating collective can put in anywhere from 16 to 30 hours a month, depending on what activities they're working on, and what committees they sit on. Committees include the Women's Centre committee, personnel, policy, finance, fund raising, projects, events, library.

This spring we held our 45-hour volunteer training. An extra 5 hour workshop on unlearning heterosexism was added this time due to interest from the group. Seven volunteers were trained at this time.

Hosting weekly events: company of older women discussion group, Lesbian drop-in, journaling group, political discussion groups.

Representatives on community groups: West Kootenay Women's Council, VAWIR Committee, NAC, Kootenay Women in Trades & Technology, Nelson Anti-Poverty Group, Celebrating Women in Midlife, West Kootenay Gays, Lesbians and Bi-Sexuals, ANKORS, Nelson Housing Committee, Transition House Management Committee.

3. Staff Information

Please indicate only those staffing changes that have been made since submission of your application for the current funding period. Leave blank if this information remains the same.

Permanent Staff Positions

<i>Title</i>	Coordinator:	25 hrs/week
	Office Manager:	8 hrs./week
	Bookkeeper:	3 hrs./week

note: staffing has changed because of federal funding changes

<i>Project Staff</i>	Employment Equity Coordinator:	20 hrs/week
<i>Position/duration</i>	2 year contract, started Apr. 6	
	DL/DW:	25 hrs./week
	Jan 1. to Mar. 31	

4. Operational Grant Services

Under each of the following service categories, indicate, in point form, progress your centre has made during this reporting period in meeting the objectives outlined in your operational funding agreement with the Ministry of Women's Equality. Please provide sufficient detail to clearly indicate progress made and specific results achieved. Use separate page if necessary.

4.1 Community Coordination and Leadership

This category refers to linking with government and community services to facilitate an effective community response to women's needs and leading or participating in shared leadership on initiatives to improve services for women in the community.

Staff volunteers, or members of WKWA serve on the following local committees and groups:

- National Action Committee
- Girls Entering Trades & Technology
- Inter-agency Education & Training Committee
- Nelson Community Housing Committee
- Transition House Management Committee
- Coordinating Committee to Stop Violence Against Women in Relationships
- West Kootenay Women's Council
- West Kootenay/Boundary AIDS Network Outreach Support Society
- West Kootenay Gays Lesbians & Bisexuals
- Nelson Anti-Poverty Action Group
- Midwifery Task Force
- Kootenay Women in Trades & Technology
- BC & Yukon Association of Women's Centres – regional rep
- Celebrating Women in Midlife Steering Committee

4.2 Information and Outreach Services

This category involves identifying and sharing information on services and resources for women (particularly those women who are victims of violence), promoting them locally, and operating additional information programs, as needed.

- Drop-in, 18 hrs./week
- Political discussion group
- Lesbian drop in
- Parents group for alternative education re elementary school kids
- La Leche League
- Catch Your Breath, stop smoking support group
- Creative Conflict group – journaling for lesbians
- Newsletters 10 times/year
- Children's clothing exchange
- Public relations work on women's issues and in response to current events
- Company of Older Women
- Menopause information sessions
- Wenlido self defense
- Assertiveness Training
- Pamphlets, bulletin boards, resource files, networking with other agencies, referrals
- Recognizing Our Strengths support group for women in abusive relationships – strike within the co-facilitator's workplace caused lengthy interruption in support group: lost some women and others felt further abused by having the group interrupted .

4.3 Awareness and Prevention Programs

This category involves developing and implementing:

- *strategies to raise the level of community commitment to eliminating violence against women.*
- *awareness/public education programs in other areas related to the social, economic and legal equity of women.*

Recognizing Our Strengths

Prevention of Violence Against Women week – strike prevented an extensive number of workshops planned in cooperation with Community Services and the Transition House

Menopause information and support groups, as needed and ongoing

Anger management workshop

Assertiveness training

Wenlido

LesBiDyke drop in monthly

Lesbian discussion group

newsletters to membership and various downtown locations – 10/year

Company of Older Women meets monthly

Creative Conflict meets monthly

International Women's Day – highly successful event held on a Saturday featuring a local variety show by women, a day of workshops including art therapy, massage; attracted women of diverse politics, ages and lifestyles

5. General Information

- 5.1** *Please provide, in order of priority, the 3 kinds of services most frequently requested by women who use the centre (e.g.: counselling, career planning, support groups, educational workshops, shelter for victims, drug and alcohol abuse programs, etc.)*

Abuse issues – included elder, partner, child, legal questions, safety issues

Health – menopause, pregnancy, abortion, alternative health care, women doctors

Employment – welfare, training, job search, frustrations due to lack of work

- 5.2** *Indicate in order of priority, the 3 topics of information that are most relevant to the interests of women who visit the centre (e.g. health, childcare, legal rights, literacy, skills training, abuse relationships, sexual abuse or harassment, divorce, self-help, etc.).*

legal steps to take re safety and abuse problems

poverty issues: job search, welfare, tofu, housing, child-care, isolation

women new to the area: housing, job search, resources available, bus service, transportation

Drop-in 18 hours per week, information and referrals
Telephone info. and referral 18 and more hours per week
Regular newsletters for membership, and women using the drop-in
as well as other women's groups.
Children's Clothing Exchange
Wonderful Wednesday events on women's issues intermittently
News releases, letters on women's issues and in response of current
events, radio interviews, information pamphlets
Menopause information sessions; names collected until enough women,
information sessions supporting women to start their own groups.eg.
Creative Conflict: a journalling group
A variety of women's support groups depending on need and interest
COOWS (Company of Older Women) monthly meetings and group activities
Promotion and sponsoring of Wen Li Do Self defense courses,
Assertiveness Training and Anger Management for Women
Rep. On Selkirk College Safer Campus Committee
Publically available pamphlets from many agencies and groups
Resource Files, extensive, public and updated regularly
Assisted women to prepare their resumes
Regularly assist cultural and social change organizations with producing
print materials

Co-ordinator A - 15 hours (from 25)
Co-ordinator B - 30 hours (from 21)
DL/DW Sept. 1/98 - April 1/99 25 hours
*Co-ord. A is doing project

July 1st to December 31st
Nelson & District
Jill Stewart, Co-ordinator

Take Back the Night march, discussion and sleep-over in the park
Facilitation: *Kaleidoscope*; a women's support group
Facilitated a support group for women in abusive relationships in
partnership with Nelson Community Services called *Recognizing Our
Strengths* a ten week program.
Menopause Information and Support Groups, as needed and ongoing
An Anger Management Workshop and an Assertiveness Training Workshop
LesBiDyke Drop-in monthly: educational videos and discussion
Lesbian Discussion Group - last Sunday of each month
Women's Festival, 24th annual
Regular newsletters, usually 10 per year.
Company of Older Women Discussion Group meets monthly
Options Unlimited: assisting Kootenay Women in Trades & Technology
with promotion and role model identification
Wonderful Wednesdays: 1 or 2 times monthly - educational events
Creative Conflict: a journalling group meets weekly
Christmas program with Kootenay Co-op: Food for women in poverty, we put
together, wrapped and delivered the boxes.
Dec. 6th public candlelight vigil and discussion

Co-ordinating collective and committees, (house, fundraising, financial, Women's Centre committee, programming meetings, policy and procedures, personnel, library. Events and entertainment, Annual Women's Festival). Hosting weekly events: Seniors Discussion Group, Lesbian Drop-in, Journaling Group, Political Discussion groups, and special events. Centre reps on community groups; (Nelson Anti-Poverty Action Group, Inter-Agency Ed. and Training Committee, Columbia Basin Trust, Kootenay Women in Trades and Technology, Midwifery Task Force, West Kootenay Gays, Lesbians, and Bi-Sexuals, ANKORS, Housing Committee. Volunteers also do newsletter input, writing, production and distribution, catalog videos, updating resource files, membership lists, photocopying and postering, recycling, recruiting new members, maintaining pamphlet racks, Internet training, computer training, phoning out and referrals, singing, public speaking, writing articles for newspapers, Office work, library shelving and cataloguing, book reviews, drop-in assistance, carpentry, childcare, house and yard work, events planning and organization, speaking at schools, distributing posters, donating food and much energy and ideas, and booking Centre space to outside groups.

Over 170 women

More than 265 women per month

Member of the following local committees and groups:

Regional Rep for NAC
Girls Entering Trades and Technology Project
Inter-agency Education and Training Committee
Nelson Community Housing Committee
Transition House Management Committee
Coordinating Committee to Stop Violence Against Women in Relationships
West Kootenay Women's Council
West Kootenay/Boundary AIDS Network Outreach Support Society
West Kootenay Gays, Lesbians and Bi-Sexuals
Nelson Anti-Poverty Action Group
consulting regularly with the Midwifery Task Force and Kootenay Women in Trades (WITT)
Regional Rep. For BC & Yukon Assoc. Of Women's Centres
Steering Committee for Midlife Health Project

1. Violence, particularly harassment and abusive relationships, and services and process information to deal with it.
 2. Poverty issues, we dispense large amounts of bread and tofu donated by local businesses. Employment questions, training, health, respite from child-care and housing.
 3. Information about agencies and their functions, transportation and distance problems for rural women, especially young women new to the area,
-