

**WEQ 012(GRT)
95/04 (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: January 2001 – June 2001
Women's Centre: Nelson & District
Contact Name: Maggie Shirley,
Administrative Co-ordinator

1. Client Statistics

Number of women per month receiving direct assistance from the Centre (e.g.: counselling, workshop participant, support groups, etc.)	8
Number of women per month using the Centre on a drop-in basis (e.g.: need information, etc.)	215

2. Volunteer Statistics

Number of Volunteers	21
Average number of hours/month/volunteer	4

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 Title

Project Staff Position/duration	Maggie Shirley Administrative Coordinator July 4, 2000 to June 30, 2001
	Thea Trussler Volunteer Coordinator, July 1, 2000 – February 9, 2001 April 1, 2001 – March 31, 2002
	Ruth Beck Employment Equity Coor. April 1, 1999 – March 31, 2001
	Penny Ruvinsky May 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002

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

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.

- Attended 3 VAWIR committee meetings and 4 West Kootenay Women's Council meetings
- Partnered with the local health authority on a women's health project
- Participated in other community committees including the Nelson Food Coalition, the Transition House Community Advisory Committee (formerly Management Committee), the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Youth Group committee, Short-term Accommodation Committee
- Provided a feminist analysis of issues affecting women by providing feminist comment in the media, adding more feminist resources to our collection, providing a feminist perspective on committees
- Attended community development and public input meetings including meetings on women's safety issues, and a community committee to develop a proposal to increase collaboration within the community
- Communicated several times with Boundary Women's Centre, participated in the Provincial Reference Group and networked with Women's Centres throughout the province, joined the province-wide 52% coalition to raise awareness of women's issues in the provincial election
- Publicly commented on local issues of violence against women in the media (radio and newspaper), provided local and national commentary on politics, regularly shared information on events and issues electronically with contacts in the community and region

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.

- The Centre was open for drop-in 16 hours per week, except between December 22 and January 2
- Monthly evening events were organized including an evening to meet women leaders in post-secondary education, a discussion on Internalized Oppression and Dominance, Micro Lending and Peer Lending Circles
- Three editions of the newsletter were published and distributed to members and in the community
- 923 women accessed services including computer and internet, resources and information, safer sex packages, free store and food supplies

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.*
- Collaboratively organized an International Women's Day Celebration
- Submitted a brief on Custody and Access Issues to a consultant for the federal government
- Participated in Women Plan Nelson to promote women's safety issues in the public planning process
- Helped organize Prevention of Violence Against Women Week
- Participated in organizing a community meeting on food issues
- Met with researchers on issues such as Victim Empowerment, First Nations Health issues, and Sexual Assault response in hospitals

4.4 Organizational Support and Development

- Continued a Strategic Planning Process to develop a three year plan
- Researched and implemented increased security measures

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.)*

- Economic assistance (affordable housing and food access)
- Counselling
- Employment

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.).*

- Economic assistance (employment, housing, food)
- Health and parenting issues (Childcare, referrals to health care, emotional support)
- Violence against women (physical, sexual, adult survivor of childhood abuse)