



CAMPBELL RIVER AND NORTH ISLAND TRANSITION SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending: August 31, 2019

#101 – 1116 Dogwood Street, Campbell River, BC V9W 3A2

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Campbell River and North Island Transition Society

**Annual General Meeting
January 27, 2020
4:30pm
Agenda**

CALL TO ORDER: Darlene Hawes, Board Chair

of voting members present:

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Motion to accept the agenda as presented

M:S:

2. MINUTES

1. Motion to adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of CRNITS held Feb 21, 2019

M:S:

3. REPORTS

3.1 Report from the Chair of the Board, Darlene Hawes

3.2 Annual Financial Audit presented by Susan McEwen, Financial Director and June Spelay, Board Treasurer

Motion to adopt the audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2019 as presented.

M:S:

Motion to appoint Moeller Matthews Accountants as the Auditor for the year ending August 31, 2020.

M:S:

3.3 Program Reports

- Transition House
- Rose Harbour
- Community outreach
- TRANSITIONS thrift store
- Campbell River Women's Resource Center

3.4 Executive director's report, Valery Puetz

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Election of Directors

Sitting Directors

Name	Elected	Remaining term
Darlene Hawes (2)	2019	1 year
Pat Grono (4)	2019	1 year
Darlene Garat (6)	2019	1 year
Michelle Chitty (8)	2019	1 year
Sara Lopez	2019	0
Sheryl Thompson	2019	0
Cheryl Stinson (1)	2018	0
Meghan Harrison (3)	2018	0
June Spelay (5)	2018	0

Nominations:

Sara Lopez:

Sara has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Vancouver Island North Women's Resource Society since 2016, when she relocated to Campbell River with her family. Originally from Montreal, Sara has forged a career in customer service, program development, recruitment, sales, and effective communication. Her leadership skills have led her to hold management positions for large organizations such as the YMCA and Concordia University, and she currently works as the Marketing & Communications Manager for a local company.

During her time at the YMCA, she saw how effective community programming was in lifting women out of vulnerability and isolation, and families out of poverty. Providing individuals with opportunities for education, skills development, and empowerment became the driving force behind her many efforts and working with the Campbell River Women's Centre was a natural fit for her feminism-driven values and priorities. Her current role in managing her employer's Corporate Social Responsibility program has encouraged her to seek further involvement in local community organizations.

Sara is married to a professional artist from a large Kwakwaka'wakw family. She advocates for women's rights, indigenous rights and environmental protection.

Sheryl Thompson:

- Served on the VI Women's Resources Society board of Directors
- Worked with the CRNITS on the transfer of programming from the Women's Centre to CRNITS
- Very involved in her community
- Member of the Campbell River Band
- Works for VIHA as liaison at Campbell River Hospital
- Works to help folks living in poverty and homelessness in her spare time

Cheryl Stinson :

Cheryl relocated from Vancouver to Campbell River in February 2015 with her husband John. She joined Berwick Comox Valley as the Community Relations Manager in March 2016. Supporting family to Age in Place was the catalyst for the move from Vancouver. She feels fortunate every day to call the North Island home. Most of her career has been in client relations in some form or another. She has over 17 years of business leadership experience, including experience in the areas of senior living, small business management, market research, communication, client relations, and event coordination. Being engaged in the community is important to her. There is something rewarding about making a difference big or small. Cheryl has been involved with many non-profit organizations over the years in both board and volunteer roles. Her first board role was with the Leo Club at the age of 12.

Meghan Harrison:

This is currently my third year on the board of directors with the CRNITS. When I moved to Campbell River from Alberta, I knew I wanted to be involved with something related to this. I started out as a Mentor in the volunteer program and an invitation was extended to me to come to the AGM. Helping women and children is a passion of mine for many years and seeing relationships grow is a wonderful reward.

June Spelay:

I grew up in Alberta and moved to Campbell River after I graduated from High School and I am still here many years later. I am married and between my husband and I, we have three adult children and six grandchildren.

I went through many difficult years working my way through sexual abuse, abortion, divorce, single parenting, and remarriage. I found help in a personal relationship with Jesus, support groups, and the help of friends. My passion over the past 30 years is to give back to women the same opportunity for personal freedom that God has graciously given me. I have received training and have experience in facilitating sexual abuse workshops as well as 12 step groups, mentoring women, public speaking, and in coordinating and leading many other small groups as well as weekend retreats for women. I am currently employed at the Campbell River Baptist Church as Director of Administration and Ministry to Women. I believe forgiveness and freedom from the past is available for every woman to enable them to build a better future for themselves and their families.

My hobbies include time with friends, gardening, grandchildren, photography, and camping.

Monique Allen:

I have extensive experience working in the non-profit sector, both professionally (12 years with NIEFS) and in a volunteer capacity. For 8 years I served as the board chairperson with a non-profit society in Edmonton (Beverly Day Care Society and Family Resource Centre.) In addition, I worked the front line as a Crisis Intervention Worker for four years with the Edmonton Women's Shelter (WIN House) where I acquired both hands-on experience and extensive professional development working with families, women and individuals who were survivors of abuse, trauma and violence.

It has been a longtime desire of mine to work with your organization to make a difference in our community.

Ali Spillette:

I am new to Campbell River and looking for a way to make a meaningful contribution to the community.

I am currently working as the Training Specialist for Broadstreet Properties, where I am involved in all aspects of employee training and development. I have a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Victoria as well as a Bachelors in Recreation Management from Langara College.

Prior to this career I worked in the field of recreation and wellness for 10 year. During my time in this field I had the opportunity to work with a variety of populations including those suffering from chronic physical illness, mental illness, and developmental disabilities. During this time, I worked as a Recreations and Rehabilitation Coordinator in a transitional housing unit run by Island Health. This unit provided services for adults with complex mental health issue which provided significant barriers to being placed in long term housing. This experience along with my education in community recreation began my interest in community housing and support initiatives.

In addition to the experience previously stated, I have experience in sales, marketing and management. This experience will allow me to provide insight regarding public fundraising and human resources aspects of the Campbell River and North Island Transitions Society's operations.

4. ADJOURNMENT

**Campbell River and North Island Transition Society
Annual General Meeting
January 21, 2019
5:30 p.m.**

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 5:33 p.m.

of voting members present: 12 voting members, 28 guests

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M: M. Harrison S: J. Spelay

Carried

2. MINUTES

2.1 Consideration and adoption of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of CRNITS held February 1, 2018"

M: M. Harrison S: J. Spelay

Carried

3. REPORTS

3.1 Chair of the board: Darlene Hawes

3.2 Financial Report: Presented by Susan McEwen, Financial Manager, and Cheryl Stinson, Treasurer

Motion: to adopt the Audited financial statements for the year ended August 31st, 2018 as presented.

M: M. Rodbom S: M. Harrison

Carried

Motion: to appoint Moeller and Company as the Auditor for the year ending August 31 2019

M: C. Stinson S: M. Chitty

Carried

3. Program Reports

Shelly Kernovich, Transition House Manager

Susan Trayler, Housing Manager

Diane Palmer, Thrift Store Manager

3.4 Valery Puetz, Executive Director's Report

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Election of Directors for positions #2, 4, 6, 8 for two years and positions 7 and 9 for one year.

Nominations:

Darlene Hawes (2)

Pat Grono (4)

Darlene Garat (6)

Michelle Chitty (8)

Sara Lopez (7)

All elected by acclamation.

5. ADJOURNMENT 6:28 p.m.

Report from Board Chairperson

On behalf of CRNITS Board of Directors I would like to welcome you to our AGM. 2019 was a year of many changes for us.

The Campbell River Women's Centre became part of our society. Sara Lopez and Sheryl Thompson, Women's Centre board members joined the CRNITS board and working together we were able to keep the doors open. We are offering the same services with the same wonderful staff.

We had changes in our administrative staff when Susan Traylor retired, after many years of service. We are pleased to have Shelly Kernovich become our new Housing Manager and Lori Hirst become our new Transition House Manager.

We also added a new position: Public Relations and Financial Development Coordinator that Diane Palmer has taken on. She has brought us many new fundraising ideas; you can see them on our Facebook page.

Our next fundraising venture will be Coldest Night of the Year, scheduled for Saturday, February 22. Transitions Furniture and More has continued to grow. We opened the store on Sundays, on a trial basis, to give staff a chance to work on moving things, displays, cleaning and receiving donations with less customers to serve. It has gone very well, and many people are delighted to be able to shop on a Sunday afternoon. We have outgrown our space and one of the biggest challenges is getting sale items out on the floor and still leaving room for people to move around. We have many hardworking devoted volunteers at the store and along with the wonderful staff they keep it welcoming and interesting to our many customers.

We received exciting news at the end of November that the Provincial Government announced increased funding for our Fir Street housing project. This funding will enable us to offer, **we hope 50 units, with half as transitional family housing and half as permanent housing with a priority to senior women.** We are awaiting a development permit from the city and hope to start construction in early summer.

It has been a pleasure to work with this Board of Directors and I am looking forward to another year and the projects we have coming up.

Darlene Hawes

**Treasurer's Report
Year Ending August 31, 2017**

The 2019 audit was completed by Moeller Mathews. The second page of the Auditor's Report states that the Organization once again had a clean audit.

This audit covers the fiscal period from Sept 1, 2018 to Aug 31, 2019. The total revenue for this period was 1,915,538 and expenses total 1,930,525. This is an increase of revenue from the prior year of close to 10% and a 11% increase in expense. The net result is a deficit of 14,987

We had activity in 16 different departments.

The assets total 6,516,862. The liabilities total 5,903,988. The equity equals 612,874.

June Spelay

Executive Director's Report

To the Society membership at the AGM, January 27, 2020

2019 in review:

As I reflect on the last year, the most resounding thought is CHANGE. That comes primarily from changes in employee positions.

- Susan Trayler retired November 1, 2019 after being the Housing Manager since 2013. Susan developed the programming for Rose Harbour and supervised staff and programming. Susan was a strong guiding force for the program.
- Shelly Kernovich took on the Housing Manager position after over 10 years as Transition House Manager at Ann Elmore House.
- Lori Hirst took on the role of Transition House Manager. Lori has been with CRNITS in support roles and program coordinator roles since 2007.

We are very lucky to have such wonderful candidates within the agency when change hits! I look forward to the coming year(s) with my new management team.

There have also been significant changes in our frontline staff. Again, I feel very lucky to have such a wonderful staff team.

Another BIG change this year was the addition of the Campbell River Women's Centre program to our Society. In the spring of 2019, the society that had been operating the Women's Centre dissolved and CRNITS took over the programming (and staff and volunteers). This has been a fabulous addition for the Society. The Women's Centre provides amazing service on a drop-in basis to any women in need. It is an integral part of the social safety net in Campbell River and I am so pleased we were able to keep it operating.

We have been approved, by BC Housing, for funding for a 50 unit supported housing facility for women and children. The building will be approximately 50% "Second Stage Housing" (temporary, supported housing for families who are fleeing abuse) and 50% permanent low- cost housing for women and families. The building will be located on Fir Street just behind Rose Harbour. BC Housing and the City of Campbell River are supporting this project. We are planning to start building in the summer of 2020.

Transitions thrift store continues to be an essential part of the organization. The store does so much more than raise funds to support our programs. The store also plays a valuable role providing employment, a volunteer opportunity, a route to reduce waste by diverting many products from landfill, a cost-effective option and a point of contact for anyone in need of our services.

This past year we created a new position; Public Relations and Economic Development Coordinator. Diane Palmer has been in this position since June and has been getting out to many community groups and businesses and has developed a number of plans for fundraising. Currently the emphasis is on Coldest Night of the Year. This is our third year hosting this wonderful event. If you haven't signed up to walk or volunteer, there is still time 😊. We are also in the process of developing a charity golf tournament for the spring. We are planning to partner with the Comox Valley Transition Society for this event. I'm sure it will be a fun event.

As another year has ended I am compelled to state my gratitude for all folks who are involved with CRNITS, whether as staff, volunteers, board, clients or our community partners, IT TAKES A COMMUNITY and I am so grateful for the CRNITS community and circle of friends.

Looking forward to another exciting and active year.

Valery Puetz

ACTIVITY REPORT

To the CRNITS Membership

At the Annual General Meeting, January 27, 2020

PROGRAMS:

Women's Safety – Ann Elmore House

Women's Recovery – Ann Elmore House

Rose Harbour

Palmer Place

Outreach, Counselling and Support

Safe Homes

Transitions Used Furniture and More

Campbell River Women's Resource Centre

WOMEN'S SAFETY – ANN ELMORE HOUSE

The Women's Safety Program, located at Ann Elmore House, provides safe shelter for women and their children who are fleeing abuse or at risk of abuse/violence.

This year, I became the Ann Elmore House manager after many years with CRNITS as a counsellor and Safe Home worker. I have learned so much already! It's been a year of big changes, as longtime house manager Shelly Kernovich moved to a new position as Housing Manager at Rose Harbour.

The frontline staff at Ann Elmore House respond to crisis and support calls by phone 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. These calls vary from emotional support to urgent crisis intervention.

The Women's Safety Program is busy throughout the year. We have been at or above capacity numerous times during 2019 and things are just as busy so far this year. One of our biggest challenges has been a chronic shortage of casual workers. With all the staffing changes, our casual workers have been called upon more and more often. Thankfully, we have recently hired three new casual workers who will be a great addition to our staff!

Lori Hirst, Ann Elmore House Manager

RECOVERY PROGRAM – ANN ELMORE HOUSE

The recovery program provides residential programming for non-medical substance withdrawal (detox), supportive Recovery (residential program), and mental health stabilization.

2019 was an exciting year for the supportive recovery program as we expanded our existing 28-day program to allow the option of a 28, 45 or 60 day stay. The extended programs focus on personal recovery planning and community integration.

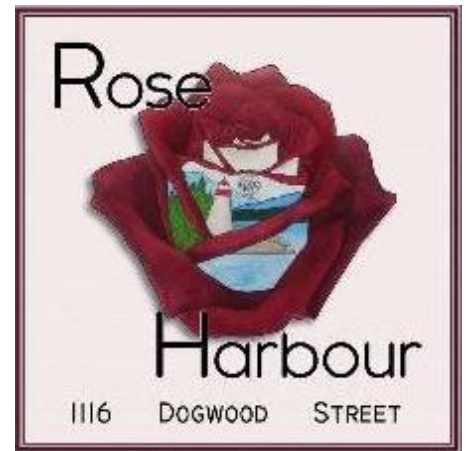
Last year the Recovery program served 94 women and a total of 1076 bed stays.

- **Kate Broadhead, Recovery Worker**

ROSE HARBOUR

Rose Harbour is a program that includes time limited subsidized housing and specialized services for women, with or without children, who are impacted by homelessness, abuse, violence, and /or substance misuse. One of the things I love about the Society is the continuum of service we offer. From Recovery beds to Safety beds to Rose Harbour, we can offer over two years of wraparound service. When the new building opens, that number will increase substantially! This year I made the change from managing the Transition House to managing Rose Harbour and am excited to be a part of building a strong continuum of service.

- **Shelly Kernovich, Housing Manager**



OUTREACH

I took over the Outreach Support Worker position in October of 2019. Prior to taking on the role, I knew that the outreach services we provided to women in our community were vital, but I truly have had my eyes opened. The support groups that are run out of Rose Harbour are at times the only place the some of the women feel uplifted, safe, and accepted. In 2018/2019, we had a combined total of 1201 participants attend Tuesday night's Make a Change Support group and our Wednesday afternoon Women's Empowerment Group. The total number of participants speaks to the demand of groups in our organization. In fact, it may also prove a need for more!

One on one support work is another service the Outreach Support Worker provides. I work with women from the community (women not in residence at AEH or RH) and provide supportive counselling and advocacy services. 2018/2019 saw 369 supportive counselling appointments booked! Again, a testament to the need in Campbell River and the North Island for the services CRNITS provides.

- **Jen Ball, SSW, Outreach Support Worker**

SAFE HOME

This year has been productive for the Safe Home program. In collaboration with the STV coordinator, we have created a relationship group in Gold River, the program has presented to many of the middle and high school students on healthy relationships, and we have secured a new safe home on Cortes Island. This is a busy program that covers ensuring safe homes are available in Gold River and Cortes as well as supportive

counselling on Cortes island; another important aspect included in this program are school presentations and community events.

Kate Broadhead, Safe Home Coordinator

STV COUNSELLING PROGRAM

The purpose of the STV Counselling program is to provide women with historical violence and abuse the support it takes to promote healing. Roughly a year-and-a-half ago, I became the STV Counsellor at CRNITS, and in that time I have witnessed big and small miracles in the lives of women who have found the courage and perseverance that change-work requires. For some, the journey involves discovering and accepting their lost self. This work is a unique process, as each woman has her own history, perspective and needs. It is also not for everyone, and sometimes it is just not the right time for the individual. It is such a miracle to see a woman begin to see herself as worthy (regardless of her difficulties), to see her gaining confidence, self-respect and self-compassion. Seeing women move beyond the barriers imposed by oppression and fear to create different ways of thinking, feeling and living, motivates me to be as present as I can be for each of the women I meet here at Rose Harbour.

Also, CRNITS, through the STV and the Safe Home programs, is currently working on increasing our presence in Gold River by offering a monthly women's support group.

- **Eileen Stearns, BSW, RSW**

TRANSITIONS USED FURNITURE AND MORE STORE

The store has continued to be a great source of pride for our volunteers and staff. We truly have the most amazing people involved who make a valued commitment to how the store looks and runs which is evident in the comments and feedback we receive from our customers. It's always a whirlwind of excitement and change for us as we grow and evolve. We have implemented monthly auctions, \$1.00 clothing day on Saturdays, 2 for 1 linens on Sundays, Seniors Day and a 25% off day. We have welcomed two new staff members: Kim and Dee.

This has all contributed to a successful year where we met our monetary goal of \$175000. We look forward to what this next year brings us!

- **Diane Palmer, Store Manager**



CAMPBELL RIVER WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Well it's that time of year again – we reached the part where I climb to the top of the mountain called 2019 and look back over the terrain of last year's journey. It was, in many ways a tumultuous year for the staff at the Women's Centre, since behind the curtains it brought a major reorganization of the structure of our service. While the changes have ensured the long-term survivability of our beloved Centre, they did bring (as change always seems to do) some stress to our team. However, I think

we've all weathered the changes well, and speaking for myself, it's brought me a renewed sense of direction and purpose.

The Centre remains a busy place. Last year we recorded 5,500 visits. We've greeted many familiar faces over the course of the year – women who drop in on a regular basis just to say hi, grab a cup of coffee and check out our little free store. These women do us the great honor of allowing us a window into their lives. They share their triumphs and their challenges, and they fill the Centre with chatter and energy. Staff also provided one-on-one support and crisis intervention to close to 400 women last year; 33% of whom were struggling with homelessness, and many of them reported that they were staying in unsafe and/or abusive situations simply because they were unable to find safe affordable housing.

If there is one thing I think might surprise people about the nature of the women who visit the Centre it might be the average age of our clients, because most people assume that we are working primarily with young women, probably single mothers. But the reality is quite different, since almost two-thirds of our clients are over 50. These women face a variety of challenges, not the least of which is the fact that our community has a lack of resources for women without children and/or senior women. We have seen many such low-income women pushed out of their own housing and on to friends' couches or into rental accommodations with unsuitable roommates. Over the last twelve months we've worked with over two dozen women who were either living outside or in their cars. The situation for these women is dire, since once they've lost their spot on the housing ladder it becomes almost impossible for them to regain their place.

When it's all said and done, none of the work we've done over the last year would have been possible without the assistance of our amazing volunteers. Last year our volunteers provided us with an astounding 1, 250 hours of support. Their individual skill sets, their wildly divergent personalities and life experiences enrich the culture of the centre immeasurably - and the staff here is looking forward to moving together with them into 2020.

Marnie McLachlan
Women's Centre Support Worker

Ann Elmore Clients Share Their Thoughts.....

- I am very grateful for this place and the people who work here. Making my children feel welcome and safe.
- I can't say enough good things about this program and the counsellors here. You have given me my life back and I am so very grateful.

- In my darkest time; mentally, physically, spiritually Ann Elmore staff supported me and provided access to programs, support, and tools to aid me on my journey back to health and back to myself.

Rose Harbour Clients Share Their Experience.....

- I will always be grateful for Rose Harbour and my stay there changed my life for the better.
- Absolutely no regrets about anything in my stay. I could have lived by the rules there forever.

