

Annual Report

**Campbell River & North Island
Transition Society**

**Providing services,
support, and programs to
women and their children
on the North Island.**

**101 - 1116 Dogwood St., Campbell
River, BC.**

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annelmorehouse.ca



2023-2024



WE HUMBL Y ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY ON THE TRADITIONAL, ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF THE WE WAI KAI PEOPLES, TERRITORY THAT IS NOW HOME TO COAST SALISH AND NUU-CHAN-NULTH PEOPLES. WE HONOUR, UPHOLD, AND CELEBRATE THE INDIGENOUS WOMEN AMONG US.

The CAMPBELL RIVER AND NORTH ISLAND TRANSITION SOCIETY (CRNITS) is a registered non-profit organization which has a mandate to end family violence.

The Society assists women who are fleeing abuse and seeking **emergency shelter** at the **Ann Elmore Transition House**, or at one or our **safe homes** in remote locations. Our **counselling services** benefit women who are overcoming trauma and other challenges, while our **residential recovery program** addresses substance misuse issues. Women who are unsheltered or struggling through poverty benefit from our residential personal change program and from supportive resources and poverty relief available at our **Women's Center**. Senior women who are unsheltered or struggling through poverty benefit from our subsidized long-term housing units.

Receiving the appropriate services, safety and housing while having someone walk alongside is the catalyst for change for our clients!

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LETTER FROM VALERY PUETZ

BOARD CHAIRPERSON



I joined the Board and became Chair in September. I am very happy to be back involved with CRNITS since my retirement in 2023.

As my tenure in this role is short I have only a short report.

My history leading this agency allows me to quickly 'read between the lines' and I am very pleased to report that the management of the society under the strong leadership of Lori Hirst is healthy. This said, the management team is constantly striving for improvements, efficiencies and the best ways to provide excellent support services to the women and children we serve.

I look forward to the coming year and the maturing of new programs and facilities.

Valery Puetz

Board Chairperson

TREASURER CHERYL STINSON'S REPORT

YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2024

The 2024 audit was completed by Moeller Mathews. The society has again received a clean audit. The Society had assets totaling \$6,570,184 and liabilities totaling \$5,645,692. This resulted in a balance of \$924,492 as of Aug 31, 2024.

This audit covers the fiscal period from Sept 1, 2023 to Aug 31, 2024. The total operating revenue for this period was \$3,911,149 and the total expenses for this period were \$3,710,052. Our excess revenue over expenses was \$201,097.

The Transitions Thrift Store was successful again this year. This resulted in \$31,860 being transferred to the Outreach Fund and \$38,461 being transferred to the Women's Centre Fund. This, along with the other fundraising, is so important to the capacity-building of the Society.

Thank you to Lori, the managers, all the team and volunteers. The work you do is so incredibly important.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude, Susan and Lori, for all your hard work on once again helping the Society receive a clean audit.

In gratitude,

Cheryl Stinson

Treasurer

LETTER FROM LORI HIRST

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been an exciting and challenging year for the Campbell River & NI Transition Society. We opened Eagle Harbour on September 12, 2023, but did not start moving program participants and tenants until December, due to staffing shortages and building deficiencies.

Eagle Harbour provides 36 units of second stage housing for vulnerable women and children, and this is our first time offering 19 units of long term subsidized housing for senior women. Opening a building that is mixed with second stage program participants and seniors living in long term has brought its unique challenges and learning opportunities for staff, management and myself but it's also been very exciting to be able to offer long term housing for the first time ever in this organization.

As the housing crisis continues to grow in our community, and affordable private market housing becomes more and more unattainable for vulnerable women, seniors and children in our community, we see there is so much more need for long term affordable housing in our community that is safe, and trauma-informed. Eagle Harbour is also our first pet-friendly building, and we have welcomed some furry friends.

We have had many exciting things happen this last year in addition to the opening of Eagle Harbour. We welcomed a new housing manager to Rose Harbour. Karyn Kolkka has been a great asset to our management team and has made many positive changes to the Rose Harbour program. All our community support groups are back and are well-attended. The Shoebox Project was a great success this year. Led by Alison Skrepneck, the Shoebox Project was able to provide more than 174 shoeboxes to all our clients at the Christmas Shoebox Party.



Above: Executive Director Lori Hirst (left) with Santa Claus and Alison Skrepneck from the Shoebox Project

We received some exciting grants; one was a \$16,000 grant for Eagle Harbour from New Horizons Seniors' Program, to provide culturally safe programming at Eagle Harbour. We have used this grant for teaching about food preservation, Indigenous medicines, healing circles and arts and crafts. We also expanded our Women's Resource Center and moved it to larger location within the Eagle Harbour building. The Campbell River Women's Resource Center is a vital resource for so many women and seniors living in poverty in our community and the need for this resource has increased substantially in the last few years. The new, larger location can accommodate more women who need to access this service.

This year we welcomed Shelly Kernovich back to the team. Shelly was the previous manager for Ann Elmore House and Rose Harbour. Shelly has been hired as our new Human Resources Manager, which we are so grateful for.

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Some Annual Highlights...

3005

Safety Bed Stays

150

Showers

3072

Women Centre
Drop-Ins

238

Supportive
Counselling
Appointments

17

Community
Presentations

70+

Volunteers

97

Laundry Tickets

47

Women in the
Recovery Program

176

Stopping the
Violence Counselling
Appointments

(Continued from page 5)

With the global staffing crisis, recruiting and retaining staff has become a full time job for the society. As we continue to grow, we have welcomed more staff to our team and I would like to thank every one of the CRNITS staff members - from the front line, administration, maintenance and the management team - for their continued dedication and hard work to the society. This year we have had many challenges, including dealing with the opioid crisis, the housing crisis, the labor shortage crisis, and the mental health crisis that was exacerbated due to the pandemic and lack of resources. Every staff member has done a tremendous job of filling in shifts, working overtime, or having to change job sites when we are short staffed, while still providing compassionate care to our women and children.

I want to express my gratitude to Diane Palmer who was the Transitions Thrift Store Manager for eight years and has recently resigned so she can focus all her time on public relations and economic development for the society. When Diane first started, the thrift store was only making on average \$300-\$400 a day, which meant we were not making any money from the thrift store. Eight years later, the thrift store has become a successful social enterprise making on average \$2,000-\$2,500 a day resulting in a surplus of \$83,857 at the end of 2023-2024 fiscal year. Diane has poured her heart and soul into making Transitions successful and at the same time always took the time to support the staff and volunteers and be someone that everyone could depend on. Diane will be missed by everyone at Transitions. I want to welcome Amanda Bulloch our new Transitions Store manager. Amanda will be a great asset to the store and everyone is happy to have her on board.

Lori Hirst

Executive Director

OUR MISSION

The Campbell River and North Island Transition Society works, with a feminist perspective, to achieve a balance of power in society. We provide safe shelter and access to community based resources for women and children.

PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE

- Each woman has the right to decide for herself the direction of her life according to her own values, beliefs, and needs.
- To provide a safe, accepting, respecting, and comfortable place where women will not need to fear either physical or psychological abuse.
- To explore with each woman who comes to us the alternatives available to her; to help her examine the advantages and disadvantages and practicality of each alternative; and to encourage her to make her choices for herself.
- Each woman involved with the Transition House can make a unique contribution to the House and should be given the opportunity to do so.
- Each woman has the right to know what her responsibilities are, recognizing that these will vary according to her individual talents and roles within the House.
- Confidentiality of the women who come to us is sacrosanct and should be protected at all costs.



OUR SERVICES

- **Ann Elmore House**
- **Eagle Harbour**
- **Supportive Recovery**
- **Safe Home**
- **Rose Harbour**
- **Stopping the Violence
Counselling Program**
- **Supportive Counselling &
Outreach**
- **Public Relations**
- **Volunteer Program**
- **Women's Resource Centre**
- **Transitions Thrift Store**

Ann Elmore House

Ann Elmore House provides safety to women and children fleeing abuse or at risk of abuse/violence. The frontline staff at Ann Elmore House respond to crisis and support telephones 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The calls vary from emotional support to urgent crisis intervention. The frontline staff always carry a portable landline, a crisis text phone and the Sexual Assault Services crisis line and respond to all as the calls or texts come in.

The Ann Elmore house has experienced a very busy year, serving 139 women and 75 children for a total of 3005 bed nights. We are funded for 11 safety beds but have a total of 18 available. The housing crisis and lack of affordable housing continues to impact the women and children that we work for; some women are residing with us for much longer than the typical 30-day stay.

In the 2023 AGM report, it was noted that the Ann Elmore House has experienced increased incidences of women presenting with multiple challenges, including mental health and unmanaged substance use. This has continued into this fiscal year and it has proven challenging to serve women with multiple barriers, as there is also a need to preserve the safety of the women and children in the home and the recovery program which also operates under the same roof. Our community continues to lack resources that provide affordable housing to this vulnerable population. Ann Elmore House attempts to aid all women in need of safety and provide departures into safe and stable housing; however, this has not always been possible. Departing women into homelessness negatively impacts our relationship with the women we serve, with community partners acting as advocates and with our team of staff who continue to be stretched thin due to our ongoing staffing shortage.

The Ann Elmore house completed the final year of the five year Cedar Blankets pilot project with the BC Society of Transition Houses.



The Cedar Blankets project arose out of significant work starting in 2013 when BCSTH’s member organizations identified that, despite evidence of Indigenous women experiencing disproportionately higher rates of gender-based violence, they were not accessing Transition Houses and other anti-violence services. The Cedar Blankets project supported CRNITS to develop and adopt culturally respectful practices for Indigenous women and their children.

The physical property of Ann Elmore house has undergone some positive changes this year. We were granted the approval to build a very solid fence, which has been a blessing because our previous fence was often blown over with the heavy windstorms and lacked safety. We had a large shed that we coined “Rat Harbour” demolished and replaced with a tidy smaller version. We also were fortunate to have our wonderful volunteer gardener Leslie work diligently to provide beauty to our gardens. The yard was abundant with fresh fruit, veggies, flowers, trees and shrubs. This environment provides peace and a lovely space to heal.

I am always grateful be part of this amazing team and to do this work, as we strive to meet the needs of the vulnerable women and children we serve.

Kate Broadhead

Transition House Manager

Eagle Harbour

Eagle Harbour has experienced its first year in operation in 2024, reaching and maintaining full occupancy as of February, 2025 - housing 55 families and more than 40 children. The building has felt much livelier this year, with the addition of families and women who have contributed towards creating our own culture and climate within Eagle Harbour. We would like to give a special thanks to Jan and Kathy from the St. Vincent De Paul Society, who have supplied the majority of our participants/residents with a Welcome Home Kit. All second stage units have basic furnishings included, but with the addition of the Welcome Home Kits, we have been able to transform all unit spaces into homes.

Eagle Harbour has learned a lot of lessons this year; chiseling and molding the program to best suit the participants/residents. The groups that have been developed are our Grief and Recovery group- which was a group that was requested by several participants of the program; as well as some community-building groups, such as Sunday Potluck/Tea Party and Mothers' Audio Book Club. Along with the scheduled programs, Eagle Harbour had the honor of hosting a baby's first birthday party, in the baby's first home!

Our building and programming are going through growing pains as we are trying to create and foster a passionate, safe, and personalized environment for the women that we serve. To help create a more creative and inviting environment, Eagle Harbour had the opportunity to work with Jessica Chickite, who painted a beautiful mural in our shared common room.



Above: Renowned artist Jessica Chickite created this mural at Eagle Harbour.

The painting represents “A native woman being guided by her eagle spirit within, representing guidance, courage, respect and strength”, as quoted by the artist. This piece has been able to tie the building together and exude the energy we try to foster and share, reminding women in our building that we are all guided by our experiences and powers. With the strong support of staff, participants and residents, we hope that Eagle Harbour will continually evolve and improve itself to be an established program.

Katie Suen
Eagle Harbour Manager



Supportive Recovery - Ann Elmore House

The Recovery Program works to support women who are dealing with substance use and mental health challenges. In the past fiscal year (Sept 1/23 – Aug 31/24), we offered the following in-house services to 47 women in total: 28 - Supportive Recovery, 7 - Withdrawal Management and 12 - Stabilization. These individual stays represent a 63.15% occupancy rate, which is an increase over the last fiscal rate of 56.6%.

I am excited to report some big changes in the Recovery Program. I have always believed that recovery doesn't stop at 5 pm on Friday and resume at 8:30 am on Monday morning. To that effect, one of my long-standing work goals came to fruition in May, 2024, when I reduced my work week down to 4 days. Mary Stokes has joined me in the recovery office, covering the Friday through Sunday shifts. Now there is a recovery worker here every day of the week to support the women in their journey to healthier living. We also removed the 28- and 45-day options for Supportive Recovery stays, making 60 days the only current option. Another change, which is determined by the client and her referring agent, is offering a short period to adjust to the client's new environment. She may also be dealing with some lingering withdrawal symptoms before she is ready to fully participate in the work of the SR program. This is similar to a Withdrawal Management stay, but without the extra paperwork that would entail two separate intakes and discharges. Other changes to the SR program include increasing the mandatory meetings per week from 3 to 6, with recovery staff providing transportation and adjusting the session work to explore the client's self-identified recovery goals at the beginning of her stay instead of near the end.

We are also increasing group outings and enrollment in the LIFE Pass Program with the local community centers to support low-income families to access health and fitness programs at an affordable price.

Other changes came via consultation with our funders at Island Health on how to best utilize the 4 recovery beds that Ann Elmore operates. One of the most impactful changes is that we are now carrying up to 4 Supportive Recovery (SR) clients at any given time. This means no longer holding 2 Quick Response (QR) beds in reserve to receive clients who are referred to either Stabilization (ST) or Withdrawal Management (WM - previously Detox or DT) on an ongoing basis. The QR beds offer only a short stay of 7-14 days. It has become clear that due to the level of toxicity in illicit street substances and the medical complications that can arise from withdrawal that our non-medical services cannot provide the level of care that may be necessary for many women withdrawing from alcohol and substances. Clients must travel to Nanaimo for medical withdrawal support or be admitted to CR General Hospital, which stretches already thin resources. The QR beds are still accessible if the client has been medically cleared, and there is a window of opportunity due to an early departure or an intake is known to be at least 1-2 weeks away.

I continue to be fulfilled as well as challenged in my work with the women of our community, providing early recovery services. I look forward with anticipation and gratitude as we enter 2025.

Laural Watson

Recovery Support Worker

Safe Home

A very important service offered by CRNITS is our Safe Home program. We provide safe homes in rural areas such as Gold River and Cortes Island, for women and children who are experiencing abuse and need a safe place to go. Throughout 2024, I noticed a small increase in Safe Home stays and intakes for support. There were 7 new intakes for ongoing support through remote services (VIA phone/video counseling). Although safe home stays can be rare, the importance of having the option for woman to flee to somewhere safe when there are no other options remains imperative.

In 2024, I presented 17 Healthy Relationship presentations to approximately 378 students ranging from grades 6 to 12. I am very passionate about raising awareness about domestic violence with our youth. I strongly believe more education on the matter can help teens to recognize red flags and toxicity in relationships. I look forward to doing more of these presentations in the coming year. I am very grateful to be a part of such an amazing agency that provides many needed services to the women and children within our, and surrounding, communities. I am looking forward to seeing what this year brings.



Hayley Burdett
Safe Home Coordinator

Human Resources

I am so happy to be back with society and in this new role. I want to thank everyone for their warm welcome.

CRNITS has been dealing with a serious staffing shortage and in the true CRNITS spirit, staff and management have stepped up and are doing the best they can. I am happy to report that we have onboarded four new casuals, a new receptionist, new Store Manager and are close to having new casual positions just for the Women's Center.

The goals going forward will be:

- Continue to explore creative ways to increase our staff.
- Focus on retention to make sure our staff are happy in their workplace.
- Educate and assist employees on the process of Disability Management.
- Strategies to reduce WCB claims.
- Assist Managers with any HR issues.

I would like to thank Diane for her years of hard work and dedication in developing the Transitions Thrift Store into the great enterprise it is today!



Shelly Kernovich
Human Resources Manager

Rose Harbour

Rose Harbour continues to provide a supportive transitional housing program for women, and their dependent children, with attentions paid to women who are unsheltered, fleeing abuse, and in substance misuse recovery. Support workers assist program participants in identifying self-directed and externally supported goals for a two-year program stay designed to enhance program participants' access to other community-based supports and services. All program participants have access to supportive appointments and groups, life skills activities, and social programming to promote holistic wellness. Rose Harbour has a commitment to transitional housing to allow transformation for as many women as possible. As such, program participants are required to move on to other accommodations at the end of their program stay. Housing is a key determinant of health and Rose Harbour's 27 units fulfilled this critical need for many women and families in 2024. We continue to have a waitlist, but this has been lessened with the opening of Eagle Harbour.

Rose Harbour saw a lot of changes this year, from a new housing manager, an almost-new support worker team, and changes to the programming, as we work together to fit the ever-changing dynamic of the building and culture in the community.

Some notable program changes include changing the language from "resident" to "program participant." This provides women with the reminder that they are here for the change program, and housing is a component that is attached. Rose Harbour staff have started encouraging women to attend groups in-house and, in the community, and have created groups that will greatly benefit women to continue to be successful when their program is complete.



Above: Renowned artist Jessica Chickite created this mural at Rose Harbour.

Funding from the Campbell River Community Foundation allowed Jessica Chickite to paint a beautiful mural in the Rose Harbour lobby. The image is an octopus holding a rose that represents change. This mural helps us provide a culturally relevant and safe space for all who enter Rose Harbour.

Rose Harbour held its annual bra event, courtesy of La Tee Da Lingerie Boutique. The event had a great turnout and had women in the community lining up outside the door before it began.

Rose Harbour also teamed up with the volunteer coordinator this year to hold the annual "Mom's Toy Shop". We are grateful for the numerous amounts of toys that were donated by the community so that mothers at all sites could provide their children with Christmas gifts. Rose Harbour looks forward to hosting and organizing more events in the future.

Karyn Kolha
Housing Manager

**"Staff made me feel comfortable
and respected."**

CRNITS client



Stopping The Violence Counselling Program

The Gold River STV Counselling program at Rose Harbour provides 17.5 hours per week of personalized counselling responsive to issues from historical and current trauma, neglect and/or abuse.

This is a provincially-funded program of the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, mandated to provide support for women struggling with the emotional fallout of abusive relationships. This service is designed for women who are not currently involved in abusive relationships, are living in a safe environment, who are motivated, and able to focus on the challenges of counselling. During 2024, our STV service maintained an average of 25 open files a month, and a total of 176 one-on-one sessions were provided in the year. There were 17 new clients in 2024; the rest have been carried over from the previous year or are women who have returned to the service after a break from counselling. I look forward to 2025 and to the privilege of continuing to make genuine connections with the women who benefit from the STV Counselling program.

Eileen Stearns, RSW, MHA

Stopping the Violence Counsellor

Transitions Thrift Store

Transitions Thrift Store has continued to build on their sales and promotional days with Seniors' Day, Half Price Linens/Clothing Day, and \$2 Saturdays. We have worked to streamline what we sell so that the amount of space allotted to items is relevant to the number of sales. This has meant downsizing larger furniture and beds while increasing the space allotted to clothing. Clothing now accounts for fifty percent of our sales.

RidgeRider was a longstanding business within our community that went out of business in April of 2024. The owners donated their entire stock to our little store and a small group of dedicated staff and volunteers spent the week picking up donations. The stock coming in created an incredible buzz that spread well beyond our community and created the most profitable year to date. We saw many new faces that created a new customer base.

Our hard-working team continues to present a clean, well-maintained store that we are proud of. We always appreciate the positive feedback we receive from customers and donors.

Diane Palmer

Store Manager

Supportive Counselling & Outreach

The Outreach Support program provided by CRNITS is an imperative service for women within our community. This service offers supportive counseling, goal work, advocacy services and support to women who are experiencing domestic violence, relationship challenges and/or substance misuse. Throughout 2024, there were 238 supportive counselling appointments booked. I also accompanied 27 clients to court appearances and MCFD appointments. The Women's Empowerment group has been increasingly successful. While we aren't at pre-covid attendance, I have noticed a steady increase in participation. In 2024, there were 39 groups with 336 clients. This shows what a huge need there is for this program to help support vulnerable women within our community.

Hayley Burdett, SSW
Outreach Support Worker



What can I expect?

Supportive Counselling offers...

- Confidentiality, respect, acceptance, and understanding.
- Information, advocacy, and referrals
- Safety planning
- Support for women in recovery from substance use
- Support during family and/or criminal court process
- Support during meetings with other community agencies

Public Relations and Economic Development

Public Relations and Economic Development hosts two main fundraisers yearly. Coldest Night of the Year had almost 200 walkers in attendance and raised a total of \$58,983.00. Of that total, \$17,000 was from sponsorships. This is a result of growing the event and nurturing our community partnerships over the past 7 years.

Drive Away Domestic Violence Golf Tournament is a growing event. In 2024 we had close to 100 golfers in attendance and \$8500 in sponsorships. We did lose a major donor of \$5000 as the business closed during the year. While this was a bit of a hit for the event, we received positive feedback and look forward to continued growth for DADV.

Both of these events provide an invaluable opportunity to connect with the community and keep us in the public eye, so we are considered for more opportunities.

We received several grants but two that I want to focus on are:

The Women's Drop-in Center received a \$25,000 grant that helped to provide much needed emergency supplies to clients. This includes cold/warm weather items for outdoor living, food security items, gas cards, laundry and shower chits etc.

We received a grant that provided two beautiful murals that have since been completed by local artist Jessica Chickite. The murals add healing and safety to common spaces in Rose Harbour and Eagle Harbour.

We received over \$15,000 in donations through Canada Helps. Of this, \$500 per month comes from scheduled giving. Additionally, we have a monthly donor who contributes \$250 per month.

We look forward to another busy year of fundraising ahead.

Diane Palmer

Public Relations and Economic Development Coordinator



Volunteer Program

Campbell River & North Island Transition Society is fortunate to have many AMAZING volunteers who help us provide services and support the ongoing operations of the organization. In 2023-24 over 70 individuals volunteered with us! We appreciate each volunteer and their time, energy and expertise! We have a variety of ways to recruit volunteers including social media, volunteer recruitment platforms, from program participants, and through word of mouth. We continually review the success of these methods and look for new and innovative ways to find volunteers and to develop opportunities that will match the interests of those who step forward.

Program volunteers: In 2023-34 program volunteers contributed to operations by coming to programs on a regular basis and carrying out specific roles to support these programs. At Transitions Store, volunteers receive, organize and display donations, provide customer service and help keep the store operating well. At the Women's Centre, volunteers help organize and display donations of clothing and toiletries, as well as serving snacks, and interacting with women who visit the Centre.

Event volunteers: We could not manage our two major fundraising events without the wonderful support of volunteers. In 2024 Coldest Night of the Year volunteers helped greet and register walkers, marshal walkers for safety on the route, take photos, serve a warm snack on completion and help with set up and tear down for this important event. CNOY is an amazing event full of energy and volunteers truly make it happen!

Drive Away Domestic Violence Golf Tournament is an important annual event for fundraising and increasing awareness about domestic violence. Each year many organizations and individuals participate and once again volunteers make it all possible! In 2024, volunteers in various roles and helped to make an amazing event possible.

Board Members: Non-profit, charitable organizations rely on the expertise and interest of community members to join their Board of Directors and guide the organization to success while ensuring policy and fiduciary responsibilities are met. We are so fortunate to have a strong and committee Board, who spend countless volunteer hours to make sure that the organization is operating well and achieving its strategic goals. Thank you to our Board Members for your time and talents!

Mary Catherine Williams
Volunteer Coordinator



**Drive Away
Domestic
Violence -
June 14, 2025**



**Coldest Night
of the Year -
February 22,
2025**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities with the Campbell River and North Island Transition Society?

Contact us via the CRNITS Volunteer Connector at: www.annelmorehouse.ca

3072
Drop-ins

46%
Indigenous
Clients

2248
Received
clothing

455
Meals
served

46%
Senior
Women

Women's Resource Centre

2024 was an exciting year for the Women’s Centre. We opened in the new Eagle Harbour Building mid-April 2024. The opening day saw about 80 women and children in attendance. The new space is so much larger and brighter than the old location, with a lot of room for toiletries and clothes. We have room to store extra donations.

We continue to give out tents, sleeping bags and other cold/wet weather gear. We gave out fans during the summer heatwave so that some of our vulnerable seniors were able to stay cool. There are 2 dedicated offices, one which I use as the coordinator and a spare that is used by other staff and/or service providers.

We started out being open 3 days for 3 hours, we have since increased this to 4 days a week for 4 hours.

We have a shower and bathroom at the new Women’s Centre. We also have “shower cards” we can give out to women who need a shower when we are not open. They can use the showers at the Community Hall or the Sportsplex. We also started giving out laundry coupons so that women, primarily unhoused women, could use the laundromat at the Tyee Plaza to wash clothes and blankets. This is especially helpful for the unhoused women who need to wash and dry their belongings when they are living outside. The coupons are good for a wash and a dry and we provide laundry pods and bounce sheets. We continue to give out bus tickets for those who face transportation barriers



IWe have increased the snacks that are available to women and children, and we now have “hot dog day” every second week. I have also implemented a daily fruit basket. Apples, oranges and bananas are available every day to those who would like a fresh piece of fruit. We still have our regular snacks of pizza pockets, frozen waffles, toast, yogurt, pudding, crackers, cup of soup, juice boxes etc. It has become very noticeable that a lot of the Women’s Centre clients are experiencing food insecurity. Having food available here for them has become something that they can depend on when they are hungry. We also have a food pantry shelf that has donated dry goods that women can help themselves to. We provide information on where food can be accessed in the community: The Food Bank, Gateway Church, Bread of Life etc. On Wednesdays I pick up leftover bread from the Gateway Church and have it available at the Women’s Centre for anyone who may be in need.

During the summer we had a couple of food demonstrations. I had a friend come and volunteer to show women how to make applesauce from fresh local apples. We also made some garlic dill pickles from cucumbers that we bought at the Farmers’ Market.

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The Women’s Centre has been partnering with other community groups and service providers. The Women’s Centre once again worked with Revenue Canada to be a part of the Income Tax Program, so that women can have their taxes done for free. We have someone from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction who comes once a week to help anyone who needs assistance navigating their systems. NIEFS (North Island Employment Foundation Society) comes once a week on hot dog days, they provide information on their training programs and job-hunting resources - this has proved to be a valuable resource for those women looking for schooling or employment. We have also had “Excuse Me Hearing” come a few times to test women’s hearing and help them access funding for hearing aids. This has proved to be very beneficial to a few of the women who now have hearing aids.

The Women’s Centre was once again part of the Farmers’ Market Coupon Program. Together with Rose Harbour, we gave out approximately \$20,000 worth of coupons for women to use for themselves and their families at the Sunday Farmers’ Market during the summer months. We rented out the Women’s Centre space after-hours for a few months to the “Kaleo Collective” - this helped to offset some of the cost of the rent of the Women’s Centre

We try to celebrate holidays at the Women’s Centre. We had a Halloween Party. The Society had the annual Shoebox Christmas Party at the Women’s Centre and there were 86 women and children who attended. The Society provided snacks and gave out the shoeboxes that were generously donated by people in the community. As well as the shoeboxes, the Women’s Centre received a generous donation of gift bags for the unhoused women in our community. The Women’s Centre was open over the Christmas Holidays! We had a snack Christmas Party before Christmas, turkey and some fixings after Christmas and turkey soup before New Year’s. Food is always a great way to bring people together.

2024 was a fantastic year for the Women’s Centre, I can’t wait to see what 2025 will bring. Special thanks to our two amazing volunteers, Amber and Kimberley. You are so dedicated to helping the women who access the Women’s Centre, I couldn’t be more grateful and appreciative of you both.

2024 Stats for the Women’s Centre (Averages April 15 – Dec 31, 2024)

Service	Total	Monthly	Daily
Client drop-ins	3072	384	31
Indigenous Women	1436	180	15
Senior Women	1426	178	14
Unhoused Women	809	101	8
Pets	218	3	0.24
Clothing/bedding out	2248	281	23
Hygiene Supplies	1669	209	17
Snacks	1899	237	19
Bus Tickets	137	17	1.5
Laundry	97	12	1
Showers	150	19	1.5
Seasonal Weather Gear	137	17	1.4

Lori Tait
Women Centre Coordinator





We are hiring!

Campbell River North Island Transition Society is a fast-growing agency. Are you passionate about helping women and children experiencing abuse and/or in recovery? If you're looking for an exciting career in a fun organization with the potential to grow where you are also helping women, this is the perfect career for you.

We invite qualified, experienced candidates from diverse backgrounds and life situations to join our team. Successful applicants will work as part of a team providing counselling, support and crisis intervention. We are looking for excellent communication and crisis management skills and strong knowledge of violence against women, mental health, and substance misuse.

annelmorehouse.ca/opportunities

SOCIETY OFFICE

#101 - 1116 Dogwood Street
Campbell River, BC

PH: 250-287-7384
FAX: 250-286-6252

24 Hour Crisis Line:
250-286-3666
1-800-667-2188

Text Only Crisis Line
250-895-1773

Email Address

aeh@annelmorehouse.ca

Social Media



annelmorehouse.ca



[@annelmorehouse](https://www.facebook.com/annelmorehouse)



[@CRNITS](https://www.instagram.com/crnits)



[@CRNITS](https://www.linkedin.com/company/crnits)



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**Campbell River & North Island
Transition Society**