The Board of Directors for the Women’s Sexual Assault Centre are first and foremost volunteers; we coexist with the Centre’s sound and wise leadership, a highly professional counselling service, effective and well-regarded volunteer and fund-raising personnel, an efficient and committed administrative arm, and an innovative and widely recognized prevention team.

Last year we identified the need for succession planning and we successfully undertook Step One in our succession plan with the hiring of our new Manager of Direct Services, Stephanie Capyk. We understand that we must plan for the future and that includes having continuity and capability in the energy and skills of agency staff. We have started, with some reluctance, on a succession plan for our Executive Director who plans to retire in June 2008. Jen Cooper has been the very capable Board lead in the succession planning process and in the planning of our 25th Anniversary agenda.

Ingrid Kirk has taken a three-month leave of absence from our Board and she will return to the Board in July 2007. Ika Theissen, Lola Freeman Storry, Shelley Spring and Shera Furtado have left the Board. We are still looking for a few good women and men to join our Board.

This year, the Board will be working harder to increase our fund-raising capacity and in cooperating and supporting mutual activities with other agencies. Over the past year, May Heppner worked on the success and Walk-A-Mile files, while Kimberly Brown worked on the Finance and Fund Development files. It will be an invigorating year for the Board. Ironically, we celebrate our 25th year of existence—in a way, our ultimate success as an agency will be when we are no longer needed and we work ourselves out of a job.

The Board of Directors invite you to join us for our education and prevention events we will be hosting over the next 6 months. Check our web-site at www.vwsac.com for upcoming events.

Respectfully,
WSAC Board Members
Kimberly Brown, Jen Cooper, Emily Ellingsen, May Heppner, Ingrid Kirk, Jill Ainsley, and Jan Trainor (Chair)

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & GRANT PROVIDERS
Canadian Women’s Foundation - Project Respect in Bella Coola
Centre for Sustainability - Strategic Plan Development
City of Victoria - Project Respect Poster Distribution
Direct Access to Gaming through the Province of BC - Project Respect
Sara Spencer Foundation - Services for Young Women
United Way - Community Collaborative Grant - Aboriginal Youth Healing and Prevention Program
UVic Grad Legacy Fund - Project Respect
Victoria Foundation – Belmont Community Connections & St. Michaels University School - Youth in Philanthropy Program
Project Respect and Soul Survivors Group
Victoria Foundation – Woodsome Fund, Hugh & Helen Mogensen Fund, & Community Fund - WSAC Website Development
Victoria Hope Society - Seeking Safety Program
Ministry of Community Services
Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Safety
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund

THANK YOU TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
This has been a year of planning and development for the Centre. Regrettably, we are saying goodbye to Sally Gove, the Manager of Direct Client Services (DCS), in June 2007 and I will be retiring as Executive Director in June 2008. The succession planning committee has been successful in finding a new DCS and they will now begin the work of finding a replacement for my position.

The successful Seeking Safety program for women dealing with substance use and sexual trauma histories was developed further this year. This was made possible through the generous support of the Victoria Hope Society and a partnership with VIHA.

Our prevention program, Project Respect, was shown to be relevant and effective in rural communities. With a grant from the Canadian Women’s Foundation, Project Respect staff was able to travel to Bella Coola and train a group of youth in the remote and isolated coastal community. We appreciate the commitment of the team to spend four days a week every other week in Bella Coola to make this happen.

We continued to raise more than 60% of our budget from direct fund raising with the addition of a few new initiatives this year. The Jazzy Divas evening was a great lift in January both raising money and creating new friends for the Centre and “Party with a Purpose”, a benefit concert organized by Jules Wilson and an enthusiastic committee, was a big hit in Vancouver in March. In December planning got underway for the first Victoria “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes – the Men’s March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence”. The walk took place May 5, 2007 and was a very successful fund-raising event that attracted a crowd of nearly 200 people and raised awareness about the issue of sexualized violence in the community.

Thanks to Victoria Foundation grants from the Woodsome, Hugh & Helen Mogensen, and Community Funds, a new centre website has been developed and will be launched at the AGM this year. Our partnerships with ID2 Communications has resulted in an inviting, informative website that will provide support to those affected by sexualized violence and enable us to share information and resources with partners, donors and the community at large.

We have just completed a three year strategic plan funded by a grant from the Centre for Sustainability that will provide direction for the next phase of both program development and financial sustainability. An important component of this plan is the continuation of our many partnerships together with a strong focus on resource development. The efforts of this year have been acknowledged in excellent media coverage. Many of these new programs and events have been covered on TV, radio and in print. We are encouraged by this opportunity to increase understanding of sexualized violence and to engage the community in prevention.

Once again the commitment of our Board, volunteers, and staff have enabled us to continue providing high quality services to survivors of sexualized violence while making significant contributions to prevention.

Sandy McEllan, Executive Director

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
To put it simply, the Women’s Sexual Assault Centre would not be able to provide the services we do, without the dedication and compassion of our over 50 volunteers. Every year we are overwhelmed by the individuals who contact the Centre wanting to help. We are immensely grateful for the different roles they decide to take on and ultimately the change they create in the community. This year, our volunteers generously donated countless hours as SART volunteers, the Centre’s initial contact for recent survivors of sexual assault. Our office volunteers provide support to our administrative staff, as well as create a welcoming atmosphere for all of our clients. Our Board of Directors are a dynamic and committed group of women who take on the responsibility of representing WSAC in the community as well as ensuring the sustainability of the Centre. We have amazing individuals on our Triathlon of Compassion and Walk-A-Mile-In-Her-Shoes organizing committees who are instrumental in making these events successful. And there are the Respect’s, our youth volunteers, who deliver the message of prevention to their peers.

The volunteers at the Women’s Sexual Assault Centre are truly exceptional; and we thank them for their support and commitment.

Lindsay Pomper, Coordinator of Volunteers

Volunteer Hours
Project Respect - 840
Office - 600
Board - 640
Triathlon - 1200

wsac staff
Sandy McEllan, Executive Director
Lorinda Allix, Christine Aspiga, Billy Bingaman, Myriah Breese, Diane Chiauoss, Catherine Charlton, Christine Clarke, Catherine Day, Terrina Fitzgerald, Jessica Forbes, Sara Gifford, Sally Gose, Susana Guardado, Linda Jennings, Beth Kope, Tracy Lubick, BeAnna Lynne, Melissa Mann, Jude Marleau, Jette Malsgaard, Barb Peck, Lindsay Pomper, Deryn Schulson, Suzanne Simpson, Connie Sheffield and Karen Wickham

www.vwsac.com
www.yesmeanyes.com

Contact Information:
941 Pandora Ave – Victoria BC – V8V 1P4
Business Line: 383-5545
Crisis & Information Line: 383-3222
24 hour Crisis Line service made possible through partnership with NEED Crisis Line
www.vwsac.com
Charitable Business # 10822 0054 R00001
**Women’s Sexual Assault Centre**

**Seeking Information**

 Seeking Understanding Program

This year the Respect Revolution youth group from Lambrick Park and Mt. Doug Schools received a Youth Leadership Award in Community Safety from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The award recognized the dedication of the youth group in developing workshops on the issue of sexual assault, which they delivered to over 300 of their school peers. In recognition of the uniqueness of the youth led workshop, the group was invited to deliver on the issue of sexualized violence at the youth symposium, which preceded the award ceremonies.

**General Prevention News:**

A Respect Revolution Training was delivered at Oak Bay Secondary School in the spring of this year. The training brought together eleven dedicated students from grades 9 through 12. After the training, the students organized a one-day event to raise awareness about the issue of sexual assault to the general school population. This is the fourth school based Respect Revolution Campaign since the start of this delivery format. Each student group has designed unique and innovative ways to share their learning with the rest of their school peers.

This year the Young Men’s group, which has now run twice in a local school, was delivered in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club Adventure Based Learning program and Pacific Centre. In contrast to the school based groups, this group was based on referrals by community agencies for young men to participate in this group. The prevention team continued to deliver 2-part workshops to a diverse youth population. Apart from local area high schools, workshops were also delivered to the Youth Custody Centre, Artemis Program for Girls, Boys and Girls Club leadership group and girls-only groups, Inter Cultural Association and Aboriginal Women’s Wellness Forum. This year the project reached 1531 youth and 437 adults.

**Project Respect in Bella Coola**

The prevention team became very familiar with the beautiful Bella Coola Valley as the Project successfully implemented in Community Safety from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The award recognized the dedication of the youth group in developing workshops on the issue of sexual assault, which they delivered to over 300 of their school peers. In recognition of the uniqueness of the youth led workshop, the group was invited to deliver on the issue of sexualized violence at the youth symposium, which preceded the award ceremonies.

A crowd of nearly 200 participants, volunteers and supporters gathered at Centennial Square for Victoria’s first ever Walk-A-Mile-In-He-Shoes. The event was a huge success in raising funds (over $17,000), awareness, and community support for ending sexualized violence. May 2007.

**Awards:**

Two young women from the youth group flew down in March of this year to participate in the “Finding Violence, Strengthening our Circle” Aboriginal Youth Conference in Victoria as part of their involvement in the Respect Revolution Training. The two participants were able to make a presentation to young Aboriginal youth who are not involved in creating positive change in their communities. They have now taken on the added responsibility of being part of a community group looking at improving the collaboration of services working in the area of prevention of violence against women in Bella Coola.

**Women’s Sexual Assault Centre**

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