LEAVING A LEGACY

We are grateful to those donors who remembered the Victoria Women’s Sexual Assault Centre in their estate planning during the past year. Bequests to WSAC contribute significantly to our long-term financial well-being.

Naming WSAC in your will is not difficult, and you can designate any amount or remainder interest you wish. As you make plans for your estate, we hope that you will consider a bequest to WSAC. For more information about bequests and other planned gifts, please phone Lenore Kennedy at 250-383-5545.

Have you made a gift in your will to WSAC? We are looking for donors willing to tell their story (anonymously if desired) for our spring newsletter.

Contact Lenore Kennedy at lenorek@vwsac.com or 250-383-5545 ext. 115

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & GRANT PROVIDERS


SAVE THE DATE

Victoria Women’s Sexual Assault Centre
Open House
December 5th, 4:00pm to 7:00pm
201-3060 Cedar Hill Rd

Light refreshments provided
Please RSVP to 250-383-5545 or reception@vwsac.com

Experience our new, warm, friendly space for yourself.

THE MEANING OF HOME

For many of us, home is a place of comfort and safety, a place to nourish and replenish. We have now occupied our new home for two months and can say with confidence that our new space feels like home. We’ve invited many of you over the years to come see our centre in person, to meet our dedicated staff, and experience for yourself the impact our work, supported by your donations, has in the community. We always do our very best to provide a safe place for survivors to heal - now, as we settle into our new home, I realize what a gift stability will be for all of us – staff, board, clients, and community partners. We have a permanent home now and are very proud to offer services in a welcoming environment.

How does this help survivors? It’s simple: a warm welcoming space provides a context for healing – people need to feel comfortable to share, they need to feel at home in their heart, and safe. Please enjoy the following pictorial tour of our new home and join us December 5th between 4pm and 7pm for our Open House.

Makenna Rielly, Executive Director

MAKENNA RIELLY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
What projects are you working on right now? Setting in to the building, evaluation of our administrative consolidation and co-location as continual attempts to save money.
What do you hope will be the end goals? Make the agency more secure as we struggle with the lack of increases in our government contracts without cutting programs.

Any ‘aha’ moments for you during your work at WSAC? An amazing staff that love their work and provide the highest quality services even though they are underpaid for the level of work. This includes everybody who provides front line services and those employees who help us operate as efficiently as we can.
I am so impressed by the survivors of sexualized violence who come to heal, as well as the youth that come to support prevention education and add their voices to the fight against gender violence in their community.
ALYX MACADAMS - TRANS* INCLUSION COORDINATOR

What do you hope people you help will come away with?
I hope the survivors I work with come away feeling empowered to make a decision that is right for them and feel supported in that decision, whether or not they decide to engage with the criminal justice system.

How long have you worked here?
4.5 years (Lenore) & 2 years (Gagan)

Any ‘a-ha’ moments for you during your work at WSAC?

GAGAN LEEKHA AND LENORE KENNEDY - RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

What projects are you working on right now?
We are planning an open house for December 5th, revamping communications materials (including our website which was last done in 2007!), and deciding what to do for our big fundraising and community building event in the spring.

What do you hope will be the end goals?
We want to increase our connection with donors, community members, and everyone who cares about sexualized violence in our community! Raising funds is vital to our agency and our work. Every dollar raised helps VWSAC create vibrant and accessible services and programs. While raising funds is top priority, we always like to incorporate education into our fundraising – instead of simply telling what we do, we want to show people their donations at work.

How long have you worked here?
4.5 years (Lenore) & 2 years (Gagan)

Any ‘a-ha’ moments for you?

LENORE KENNEDY: Life changing – constantly learning more about the issue and the complexities of gender-based violence.

GAGAN LEEKHA: How strong people are after trauma and the incredible dedication of staff, some who have been here 20 plus years.

GAGAN LEEKHA: How strong people are after trauma and the incredible dedication of staff, some who have been here 20 plus years.

BARB PECK - COUNSELLOR

What Group are you facilitating right now?
I’m facilitating the Building Strengths Group and the Boundaries and Communication Group.

What do you hope every participant will come away with?
If I just have to pick one thing, I hope participants come away with increased compassion for themselves.

How long have you been a counsellor here?
Over 10 years.

LARA GRAVES - VICTIM SERVICES ASSISTANT

What are you working on right now?
This is an especially busy time for victim services since there tends to be quite a bit of court this time of year. We are doing a significant amount of court preparation and court accommodations to support survivors through what can sometimes be a very challenging process.

We are also updating our victim services brochure as well as developing current legal information on sexual rights and responsibilities through our partnership with Pro Bono Students Canada. We are fortunate to have two University of Victoria law students, Annalise Erkelens and Jane Henderson, volunteering with us to research and develop these materials under the supervision of family law lawyer Laura Atkinson.

What do you hope people you help will come away with?
I hope the survivors I work with come away feeling empowered to make a decision that is right for them and feel supported in that decision, whether or not they decide to engage with the criminal justice system.

How long have you worked here?
1 month

Any ‘a-ha’ moments for you during your work at WSAC?

There’s been so many ‘a-ha’ moments! I work with an amazing group of colleagues who have a tremendous amount of knowledge and expertise in the field of sexualized violence and I learn something every day from my colleagues. I’m also always learning from the survivors that I work with and am constantly surprised by their resilience, their acts of resistance, their fortitude and courage in coming forward.

What do you wish every participant will come away with?
If I just have to pick one thing, I hope participants come away with increased compassion for themselves.

How long have you been a counsellor here?
Over 10 years.

Our client quilt.