



Victoria Sexual  
Assault Centre

*healing, education & prevention*

## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Victoria Sexual Assault Centre Name Change Officially Complete**

VICTORIA – The Victoria Women’s Sexual Assault Center is now officially the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre (VSAC).

This April, the Victoria Women’s Sexual Assault Center formally changed its name to the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre (VSAC). VSAC’s services remain the same, but are now open to women and all trans\* and gender variant survivors, including trans people who do not identify as women.

VSAC’s name change is just one of the active steps the organization is making to become a trans\* inclusive agency. In addition, the new name better reflects services VSAC has always provided to all genders, including the Sexual Assault Response Team, Crisis & Information Line and Project Respect.

#### What’s New:

- Name and logo
- Updated Mission, Values, and Beliefs (<http://vsac.ca/mission/> )
- Website: [www.vsca.ca](http://www.vsca.ca)

#### What Stays the Same:

- VSAC’s mandate to serve those whose lives have been impacted by sexualized violence, and to prevent that violence.
- VSAC’s charitable business number remains: # 10822 0054 RR0001

Sexualized violence affects people of all genders, however women and trans\* people are disproportionately affected by sexualized violence. Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16 (The Violence Against Women Survey, Statistics Canada) and 74% of trans\* people experience more than one incidence of sexual

violence in their lifetime (FORGE: <http://forge-forward.org/anti-violence/sexual-violence-research/wisconsin-data/>). No one deserves to experience sexualized violence. VSAC's goals are:

- 1) To provide immediate information and support to all those impacted by sexualized violence.
- 2) To involve and support volunteers to contribute towards our goals of healing, prevention, and education.
- 3) To provide accessible, high quality, feminist counselling services to women and all trans\* survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.
- 4) To advocate for individual survivors within the justice, medical, and social service systems; to work cooperatively with these systems and with other community agencies to be responsive to the needs of the survivor.
- 5) To prevent sexualized violence by building awareness of its root causes and impact through education and social action in schools, institutions, and the community at large.
- 6) To continuously expand our knowledge of effective and innovative work in this field, to share this knowledge with others, and to apply it to our ongoing work.
- 7) To actively increase the accessibility of our services, particularly for those who are most affected by societal and systemic barriers
- 8) To critique our own positions of privilege and dominance, and work to equalize power within our relationships, our organization, and our communities.

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre ([www.vsac.ca](http://www.vsac.ca)) is a feminist organization committed to ending sexualized violence through healing, education, and prevention. We are dedicated to supporting women and all trans\* survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, through advocacy, counselling, and empowerment.

\*“trans\*” is used as an umbrella term to describe anyone who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth, including identities and presentations outside of the binary of “man” and “woman.”