



peers

VICTORIA RESOURCES SOCIETY

Executive Director's Report

Peers continues to be busy and bustling this spring! Our newly instituted Men and Trans* Outreach program is reaching more and more people each month and is filling a really important gap in our services. We are also thrilled to announce that we have a new Sexual Assault Response and Violence Prevention program funded by Justice Canada. This program will allow us to offer more supports to people who have experienced violence but also get out and do more violence prevention work in the community. Our housing program supported by the Capital Regional District (CRD) has been boosted with an additional worker to help us better meet the support needs of the many people we support who are trying to find or maintain housing. We are also currently engaged in a research project funded by the CRD Homelessness Partnering Strategy in collaboration with Drs Pauly and Wallace from the

University of Victoria. This project will help us better understand the successes and challenges we have experienced implementing a Housing First program for current and former sex workers in a housing market with low vacancy and high rental costs. Our Drop-In, Small Business, Health Support and Night Outreach programs continue to offer their valued services, and we are especially grateful for two new additions to our fleet: a newly purchased RV (thanks to the donors who supported Rolls4Strolls) and a donated vehicle to support the housing and health programs. Finally, we held a memorial celebration for Peers co-founder Jannit Rabinovitch in January and launched a campaign to raise funds for our highly popular Jannit Rabinovitch scholarship program as well as our indoor workers dinner group. Until next time!

–Rachel, Peers ED



Hannah Rabinovitch gives a warm address at the memorial celebration for her mother and Peers co-founder Jannit Rabinovitch. The celebration also launched a \$10,000 fundraising campaign for the Jannit Rabinovitch scholarship program and our indoor workers dinner group. To learn more about the campaign or to donate, please visit: www.gofundme.com/jannit-10-yr-tribute-peers-victoria.



Peers has a new RV! Our team was very excited to be getting a tutorial on all the systems in the RV from Fennell RV. A big thank you also goes out to Bonnie Segger for helping to make this happen.



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Red Umbrella Day



City of Victoria Councillors Marianne Alto and Charlayne Thornton Joe come out in support of Red Umbrella Day.



Red umbrella day was a big success this year and no rain either!! Thank you to Peers staff member Bobby Dick for leading the day.



Making magic happen! Sarah and Darren (Pacifica) working together on the Housing Program.



Flora Pagan, Bruce Wallace, Bernie Pauly and Leah Shumka (not pictured) are working on a housing project with Peers which is currently underway!



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Volunteers!



We are so lucky to have such wonderful volunteers! Kayla is busy giving a chair massage and Karen and Sam are cooking up a delicious lunch for Drop in!

Peers held a volunteer thank you celebration at Zambri's to acknowledge all of the wonderful work that volunteers do and also as an opportunity to get together with Peers staff and spend some quality time. It was a really special event!



Another fun Beauty Day at Peers! Thanks to our volunteer beauty experts who do such a fantastic job.





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Programs!

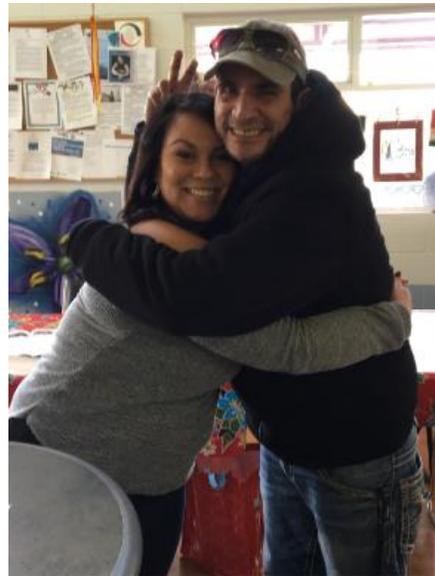


The Health Program put on a wonderful celebration for Valentine's day complete with self-love yoga, a nursing clinic, flowers and treats.

One of the graduates of the Small Business Training Program, Lisa Ordell, celebrating her achievement with Julie Higginson, the course instructor. Congratulations Lisa!



Drop in participant having fun on roller skates in the short-lived spring weather we had in January!



Lacey, one of the fabulous Drop In coordinators and Chris, one of the fabulous participants sharing hugs.



Peers is so excited to introduce our new staff member Chaw-win-is! "My name is Chaw-win-is and I am Nuu-chah-nulth from Tla-o-qui-aht and Cheklesah nations. I am honoured to have this opportunity to work with Peers as the Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator. I have been engaged in grassroots activism and organizing on the issue of sexualized violence since 2006. In order to remain strong and clear, I choose to lean on the teachings of my ancestors and the wisdom of young folks to guide me and my actions every day. Kleco, kleco (thank-you) and I look forward to working with you!"



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I want to support *Peers Victoria Resources Society* through donations.

Donation type: _____ **One time** _____ **Monthly**

If monthly, please debit my bank account: (*attach VOID cheque*)

_____ **\$20** _____ **\$50** _____ **\$75** **or Other Amount** _____ (specify)

The debit will be processed to your account on the 16th day of each month or the next business day.

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This donation is made on behalf of: _____ **an Individual** _____ **a Business**

I may revoke my authorization for pre-authorized donations at any time, subject to providing notice of 10 days. Cancellation can be done by emailing finance@peers.bc.ca or by phoning the number below.

PEERS Victoria Resources Society
1-744 Fairview Rd
Victoria, BC V9A 5T9
Tel: 250-388-5325
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