



# peers

VICTORIA RESOURCES SOCIETY

## *Annual General Meeting, 2014*

Peers Victoria Resources Society  
#1 – 744 Fairview Road, Victoria  
**Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
5:00 – 7:00 pm

[www.safersexwork.ca](http://www.safersexwork.ca)

### *Agenda*

**5:00-5:30 p.m.**

Registration for society members, refreshments, networking

**5:30-5:40 p.m.**

Welcome – Brad Weldon, Peers Board of Directors Co-chair

**5:40 – 6:15 p.m.**

Kara Taylor (Network Coordinator) and Cha-win-is (Prevention Programs Coordinator)  
Victoria Sexual Assault Centre. Presentation:  
*Community Based Response Network - Sexual and Gender Based Violence*

**6:15– 6:25 p.m.**

Approve AGM minutes from 2013

**6:25 – 7:00 p.m.**

Reports:  
Board Report  
Annual Financial Review – Presentation by Grant Thornton  
Executive Director Report

Election of executive members and members at large

**7:00 p.m.**  
Adjournment and Closing



For those who are new to Peers, we were founded in 1995 by and for sex workers with the support of community allies. Peers is an impressive example of grassroots community development, providing programs and services to people who have been marginalized because of the stigma associated with sex work. Many who participate in Peers' programs comment that we offer a safe and accepting service environment that has a positive impact on their lives.

Peers is a registered Canadian Charity. Our funding comes from various branches of the provincial government (in 2014: Island Health, BC Gaming, and the Ministry of Justice), the federal government (Homelessness Partnership Strategy administered by the Capital Regional District), municipalities, charitable foundations, service groups, community groups and private donors. Our support base is diverse, ranging from local police departments and businesses to faith-based groups to decriminalization and human rights advocates. Peers' values focus on the experiential voice (sex worker leadership), harm reduction, non-judgemental, client-centred service and social justice. You can read more about our programs and history at [www.safersexwork.com](http://www.safersexwork.com).

## *Executive Director's Report, 2014*

Rachel Phillips

This year has been one of both significant organizational changes and growth. In early 2014, we were operating our Night Outreach program six nights a week – as usual -with

funding from BC Gaming and Island Health. However, we only had a skeleton crew available during the day including one day outreach worker (funded by the United Way) and very part-time management staff. This limited day-time operation was because we had closed our primary day-time program, Elements, in late 2013 after we found that the new Employment Program of BC funding model simply did not mesh well with our program specificities and service population. Closing Elements after over 15 years of operating an employment program at Peers was deeply upsetting and stressful for everyone associated with the program, and we really had doubts that Peers would survive the change.

With funding from the Victoria Foundation and support from the Island Health Street Nurses and Cool Aid Clinic nurses we opened a weekly drop in health clinic shortly after closing Elements in late 2013. The health clinic was an excellent complement to the one to one Daytime Outreach program funded by the United Way and provided a consistent daytime service as we headed into 2014 with little knowledge about what the year would hold for daytime services. Sarah Smith and Sadie Forbes – and their friends - organized a number of burlesque shows in late 2013 and into 2014 at the Cambie (Esquimalt), the proceeds of which were donated to Peers to help keep our doors open on a weekly basis for the drop in health clinic. The weekly health clinic provided the drop in social outlet that had always been a big piece of what happened at the day centre, when Elements was running alongside lunch and some needed access to health services. However a once a week program was a stop-gap strategy as our aim was always to have at least part-time drop in services at the office if we could secure funding.

We were delighted (and very relieved) in the spring of 2014 to receive a one-time \$100,000 grant from the Ministry of Justice. This grant allowed us to reopen the Drop in Centre for services – albeit shorter service hours – for at least another year, giving us time and leveraging opportunity with respect to securing other funding. In the summer of 2014 we received funding from the CRD/Canada, Homelessness Partnering Strategy which allowed us to add a day-time housing worker to the day-time support service continuum. The Ministry of Justice funds also allowed us to bump up our Night Outreach services to seven nights a week. In addition, we started a new monthly social program specifically oriented to indoor sex workers, recognizing that some of our existing services were not meeting the needs of those working in agency and independent escort environments.

In the summer of 2014, Marion Little prepared to move back to Ontario to be closer to extended family and an Executive Director search was on. Everyone was deeply grateful for Marion's work in helping to secure the grant from the Ministry of Justice, as well as for her capacity to generate community support for Peers' work at a critical time. In late June, I was hired as the Executive Director in June 2014, in part due to my long-time experience in sex work research and Peers board governance. I was also selected because the organization was still on shaky ground financially and everyone knew that many grants would have to be written over the summer and fall, preferably by someone already familiar with the organization. To add to the challenges ahead, the government introduced Bill C36 in June 2014 to great and widespread critique. Bill C36 created a lot of work for Peers as we had to become familiar with the new laws and the implications, communicate this info to stakeholders, gather community

responses and opinions and then apply to have this feedback presented to both the Justice Committee and Senate in Ottawa - all within a month. In the end, board member Natasha Potvin and I travelled to Ottawa to share the perspectives of Victoria sex workers with the Justice Committee – an experience that was both simultaneously exhilarating and disappointing; we were very happy to be there and to participate in an historic legal moment in Canada concerning the prostitution-related criminal code, but disappointed by the inflexibility of the Conservative government with respect to basic evidence on the makeup of the sex industry in Canada, and the impact of criminalization on health and safety.

The late summer of 2014 remained active, with sex worker leadership across the country reaching a peak in terms of coordinated collaboration to the address the government's proposition to increase criminalization as the bill headed for Senate review in September. On top of this, we applied for 14 funding grants between the fall of 2014 and early 2015 (many thanks to all involved in writing those grants - Jody, Joanne, Carin and myself). Our night outreach, drop in, housing and indoor workers groups all experienced growth in utilization over the summer and fall, a trend which seems to be continuing into 2015. In the fall of 2014, we were also invited by the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre to partner in the Community Network to Address Sexual Violence – an innovative partnership that was both new to Peers, but also others around the table.

So it really was a big year at Peers! The end of this story is that by the end of 2014/early 2015 it looked like Peers might have the funding to stay open another year. In addition, programs were fully utilized, new directions post-Elements were taking shape, and while we were disappointed that C36 passed into law in December, we ended the year with one of our biggest Red Umbrella events to date.

While 2015 has seen us secure basic operational and program funding, much of our funding remains short-term, so there really is little opportunity to sit back and do some of the organizational and program development work that is made possible by a more secure funding environment. Nevertheless, we are so grateful to be operating as we are a needed service and so many exciting things have happened this year. We feel supported by the community including by volunteers, donors, and other funders, but also by the many organizations and individuals who come out to support our mission and values, events, and publicly stand up for sex worker rights.

I have many people to thank for a great year: the street nurses and Cool Aid nurses for bringing health care access to Peers, the Centre for Addictions Research, staff of Aids Vancouver Island, Marion Little, Patricia O'byrne, Joanne Rife, Marianne Alto, Bruce Bryant Scott, Alastair McCollum, and all the staff, volunteers and donors who have invested in making Peers the wonderful place it is. I would also like to thank Todd, Sara, Kristi, Kathi and Allison of the Victoria Police Department for supporting our efforts to address sex worker safety. Jody Paterson is a tremendous mentor, organizational supporter, and still helps Peers with communications and funding projects. Finally, long-time board member Susan Strega will be moving on this year after 14 years with

organization, the majority of it on the board. Susan has been a pillar in the Peers community and we will miss her tremendously.



## *Co-Chairs' Report, 2014*

Brad Weldon, Susan Strega

2014 was another great year for Peers in terms of board stability, with Natasha Potvin, Candace McKivett, Rachel Phillips, Carolyn Showler, Flora Pagan, Leah Shumka, Brad Weldon and Susan Strega continuing as board members. Cathy Tremain also briefly returned to the board in the role of treasurer when Candace was on leave. Recent changes include the retirement of Carolyn Showler and Susan Strega, and the addition of Kate Vallance. Another significant move was that of our past co-chair, Rachel, to the Executive Director position.

Although all board members are involved in Peers' fundraising and community activities, we want to particularly acknowledge Leah Shumka's work in coordinating our major fundraising event, Hot Pink. Other board members also significantly contributed to Hot Pink through gathering silent auction donations, staffing the event, and providing set-up and clean up. We also want to acknowledge Natasha Potvin's advocacy work on sex worker rights including presenting at the Justice Committee of the House of Commons in July following the introduction of C36. Other board members also participated in many of these activities.

Unfortunately, 2014 was also once again a challenging financial year for Peers as government funding continues to be limited, meaning that we must continue to find creative ways to deliver essential services. Our services remain limited when assessed against services Peers has historically provided to current and former sex workers, and especially when assessed against the services that our clients and staff tell us are needed. We were very fortunate, however, to receive a one-time grant from the Ministry of Justice in 2014 which allowed us to reopen the Drop-in Centre in June of that same year, after closing it in late 2013. We also want to acknowledge the Victoria Foundation for providing a grant which enabled a weekly health clinic to run with help from the Cool-Aid Clinic and Island Health street nurses. This weekly (now bi-weekly) health clinic provided a valuable source of service continuity while we reoriented the programming and funding of the Drop-in Centre.

On a positive note, the board continues to work with many community allies who came forward to fundraise for Peers or who approached us with new ideas about how our programs could work together. Peers continues to be valued and respected in the community, and the board would like to recognize all the current and former staff members who work so very hard to keep Peers going and to meet the needs of those we serve in this difficult funding environment. Special acknowledgment here to Joanne Rife, who has served as our executive assistant and volunteer coordinator for the past 8 months as she has continued the project of making Peers internal systems clear and robust. We also recognize that volunteers enrich and enhance our existing programs.

As has been true for almost 2 decades, Peers continues to be a collaborative project involving workers, volunteers, and community partners. Together, we ensure the voices of sex workers are heard, their rights are supported, and their wellness needs are met.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### ***Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report, 2014***

Candace McKivett, Treasurer

Committee Members: Candace McKivett, Cathy Tremain, Marie Fournier, Rachel Phillips

Although the lack of stable funding continues to be a major issue for Peers, we did manage to re-open the Drop-in Centre with grants from the BC Ministry of Justice, the Victoria Foundation and funding from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. Other sources of funding for programs include: the BC Gaming Commission; BC Housing; the Capital Regional District; the United Way of Greater Victoria; Island Health; and the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre. All of these funds are appreciated, and every dollar helps. But realistically, to fully staff and return to full time operating hours for the Drop-in Centre would require an additional \$200 000 a year over the revenue taken in 2014. As we head into 2015 it would appear things are moving in the right direction but securing longer term funding for the organization remains difficult.

Peers continues to apply for funding opportunities wherever we can find them and we remain committed to prioritizing services for our clients.

We want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all our individual donors for their generosity to Peers. Your contributions to our fundraising efforts have been critical in helping us to keep the Drop-in Centre open and we want you to know how much we value and depend on your support. We couldn't have made it through the year without you.

I also want to thank Cathy Tremain, our former treasurer, for taking time out of her busy schedule and stepping in to act as treasurer over the fall and winter.

Thank you

### ***Fundraising Committee Report, 2014***

Leah Shumka and Rachel Phillips

Our annual Hot Pink fundraiser was held on February 14th, 2014 at the Langham Court Theatre. We raised over \$10,000 and had our biggest silent auction to date (it alone contributed close to \$4000 in revenue). We are grateful to Langham Court who generously donated to Peers via a reduced venue cost and a donation from bar sales. The Cheesecake Burlesque Revue teamed up with the Boxers are Brief Boylesque to put on a fabulous and entertaining sell out performance. Both groups generously donated their time and energy to the event. A special thank you to Leah Shumka for her role in organizing the event along with the Cheesecake Burlesque Revue.

In 2014, with your help Peers raised just under \$55,000 in donations, which is close to 15% of our revenue. We also raised an additional \$11,000 at fundraising events. This was roughly equal to the donations raised in 2013 and a \$15,000 increase over donations raised in 2012.

One of the things we are excited about is that we now have close to 35 people contributing to Peers through monthly donations which are direct debited. These individuals give anywhere from \$5-\$100/month for a total of \$1100 each month - proof positive that every donation, big or small, makes a tangible difference.

## *Community Activism Report, 2014*

Flora Pagan, Natasha Potvin

With the introduction of Bill C36 came a busy year for Peers. While we were disappointed that the bill became law in December 2014, the work that we put in to fight the passage of the bill brought about powerful cross-sector collaboration to support the work of Peers, which raised public awareness and will surely benefit sex workers in the region.

In June 2014, Bill C36, the Canadian Government's response to the December 2013 Supreme Court decision to strike down the Bedford laws was released. This new set of laws further criminalized sex work in Canada. Shortly thereafter, Peers held focus groups with over 25 local sex workers in different parts of the industry, to hear about how the then proposed laws would affect their lives. Those who participated were unanimous in opposing criminalization of the sex industry, and described the many ways in which criminalization contributes to discrimination, isolation, and lack of safety and security for those engaged in the sex trade.

Board members Natasha Potvin and Flora Pagan met with local Members of Parliament Murray Rankin, Randall Garrison, and Elizabeth May, securing their support against Bill C-36, and in support of sex workers. Along with Executive Director, Rachel Phillips, they also met with City Councilor Marianne Alto, members of the Victoria Police Department, and members of different faith groups, all wanting to hear about how to best fight Bill C36 and support Peers, and sex workers' human rights.

With information from local sex workers, Peers prepared a briefing to provide the House of Commons' Justice Committee with its opinions on the harms to sex workers that would be caused by the bill. In July, two representatives from Peers, Rachel and Natasha, were invited to Ottawa to appear at the Justice Committee's hearing regarding Bill C36. They asked the government to listen to the voices of sex workers across Canada and the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to decriminalize the exchange of sexual services between consenting adults.

Peers also prepared a similar briefing for the Senate's review of Bill C36 in September and October. The senate submission was accompanied by several letters of support from key stakeholders in the community including the City of Victoria, Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, AIDS Vancouver Island, Centre for Aboriginal Health Research and Island Health. We further followed up by submitting the personal narratives of local sex workers to Justice Minister Peter Mackay and local Member of Parliament Randall Garrison. Many thanks to those who gave input on the briefings, including the Peers clients who shared their experiences with us so that we could speak at the federal level on these issues.

With a great deal of coordinating help from Jody Paterson, Peers also held a public forum in September, exploring the benefits of decriminalizing the sex industry in Canada. Speakers included local sex workers, allies, a member of the Victoria police, a constitutional lawyer, our local Member of Parliament, and New Zealand sex work rights activist Catherine Healy. It was an informative event attended by 120 members of the community. We wish to thank Jody Paterson, Hermione Jefferis from AVI, and the panelists for an amazing public education event.

Sadly, Bill C36 was passed by the federal government on November 6, and became law on December 6. However, there was an immediate movement across Canada, led by sex workers and supported by allies, asking premiers of each province to refer Bill C36 to the provincial courts to determine its constitutionality.

Peers finished off 2014 with another incredible Red Umbrella March on December 17. Red Umbrella Day is an international day of action to raise awareness regarding violence against sex workers. We began the event with speakers Sarah Hunt, Kecia Clark, and Kara Taylor at the Legislative Assembly, and marched along Government Street to City Hall, red umbrellas and placards in hand. At City Hall, Sadie Robin hosted an evening of speeches and burlesque performances from Ginger Kittens, VaVa Vunderbust, and River Wilde. We heard from Councillor, Marianne Alto, renamed City Hall to "Titty Hall", and enjoyed a feast provided by DeadBeetz. Thanks to the organizing committee: Rachel Phillips, Natasha Potvin, Flora Pagan, Lisa Ordell, Meghan Jezewski, Daphne Shaed, Kara Taylor, Sarah Hunt, Alyson Kowalsky, Sadie Robin, Sarah Smith, Hermione Jeffries, Andrina, Trish, Annie Morgan Banks, and Billy Yu, and to the UVic Women's Centre, Students of Colour Collective, VIPIRG, the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, the Anti-Violence Project, Department of Gender Studies and UVIC Pride. Special thanks also to Annie Morgan Banks for organizing a sign making party for the march, and to Dawn Heiden for her gift of red butterflies in memory of Tina Fontaine.

## STAFF REPORTS

### *Admin, Facilities and Volunteer Coordination, 2014*

Joanne Rife, Rachel Phillips, Patricia O'Byrne

Patricia O'Byrne steered the Peers admin ship through much of 2014, and passed the baton to Joanne Rife in November. We were supported by many community service providers who offered free or discounted goods and services to our feisty non-profit. We tip our hat to: Jim Legh (lawyer), Brad Webster(auto), Julie Higginson (small business group), Jody Paterson (communications), Derrick Volnik (computer support), Patrice Snopkowski (graphic design), Winners/Homesense and Women In Need (donations of clothing and household items), and many more!

It was a quiet year in terms of facilities upgrades as we were not sure what the future would hold for Peers, but we did make the decision to invest in a long overdue website overhaul. Many thanks to Leah Shumka and Patrice Snopkowski for designing and creating the new site.

Volunteers were especially important in 2014. Monika Josok, Joanne Hauge and Jennifer Young kept the lunches going in 2014, helping keep our clients nourished at the Drop-in centre. In late 2014, Anna Maglio joined the lunch volunteers and quickly became a valued team member, as she began helping with both day and night food service. We also brought on several clothing volunteers in 2014 who tackled the mounds of clothing and household donations each week. Special thanks to Kate Vallance, Devon Greaves, Bonnie Sawyer, Chelsea Howard, Alicia Ward, and Venessa Beaulieu.

Beauty Day was brought back to life in summer 2014, thanks to the efforts of Sarah Smith and her crew of beautifiers. This popular service is hosted each Wednesday at the Drop-in Centre. The fabulous volunteer crew did nails for clients, handed out beauty supplies and gave them a beauty boost. Hair services are to be added in 2015. Special thanks to: Vanessa Oliver, Ruth Morrison, and Brady.

Thanks also to: Laurel Dietz for volunteer legal counsel for clients, Holly and John for stocking and detailing our Outreach van; Susan Shields and Alix Jean for providing volunteer acupuncture; Dawn Heiden for volunteering her sewing skills in starting up a weekly Stitch 'n' Bitch, doing clothing repairs for clients; Erin Anderson for hosting a regular creative writing group; Joanne Hauge who has been a volunteer at Peers for the past five years, doing knitting and visiting with clients; Pro Bono students of Canada (Jessi, Francis, Sumra and Alisa) and the Island Medical program (Ruchi and Tlell) for assisting our programs with student placements; Rainbow kitchen for hosting our Holiday Feast and staff there for donating their time and food; and our Board of Directors (all volunteers don't forget).

Heartfelt thanks to all our dedicated and passionate volunteers! You rock!

## *Housing, 2014*

Casey Newman

The housing program was introduced in 2014 with funding provided by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (Government of Canada, with administration by the Capital Regional District). The objectives of the program in 2014 were to assist people to secure housing - particularly those coming out of transitional shelters- through the provision of rental subsidies, support with purchasing household supplies, moving and storage costs, landlord-tenant relationship support, and housing searches. The program was extremely successful in housing people, helping others to maintain their housing, networking with other service providers in identifying people who require support, including providing a presence at shelters to enable connections with our housing support worker. By the end of 2014, a mere four months into the program, we had surpassed our proposed caseload of 25-35 persons and taken in over 40 persons, the vast majority of whom had secured housing within a couple months of service.

The housing outreach and support worker position at Peers has enabled us to help in very tangible ways and has been extremely rewarding. Many people been served in ways that would not otherwise have been possible without the funding and support this program provided. We are pleased to report that funding for this program was awarded again in early 2015.

Participant:

"I've been very blessed and grateful to have been assisted with the housing outreach worker...When my room was cold and mold was growing, I was helped with a portable heater and new blankets and other household items that help me live much more comfortable...I give so much thanks and love to all their hard work, time and caring they put into their work."

## *Day Outreach, 2014*

Rachel Phillips and Kristine Allard

After three years of funding from the United Way, the Day Outreach program ended in December 2014. The Day Outreach program had always been a staple program at Peers, because it allowed us to work one to one with individuals to access housing, financial, justice and health supports in the community. Indeed the primary purpose of Day Outreach was to enable individuals to access a wide range of resources available in the community, with the accompaniment of an advocate who provided transportation and social support. The Day Outreach worker also administered the BC Housing Subsidies available through Peers and completed CASH (supported and subsidized housing referrals). The Day Outreach program had a total caseload of 90 persons in 2014, with close to 30 persons being active clients (seen on a regular, often weekly, basis), and 6-8 persons served per day. Special thanks to Kristine Allard for carrying out this program, especially during the early part of 2014, where she really was

the primary service for people requiring day-time support, as well as the main Peers staff person attending the weekly health clinics.

In early 2015, the services taken up by Day Outreach were spread across two programs - Housing support and Health support, with funding from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and the MAC AIDS Foundation. The United Way funds, that traditionally supported day-time outreach, was directed to the Drop-in Centre, as part of our ongoing effort to reorganize our services after the closure of our key Elements program.

### *Indoor Workers Dinner Group, 2014*

Rachel Phillips

The indoor workers dinner group - a provisional name which turned into a permanent name - started in July 2014 with funds provided by the Ministry of Justice. The board made the decision to set aside funds for a new program for agency-based and independent escorts, recognizing that while people working in these kinds of settings comprise the majority of people in the sex industry, they have often been a minority of Peers' service recipients due privacy concerns. They also recognized that there had been a widespread perception that Peers services were designed to help those with more acute housing, food security, and income support needs. We went into the first meeting to gather feedback on what the new program would look like - should there be a designated outreach worker for this program or another staffed resource? However, what the group wanted most was a chance to get together for an educational and social outlet. So the model we started out with of a dinner gathering with group knowledge exchange and guest speakers stuck. The group also identified that guest speakers with expertise in health, justice-law (including lawyers to advise on implications of revised law), accounting, and politics would all be valuable, setting the agenda for the first year of meetings.

Over the past year we have had a wonderful array of guest speakers and attendees have communicated that the group has become a significant source of social support in their lives. We have anywhere from 8-15 attendees at each monthly meeting with one to two new people inquiring about the group each month. We have adjusted the focus of the meetings going into the second year and will continue to make this group something that responds to the evolving needs and interests of those who attend.

### *Night Outreach, 2014*

Tammy Arnault

Night Outreach was a stable service throughout 2014. One of the major highlights was the move to a seven day a week schedule in time for the winter months. Staff had been advocating for this for a long time, even collectively agreeing to go back down to 4.5 hr shifts in order to make a seven day a week schedule workable. Night outreach had a caseload of 125 persons (not including persons who irregularly accessed the van or accessed the van only a couple of times) and served an average of 15 persons per night in 2014. As with the daytime services, the night time services started to trend upwards in terms of the number of persons served in late 2014, and this has continued into 2015 with the current average numbers exceeding 18 per night. Night Outreach

continues to offer a crucial service including safer sex and harm reduction supplies, food and clothing and assistance with bad date reporting.

In early 2014, we had a small (big) accident with our RV and had to retire it. Not having the funding to purchase a new RV at the time, we moved our Night Outreach service into a van. The clients and staff have been adjusting to having the van rather than the RV over the past year. Although it allows for a basic level of service, staff are continually asked about when a new RV will be available. Clients say they miss being able to come in and warm up and have longer conversations with staff. It is a little harder to come in, sit down and get comfortable in the van with all the food, harm reduction supplies and forward-facing seating, which does not allow for ease of private, face-to-face conversations.

We also started providing crack pipes to clients in 2014. This was very well received as it was something clients have been requesting for a very long time. The new Housing program at Peers allowed the housing support worker to be on the van one night a week, facilitating connections between night outreach clients - the majority of whom are homeless - and Peers daytime housing support services.

### ***Drop-In Centre, 2014***

Sarah Smith, Laural Gaudette, Isha Matous-Gibbs, Rebecca Omelak

The Drop-In Centre serves as an important access point for resources within Peers and throughout the community. Beyond that it is an unconditionally welcoming belonging place for sex workers. Since June 2014 our hours of operation are Monday-Thursdays 11-3. The Drop-in Centre was funded by the Ministry of Justice through 2014 and continues to be funded by the Ministry of Justice (and more recently in early 2015) by the United Way.

The following services are available through the Drop-In Centre:

- Bus tickets
- Food security (snacks, hot lunch, emergency food bank)
- Housing supports and referrals (re: homelessness, unstable housing, Residential Tenancy Act, household goods after a move)
- Trauma recovery, referrals, and supports
- Beauty day: hair, nails, and beauty products
- Harm reduction resources (re: safer sex, needle exchange, educational materials, referrals)
- Wellness workshops delivered by guest speakers from allied services in the community
- Assistance with ID replacement
- Crafts: dream catchers, breast plates, etc
- Computer lab
- Health clinic (nurses, acupuncture)
- 1:1 social support

Prior to the reopening of the drop in centre in June 2014, weekly drop in services were supported by funding from the Victoria Foundation and donors. These funds allowed us to hire one staff person for 4hrs/wk to run a weekly Health Clinic (now bi-weekly), coordinated by Carolyn Showler (Board member) in collaboration with the Cool Aid nurses and the VIHA Street Nurses. We'd like to thank Caroline Meggison (Cool Aid Nurse), Anne Drost (Cool Aid Nurse), Betty Poag (VIHA Clinical Coordinator), Lisa, Lisbet and Tamara (VIHA Street Nurse) and Susan Shields (Acupuncturist) for making the Wednesday Clinic possible in 2014.

In 2014, the Drop-in Centre served between 50-60 individuals monthly, (with 1-3 new clients accessing each week). In July of 2014 our average daily number of persons served was 12 but this had climbed to 15 by December 2014 and has continued to climb in early 2015.

## **WITH MANY THANKS**

### *Deep gratitude to our incredible staff (2014-present)*

Rachel Phillips, Joanne Rife, Patricia O'Byrne, Marie Fournier, Laural Gaudette, Sarah Smith, Casey Newman, Tammy Arnault, Juli Savage, Liza Slavica, Alicia Koorn, Jessica Pletzer, Liz Baechler, Jonathan Degenhardt, Alyson Kowalewsky, Jessica Murray, Joi Saunders, Carin Gill, Thea Cunningham, sunny burke, Sarah Smith, Jenine Daubney, Maneesha Johal, Gail Kelly, Kristine Allard, Isha Gibbs, Yvette Sellars, Rebecca Omelak, Tracie Fawkes

### *Enthusiastic appreciation to our 2014 donors for all their support!*

#### **Individual Donors**

All our generous Anonymous donors, and:

Alan Ringel  
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Zonta Club

**ONE BIG FINAL THANKS**

Thank you to all our volunteers, community supporters and cheerleaders, all those who believe in the rights of sex workers and social justice, those who came out to our events, and anyone we have missed. We couldn't do it without you!