

August 2024 Newsletter



It has been a busy spring and summer at Victoria Sexual Assault Centre. Thank you for your donations and participation in the various activities to advocate for survivors and against gender-based violence in our communities.

Triathlon of Compassion

We had another successful Triathlon of Compassion in June and raised \$15,587.00, and over 150 racers participated. It was a fun event with family and friends showing up to cheer racers of all ages. Thank you all for coming out and for donating to VSAC. A special thank you to Human Powered Racing, VSAC staff and volunteers who worked alongside us to make the event planning a success. Thank you to our sponsors and businesses that supported our community event through prizes and other gifts; Trek Bicycle Store, Victoria, Peninsula Co-op, CFX 1070, Arbutus Physiotherapy & Health Centre, Country Grocer, Kersten Orthodontics, Skydive Vancouver Island, Cycles West, Bolen Books, Live to Surf, Prestige Oceanfront Resort, SPINCO, Il Terrazzo, Trek Bikes, Flavour/8th & Main, The Running Room, Big Wheel Burger, Giant Victoria, Bicycleitis, The Market Stores, and Cinecenta.



Trivia Night

We held another exciting, brain busting Trivia Night at the end of May (Sexual Assault Prevention Month) at Caffè Fantastico. Tickets were sold out, we raised over \$1,000.00, and we connected with the community to advocated for survivors of sexual assault. Please save the date and join us next year.

Thank you to local businesses and HammerCo Law that provided prizes for the winning trivia wizards.



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Upcoming Activities at VSAC

October 18 - Open House

Fall 2024 - VSAC Silent Auction

Fall 2024 - SART Volunteer training

Prevention Update:

"The Table Talk was a valuable experience that allowed us to break free from the restrictions often placed on people of colour when discussing our experiences. It encouraged us to be honest, open, and unapologetic about our stories, regardless of who may be listening. It was powerful reminder of the importance of standing in our truth and speaking our minds, even in uncomfortable situations". - From the Black Youth Empowerment Manual.

Education Team Update

VSAC's education team continues to support youth in schools through our Healthy Relationships and Consent workshops, as well as our Safer Spaces program for adults who work with youth. This year, the pressing issue of addressing sexual assault in schools has gained traction from a series of student protests and school walkouts in the Langford school district SD62. VSAC has supported the healing process through a series of conversations with youth involved in the protests as well as parents and school administrators. The education department offered recommendations for schools to update their policies. In particular, to reflect the needs and experiences of survivors, and to increase access to resources for support and healing. Program coordinator Allison Macrae provided comment for a pair of CBC radio stories covering the protests and VSAC's involvement.

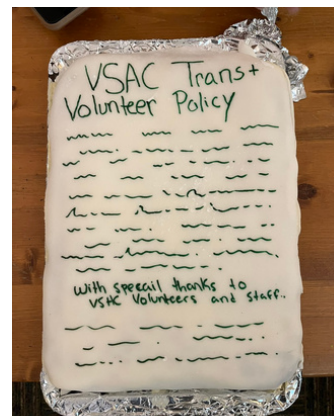


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Policy Reveal Party

- The Gender Diverse SART Committee is a group of SART Volunteers who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth, this space is for them to create community, support each other, and provide feedback on the program if they would like.
- Over the last year the committee has been working on a Trans+ Volunteer Policy to better support volunteers who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth because they can experience specific barriers and possible harms in their roles and want more institutional support to be here
- On July 5th 2024 we had a Policy Reveal Party. This was an opportunity to celebrate the work of the committee over the last year! We had a cake that was made to look like the first page of the policy #isitcake, we had a raffle to thank folks for coming out and supporting the committee, thank you gifts for everyone who supported the policy, and trans themed signature mocktails!



Policy document cake



"Give us our roses while we're still here," demand trans women of color. (Particularly Black trans women like Marsha P. Johnson)

We talked about how gender diverse people are often not seen, acknowledged, celebrated in their life time, and only when they die does the world recognize them. And we know that gender diverse people, especially trans people of colour (and more often than not trans women and femmes) are killed for being trans. So we all had a rose and threw it in the air to show our love and recognition of gender diverse folks at VSAC. and to give roses to the community while we are still here.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED





THIS VOLUNTEER POSITION IS OPEN TO TRANS, TWO SPIRIT, GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE, AS WELL AS CISGENDER WOMEN 19+



THE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART) PROVIDES IMMEDIATE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND INFORMATION TO PEOPLE OF ALL GENDERS, 13 YEARS AND OLDER, WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED WITHIN THE PAST 30 DAYS. AS WELL AS MEDICAL ACCOMPANIMENT AT THE HOSPITAL OR OUR SPECIALIZED CLINIC FOR FOLKS WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED WITHIN THE LAST 7 DAYS, AND SUPPORT WITH POLICE REPORTING.



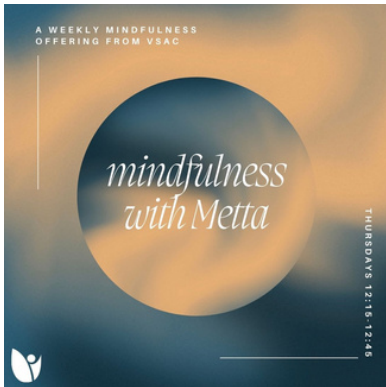
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Thank you to our Funders:

Civil Forfeiture Office, Province of BC
Community Gaming Grants Program, Province of BC
Department of National Defense
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Public Health Agency of Canada
United Way of Greater Victoria
Women & Gender Equality Canada

Township of Esquimalt
City of Langford
View Royal Township
The District of Oak Bay
The Victoria Foundation
Rotary Club of Victoria, Harbourside



Our Services

The Access Line - support and intake to our services.

The Sexual Assault Response Team and Clinic
Immediate emotional support, medical care, and options for reporting to police in one safe, survivor-focused location.

Crisis counselling - to build safety and stabilization.

Counselling groups - provide education, skills, and connection.

Victim Services - to help navigate the criminal justice system.

Prevention Education - ending sexualized violence and creating inclusive communities through education.

Victoria Sexual Assault Centre
#201-3060 Cedar Hill Rd.

Victoria, BC, V8T 3J5, Canada

Tel: 250-383-5545 Fax: 250-383-6112

Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Service Access Line - 250-383-3232

Vancouver Island Crisis Line: 1-888-494-3888

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən Peoples, on whose traditional territory the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ Peoples, whose relationships with the land continue to this day.

Why we acknowledge the territory: As a non-Indigenous organization, the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre is accountable to reconciliation through continued learning and centering leadership from Indigenous communities on whose lands we live and work. Sexualized violence was and continues to be used as a tool of colonization to destroy communities and displace Indigenous Peoples from their lands. It is our responsibility to address the ways colonial violence and non-consent shape the experiences and impacts of sexualized violence for Indigenous Peoples. As part of our commitment to reconciliation and consent-based relations, we recognize the sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples and the rights and relationship they have to their traditional lands and territories.

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