

Monthly Giving Program

Each year, the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre provides service to hundreds of survivors, including emergency sexual assault response, counselling support, and accompaniment through the criminal justice process. We also provide prevention education to end gender-based violence. One of the ways you can support our work is to become a monthly donor.

Why become a monthly donor?

Monthly donations enable us to budget effectively so that survivors of sexualized violence have the benefit of consistent programs and services.

What your recurring monthly donation can do:

- Provide counselling and crisis support to survivors;
- Ensure our 24/7 Sexual Assault Response Team and clinic are available to recent survivors;
- Reach more youth through Project Respect's sexualized violence prevention education programs.

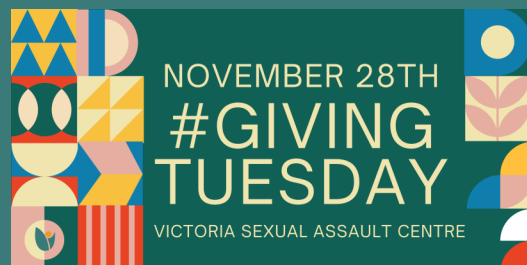
These are just some ways your donations help keep free and confidential quality services for survivors accessible.

GivingTuesday

On November 28, join GivingTuesday, the world's largest generosity movement, to celebrate and uplift the work of the non-profit sector. Get involved by giving and volunteering.

Everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts.

Please sign up for our e-newsletter and follow us on social media to learn more. **Subscribe to our e-newsletter:** www.vsa.ca/subscribe/



How does it work?

It's easy! Visit our secure online donation page www.vsa.ca/donate and choose the amount you wish to give monthly. Then select 'Make this a recurring gift' under 'Recurring Gift Options.' Complete the form with your address and payment information and you're done!

You only need to sign up once and your donation will repeat every month. We will send your tax receipt at the end of the year.

Thank you for considering a monthly gift and contributing to sustainability for VSAC.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The United Nations has designated the period from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day) as 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This year's theme is *Listen, Learn, Act*.

We are commemorating the 16 Days of Activism on social media with posts about the history of the 16 Days and ways we can *Listen, Learn, and Act* to address gender-based violence and support survivors of sexualized violence.

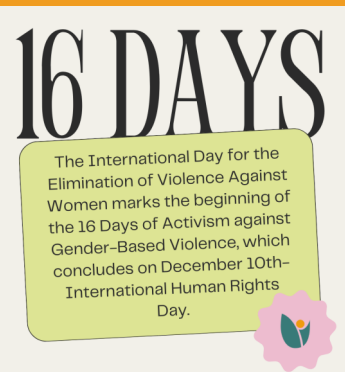
Follow us on social media to be part of the conversation.



@VictoriaSexualAssaultCentre



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Executive Director Message



After a year of challenges and big changes, Victoria Sexual Assault Centre is ending 2023 with a renewed sense of stability, direction and collaboration. Regaining our charitable status in July of this year resolved the instability we faced in relation to fundraising, grant opportunities and the future of some of our programming. While it was a hard way to learn the lesson, the temporary loss of our status highlighted internal needs and prompted procedural restructuring that has created stability and clarity for VSAC moving forward. We own a huge thank you to all of the donors that supported us during that time and continue as we move forward into 2024.

Looking forward, VSAC is currently engaged in developing a three year strategic plan that seeks to create internal strength and increase the accessibility of our services for survivors and community. Our mission remains to support the ending of sexualized violence through healing, education and prevention; and as we enter our 42nd year, we see the importance of working collaboratively with other services in our sector

and cross-sectorial to provide survivors, their families and our community overall with effective and compassionate support. We see the integral role our donors play in supporting our programs and spreading the word about VSAC's free services to our community, and it is through these collaborations that our mission moves forward and we can continue to support thousands through our doors each year.

Thank you,

Sam Loppie, Executive Director

Mission

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre 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.

Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən Peoples, on whose traditional territory the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ Peoples, whose relationships with the land continue today.

Why we acknowledge the territory: Acknowledging the territory calls our attention to the ongoing colonization of Indigenous lands. These lands were tak-

en through violence and non-consent, and impacts of colonization continue to express themselves through disproportionate rates of gender-based violence against Indigenous people. Recognizing Indigenous sovereignty and the lands we are on is part of the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre's commitment to reconciliation and taking leadership from Indigenous community in our work of healing, education, and prevention.



**Victoria Sexual
Assault Centre**
healing, education & prevention

201-3060 CEDAR HILL ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8T 3J5 ♦ BUSINESS LINE: 250-383-5545
ACCESS LINE: 250-383-3232 ♦ VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.vsa.ca

Charitable Status Reinstated

We are thrilled to share that that Victoria Sexual Assault Centre has officially had its charitable status reinstated, and we are overjoyed to be able to continue our mission of making a positive impact in our community.

The Journey To Reinstatement

As many of you are aware, our organization faced setbacks that led to the temporary suspension of our charitable status. Over the past year we engaged in a long process of applying for reinstatement. This period was not without its difficulties, but thanks to your support and generosity, we were able to navigate this process successfully. Throughout this journey, we have been humbled and inspired by the outpouring of support from our community.

Our re-registration has been backdated to October 29, 2022, which is the date we lost charitable status due to an administrative error. This means we can resume providing charitable donation receipts and can provide donors receipts for donations made during the period of time that our status was revoked.

Thank You, From the Bottom of Our Hearts

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our community for your support during our journey to reinstatement. Your belief in our mission, your support during our challenging times, and your dedication to our community have been nothing short of remarkable. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and making a positive difference together.

Project Respect: Youth Prevention Programming

Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Teen Dating Violence by SHIFTing Culture

We are now at the end stretch of our 5-year funding with Public Health Agency of Canada. The focus for this last year is on knowledge mobilization for which we have been successful at disseminating the following programming products:

I Can Relate Zine

'I can relate' Zine was created by six Youth Council Members to share their experiences around the intersections between queer/trans identities and gender-based violence. The Zine commemorates what they have gained from being a part of the group and the messages they want to share with community.



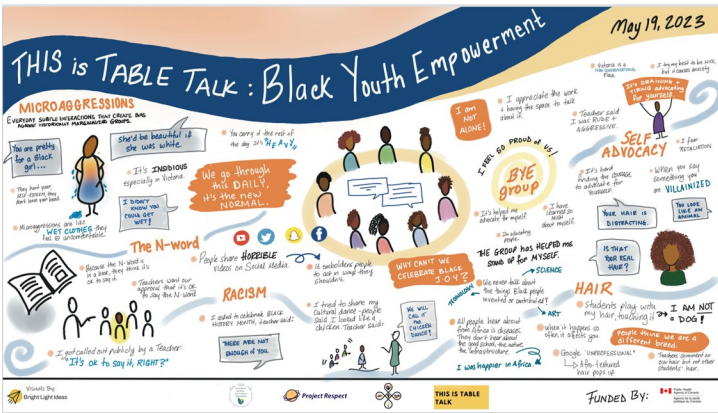
Pictured: Youth Council Members; Scan the QR Code to view the Zine

School-Based Workshops

We have worked with our partner schools, Belmont Secondary and Oak Bay Secondary from 2018 to present to provide consent education workshops. Additionally, we have conducted research on the impacts of our gender-based violence prevention education. The overall findings have been compiled and the Project Respect Research Manager is working on policy recommendations to each school to inform ways they can implement change. Visit www.projectrespect.ca to read the highlights.

Black Youth Empowerment Project (BYE)

The eight youth members of BYE hosted a community Table Talk with the guidance of Parker Johnson, Nichola Watson, and the Prevention Team. The event focused on fostering deeper community connections with educators to learn how they can best advocate for and support BYE members and other Black youth.



Thank You To Our Funder

We want to extend a big thank you to Public Health Agency of Canada for extending Project Respect's contract for another six months which will allow us to work on three products: BYE's program manual, publication of an article about Project Respect's impact, and sharing the partner school profiles & policy recommendation documents to other non-partner schools in the form of a presentation.

Honouring Our Volunteers

This September we had the pleasure of giving out two awards to two very exceptional volunteers: **The Galactic Gratitude Award!** This is the first time this award has been given out and is to acknowledge and show gratitude to two volunteers who have gone to infinity and beyond in their passion, creativity, and dedication.

One award is going to an Events and Office Volunteer. Events Volunteers support the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre by going to events and sharing about our services and resources, giving out materials, and letting people know that we are here for them. Office Volunteers provide administrative support to VSAC and can help with things like prepping materials for trainings, organizing supplies, and mailing letters. This award has been given to one of our Events and Office Volunteers.... Alison Demers.

Alison Demers



Alison Demers, Senior Events & Office Volunteer

Alison has brought so much of herself into the roles of Events Volunteer and Office Volunteer. Alison made 100 bracelets and a rainbow selfie mirror for tabling at the Victoria Pride Festival because she wanted to support the community and the work VSAC does, Alison also designed this to be a key engagement piece to bring more folks to our online presence by asking people to take a selfie and tag #VictoriaSexualAssaultCentre to get a homemade pride bracelet. Alison has been a huge support in making the events volunteer program run smoothly and has

provided valuable feedback to make our table more engaging. Alison is always the first person to volunteer to table and shows up with her incredible organizational skills and charming attitude! Alison has shown such dedication to the role that we created a new position for her called Senior Events Volunteer, where she has taken on responsibility to support other Events Volunteers when at events.

The next award was given to a Sexual Assault Response Team Volunteer, who provides emotional support on the phone and in-person to survivors of recent sexual assault. They accompany them to the hospital, our clinic, and the police station; share resources and make referrals, and are able to walk survivors through their medical options and the police reporting process. The recipient of the second award was Jocelyn Jones,

Jocelyn Jones

In her role, Jocelyn completed her volunteer hours in record time, brought meaningful and supportive questions to the organization that have allowed us to look for more and creative ways to support survivors, and she is always looking for more opportunities to engage with other volunteers and learn more and better ways to support survivors – especially marginalized survivors. Jocelyn completed her contract at the end of August- having only started in March, and she will be going to school overseas. Jocelyn has generously offered to stay on as a remote support and to help with tasks to support the program. Her dedication, passion, and creativity have made a huge impact on the SART program and we want to thank her for all the work she has done and is still doing!

Join Our SART Volunteer Program

We are seeking volunteers to join the Sexual Assault Response Team.

Submit your application for the Winter intake by Dec. 1st. Find out more and apply at: www.viac.ca/volunteer

Responsibilities & Commitment:

- Provide immediate emotional support to survivors of recent sexual assaults (all genders, 13+).
- Facilitate accompaniment to the VSAC clinic, hospital, and medical/police involvement as requested by the survivor.
- Provide information regarding medical and forensic procedures, and options for reporting to police.
- Three on-call shifts per month for a year, overnights and weekends.
- Participate in an 80 hour training program over a 5-week period facilitated by VSAC staff & counsellors.

