

Take our donor survey

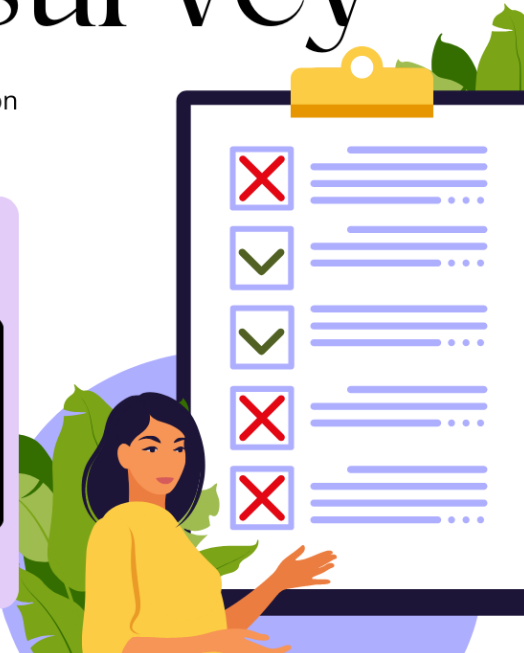
We invite you to provide feedback on your experience as a donor.

Scan this code for more information and to participate

The survey should take approximately 5-7 minutes to complete and is open until Sunday October 16, 2022.



www.vsac.ca/2022/08/donor-feedback-survey



If you would like to participate but prefer to speak to a VSAC representative or do not have access to the internet, **please call Carissa at 250-383-5545 ext. 115.** She would be happy to help you complete the survey over the phone.

VSAC IN THE NEWS

Clinic Tour with Minister Ien and Recent Sexual Assault Statistics

Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, Marci Ien visited the VSAC's Sexual Assault Clinic on August 1st as part of her west coast visit. We had an opportunity to tour Minister Ien and Parliamentary Secretary Lore through the Clinic and discuss our approach to emergency sexual assault response and need for sustainable funding.



That same week Statistics Canada released new information on reports of violence over the last two years. Reports of sexual assault went up across Canada with Victoria experiencing a significant rise in reporting.

Due to these events, VSAC was interviewed by several news stations and publications in August about our response to the increased reports of sexualized violence in the community.

To find out more, please visit the "In The News" page on our website: <https://www.vsac.ca/in-the-news/>

This publication was generously discounted by:

Fastrac
PRINT & MARKETING

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We are grateful for the support of our loyal donors. Without your generosity, our ability to provide high-level services and multiple support options would be greatly diminished.

Two thirds of our annual operating budget comes from individuals, businesses, special event donations, and grants. You ensure we can continue to provide services free of charge to the community.

Thank you for contributing to survivor's healing and the sustainability of our Centre through your donations.

TRIATHLON OF COMPASSION



The 29th annual Triathlon of Compassion, in support of VSAC, took place on June 26th at the Esquimalt Rec Centre. In total \$23,402.22 was raised exceeding our goal of \$20,000!

The racers and fundraisers are a true inspiration. We were moved by the support for our Centre and felt deep gratitude to be able to gather safely once again in support of survivors.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated, and donated. The event was organized by Human Powered Racing and sponsored by Frontrunners, Arbutus Physiotherapy, Trek Bicycle Store Victoria, Country Grocer, and Kersten Orthodontics!



40 YEARS OF MOVEMENT

"In a basement with a phone in 1982, VSAC began our incredible history of supporting survivors and educating our community to end sexualized violence. And through decades of commitment through donations, volunteer hours, and staff dedication day after day and year after year, VSAC has remained responsive to community needs and pathways to healing."
- Elijah Zimmerman, Executive Director

VSAC is celebrating 40 years of serving the communities that live and reside in the traditional territories of the Lekwəŋən and WSÁNEĆ, Songhees, and Esquimalt peoples.

A lot can change in 40 years. And for VSAC, a lot has changed. One of the incredible features of this organization is that we have continuously tried to move with the ebb and flow of society. We have tried to be responsive even if that still takes time. And there is a responsive quality to VSAC that stands out compared to other organizations in similar sectors.

Originally founded to provide services to survivors of sexual violence, VSAC has also been at the forefront of trying to make systemic changes and has been a leader, locally, provincially and federally, providing resources, creating spaces, and advocating for change.

From a name change, adding to and

reforming services, and moving physical spaces, VSAC has continued to listen, learn and evolve and move in order to support survivors, the support networks of survivors and the community at large. It is important to recognize this history.

Our hope is to use our history to explain our transformations, eliminations of barriers, and how VSAC has cemented itself as a critical place in community connection, support and healing.

Please continue reading for highlights from our 40 years of service delivery.



#201-3060 CEDAR HILL RD. VICTORIA, BC, V8T 3J5 ♦ BUSINESS LINE: 250-383-5545
ACCESS LINE: 250-383-3232 ♦ VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.VSAC.CA](https://www.vsac.ca)
CHARITABLE BUSINESS NUMBER: #10822 0054 RR0001

Fall Newsletter 2022

OUR 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.

OUR IMPACT

Since VSAC's inception we've provided vital crisis and healing services to over 100,000 survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.

Through Project Respect, our prevention education program, we have reached tens of thousands of youth with innovative programming that supports them to become leaders in addressing the root causes of sexualized violence.

40 YEARS OF HEALING, EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Founding

Originally founded in 1982 by two women in a basement of a home in Cook Street Village with one phone line, VSAC has shifted, grown, and moved to be an integral part of the community.



1982 - The Status of Women Action Group sponsored a standing Committee with various women's groups and individuals who wrote a proposal for a new Centre. This was to ensure continued availability of support services for women who have been sexually assaulted after a local agency called Rape Relief lost funding. Later that year, a Board of Directors was formed, and set about to establish a viable and effective independent society. Core funding was negotiated and secured from the BC ministry of the Attorney-General. By the end of that year, an office was established and three part-time staff and volunteers for crisis line work were recruited.



1983 - VSAC was successful in their application for a grant to publish the "lets talk about sexual assault" booklet for teens. Later that year it won the Solicitor General's National Crime Prevention Award. They received more and more funding to create further resources which they shared with schools, the police department, and more.



1989 - VSAC was still in its early years when the École Polytech massacre occurred in Montreal, Canada. The devastating event added a massive amount of increased collective consciousness about what people were beginning to call "violence against women".

1987 - 1995 - Due to many factors including sufficient governmental support, VSAC underwent an enormous period of growth. The number of staff increased from 3 to 22 members.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)



SART Team, 2003

1991 - The formation of the sexual assault response team (or SART) occurred (and came into effect in January 1992). This is a 24- hour emergency service that provides immediate support and information to recent survivors of sexual assault at the hospital or police station. SART was developed as a coordinated response to sexual assault by Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, Forensic Nurse Examiners, Island Health, RCMP and the police.

VSAC Team, 1990's



Annual Triathlon

1993 - The organization of the first annual triathlon for healing, VSAC's largest and longest running fundraiser. The triathlon eventually became known as the Triathlon of Compassion and has become a community event with racers and fundraisers of all ages. June 2022 marked the event's 29th anniversary.



Triathlon photos over the years

Victim Services



1998 - VSAC created a separate victim services worker position. Our specialized Victim Service Program provides services connected to the criminal justice system, including; information, support and accompaniment in making police reports; information and orientation on the court process including assistance with Victim Impact statements; court accompaniment; case status information; assistance with applications for the Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP).

Project Respect

1999 - The key VSAC prevention education program "Project Respect" was started. Project Respect brings together youth and adults to create awareness and dialogue about root causes of sexualized violence such as gender expectations and stereotypes, systems of power, and the ongoing colonization of the lands we live on. In 2004, "Project Respect" won the Women's Safety Award.



Project Respect Social Action Camp, 2022

2003 - A Partnership with the Native Friendship Centre to create the aboriginal youth health and prevention program was formed.

2008 - Trauma informed practice and support (TIPS) training was created and provided to over 10 agencies.

2010 - Victoria Foundation honored VWSAC with their leadership award.

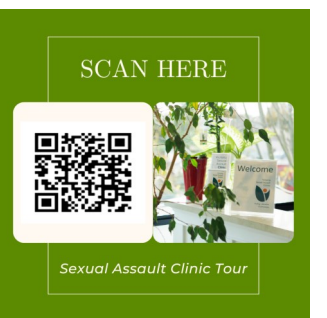
From VWSAC to VSAC

2012 - Originally titled the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Clinic (VWSAC), VSAC underwent a name change in 2012 to the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre. This name change was a part of the Centre's process to becoming a Trans inclusive agency. In 2012, VSAC opened up its services to be accessible to all members of the Trans, Two-Spirit, and Gender Diverse community. We are grateful to community members for providing their important feedback and an opportunity to change to better serve survivors.

Sexual Assault Integrated Clinic



2016 - In February 2016 we opened the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic; the first, and only, integrated sexual assault clinic in B.C. Developed with enthusiastic support from Island Health, RCMP/Police, and Crown the clinic provides recent survivors of sexual assault with medical and forensic exams, crisis support, preventative medications, police and crown Interviews, counselling services, and other community service referrals in one location.



2017 - The Clinic won an Award of Merit for Collaborative Solutions at the BC Health Care Awards (BCHCA).

2019 - The Indigenous Community Response Network, kʷənə́ ɲə́təl iʔ iʔsə́t was formed. The Network brings together Indigenous partners, local Nations, organizations, community and urban voices to develop and support community-led initiatives for survivors of gender-based violence in a culturally grounded way. Find out more about the Network at <https://www.vvac.ca/irn/>



Logo created by Brianna Bear for the Network

2020 - VSAC was responsive to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying "shadow pandemic" of gender-based violence. We adapted by providing telephone and virtual support sessions, and kept our clinic open throughout the pandemic, not missing a day of service. Project Respect began a collaboration with the community group Girls and Femmes with Afro-Textured Hair called Black Youth Empowerment (BYE). BYE's focus is to create culturally relevant consent based prevention education. In May 2022, the six youth members of BYE were honoured with an award from the African Heritage Association of Vancouver Island in "recognition for their outstanding contribution to our communities."

A very big thank you

2022 - Thank you to the community for being part of the movement and a crucial part of this journey with us. VSAC was honoured with the gold award for "Best Charity" in the Best of Victoria Awards 2022. Thank you to those that nominated and voted for us, recognizing the value of our work in healing, education, and prevention.

