



2021-22

# ANNUAL REPORT

SAGE HAVEN SOCIETY  
Understanding the Past, Building Futures

be the  
**change**  
you wish  
to see in **the**  
**world...**

-gandhi



# LESLEY FOX

Chair, Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we present to you the annual report for our fiscal year from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 from Sage Haven Society (formerly know as Alberni Community & Women's Services Society, ACAWS).

Perhaps the most significant highlight from this past year is our name change! Over our 42 years, we've grown from a resource centre and a small Transition House to what is now a full-service agency reaching out to a diverse community (women, men, children, families, LGBTQ2S+). To reflect this growth, we've changed our name to Sage Haven Society, but we stay the same in our core beliefs. Special thanks to Susan Roth and Chris Fenton for their creative genius with the new design and logo. It's fantastic!

Despite the pandemic, the community of Port Alberni continued to support us – and fiercely! When I think back over the year, there were numerous businesses, individuals, and families who invested in our programs and services. You're all awesome!

As if that wasn't enough, supporters also made our annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk (CNOY) the best year ever! It was held on February 26 and featured 18 teams, 116 walkers, raising over \$40,000! BIG thank you to our committed sponsors including the Coulson Group, Alberni District Co-Op, Port Alberni Port Authority, BC Housing, Benefit Innovations, Suzanne Dubé of Edward Jones, Westland Insurance, Alberni Electric and the San Group. Special thanks to Carol Hanson for all of her help coordinating this incredible event – Carol you're amazing!

On a personal note, I will be retiring this year from the board of directors, but I am eager to welcome Chris Alemany to his role as President. Chris has served the community of Port Alberni in various capacities for several years – he knows everything! He is caring, hard-working, and extremely committed to our mission in building a healthy community. I have every confidence in his leadership ability, and I know he, along with our other talented board members, will continue to do their best work.

Lastly, I wanted to thank all for supporting me in my role as Chair and President. It's been a real honour working with the entire team at Sage Haven. I hope to continue on as a member and I promise to volunteer when I can. Special thanks to our Executive Director, Ellen Froot for her dedication, passion and for trusting me to help lead this very special organization. We're very fortunate to have her; she works hard!

This year, Sage Haven has much to look forward to; indeed brighter days are ahead.



## *A special thank you to our staff*

Thank you for bringing your unique perspectives, skills, and experiences to the work you do in supporting people, from all walks of life, in our community.

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lesley Fox**  
PRESIDENT

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VICE-PRESIDENT

**Chris Alemany**  
SECRETARY TREASURER

**Suzanna Dubé**  
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DIRECTOR

# ELLEN FROOD

Executive Director

Well – what a year it was! Perhaps most exciting is our new name and look. Using the tag line, ‘understanding the past, building futures’ we are moving into the new year with renewed energy and excitement. I have been very proud to play a small part in Sage Haven’s evolution and transitional journey over the past year.

At Sage Haven Society, because of COVID19 and like many other organizations, we continued to adapt programs and services, creating hybrid models of client care. This past year was a year of transitions, during which time we were focused on improving and enhancing programs and services. It is only now, looking back, that we can fully appreciate the impact these transitions in expanding services in our community had in setting the stage for our resilience and readiness for growth. Our work now is about doing a deep dive into the inside-out work that is necessary for pushing ourselves beyond our comfort zones and into cycles of transformation.

This commitment to positive transition is also at the core of how we operate as an organization, evolving existing programs to better support our clients or where there are unmet needs, we’re creating new programs. Our programs and services have evolved and expanded over the year thanks to input from many sources, clients being key among them.

Change has become a constant factor in our lives, and adaptability at both the individual and agency level has never been more important. We are now being challenged more than ever to be creative in our work.

Sage Haven continued to open doors for individuals. The innovative approach that is the Sage Haven trademark provides a pathway to recovery, restoring dignity, and improving functionality across multiple life domains. Supportive community-based services are the core tenets of Sage Haven. We work to affirm the inherent value and worth of all individuals.

Our staff responded by listening, sharing, learning, and reinforcing their commitment to creating an organization that strives to ensure that anyone crossing our threshold is welcomed, finds support, resources to help them initiate new pathways, and helping them pursue their hopes and dreams. Our staff showed amazing resiliency working under the continued stressors of the pandemic.

We prioritized staff training over the past year in the ever-evolving areas of addictions, mental health, trauma-informed care, and cultural competency. This has aided our team in delivering exceptional quality of service which is nimble and adaptive to the needs of the organization and the community. In turn, we’re better equipped for the diverse needs of our clients; we’re skillfully prepared to handle the effects a global health crisis has on our services.

Our work to help end violence and abuse would not be possible without the continued support of our community. Thank you to our volunteers, and our community champions. Your commitment to safety, education, and advocacy saves lives. We end our year abundantly grateful to those who stepped up to help us meet every transition - those that were planned and those that were not.



Thank you to our volunteer board members who give freely of their time and support, to our funders for making the services possible, and to our donors and supporters for their continued belief in the work we do. At the Board level there is engagement guidance and oversight provided to help support Sage Haven realize its vision and mission.

In closing, and with deep appreciation, I'd like to say "Thank you" to the staff for their commitment in empowering change and transitions for the clients and families we serve; and to being open to possibilities. It is impossible to over-emphasize our staff's commitment and the caring support that they provide to those individuals and families that access our services daily.

More than ever before, we wish to convey our deepest appreciation to all. Thank you. Stay safe and stay healthy.



Executive Director

***"We work to affirm the inherent value  
and worth of all individuals..."***

***Ellen Froid***





## ANNUAL STATISTICS

**1,002**

BED STAYS

**843**

ADULT BED STAYS

**159**

CHILDREN BED STAYS

**86**

WOMEN CLIENTS SERVED

**37**

CHILDREN CLIENTS  
SERVED

**102**

WOMEN & CHILDREN  
THAT WERE ACCEPTED  
BUT DID NOT SHOW UP

**310**

WOMEN & CHILDREN  
THAT WERE NOT ABLE TO  
STAY AT TRANSITION  
HOUSE

**135**

CRISIS PHONE CALLS

**32**

FULL HOUSE NIGHTS

## TRANSITION HOUSE

The Transition House is funded for eleven beds by BC Housing. We also gratefully receive donations from service organizations and private citizens.

The Transition House supports women and their children who are at risk of violence or have experienced violence, by providing access to safe, secure, and confidential services, including information and supports for decision-making, short-term shelter or housing, referrals to other services and links to affordable housing. All women are eligible for the program services regardless of ethno-cultural background, religious beliefs, physical ability, health, mental wellness, social context, sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Women who are referred to our services, but who do not yet reside at Transition House are provided initial contact services including an immediate safety assessment, short-term plan for safety, emotional support, and referrals to alternative and appropriate resources.

Adhering to the guidelines set out by PHO Bonnie Henry, we took initiative in solving challenges. COVID19 was another barrier our clients in need experienced in accessing services. It limited interactions because of the need for social distancing, and it pushed abuse and control tactics further back into the home. The "stay home, stay safe" advice recommended is not always the safest option for an abused individual. We responded by expanding our ways of communication in the following ways:

- Added a text cellphone, along with our crisis lines for easier access.
- Installed protective glass barriers for staff to be able to work near clients during intakes and support sessions.
- Personal protective equipment was readily available for staff and clients.
- Organized and are prepared for clients who may become sick and need to isolate while at the house.
- BC Housing provided us with an expansion space. This was a motel room that could be accessed for isolation purposes or for clients who were immune-compromised or other COVID-related matters.
- Best practices were modified to accommodate the clients using our services to keep themselves safe; we did this by limiting our maximum capacity within rooms by instilling no shared rooms, staggering the kitchen time so social distancing was possible, and maintaining a regimented line of cleaning and sanitizing.

We experienced a flood that closed our house for seven weeks while repairs took place. We immediately adapted our services, relocated our clients to an alternate location, and were able to continue to support them. BC Housing was a huge financial support in making these accommodations happen. The restoration company did an excellent job; the house shows no lingering effects.

The housing crisis is another huge barrier for the individuals we serve. It is extremely difficult to find safe and affordable housing in our community. This deters some from leaving their abusive situation.

Included is statistical data for the Transition House. Our stats are lower than average compared to past years, but we attribute this to the impacts COVID has made on society. The dedicated work Transition House staff does to support individuals and their family members has a positive impact in helping to build healthy futures.

Plans for second-stage housing have been finalized and approved. This new supportive housing is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2023.

I would like to thank our funders, our board members, and our Executive Director, Ellen Frod for their dedication and work done so we can offer services to those needing to escape violence and abuse.

 SAGE HAVEN	<b>WOMEN'S SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PORT ALBERNI</b>	<b>LIST OF DRAWINGS</b>	<b>RANGE ARCHITECTURE</b>
		A100 COVER/EXTERIOR VIEW FROM ROSEWOOD ST. A101 EXTERIOR VIEW FROM ENTRY DRIVE A200 SITE PLAN LANDSCAPE PLAN A300 FLOOR PLANS	Range Architecture Inc. 1000 Rosewood Street North Vancouver, BC V7J 2H8 778-537-0300 www.rangearch.ca
EXTERIOR VIEW FROM ROSEWOOD ST.		<small>All rights reserved. Images of the architect, use of materials, and/or other content shall be used without permission.</small>	
<small>1. SUBMITTED FOR ZONING APPLICATION AND REVIEW 11/2022</small>		<small>REVISIONS</small>	<small>PROJECT: PORT ALBERNI WOMEN'S SUPPORTIVE HOUSING</small>
<small>FILE: 2022 SCALE: Not to scale DATE: August 11, 2022</small>		<small>CIVIC &amp; LEGAL ADDRESS: One Alberni Drive to the northeast corner of the Northwest corner of Fern &amp; Rosewood Streets, Port Alberni, BC</small>	<b>COVER SHEET EXTERIOR RENDERING A100</b>

Second-Stage Housing planned for Port Alberni. BC Housing will begin building in the summer of 2022.



## FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

**\$53,870**  
FUNDRAISING

**\$52,554**  
DONATIONS

**\$33,080**  
IN-KIND DONATIONS

**\$139,504**  
TOTAL

THANK YOU TO ALL  
OUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORTERS

BE A PART OF THE  
COMMUNITY THAT  
GENEROUSLY  
DONATES

## FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

You are truly amazing Port Alberni! Our Coldest Night of the Year Event raised over \$40,000, the best year ever!

Many of our participants have returned year after year to support us with this event. Sponsorship was also up from last year. We are grateful for our new sponsors: BC Housing, San Group Inc, and Westland Insurance; and our returning sponsors: Alberni District Co-op, Alberni Electric, Alberni Valley News, Benefit Innovations Inc., Port Alberni Port Authority, Suzanne Dubé, The Coulson Group of Companies, The Peak, Island Radio, and Tim Hortons.

Next year we are returning to an in-person event. We are looking forward to seeing all of you on February 25, 2023. The virtual event will still be an informal option, should you wish to attend.

In addition, we have amazing support from individuals within the community. We appreciate every donation that comes through our door. We would like to highlight a couple of people who have chosen monthly giving to support Sage Haven Society.

Dr. Shaun and Shannon Golemba from Valley Vision sponsored our CNOY event in 2020 and 2021. At the end of 2021 they made an initial donation directly to us. This has been followed by a monthly donation of \$250.

John Kuch donates proceeds from his own business's local sales to various organizations in the Alberni Valley. We are very grateful that he has chosen us as one of the recipients. John hopes he can encourage others to donate as well.





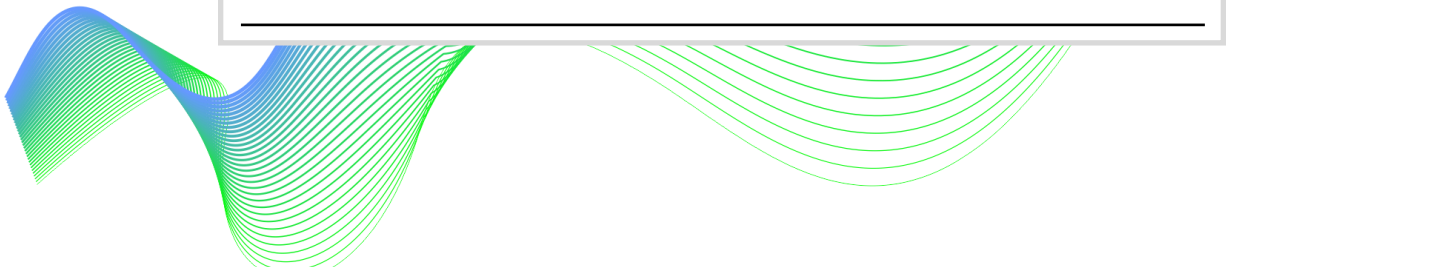
# Coldest Night of the Year aims to bring people in from the cold in Port Alberni

## Annual walk raises funds for Alberni Community and Women's Services Society

ELENA RARDON / Jan. 31, 2022 5:30 a.m. / COMMUNITY



The Port Alberni Rotary Club walked for the Coldest Night of the Year Event 2021. The group signed up to walk in the 2022 event too. (Teresa Bird Alberni Valley News).



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

### TYPE OF OFFENSE REFERRED TO OUR AGENCY

**144**

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE / ASSAULT / ABUSE

**39**

SEXUAL ASSAULTS

**13**

HISTORICAL SEXUAL ASSAULTS

**35**

CRIMINAL INCIDENTS

**52**

OTHER (NON-CRIMINAL)

**283**

TOTAL

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### CLIENTS BY GENDER

**292**

FEMALE

**17**

MALE

**0**

OTHER

**309**

TOTAL

## VICTIM'S SERVICES

Community Based Victim Services (CBVS) provides critical incident response, emotional support, practical assistance, referrals, criminal justice information, safety planning for women, men, youth, and children in the Alberni Valley and Bamfield who are victims of family and sexual violence.

- Victims of violence in relationships (adult, youth, or child)
- Victims of sexual assault
- Victims of criminal harassment
- Victims of child abuse/assault (both physical and sexual)
- Adult survivors of childhood abuse (both physical and sexual)
- Child witnesses of family violence

CBVS provides transportation to court and other related meetings and appointments; facilitates court orientations, trial and sentencing preparation; accompanies victims to interviews with the RCMP and judicial hearings; updates victims of the status of investigations and court proceedings; assists with forms such as Protection Orders, Victim Impact Statements, Crime Victim Assistance applications and Victim Safety Unit registration; takes 3rd Party reports of sexual assaults; gives out emergency phones; creates safety plans in conjunction with the client; and refers victims to other programs and agencies for continued support.

## PROGRAM STATISTICS

From April 2021 to March 2022 there were 283 incidents compared to 265 incidents last reporting year. The CBVS program received 309 new client referrals. Average ongoing caseload this year was 238 persons compared to last year being an average of 275 clients. With transitioning out of COVID19 restrictions, the reduction in average ongoing caseload could be in part due to the courts not postponing appearances as much during this reporting year. In contrast, the program has had a higher number of incident referrals. Sexual assault files over the past year have reduced from 59 to 39 and historical sexual assaults from 16 to 13. Criminal incidents have increased to 35 incidences from 19 last year.

## SUMMARY

From April 2021 to March 2022 Community Based Victim Services was flexible with the many transitions that came about from the COVID19 pandemic and the limitations that were imposed. Court rooms, witness rooms and law libraries had limited capacities, which in turn limited the amount of support persons available for victims going through trials or sentencings. We had to be creative in supporting victims by using several rooms at once with video screens.

The victim services office remained open and available to everyone that needed to talk. Building that relationship with people is often key to being able to transition people from a time of despair, isolation, fear, and remaining in the cycle of violence to shift to one of hope and new beginnings.

At the start of 2022 we switched from having online meetings to in-person meetings for our monthly intimate partner violence meetings, MMIWG working group, bi-weekly case management meetings with coworkers, and the front-line workers meetings. It's so nice to once again see people in-person and smiling!

Of special highlight for the Community Based Victim Service's role:

- Created the Calendar of Events for the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence which was featured in Alberni Valley News.

**ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS** 18° Q

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# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

## TAKE ACTION TO ELIMINATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

**NOVEMBER 25**  
**International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**  
 The Shadow Pandemic  
 Action: Create a relationship of trust and safety with those who may be struggling. Check in on people that you know may be at risk of violence. Acknowledge your neighbour

**NOVEMBER 26**  
**Black Friday**  
 Action: Support local businesses that give back to our community. Consider purchasing items or gift cards that could be donated to a non-profit to purchase warm clothes, food or personal care items

**NOVEMBER 27**  
**Raising respectful men and boys**  
 Action: Bring into discussions topics that will seek gender equality such as manners, affection, emotions and empathy, respect for others, and self-respect

**NOVEMBER 28**  
**Change your language**  
 Action: Start conversations with our youth early on to help shape the way they think about gender, respect and human rights. Acknowledge different stereotypes that children encounter, whether at the store, school, or in the media and let them know that it's good to be yourself. Encourage a culture of acceptance

**NOVEMBER 29**  
**Hold each other accountable**  
 Action: Create work/school place safety with zero tolerance for sexual assaults and violence. Join your health and safety team or student union to provide education to others

**NOVEMBER 30**  
**Giving Tuesday**  
 Action: You can make a difference in Port Alberni - the town with a heart! Volunteer, do a random act of kindness, pick up garbage, join a board of directors for a non-profit organization, smile at someone, it could make their day!

**DECEMBER 1**  
**Kick-off to the Coldest Night Fundraiser**  
 Action: Walk with us virtually or in-person to raise money for the women and children who are fleeing violence and find themselves homeless  
 Action: Please sign up to walk or donate  
<https://cnay.org/location/portalberni>

**DECEMBER 2**  
**Know the signs of abuse and what to do to stop it**  
 Fear has no place in a healthy relationship.  
 Action: Share your information and break the silence around domestic violence by using your voice

**DECEMBER 3**  
**Be an Ally**  
 It is "cool" to respect women and to be an ally means speaking up to prevent violence against women and girls.  
 Action: Join local groups working for social justice and change and who promote acceptance of all gender identities and sexualities. Actions can speak louder than words!

**DECEMBER 4**  
**Break the Cycle of violence**  
 Action: If you are in an unsafe situation, reach out for Help! You are not alone  
 Port Alberni Transition House: call 250-724-2223 or text 250-206-1011  
 Victim Link BC: 1-800-563-0808 provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence ACAWS Alberni Community & Women's Services Society 250-724-7111  
 In an emergency, call 9-1-1

**DECEMBER 5**  
**International Volunteer Day**  
 Action: Volunteer for a local organization that helps to support the elimination of gender-based violence  
 Support volunteer groups that give back to ACAWS such as 100 Women Who Care, Sunshine Club, Rotary, Kinsmen, Lions Club, Toy Run, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League

**DECEMBER 6**  
**National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**  
 Thirty-two years ago, 14 women attending l'Ecole Polytechnique Montreal were murdered because of their gender. It was a violent act of misogyny  
 Action: Educate yourself and others about eliminating misogyny, sexism and hate. Centre the voices of survivors in our actions and stand up against harmful behaviours

**DECEMBER 7**  
**The pandemic has increased isolation, substance misuse, and financial stress which have led to a disconnect in society that contributes to domestic violence**  
 Action: Learn about our community resources that help to create connection and resiliency. Find out how to access them. ADAPS, ACAWS, School/Community Counsellors, Port Alberni Friendship Centre, Qu'asa, Kuu-us, Hospice, CMHA, Alberni Literacy, PASS

**DECEMBER 8**  
**Raise awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**  
 Action: Provide Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people with the option and opportunity of removing themselves from abusive relationships through community and network support. Listen to people's stories to foster a culture of respect

**DECEMBER 9**  
**Awareness Action Accountability All Year Round**  
 Action: Believe victims of violence and sexual abuse. Comments that question how or why it happened further invalidate the victims. Put the responsibility where it belongs - on the abuser! If you have just been sexually assaulted and would like accompaniment and support at the hospital 24/7, please call 250-731-5284 for the volunteer responder

**DECEMBER 10**  
**International Human Rights Day**  
 We are all entitled to the basic rights of life, liberty, security, freedom of religion and speech and to participate in the cultural life of the community  
 Action: Stand up for our own rights and those of others. Uphold these rights by knowing that we are all equal and deserve to be free from violence and abuse. Promote kindness

**TRANSITION HOUSE**  
 Available 24/7  
 250.724.2223 or text 250.206.1011

**SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROGRAM**  
 Available 24/7  
 250.731.5284

**STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING**  
 250.724.7111 ext 226

**SARAH HENSHALL**  
 Program Coordinator



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

**257**

CHILDREN & YOUTH  
CLIENTS

**144**

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS  
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

**49**

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS  
FOR CAREGIVERS

**99**

REFERRALS RECEIVED

## P.E.A.C.E. PROGRAM CHILDREN'S SUPPORTIVE COUNSELLING

The PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, & Empowerment) program provides individual and group counselling for children and youth, ages 3-18, who have experienced violence and abuse within their homes.

Our PEACE Program Counsellor uses a psycho-educational approach in their work to achieve specific, program goals:

- To support children, youth, and their parents/caregivers to feel safe, respected, valued, and heard
- To reduce isolation, and let children, youth, and parents/caregivers know they are not alone
- To identify, develop safety skills, and strategies
- To support emotional health and self-esteem
- To view emotions and responses not as pathological, but rather as a natural response to traumatic events
- To help children and youth identify and manage their emotions
- To provide strategies to help children and youth cope with and minimize responses, including healthy ways of expressing anger
- To foster hope by reminding children and youth of their abilities, and how they have used strategies and resistance in the past to successfully cope with adversity
- To offer reassurance that the child's and youth's reactions are natural under the circumstances
- To provide outreach in schools, focused on violation prevention
- To develop understanding of violence against women and girls

In this fiscal year, the PEACE program saw unique challenges brought on by the COVID19 pandemic. With offices and schools closed, children, youth, and their parents/caregivers found themselves having to readjust to new home/school routines and in turn, so did PEACE. By building at-home, therapeutic kits for children and youth, PEACE was able to offer online services during a time when a lot of child and youth programs had to cease. It was because of this creativity from our PEACE coordinator that we saw client numbers rise again, in comparison to the 2019/2020 year.

While the PEACE program hasn't completely recovered post-COVID19 numbers, there was a rise from 82 children and youth clients (2020/21) to 257. Now that PEACE has readjusted and is seeing clients in person for one-on-one sessions, we can only expect numbers to rise.

This spring, our PEACE program saw new staffing changes as Gayle Maddocks moved on (we wish her well!) and SARP Coordinator, Céline Sauv , took over as the PEACE Program Counsellor. With new faces in new positions comes more training, different perspectives, but the same psychoeducational approach and support that PEACE has always offered clients. As we progress, we look forward to seeing clients for one-on-one sessions, as well as reintroducing groups and the VIP program in schools come September. This year taught us that no matter what the obstacle is, we will always continue to put the safety and needs of children, youth, and their families as our number one priority.



**SAGE ENGAGED**

Where Life Writes Its Own Stories

**CONTACT US**

Sage Haven Society

T: 250-724-7111

F: 250-724-7113

E: office@acaws.ca

*Meet our new children’s counsellor—Celine Sauv *

Celine Sauv  started at Sage Haven Society in January 2021 as the **Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) Coordinator**. After months of planning, researching, and training, SARP was launched on July 1st, 2021. Since then Celine and her team of volunteers have advocated for and **supported over 50 survivors of sexual assault** within the Alberni Valley.

Celine has facilitated two, 10-week training groups for SARP volunteers; consulted on several projects such as the development of SARP teams in other communities and BC’s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan Round Tables; and has established working relationships with West Coast General Hospital, RCMP, and Island Health’s Forensic Nurse Examiner Program.

After much success with SARP, **Celine has moved on to the position of PEACE Program Counsellor**, here at Sage Haven. With a background working as an educational assistant and a supervisor for a child & youth crisis line, **Celine uses her knowledge of childhood development and her passion for the arts to help support children and youth in a psychoeducation program with the goal of creating a safe and empowering space.**

Celine’s future goals are to continue working within the Alberni Valley and to one day graduate from a master’s degree in Expressive Arts Therapy.



Celine Sauv , BA Clinical Psychology

***Alberni Community & Women’s Services Society changes its name to Sage Haven Society.***

Sage Haven Society continues to provide transitional housing, women’s and children’s supportive counselling, victim services, outreach services, and resources through our drop in centre.

SPRING 2022



**Transition House**

T: 250-724-2223

C: 250-206-1011

E: patransitionhouse@acaws.ca

**Women’s Counselling**

T: 250-736-0708

C: 250-730-1694

E: nicolec@acaws.ca

**Children’s Counselling**

T: 250-736-0706

C: 250-206-1108

E: celines@acaws.ca

**GAYLE MADDOCKS | CELINE SAUV **  
Children’s Counsellors



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

**90**

NEW CLIENTS

**188**

REFERRALS TO PROGRAM

**399**

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS

**22**

INDIVIDUAL GROUP  
SESSIONS

# STOPPING THE VIOLENCE PROGRAM

## WOMEN'S SUPPORTIVE COUNSELLING

The Stopping the Violence Program was originally developed in 1992/1993 with the intention of supporting victims of domestic or interpersonal violence with mid-range counselling services. We continue to strive to support women in their journeys from a trauma informed, women centred, feminist perspective. We believe that women are experts in their own lives and we offer services in a way that respects each women's individual rights, safety, and dignity.

Last year we overcame many challenges that COVID19 brought, offering blended services (in-person, telephone, and video conferencing support), allowing women to attend their counselling sessions in the ways that best supported their needs. Because of its success, we will continue to offer blended services to our clients into the foreseeable future.

We were able to run "Making Connections" which is a 16-week psychoeducational program that helps women who have experienced interpersonal violence understand the many forms of violence, the impacts of interpersonal violence, as well as healing from their experiences. Although there were times when COVID19 numbers rose, we were able to co-facilitate with KUU-US Crisis Line and provide a safe, socially distanced learning experience for participants.

We have also redesigned our "Rebuilding Lives" program to reflect local traditional stories, songs, and healing practices with the support of Quu'asa (Nuu chah nulth Tribal Council). Our program is now based on "The Sayings of Our People" which teaches respect for one another, teaching one another, helping one another, loving one another, and being kind to one another. Women of all backgrounds can participate in this 5-week program that supports women in "rebuilding" themselves after their experiences of violence.

This year, we have had 188 referrals to our program. We have completed 399 individual counselling sessions and 22 group sessions. We spent 17 hours working within our community support services to collaborate on how to work with our clients more effectively, and 10.5 hours presenting our program to other service providers.

Although COVID19 continued to challenge our "normal" ways of providing services, we were able to rise to the challenges it presented by ensuring the women of our community were able to receive the supports they needed when they needed it.

**NICOLE CULINA**  
Stopping the Violence Counsellor



# #CallItFemicide 2021 mid-year report

January 1 - June 30

Preliminary findings based on available information

**92** Women and girls killed by violence

**88** Incidents

**79** Identified accused  
73 accused were male

## Profile of victims

Average age of victims: **39 years**  
2 years ————— 78 years

## Continued overrepresentation of Indigenous women and girls

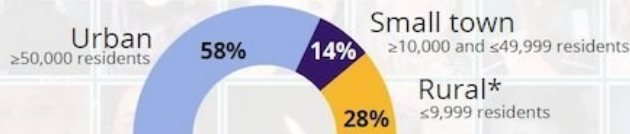
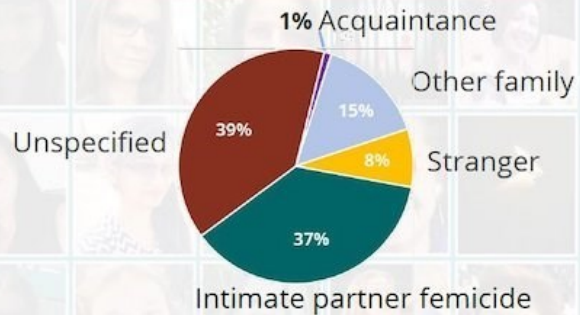
11 Indigenous victims

Even if no other case involves Indigenous victims, this represents 12% of the total number of victims more than double their representation in the population (almost 5%).

## Geographic distribution

	Number killed	Rate of killing
ON	33	0.44
BC	17	0.65
QC	17	0.40
AB	12	0.55
MB	5	0.72
SK	5	0.85
NB	1	0.25
NS	1	0.20
NU	1	5.21

## Victim-accused relationship



39% Legal Spouse  
36% Common Law  
18% Dating  
7% Unknown

\*Rural victims overrepresented based on proportion of Canadian population (16%)





## ANNUAL STATISTICS

### SUPPORT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS

**46**

FEMALE

**1**

MALE

**1**

NON-BINARY

**48**

TOTAL

---

### SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR'S AGE

**9**

13-18 YEARS

**17**

19-30 YEARS

**19**

31-45 YEARS

**2**

46-60 YEARS

**1**

60+ YEARS

## SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROGRAM

Based on a volunteer-initiative, the Sexual Assault Response Program (SARP) offers advocacy for survivors of sexual assault, bridges service gaps, and most importantly, offers one-on-one emotional support from a trauma-informed perspective during a time of crisis.

Volunteers undergo extensive and on-going training. They work alongside the Forensic Nurse Examiner Program to ensure that survivors of sexual assault are aware of their medical and reporting options, are guided through such services during a very overwhelming time, and most of all, know that they are not alone.

The 2021/22 fiscal year was one full of challenges, obstacles, but most of all, achievements. With the ongoing support from Ending Violence Association of BC, Sage Haven staff, and the community of Port Alberni, SARP launched on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, with six trained volunteers, all of whom dedicate their time and energy to advocating for sexual assault response services. Since then, SARP has added four more volunteers to the team and has supported 48 survivors of sexual assault in both hospital and RCMP detachment accompaniments.

While the COVID19 pandemic threw some obstacles in the way, SARP became an essential service within our community, allowing volunteers to by-pass restrictions and be there for survivors when other third parties couldn't. By obtaining "Essential Status," SARP was able to push through more doors, establishing stronger relationships with West Coast General Hospital Staff, VIHA forensic nurses, and local RCMP.

This previous winter, SARP was invited to participate in several program consultations and engagement round tables such as the BC Gender-Based Violence Action Plan Engagement, hosted by Simon Fraser University and the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Grace Lore. This past April, Lore also participated in Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) an event that Sage Haven Society has now promoted two years in a row.

This year, keeping with the same theme, 42 other SARP teams from across the province hosted "Letters to Survivors" in promotion of SAAM: a letter writing campaign for community members to submit artwork and handwritten letters of support, to show survivors of sexual assault that they are never alone. Across BC, a little over 1,000 letters and pieces were submitted. A success in the eyes of sexual assault response advocates and one we hope to continue in the following SAAMs.

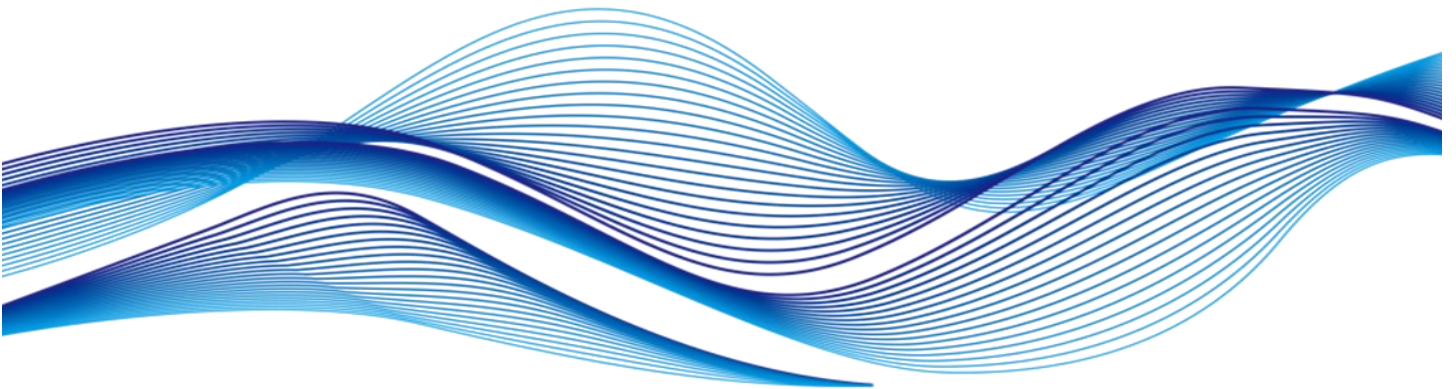
Sadly now, as the warmer weather and summer months approach, we can expect to see a rise in sexual assault cases; a fact all sexual assault response workers and advocates can predict as the outcome. Therefore, SARP community relationships, education, volunteer training, and overall, program visibility is crucial to the community and survivors. Objectives like these will be the focus for the new SARP Coordinator.





*“Volunteers undergo extensive and on-going training...survivors of sexual assault know that they are not alone....”*

*Celine Sauvé*



**CELINE SAUVÉ**  
Program Coordinator



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

### SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO CLIENTS

**1,563**  
FOOD & CLOTHING PROVIDED

**810**  
HARM REDUCTION & NALOXONE KITS

**511**  
REFERRALS / COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**871**  
OTHER SUPPORTS PROVIDED

.....

### CLIENTS SERVED

**2,622**  
INDIVIDUALS

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Community Resource Drop-in Centre is an inclusive space where folks from diverse backgrounds come together to access resources. We provide people with a safe, non-judgmental space to relax, learn, grow, and support together.

One of the most common reasons for a visit to our Drop-In Centre is people coming to us in crisis, seeking immediate assistance; while others come for continued support and connection. Some of the services we provide are: access to clothing, personal hygiene care items, coffee, food, Wi-Fi, computers, and phones. Additionally, we also provide lifesaving harm reduction supplies and naloxone kits. This past year we handed out 810 harm reduction and Naloxone kits to help keep our clients safe.

Taking into consideration that we were working within constraints of the pandemic, yet we were still able to serve 2,622 people over the last fiscal year by adjusting the way we serve our community to balance our harm reduction and support model.

Throughout the last year we faced and overcame many challenges relating to the COVID19 pandemic. We slowly made the change back to in-person assistance. Drop-in is once again fully open for the first time in over two years.

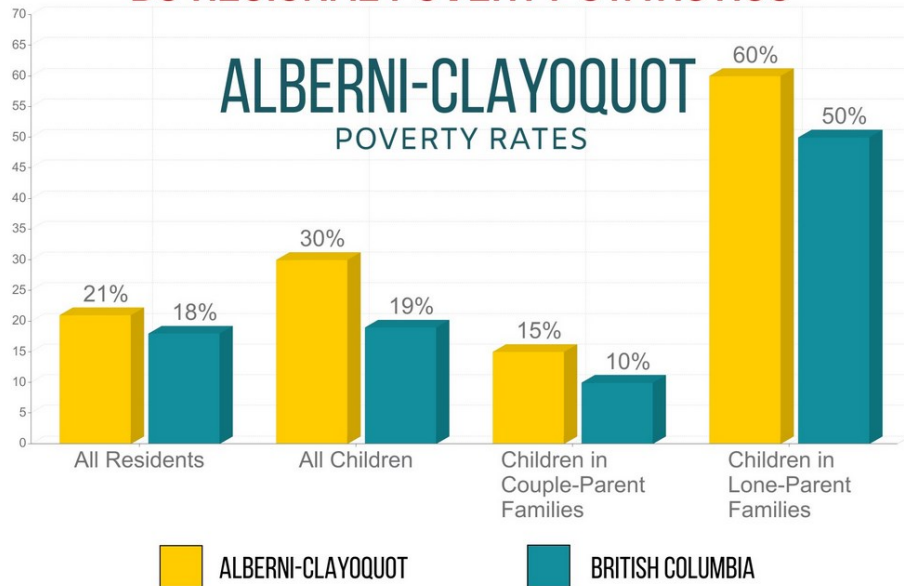
Our clients are very happy to be moving towards the “new normal” and are excited for what’s to come. We have begun offering classes again, starting with weekly knitting classes with lessons and guidance provided by a very patient and caring volunteer. Clients are always excited to learn new skills, and are constantly learning from our experts, as well as each other.

We have continued to make huge differences in our client’s lives through the rental subsidy provided by BC Housing. Since last year, we have been able to expand our scope by assisting with more than just rental assistance for women fleeing violence, we can now assist with payments related to their safety such as: locks, security cameras, and costs associated with starting fresh in a healthier environment. We have three ongoing subsidies, and continue to offer aid with one-time subsidies.



**FRANCES WILSON**  
Program Coordinator

## BC REGIONAL POVERTY STATISTICS



**firstcall** BC CHILD AND YOUTH  
ADVOCACY COALITION



Read the full report at [stillin5.ca](http://stillin5.ca)

## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2020 BC POVERTY REPORT CARD

### ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT

In the Alberni-Clayoquot region, 1,830 children live in poverty. In lone-parent families, three in every five children live in poverty. The child poverty rate is nearly 9 percentage points higher than the overall poverty rate in this area, demonstrating that children are disproportionately impacted by poverty.



**firstcall** BC CHILD AND YOUTH  
ADVOCACY COALITION



Read the full report at [stillin5.ca](http://stillin5.ca)



## ANNUAL STATISTICS

**131**  
ADULT WOMEN CLIENTS

**93**  
YOUTH CLIENTS

**65**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
HOURS

**550**  
INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT  
SESSIONS

**2,535**  
KILOMETRES TRAVELLED  
TO PROVIDE SERVICES

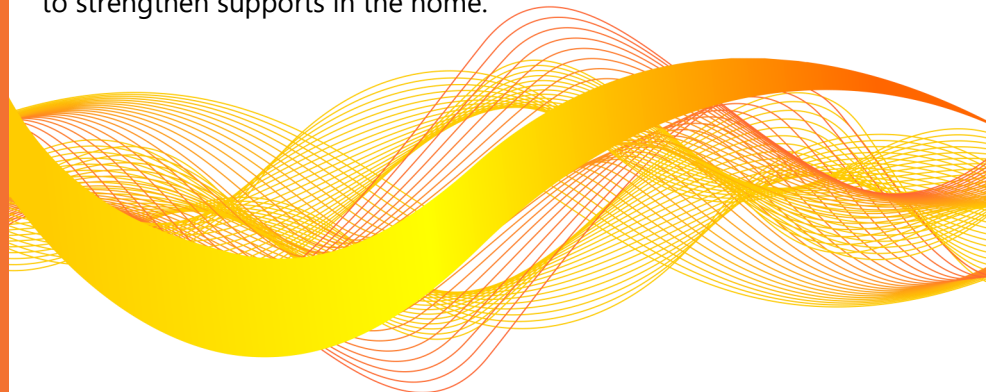
## OUTREACH SERVICES

2021 has been a year of transitions in so many ways. Transitions in how we provide care, transitions in where we provide care and transitions in why we provide care. Transitions lead us to change, and change, while sometimes scary, can often lead us to new opportunities and ways to grow.

Sage Haven's Outreach program is funded by two separate sources. Island Health and the First Nation's Health Authority provide funding to help children and youth. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General provides funding to help women and their children.

This year we have been a part of many transitions, but one example that stands out is the increased confidence and health of a particular adult client. This was achieved by advocating and assisting them with accessing medical attention which were feared & neglected for many years due to negative and traumatic medical experiences as a young child. This individual had experienced horrible atrocities as a child, which in turn molded their feelings of mistrust, fear, shame and pain with regard to anything medical in their life. We began working together this past year, starting with small steps; being present and assisting with most of the verbal communication to make medical appointments over the phone as well as being physically close during the appointments. Preparation for the meetings included: having practice conversations, having a written copy of concerns, and points of discussion with follow up questions ready to fall back on if the verbal communication became too difficult. With time and support, the wonderful transition towards strength, bravery, confidence, and health has shifted. This individual is now able to make and attend, not only their own medical appointments, but also share and teach the same skills to their growing child. Through support provided by our program and counsellor they've broken the cycle of stigma, abuse, fear, to a new paradigm of feeling empowered and in control of their own health journey.

When considering youth clients, some particular successes are with the ability to reach LGBTQ2S+ Youth and support them in a gender affirming and inclusive approach. It is an honour to have been able to build trusting relationships and safe spaces for at risk youth. Another success to highlight is the important role of being able to liaise between many parents and their youth by building bridges for better communication while being a trusted ally and voice for understanding on both sides, therefore helping to strengthen supports in the home.



Due to ongoing support and successful relationship building with youth since being back in schools over the past couple of months, there has been a notable improvement in connecting with an increased number of youths by peer referral. There have been multiple instances where one client will bring in, both physically as well as contact info, for their friends and fellow students who feel they would benefit from working with outreach supports. Embracing virtual connections to provide outreach services to youth has been remarkably successful and has allowed for a further reduction of barriers. Youth, as well as many adult clients, are tremendously apt in managing a virtual presence and by continuing to stay current and open to many different communication platforms, we have been successful in balancing more clients and offering more supports within the given timeframe. By allowing for more streams of communication, the short wait time to share knowledge and outreach services has enabled us to be more effective in the number of individuals we can help.

Teachers and school administration feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the coordination efforts to connect students has been amazing, from clients and school officials. There have been multiple instances where many new clients have contacted us based on the suggestion of current clients who feel that the service and support that is provided will be beneficial to the mental health and well-being of their friends who may be struggling.

School officials have been very keen and are eager to get students connected with Sage Haven Society. There have been requests to be in the school as much as possible, and we have been able to add additional visits when needed.

Reports from students show positive changes in school marks and continuing education where students had previously disengaged with the school system. By remaining connected with the youth in their school life and creating a bridge with their personal life, we have seen success in showing them that the positive outcome that they desire includes a healthy balance with educational and personal focus, moving youth from dropping-out, to thriving in academics.



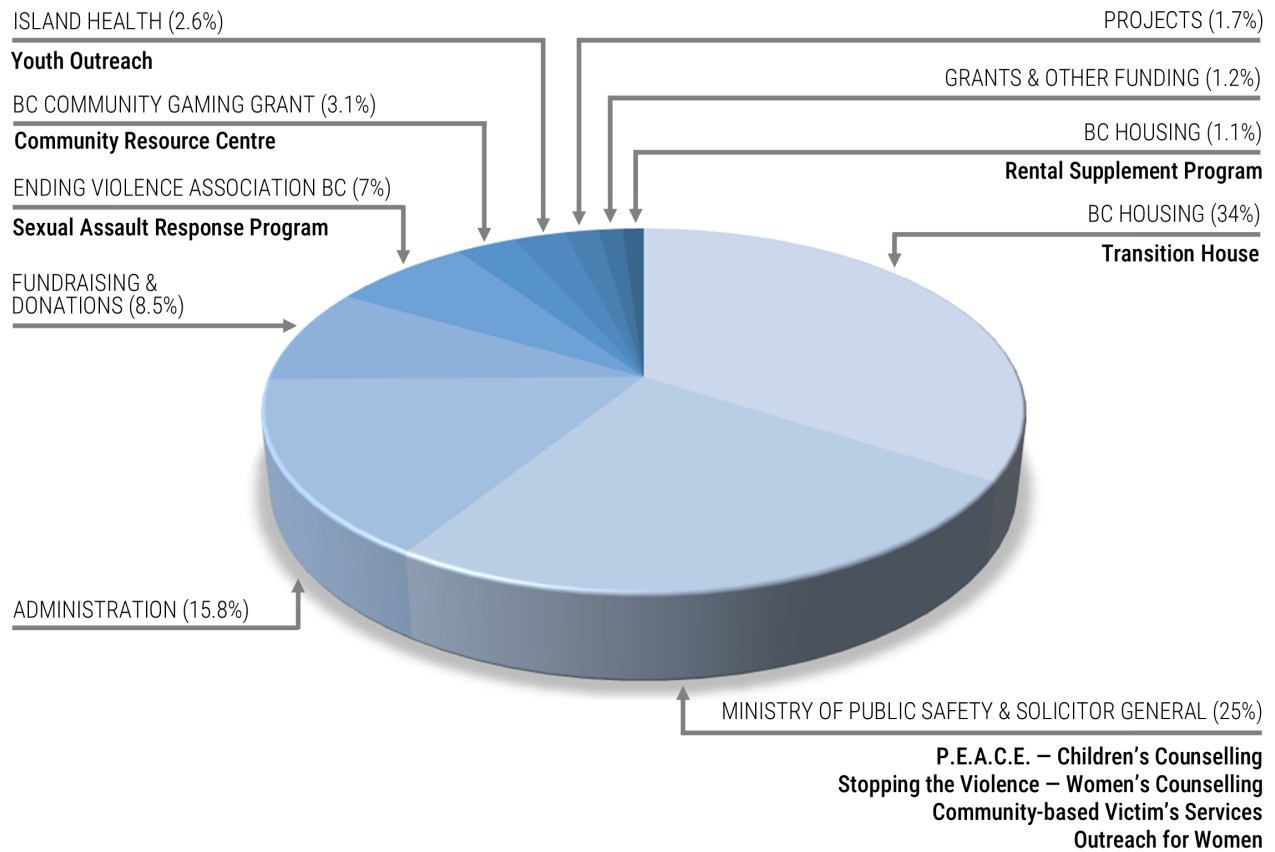
***“Embracing virtual connections to provide outreach services to youth has been remarkably successful and has allowed for a further reduction of barriers...”***

***Harrena Gillis***

**HARRENA GILLIS**  
ADULT, YOUTH, AND CHILD WORKER

# FINANCIALS: REVENUE

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022

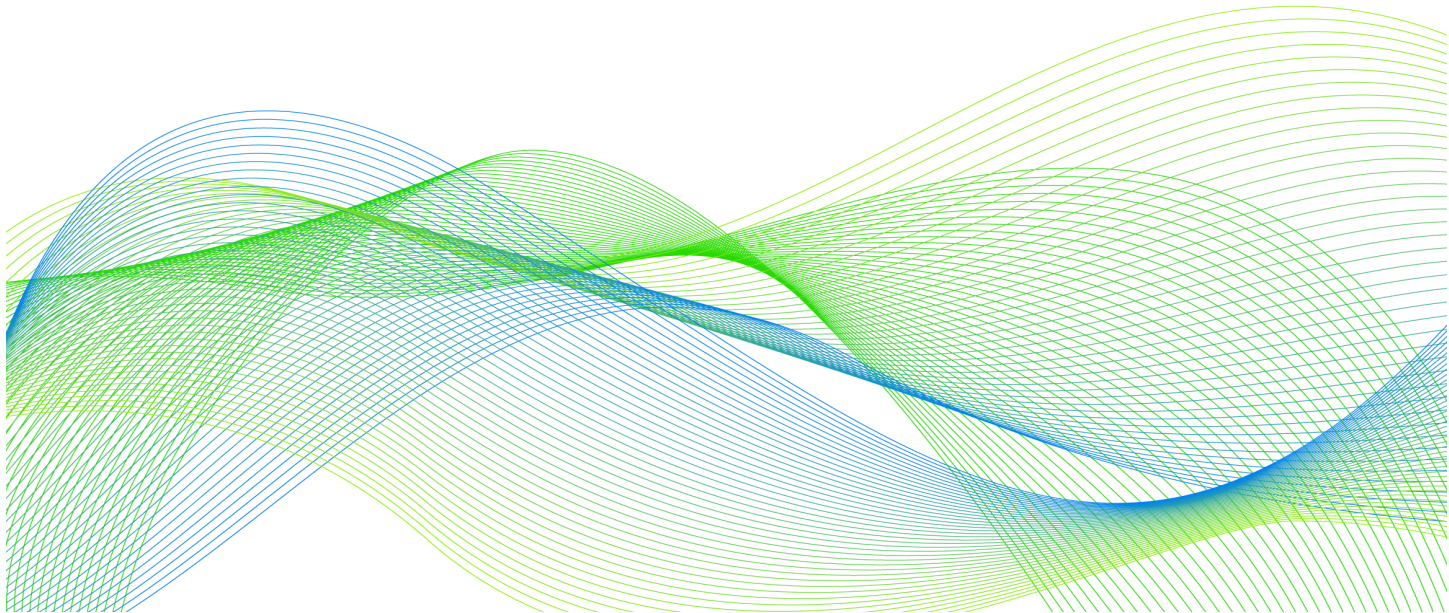
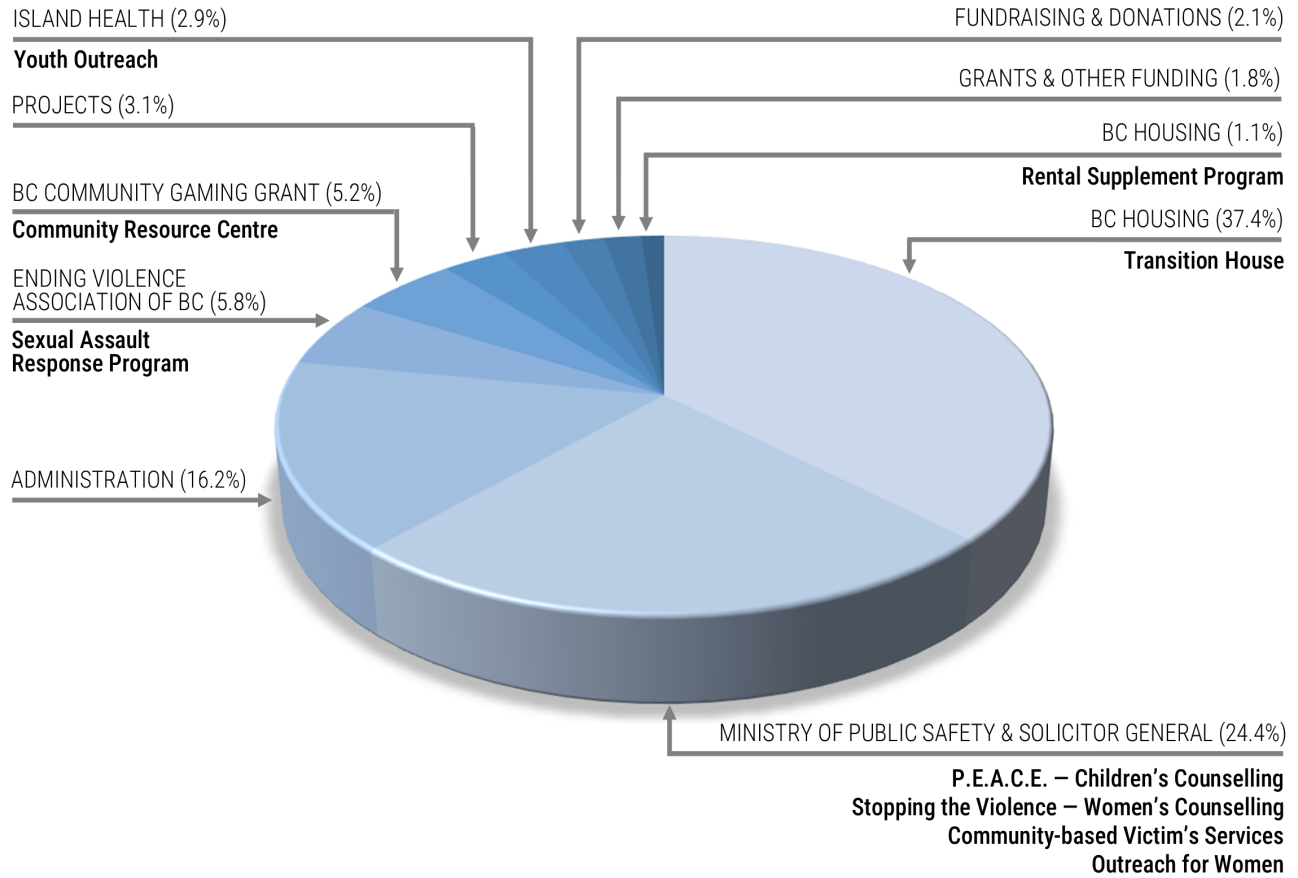


*Thank you to all our funders and many generous supporters:*

- BC Housing
- Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
- Vancouver Island Health Authority ~ Aboriginal Health
- Ending Violence Association of BC
- BC Gaming
- Individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, and local government

# FINANCIALS: EXPENSE

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2022





# SAGE HAVEN

Understanding the past, Building Futures

## **Sage Haven Society**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE



3082 - 3rd Ave., Port Alberni,  
BC V9Y 2A5



250-724-7111



office@acaws.ca



www.acaws.ca