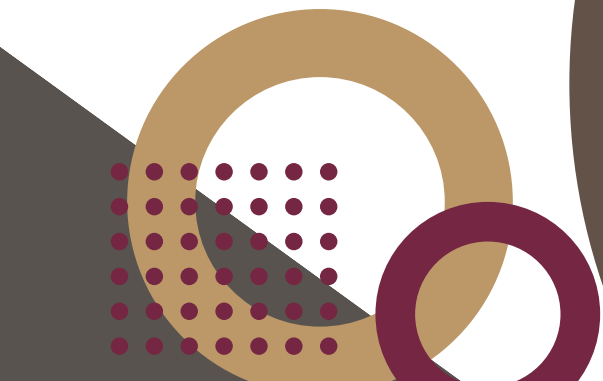


# ANNUAL REPORT RAPPORT ANNUEL

**OCTEVAW - COCVFF**  
**2022**



**OCTEVAW - COCVFF**



OCTEVAW's work takes place on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin and Anishnabeh people. We must honour that this land was never given up and never surrendered. We recognize the interconnectedness of gender-based violence and settler colonialism, and commit to advancing Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination through our work. We remember and honour all missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, children, and two-spirit people.

La COCVFF œuvre sur le territoire traditionnel non cédé de la nation algonquine anichinabée. Nous reconnaissons que ce territoire n'a jamais été abandonné et, sachant les interrelations qui existent entre la violence genrée et le colonialisme d'occupation, nous sommes déterminées à promouvoir l'autodétermination et la souveraineté autochtones dans nos travaux. Nous honorons la mémoire des êtres deux-esprits ainsi que des femmes, des filles et des enfants autochtones disparus ou assassinés.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports  
Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action  
Final Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women,  
Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people  
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and  
2SLGBTQQIA people Calls for Justice

## ABOUT

OCTEVAW aims to end gender-based violence (GBV) through prevention, awareness building, and by amplifying the voices of those on the frontline.

## OUR VISION, VALUES & MISSION

**Our vision** - OCTEVAW aspires to a future in which:

- All members of the community, including individuals, organizations, policy makers, and the legal system are united in efforts to ensure a permanent end to all gender-based violence, including violence and abuse against women and children.
- Respect for the inherent worth and dignity of women, trans and gender-diverse individuals is reflected in our public institutions.
- Women, trans and gender-diverse individuals are able to live violence-free lives rooted in autonomy and self-determination.

**Our values** - OCTEVAW works collaboratively with members and stakeholders in accordance with feminist, anti-oppressive, anti-racist, and pro-choice principles. We recognize the intersectionality and interlocking of oppressions and seek to address these realities in our work. We are committed to the struggle for social justice for all individuals who are marginalized and oppressed, and to advancing the cause of decolonization, reproductive rights, and disability, queer and trans justice.

**Our mission** - OCTEVAW works to bring a GBV lens to aspects of everyday life where we can help prevent and address violence. From policing, public transit, in restaurants and at festivals, to life on campuses and beyond, OCTEVAW is a community-maker, a bridge-builder, and a unifying voice for a coalition of organizations and individuals in the Ottawa region who are all working towards the same goal: addressing, reducing, and preventing ultimately ending GBV and VAW.

## À PROPOS

La Coalition d'Ottawa contre la violence faite aux femmes s'emploie à faire reculer la violence genrée par la prévention et la sensibilisation de même qu'en amplifiant les voix de celles et ceux qui œuvrent en première ligne.

## NOTRE VISION, NOS VALEURS ET NOTRE MISSION

**Notre vision** - La Coalition vise un avenir dans lequel :

- Tous les membres de la collectivité, y compris les individus, les organismes, les responsables des politiques publiques et les représentantes ou représentants du milieu judiciaire, collaborent pour éliminer à tout jamais toute forme de violence genrée, y compris la violence et les mauvais traitements infligés aux femmes et à leurs enfants;
- Nos organismes publics respectent la valeur et la dignité fondamentales des femmes et des personnes non conformes dans le genre.

Chaque femme et chaque personne de genre non conforme peut vivre librement de façon autonome, sans craindre de subir de la violence.

**Nos valeurs** - Privilégiant la collaboration avec ses membres et les intervenants impliqués, la Coalition prône des valeurs féministes et pro-choix inclusives de la diversité sexuelle, et s'oppose à l'oppression et au racisme. Nous reconnaissons l'influence croisée des diverses formes d'oppression contre lesquelles nous luttons. Nous nous engageons à défendre le droit de toute personne marginalisée ou opprimée à la justice sociale, et à promouvoir la décolonisation, les droits reproductifs, ainsi que la justice pour les personnes ayant une incapacité, allosexuelles ou trans.

**Notre mission** - La Coalition d'Ottawa contre la violence faite aux femmes travaille à prévenir et contrer la violence fondée sur le sexe partout où elle le peut, ce qui implique d'abord de mettre cette violence en lumière dans les différents aspects de la vie quotidienne en appliquant une grille d'analyse conçue spécialement dans ce but. La Coalition se penche notamment sur la violence fondée sur le sexe dans la prestation des services policiers, dans les transports collectifs, dans les festivals et les restaurants, sur les campus et au-delà. L'action de la Coalition est rassembleuse. Elle cherche à bâtir des ponts et à unifier les voix de tous ceux et celles – individus et organisations – dans la grande région d'Ottawa qui œuvrent dans un même but : prévenir et contrer la violence fondée sur le sexe ainsi que la violence faite aux femmes et aux enfants, pour ultimement l'éliminer.

# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## Office of the Chair

Chair  
Past Chair  
Chair Elect

} Executive  
Director

## Black & Racialized Caucus

Member-  
ship  
Engage-  
ment  
Portfolio

1 Director

Finance &  
Treasurer  
Portfolio

1 Director

Governance  
Portfolio

1 Director

Fund-  
raising  
Portfolio

1 Directors

Community  
Accounta-  
bility  
Portfolio

1 Director

Comms  
Portfolio

1 Director

## Portfolio Sub-Committees

Individual Sub-Committees working in support of the portfolio led by a Committee Chair with a team of volunteers.

## Standing Committees

Frontline Support

Public Engagement

# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

## Office of the Chair

Chair  
Past Chair  
Chair Elect } Executive Director

## Black & Racialized Caucus

Membership Engagement Portfolio  
1 Director

Finance & Treasurer Portfolio  
1 Director

Governance Portfolio  
1 Director

Fund-raising Portfolio  
1 Directors

Community Accountability Portfolio  
1 Director

Comms Portfolio  
1 Director

## Portfolio Sub-Committees

Individual Sub-Committees working in support of the portfolio led by a Committee Chair with a team of volunteers.

## Standing Committees

Frontline Support

Public Engagement



# MEET OUR TEAM

## Board of Directors

Barbara Laskin

**Chair**

Terhas Ghebretacle

**Governance**

Kellie Fong

**Treasurer**

Amanda Parriag

**Communications**

Mandi Pekan

**Community Accountability**

Mashooda Syed

**Fundraising**

Nan Wehbe

**Fundraising**

Maggie Echimane

**Member Engagement**

Marie-Louise Doyle

**Past Chair**

## Appointed October 2022

Barbara Laskin

**Chair**

Terhas Ghebretacle

**Governance**

Mandi Pekan

**Community Accountability**

Maggie Echimane

**Member Engagement**

Mashooda Syed

**Fundraising**

Nan Wehbe

**Fundraising**

## Thank You to our outgoing members

Marie-Louise Doyle

**Past Chair**

Mashooda Syed

**Fundraising**



Black &  
Racialized Caucus

**Amal Elmi**  
**Nasreen Rajani**  
**Pamela Twagiyarezu**

Administrative  
Support Team

**Maria Dueck**  
**Tamara Rose**  
**Sajitha Saju**

Violence Against  
Women Advocate  
Case Review  
[VACR]

**Sunny Marriner**  
**VACR Project Lead**

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We work with incredible community members, grassroots networks, knowledge holders, and consultants who share their expertise and our commitment to tackling the root causes of gender-based violence. Thank you for all you do to support survivors and create safe, caring communities!

Nous travaillons avec des gens formidables – membres de la collectivité, réseaux communautaires, détentrices de savoirs et consultantes – qui acceptent de nous faire bénéficier de leur expertise et partagent notre volonté d'éliminer les causes profondes de la violence genrée. Merci pour tout ce que vous faites dans le but de soutenir les personnes survivantes et de créer des collectivités sûres et bienveillantes.





# OCTEVAW – COCVFF Staff

Layla Farhat  
**Interim Executive Director**

Erin Leigh  
**Executive Director**

Sonia Figuracion  
**Bookkeeper**

Stephanie Russell  
**B.S.W placement**

Sadie Kotze  
**Social Media and Engagement/  
placement student**

Sigrid Joseph  
**Logistics & Communications  
Coordinator**

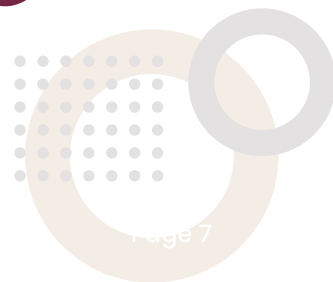
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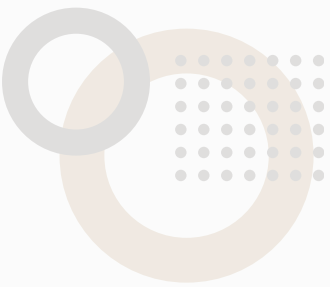
## OCTEVAW – COCVFF Volunteers

# Communications Team

*thank  
you*

*Merçi*





# MEMBER AGENCIES

Our member agencies do incredible work for our community and beyond. They each play a role in providing informative resources, crucial front-line support, and fostering a feminist community focused on reducing gender-based violence.

- Minwaashin Lodge
- Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre
- Carlington Community Health
- Immigrant Women Services Ottawa
- Interval House Ottawa
- Sexual Assault Network
- Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
- Children's Aid Society Ottawa
- Cornerstone Housing for Women
- Counselling and Family Services Ottawa
- Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre
- Elizabeth Fry Society Ottawa
- Equity Services - Carleton University
- The FAM Network
- Harmony House
- Family Services Ottawa
- Jewish Family Services
- Maison d'amitié
- Nelson House of Ottawa Carleton
- Ottawa Community Immigrant Services
- Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre
- Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre
- Planned Parenthood Ottawa
- Sexual Assault and Partner Abuse Care Program
- University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic
- Ottawa Victim Services
- Voice Found
- Women's Initiative for Safer Environments
- Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
- Inuuqatigiit Centre
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit

Thank You for all you do!!

# REPORT FROM THE BOARD

The year 2022 was one of passages. July saw the departure of our long-serving Executive Director, Erin Leigh. Those of you who joined us for the social event following our last AGM had an opportunity to thank Erin in person and acknowledge her tremendous contribution to furthering the goals of OCTEVAW over the nine years she was with us. Under her watch, the coalition grew in size, budget and stature. Many important programs were initiated or extended throughout her time with us, among them Young Men Leading Change, spearheaded by Matt Schaff; Project Soundcheck in partnership with the Sexual Assault Network; The Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review, led by Sunny Mariner; Just Got Weird, supported by local colleges and universities; Tech Without Violence, led by Dillon Black in conjunction with Purple Sisters; and Unsafe at Home, in partnership with numerous member agencies. Erin has a particular talent for cultivating community relationships and working in partnership, and it was this talent that enabled so many of our program successes and brought us to the attention of funders and supporters. We are grateful for her long years of service.

On October 25, our founder, Joan Gullen, died at age 92. Joan was a force to be reckoned with, a fearless activist and advocate who saw the need for this coalition and remained faithful to its mission long past her departure from Family Services Ottawa, under whose auspices she had founded OCTEVAW (or, as we were known then, the Regional Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women.) In fact, Joan dutifully attended every AGM right up until COVID forced us online.

Joan was a committed feminist and community builder, someone who didn't hesitate to take the lead when she saw a need or a gap to be filled. In 1976, she spearheaded and supported the creation of Interval House, the first women's shelter in Ottawa. She was also instrumental in establishing the Immigrant Women's Services Ottawa, serving as its first chair, and she was behind the creation of the Snowsuit Fund. These were among the many initiatives she undertook to address the needs of women and children—she even ran for elected office, alas unsuccessfully—once for City Council and twice for the Ontario NDP!

Joan's example is a continuing source of inspiration to all who work in the VAW/GBV sector. Layla and I had the honour of attending a celebration of life for Joan at City Hall recently, where the large turnout was a testament to the number of people she mentored and lives she touched. We know that the best way to honour her memory is to live our values – her values— and work hard to achieve our collective goals.

In the past year, we have begun to implement the goals articulated in our 2022-25 strategic plan, developed with the support of Kimiya Project Lab. We were so very fortunate that Layla Farhat, the person responsible for leading this comprehensive and transformative planning

# REPORT FROM THE BOARD

process, agreed to step in as Interim Executive Director on Erin Leigh's departure. Layla already knew us well, and was able not only to transition seamlessly into the role, but to begin implementing some significant changes. She has quietly and ever-so-competently put in place all kinds of internal procedures to make things run better, whether it be documenting policies, devising strategies, consulting with experts or streamlining systems—the kind of stuff that you can't really see from the outside but that strengthens operations considerably. In terms of our external relations, she has focussed not just on members, but on building relationships with and supporting grassroots organizations, an explicit goal of our strategic plan. She has also engaged in a full agenda of advocacy work, and special projects such as the GBV Asset Mapping exercise for the City's Community Safety & Well-Being Plan, on which OCTEVAW was the co-lead. On behalf of the board and members I would like to express our thanks to Layla for her exceptional leadership and wish her the very best for the future.

Under Layla's watch, the board too has applied itself to realizing its ambitions in numerous areas. For example, Maggie Echimane sat on the Community Advisory Committee for the Asset Mapping exercise. Kellie Fong has continued to inform and provide oversight to our financial planning and accountability. Terhas Ghebretcle has taken on her Governance role with enthusiasm and has contributed greatly to discussions around contracting, board/staff recruitment, and HR policy. Mandi Pekkan has continued work on our Community Accountability Framework, greatly assisted by Farnaz Farhang. Amanda Parriag has enhanced our public engagement capacity with the program, Ask Women Anything. And Nan Wehbe continues to lend her considerable fundraising expertise to the job of diversifying revenues. I thank each of them warmly for their active engagement with the work of OCTEVAW, for making it a pleasure to attend every board meeting and for the momentum they've given to the implementation of our strategic plan.

Thanks are also due to a number of others: Mashooda Syed, who sadly had to leave the board during the year due to other involvements, and two wonderful and loyal staff members, Sonia Figuracion, our long-serving bookkeeper and Sigrid Joseph, our Logistics and Communications Coordinator. Sigrid has returned to academic work in Toronto and we will miss her organizing gene! A big shout-out is warranted for our Black and Racialized Caucus, whose advice throughout the year has been invaluable. Amal Elmi, Nasreen Rajani and Pamela Twagiyarezu have been wonderful to work with and we are indebted to them for their time and wisdom. I would also like to announce that the Caucus will remain as a permanent part of our structure—we can't imagine operating without it.

Many thanks to one and all, and here's looking to the future with brand new leadership and an exciting plan that we commit to fully implementing over the next few years.



## 2022 A YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2022, OCTEVAW began its implementation of its new strategic direction - 'Putting our Values into Practice'. Beyond progress shared by the Board, we have been building and rebuilding relationships with community members and grassroots networks, supporting local events and actions, and participating in mutual aid. OCTEVAW also ensured advocacy efforts were focused on dismantling systemic and root causes of GBV.

We began re-designing recruiting and hiring processes to reflect our values, working side by side with the Black and Racialized Caucus.

Alongside member agency Interval House of Ottawa, we co-led an asset mapping exercise of services available to survivors in Ottawa, which resulted in actions for the City of Ottawa to take as a funder, capacity builder, and advocate.

See below for a detailed review of key activities and highlights!



## 2022 UNE ANNÉE EN REVUE

En 2022, la COCVFF a commencé à mettre en œuvre sa nouvelle orientation stratégique - "Mettre nos valeurs en pratique". Au-delà des progrès partagés par le Conseil d'administration, nous avons établi et rétabli des relations avec des membres de la communauté et des réseaux de base, en soutenant des événements et des actions locales, et en participant à l'entraide. La COCVFF a également veillé à ce que les efforts de plaidoyer se concentrent sur le démantèlement des causes systémiques et profondes de la violence fondée sur le genre.

Nous avons commencé à redéfinir les processus de recrutement et d'embauche afin de refléter nos valeurs, en travaillant de concert avec le Caucus des Noirs et des personnes racialisées.

Avec l'agence membre Interval House of Ottawa, nous avons codirigé un exercice de cartographie des services offerts aux survivants à Ottawa, qui a débouché sur des mesures que la Ville d'Ottawa peut prendre en tant que bailleur de fonds, développeur de capacités et avocat.

Voir ci-dessous pour un aperçu détaillé des principales activités et des points saillants!

# KEY ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

## Public Education and Movement Building

- Black History Month social media spotlights of Black feminist leaders, Erica Ifill, Rosy Douge-Charlies, and Pamela Twagirayezu
- Social media campaign for Sexual Assault Prevention month
- Bystander intervention campaigns for St-Patrick's Day and July 1
- December 6 vigil with Women's Event Network in solidarity with Indigenous women, girls, and 2S+ people
- #JustGotWeird campaign with local Algonquin College, Carleton University, Collège La Cité and the University of Ottawa to raise awareness of GBV on campus and promote bystander intervention.

## Advocacy

- Bringing a GBV lens to the convoy occupation
- March 8th Launch of the six intersectional feminist demands on housing
- Calling on City of Ottawa to apply equity lens to disaster response
- Supporting survivors and #ResignRick demanding Councillors be held accountable for egregious acts of abuse
- #NowWhatOttawa?! Election Campaign for gender equity

## Programs and Special Projects

- Ongoing work on community accountability framework
- Initiating and co-leading GBV Asset and System Map with City of Ottawa Community Safety and WellBeing Plan
- Ongoing implementation of Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR), with project lead participating in the Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission
- Partnership with Unsafe at Home Ottawa text and chat support for violence and abuse.

# ACTIVITÉS ET FAITS SAILLANTS

## Éducation et mobilisation

- Pendant le Mois de l'histoire des Noir·e·s, vitrine sociomédiatique sur de grandes féministes noires : Erica Ifill, Rosy Douge-Charlies et Pamela Twagirayezu.
- Campagne sociomédiatique pendant le Mois de la sensibilisation aux violences sexuelles.
- Campagnes visant à promouvoir l'intervention des tiers et témoins dans le cadre de la Saint-Patrick et de la fête du Canada.
- Vigile du 6 décembre organisée avec le Réseau d'événements pour femmes en solidarité avec les femmes et les filles autochtones et les êtres deux-esprits.
- Campagne régionale #BizarreOuQuoi avec le Collège Algonquin, l'Université Carleton, le Collège La Cité et l'Université d'Ottawa pour sensibiliser la population de ces campus à la violence genrée et promouvoir l'intervention des tiers et témoins.

## Revendication

- Perspective de la Coalition sur le convoi qui a occupé Ottawa
- Les six appels à l'action féministes intersectionnels lancés le 8 mars concernant l'accès au logement
- Lettre à la Ville d'Ottawa l'appelant à adopter une optique d'égalité dans son plan d'intervention en cas de catastrophe
- Soutien aux survivantes et à la campagne #ResignRick, pour en finir avec l'impunité au conseil municipal dans les cas d'inconduites flagrantes
- Campagne #NowWhatOttawa?! pour assurer la visibilité des enjeux d'égalité de genres durant la campagne électorale municipale

## Programmes et projets spéciaux

- Poursuite des travaux en vue de l'adoption d'un cadre de responsabilisation communautaire
- Dans le contexte du Plan de sécurité et de bien-être dans les collectivités d'Ottawa, amorce et coanimation de la cartographie des atouts et systèmes d'intérêts pour la violence genrée
- Programme courant d'examen des cas de violence sexuelle par des intervenantes (EVSI) et participation de la responsable à la Commission des pertes massives de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- Partenariat avec Pas bien chez soi à Ottawa, le service texto-clavardage pour les survivantes de violence et d'abus



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS!

Without the generous support of our funders, the important work of enhancing a coordinated response to violence against women & gender-based violence our efforts would not be possible. Thank you!

- City of Ottawa
- Government of Ontario
- Government of Canada
- Canadian Women's Foundation



# MERCI À NOS GÉNÉREUX BAILLEURS DE FONDS!

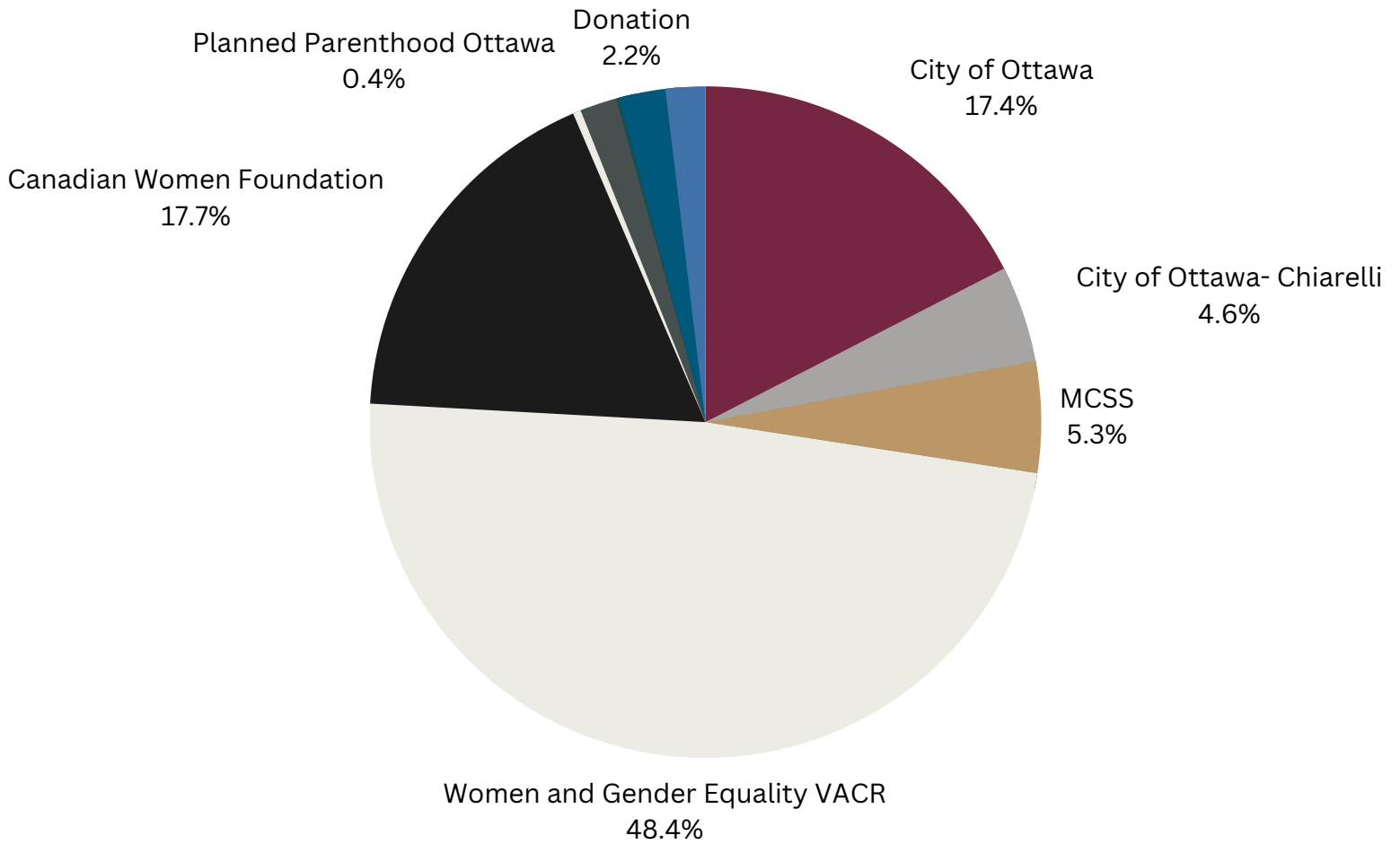
Sans le soutien généreux de nos bailleurs de fonds, l'important travail de renforcement d'une réponse coordonnée à la violence à l'égard des femmes et à la violence fondée sur le genre ne serait pas possible. Nous vous remercions!

- Ville d'Ottawa
- Gouvernement de l'Ontario
- Gouvernement du Canada Fondation Canadienne des Femmes





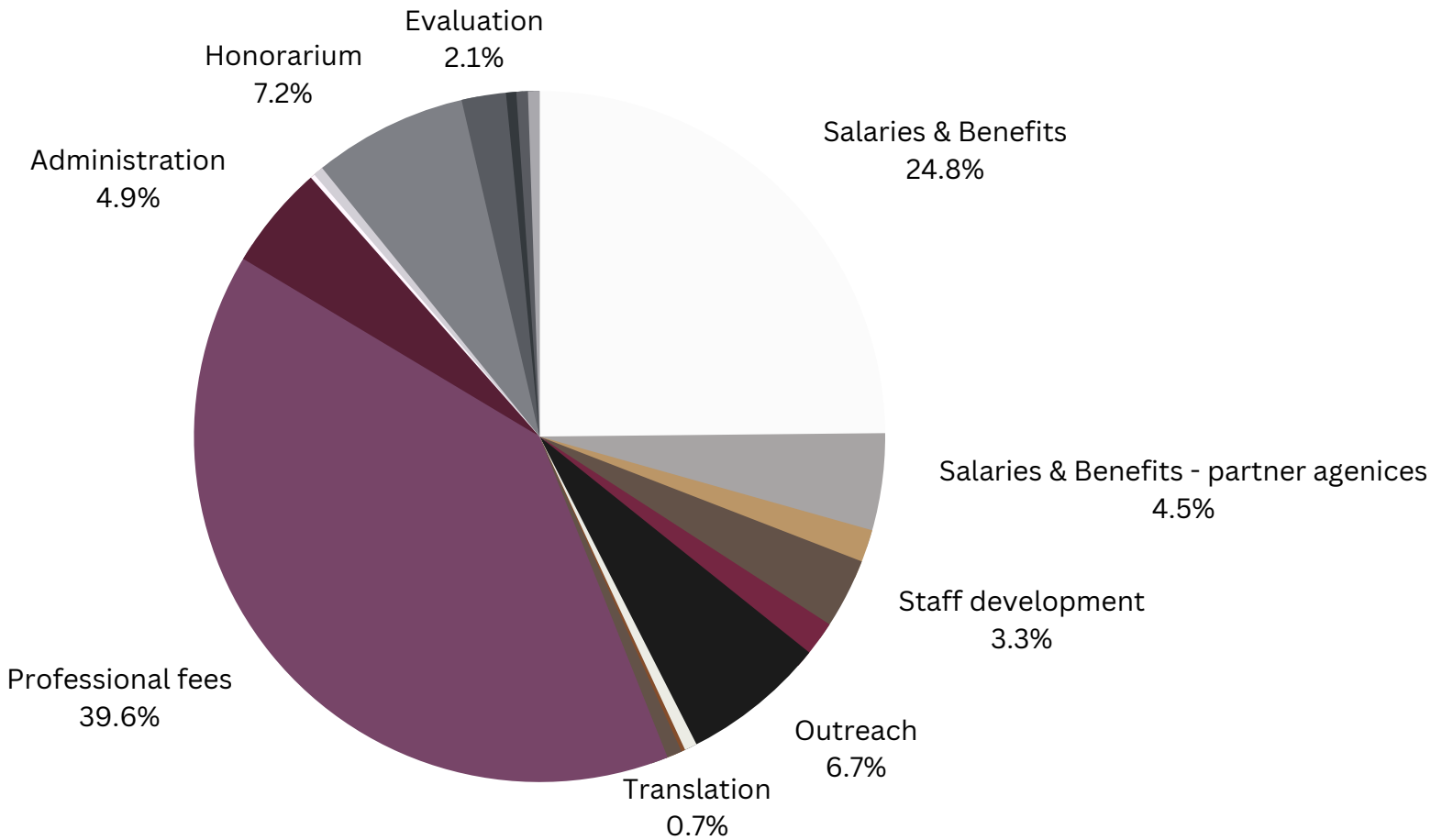
# REVENUE SNAPSHOT



**\$569,359**

Total Revenue 2022

# EXPENDITURE SNAPSHOT



**\$553,472**

Total Expenses 2022

**\$15,887**

Net Revenue for the year

# Honouring Joan Gullen (1930-2022)



We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of OCTEVAW Founder Joan Gullen on October 25, 2022. Joan was a well-known and respected social activist who advocated tirelessly for decades on behalf of equity-deserving groups - particularly women experiencing violence, children, and people facing housing insecurity.

In 1976, Joan supported the creation of Interval House, the first women's shelter in Ottawa. She also served as the first chair of Immigrant Women Services Ottawa (IWSO) and was named a Life Member of the IWSO Board in 2000.

In the mid 80's, Joan was responsible for founding the Regional Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women, which later became OCTEVAW. Her determined advocacy was pivotal in transforming the issue of violence against women and gender-based violence from a private matter, best kept in the shadows, to a social justice issue that needed to be acknowledged and addressed in the full light of day.



The Ottawa Citizen, in its 1996 profile, referred to Joan as "the elder stateswoman of social [justice] issues." Fellow activists described her as "extremely forceful, assertive and tenacious." Her remarkable work to improve the lives of countless women and children was recognized in 1999, when she was awarded The Meritorious Service Cross by the Governor General of Canada.

Joan leaves behind a rich legacy as a highly effective community builder, social justice advocate, and founder of important grassroots organizations that continue to address gender-based violence. She also leaves The Joan Gullen Award for Media Excellence that honours those continuing her work, and a wonderful community of friends and family.

We will continue to draw inspiration from her words:

"I'm passionate about social justice. I can't stand seeing people being put upon. Somewhere along the line, I decided I would work to make this a better place for all of us." - Joan Gullen

Joan will be dearly missed.