

OTTAWA COALITION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

ANNUAL GRATEFULNESS REPORT 2019



OCTEVAW - COCVFF
END VIOLENCE

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MISSION

OCTEVAW unites organizations and individuals in Ottawa and the surrounding region to end gender-based violence and abuse, including violence and abuse against women and children

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.

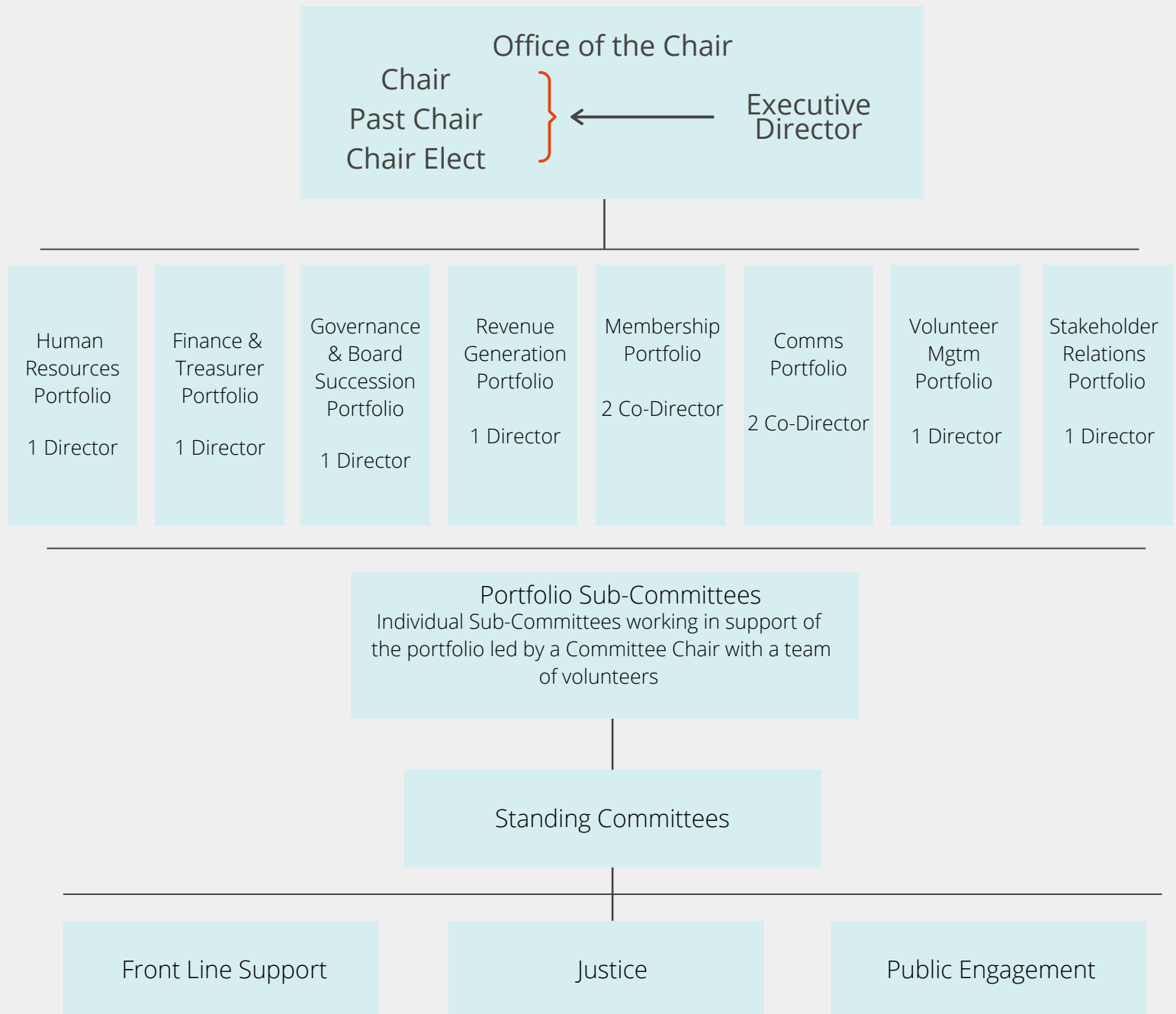
VISION

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-variant individuals is reflected in our public institutions.
- Women, trans and gender-variant individuals are able to live violencefree lives rooted in autonomy and self-determination.



BOARD STRUCTURE



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



This report is extremely bittersweet to me as this will be my last year as Chair of the Board of Directors for OCTEVAW.

My opening paragraph from last year's Annual Report deserves to be revisited as I had stated and it still rings with truth: "As Chair, I want to personally thank our Board of Directors for their creativity, patience and dedication again over the last year.

We have completed a lot of work this year and made great strides in fulfilling our mandate. This group of people energize and inspire me with their questions, dedication and "LET'S GO" attitude.

I was raised to give back to my community and as a result my Mother helped me start out my volunteer career at the Children's Hospital of eastern Ontario in 1976. I have volunteered in different capacities every year since my inaugural year of volunteerism. Often, when I'm asked: "Why do I volunteer?", I will respond that the goal is definitely to give back to my community, but it's often in search of something for yourself.

What brought me to OCTEVAW, was the suicide of my niece Rehtaeh Parsons. She had been gang-raped and then cyber-bullied literally to death. April 4, 2013 is a date that I will not forget. When deciding to volunteer for this organization I felt the need to give back to a community that I had been a part of my whole life as a fierce feminist and an advocate to end gender-based violence.

The Board in 2013 fastened their seatbelts and joined me in a ride to change the Board structure, to better focus so that we could create a strategic plan and accompanying activities to move closer to a place where gender-based violence no longer exists. This Board and its membership has dedicated hours towards helping those impacted by violence.

Erin, our Executive Director, is a person that I have come to know and respect. She is a force in her own right and deserves my accolades and thanks for her support, direction, and friendship over the last seven years. And we are so grateful that Carolyn Johnston took on the role - what a gifted leader. Carolyn didn't just keep the boat in the right direction, she steered us into the first quarter of 2019 from autumn 2017 with skill, grace and heart.

When it's time to step down from an organization that has genuinely been a blessing in your life, knowing that you are handing its leadership over to incredible successors and leaders warms my heart.

We will continue to refer to our Action Plan and to answer the questions "Where are we going?" and "How will we get there?" We will continue to use the SMART model to ensure our outcomes meet those original objectives. So SMART means: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely = SMART.

We also continue to develop programs and responses that support the work we have been doing, that continues to be a clearer framework that is more streamlined with our day to day activities. To recap, these programming priorities are:

- Prevention of Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence
- Public Education and Movement Building
- Amplifying Front Line Voices

I want to offer my sincere thanks to those who have joined me in this journey, and I look forward to witnessing OCTEVAW's future as it pushes forward to end gender based violence.

The best is yet to come my friends. Signing off as Chair of the Board for the last time I wish you happiness and the will to continue the fight.

May we continue to make change happen together in 2020 and beyond!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie-Louise Doyle - Chair

Valerie Auger-Voyer - Volunteer Coordination

Kellie Fong - Treasurer/Finance

Peter Jupp - HR

Barbara Laskin - Revenue Generation

Ann-Marie O'Brien - Governance

Amanda Parriag - Communications

Tara Paterson - Member Relations

Raha Respina - Stakeholder Relations

The Board would like to thank and recognize the hard work of the Chairs of the Standing Committees:

- Front Line Support: **Adriana Oatu/ Chelsea Vyvey** as Coordinators
- Justice: **Jessica Poloz**
- Public Engagement: **Bailey Reid**

STAFFING

Carrolyn Johnston - Acting Executive Director

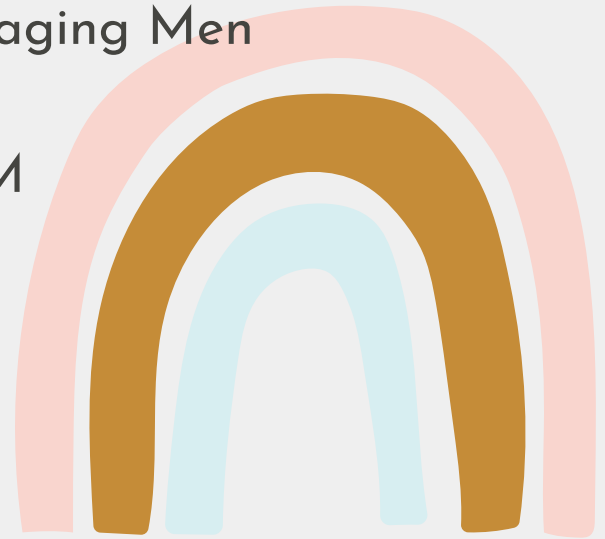
Erin Leigh - Executive Director

Dillon Black - Senior Advisor on Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Violence

Matt Scaaf - Program Manager, Engaging Men

Sonia Figuracion - Book Keeper

Kate Clayton - Project SoundCheck™



VOLUNTEERS

MANifest Change:

Jan van Heuzen

Phill Henry

Sabastien Callender

Greg Laforce

Communications:

Chelsea Nash

Janna Bryson

STUDENT INTERNS

Sara Janssen

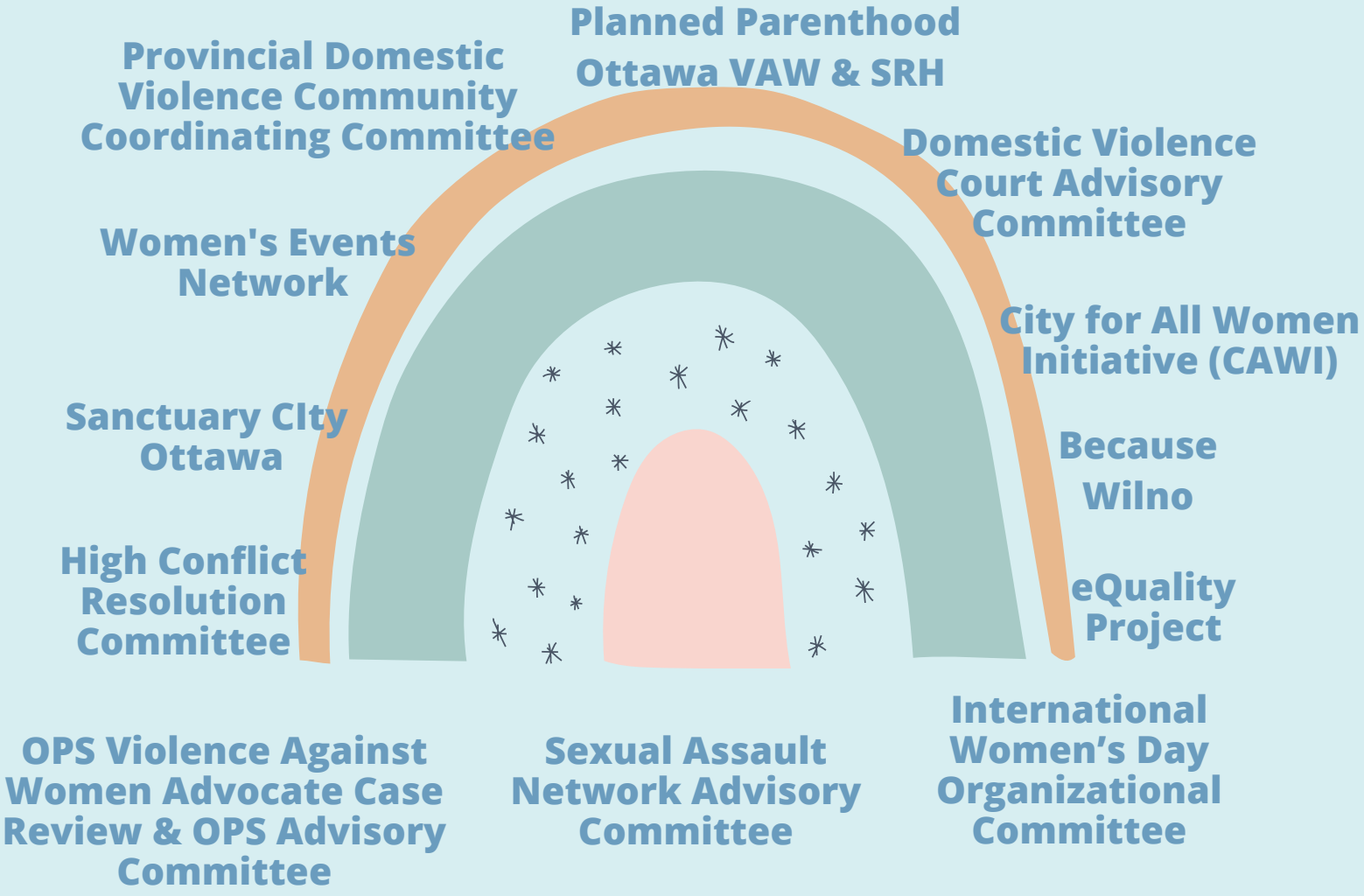
Azalia Sadeghi

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: Indigenous Women's Support Centre**
- **Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre**
- **Immigrant Women's Services Ottawa**
- **Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa**
- **Interval House of Ottawa**
- **Nelson House**
- **Maison d'amitié**
- **Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre**
- **Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments**
- **Cornerstone Housing for Women**
- **SafePet Ottawa**
- **Sexual Assault Network of Ottawa**
- **Ottawa Victim Services**
- **Planned Parenthood Ottawa**
- **Carlington Community House**
- **Eastern Ottawa Community Resource Centre**
- **Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre**
- **Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre**
- **Somerset West Community Health Centre**
- **Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity**
- **Counselling and Family Services Ottawa**
- **Family Services Ottawa**
- **Jewish Family Services**
- **Voice Found**
- **Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization**
- **Equity and Inclusive Communities, Carleton University**
- **Project Lighthouse, Algonquin College**
- **Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime**
- **Community Legal Clinic, University of Ottawa**
- **Sexual Assault and Partner Abuse Care Program, Ottawa Hospital**
- **Royal Ottawa Hospital**
- **Children's Aid Society**
- **Campus Safety Services, Carleton University**
- **Feminist Twins**

PARTNERSHIPS



THE GOODS: A YEAR IN REVIEW

PREVENTION



engaging with individuals and public institutions across the community to share best practices for preventing gender-based violence and supporting community-wide prevention efforts.

Our **Young Men Leading Change** project supports young racialized men across Ontario to be leaders in helping to prevent and end violence against women and gender-based violence. We are **7 organizations in 4 cities:** Ottawa, Peterborough, KW and London. In each city, the project partners an immigrant serving agency and a feminist sexual assault support centre. Funded with generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF),



11 youth facilitators

supported

116 young men to be leaders

reaching

**2,260 people in person
&
21,865 people online**

PREVENTION



Project SoundCheck™ is a sexual harassment and assault prevention initiative. It is a joint creation of the **Sexual Assault Network** and **OCTEVAW**. We want to bring our festivals, venues, and community together to challenge bystander apathy; the tendency to ignore incidents of sexual harassment and assault in large group situations where people feel less responsibility for others, or assume another person will intervene.

Crime Prevention Ottawa has provided seed funding for this work since its inception. In 2019 we partnered with the Ottawa Public Health to expand our reach and impact, following the successful introduction of a risk assessment tool with the City's Events Permit team

Project
SoundCheck™

engaged Ottawa's
major events:

- Escapade
- Bluesfest
- CityFolk
- PandaGame

who bring together

400 000

festival goers



PUBLIC EDUCATION & MOVEMENT BUILDING

The **first 8 weeks on campus** are known as the 'red zone' on campuses - when sexual violence spikes. OCTEVAW, in partnership with CALACS francophone d'Ottawa, the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre and the four post-secondary campuses across Ottawa supported public education of students on sexual violence on campus during this critical period.

#JustGotWeird shares messaging about what sexual violence looks like and how students can help intervene safely in harmful situations, and support survivors. Bus ads on OC Transpo reached the target audience with over **400 000 impressions** and were amplified with social media messaging and the website justgotweird.ca.



WOMEN'S EVENTS NETWORK

The **Public Engagement Committee** continued our longstanding work of hosting and helping organize feminist events including our very own **Seriously Fun Feminist Month** in October and marking **International Women's Day** with other local and national partners.



We also contributed to the Women's Events Network (WEN) by being a core organizer of the **Clothesline Project, Take Back the Night and the December 6th vigil**. For the 30th anniversary we put special attention on **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2 Spirit people**. After the Vigil at Minto Park, WEN hosted a panel at the National Arts Centre with esteemed panelists from Families of Sisters in Spirit, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, and Inuuqatigiit -- for Inuit Children, Youth and Families. Elder Claudette Commanda opened the space with a Prayer and the Traveling Song closed the event.

AMPLIFYING FRONT LINE VOICES



giving voice and resources to those who work with survivors of violence to ensure that their expertise informs public policy and contributes to legislative reform.

Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR). When we submitted a grant proposal in 2016 to Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) to *try* and review closed sexual assault case files in four communities, we had no idea how far this work would expand.

Not long after we submitted this proposal, the Globe and Mail's "Unfounded" series was launched in February 2017. The series' scaffolding was built on the expertise of local advocate Sunny Marriner.

The Unfounded series highlighted what advocates in Ottawa have been saying since the 1970s. Women aren't believed when they report sexual assault to police. The unfounding rate in 1973 was 37%, In 2017, the G&M found the national rate was 20%. 1 in 5 women wasn't believed.

Our response to this problem is Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR). Front line advocates provide their expertise to closed police cases and determine if there were missteps or promising practices,

Our grant was to bring VACR to 4 communities

4

We engaged in deep readiness assessment work with 36

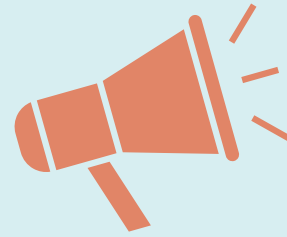
36

Implementation in 19 communities, including Ottawa ...and counting

19

On December 6, 2019, the Ontario and the Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police launched & officially endorsed the model. You can read about the model in [VACR section](#) of the guidance document, written by Sunny Marriner

AMPLIFYING FRONT LINE VOICES



OCTEVAW plays an important role in bringing member agencies together to build our own capacity and frameworks to better support and advocate for survivors, Members of our Front Line Support Committee, Justice Committee and beyond help shape our priorities and actions,

2 days x
50 people

Pam Cross, Legal Director of Luke's Place, provided 2 days training in family law.

We hosted a workshop on creating a community **High Risk Domestic Violence Management** Table with VAW agencies, OPS, Probation and Parole and the Assistant Crown Attorney.

Outcomes that the group agreed to advancing:

- Developing a mechanism for VAW agencies/organizations to flag high-risk cases;
- Engaging survivors (and stakeholders) in high-risk case management; and
- .Extending formal agreements on information-sharing to more organizations to facilitate high-risk case management.

25 people x
3 key
outcomes



OCTEVAW, in partnership with member agencies and the City for All Women Initiative, prioritized the need for safe and affordable housing for survivors. Amplifying and making our own calls for more funding and options at the municipal levels with a VAW and GBV lens.

THANK YOU

FUNDERS

Our funders demonstrate wisdom and confidence in supporting the Coalition. 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!



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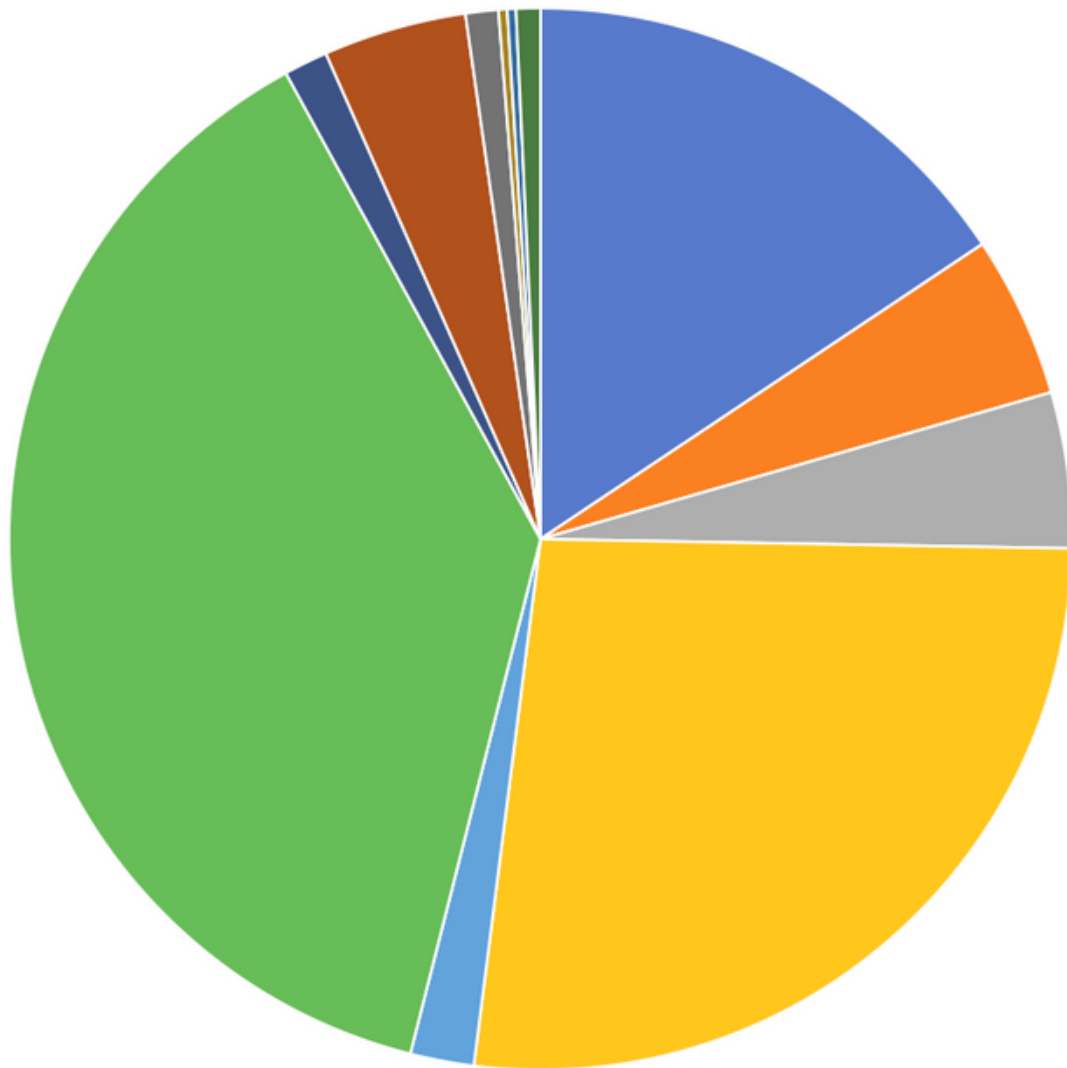


Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

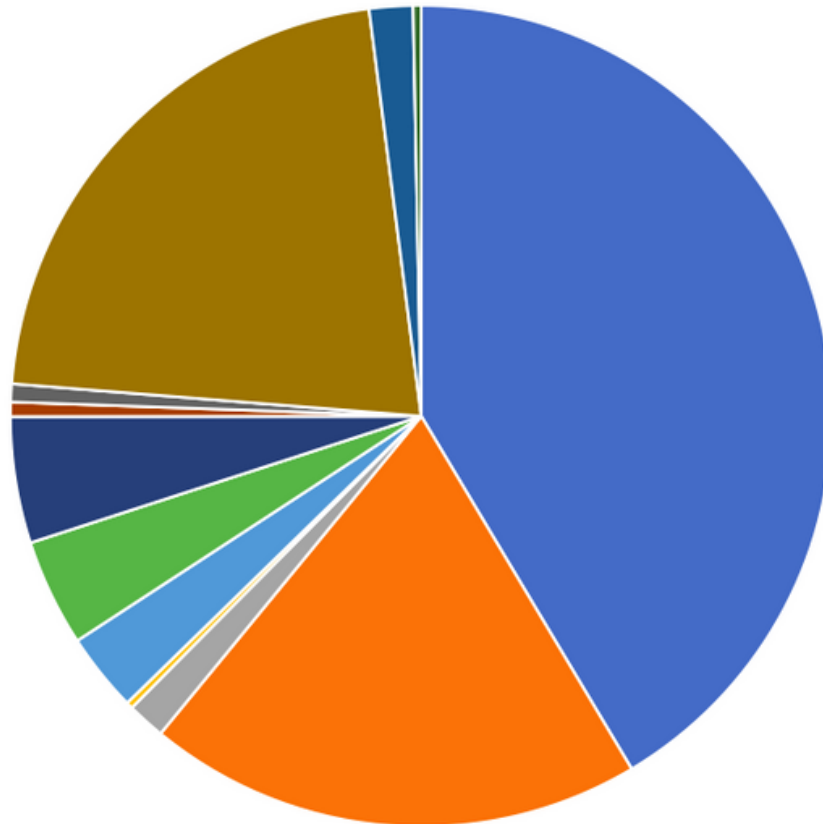
2019 Revenue: \$598, 751



- City of Ottawa (core)
- CPO - Project Soundcheck
- WAGE Capacity Building
- Justice Canada Victims of Crime Week
- MANifest Change Contributions
- Donations
- MCCSS (core)
- WAGE VACR
- OTF YMLC
- PHAC Healthy Relationships Curriculum
- Membership Fees
- Other

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2019 Expenditure: \$572 429



- Salaries and Benefits
- YMLC partner agencies' salaries and benefits
- Occupancy costs
- Staff development
- Travel - WAGE conferences
- Outreach
- Program facilitation and workshops
- Telephone
- Translation
- Professional fees - including VACR Project Lead
- Administration
- Supplies