

3.03.7

SIX MONTH DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

FOR PERIOD: July 1999-December 1999
WOMEN'S CENTRE: Nelson and District
CONTACT NAME: Thea Trussler

1. Client Statistics

Number of women per month receiving direct assistance from the Centre 400+
*During the months of July and December the Centre was closed for two weeks of those months.

Number of women per month using the Centre on a drop in basis 350+

2. Volunteer statistics

Number of volunteers 50

Drop in volunteers generally do 2 hours a week. Other volunteers involved in the library, newsletter, committees, yard work, organizing events, membership statistics, carpentry and public speaking do anywhere from 2 to 20 volunteer hours per month. Members of the Co-ordinating Collective do 16-30 hours (and more) per month. They sit on committees such as the house, library, personnel, fundraising, finance, projects and special events.

Hosting of weekly events include: the company of older women, lesbian journaling group, political discussion groups, land trust meetings, women's self discovery, catching your breath, Y2K preparedness, art therapy, assertiveness training.

Representatives on community groups include: West Kootenay Women's Council, VAWIR committee, NAC, Kootenay Women in Trades and Technology, Nelson Anti-Poverty Group, West Kootenay Gays, Lesbians and Bi-sexuals, ANKORS, Nelson Housing Committee, Transition House Management Committee.

3. Staff Information

Permanent staff positions:

Title: Co-ordinator	25 hours per week
Office Manager	8 hours per week
Bookkeeper	3 hours per week

Project staff: Employment Equity Co-ordinator 20 hours per week

4. Operational Grant Services

4.1 Community coordination and leadership

Staff, volunteers, or members of the West Kootenay Women's Association serve on the following local committees and groups:

- ◆ National Action Committee
- ◆ Girls entering trades and technology
- ◆ Inter-agency education and training committee
- ◆ Nelson Community Housing committee
- ◆ Transition house management committee
- ◆ Coordinating committee to stop violence against women in relationships
- ◆ West Kootenay women's council
- ◆ West Kootenay/Boundary AIDS Network outreach support society
- ◆ West Kootenay Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals
- ◆ Nelson anti-poverty action group
- ◆ Midwifery task force
- ◆ Kootenay women in trades and technology
- ◆ BC and Yukon Association of Women's Centres – regional rep
- ◆ Celebrating Women in Midlife steering committee

4.2 Information and Outreach Services

- ◆ Drop in at the Centre 16 hours per week
 - ◆ Political discussion groups
 - ◆ Lesbian drop in
 - ◆ La Leche League
 - ◆ Catch your breath (stop smoking support group)
 - ◆ Creative conflict group (journalling for lesbians)
 - ◆ Newsletters 10 times a year
 - ◆ Children's clothing exchange
 - ◆ Public relations work on women's issues in response to current events
 - ◆ Company of Older Women
 - ◆ Menopause information sessions
 - ◆ Wenlindo Self Defense courses for women and teens
 - ◆ Assertiveness training
 - ◆ Library with self help books
 - ◆ Pamphlets, bulletin boards, resource files, networking with other agencies and referrals to those agencies
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4.3 Awareness and Prevention Programs

- ◆ Menopause information and support groups as needed
- ◆ Y2K preparedness for women workshop
- ◆ Assertiveness training
- ◆ Art therapy
- ◆ Company of Older Women
- ◆ Solstice Celebration
- ◆ Women's Land Trust meetings
- ◆ Wenlindo self defense courses
- ◆ LesBiDyke drop in monthly
- ◆ Lesbian discussion group
- ◆ newsletters to membership and various downtown locations – 10/year
- ◆ La Leche League

5 General Information

5.1 Three kinds of service most frequently requested by women who use the centre:

- ◆ Abuse issues including elder, partner, child, legal questions (ie restraining orders) and safety issues
- ◆ Health concerns including pregnancy (Midwifery and unplanned pregnancy information), alternative health care and available practitioners here in the Kootenays, women doctors taking new clients, menopause information
- ◆ Employment information including our offering internet training sessions, income assistance information, job search on our bulletin boards and via the net, and general frustrations due to lack of work.

5.2 In order of priority the following are the 3 topics of information that are most relevant to the interests of women who visit our centre in Nelson:

- ◆ Poverty issues due to lack of work and/or need for more training, income assistance information, free tofu and bagels available here, housing availability, child care stresses and feelings of isolation all factor into poverty issues.
 - ◆ Safety issues around past and present abuse and how to find legal assistance to ensure women's safety.
 - ◆ Newcomer orientation is requested frequently due to the nature of the Kootenay reputation of being a safe haven for people. Many find it extremely difficult to find housing once they have arrived and we supply information on housing, bus service, job search, resources available and we take messages for those seeking work and housing.
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