

3,03,04

WEQ 012(GRT) 95/04 (Revised)	<b>WOMEN'S CENTRES</b> Operational Funding Program	Ministry of Women's Equality
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## SIX MONTH DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

*Please find enclosed a 6-month reporting form for Operational Funding. A report must be completed by each Women's Centre in British Columbia that receives financial assistance through the Women's Centre Operational Funding Program of the Ministry of Women's Equality.*

*The information entailed in these reports will provide centres and the ministry with information to support and develop programs for women in the province.*

*A summary of the 6-month reports will be prepared and shared with funded centres. Included in the summary will be a review of client statistics and current issues faced by Women's Centres across the Province.*

**For period: January – June 2000**  
**Women's Centre: Nelson and District**  
**Contact Name: Thea Trussler, Coordinator**

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### **1. Client Statistics**

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Number of women per month receiving direct assistance from the Centre (e.g.: counselling, workshop participant, support groups, etc.) 450 +

Number of women per month using the Centre on a drop-in basis (e.g.: need information, etc.) 375 +

### **2. Volunteer Statistics**

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Number of Volunteers 124

*During the period of this review, the West Kootenay Women's Association (WKWA) underwent an internal review. This review was necessitated by a crisis focused on both financial and staffing concerns. Support from the community in the form of additional volunteers is reflected in the dramatic increase in volunteer statistics.*

*The regular volunteer areas of drop-in, library, yard, membership statistics, house maintenance continued on its average of 2 hours per week per volunteer. The volunteer hours of the Coordinating Collective however increased dramatically in order to achieve financial and staffing stability.*

*Special events also increased the number of volunteers to achieve goals of fundraising to eliminate the deficit of WKWA. These events included an estimated 400 + volunteer hours.*

*During the internal review time no new projects or groups were initiated due to the focus necessary to achieve the time frame for the review. This also included attendance at any community committee. The focus on stabilization of the crisis was paramount. Continuation of groups such as the company of older women, lesbian journaling group, land trust meetings, art therapy and young women's empowerment group continued unaffected by the internal review.*

### **3. Staff Information**

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*Please indicate only those staffing changes that have been made since submission of your application for the current funding period. Leave blank if this information remains the same.*

#### *Permanent Staff Positions*

<i>Title: Co-ordinator</i>	<i>January 1 – February 28</i>	<i>21 hours per week</i>
<i>Same position</i>	<i>hours March 1 – June 30</i>	<i>28 hours per week (additional 7 hours per week)</i>
<i>Bookkeeper</i>		<i>3 hours per week</i>

Project Staff Employment Equity Co-ordinator  
Position/duration

20 hours/wk

#### **4. Operational Grant Services**

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Under each of the following service categories, indicate, in point form, progress your centre has made during this reporting period in meeting the objectives outlined in your operational funding agreement with the Ministry of Women's Equality. Please provide sufficient detail to clearly indicate progress made and specific results achieved. Use separate page if necessary.

##### **4.1 Community Coordination and Leadership**

*This category refers to linking with government and community services to facilitate an effective community response to women's needs and leading or participating in shared leadership on initiatives to improve services for women in the community.*

*During the period of the internal review all attendance on local committees was suspended. This was necessary to focus on the review and meet the self imposed time frame of 3 months to complete the review.*

##### **4.2 Information and Outreach Services**

*This category involves identifying and sharing information on services and resources for women (particularly those women who are victims of violence), promoting them locally, and operating additional information programs, as needed.*

- *Drop in at the Centre was maintained during the review at 16 hrs/wk*
- *Creative conflict group (journaling for lesbians)*
- *Newsletters*
- *Children's clothing exchange*
- *Company of Older Women*
- *Library and self help books*
- *Internet services*
- *Pamphlets, bulletin boards, resource files, networking with other agencies and referrals to those agencies*

##### **4.3 Awareness and Prevention Programs**

*This category involves developing and implementing:*

- *strategies to raise the level of community commitment to eliminating violence against women.*
- *awareness/public education programs in other areas related to the social, economic and legal equity of women.*

*During the time of the internal review no new programs were initiated. Continued programs included the following:*

- *Art therapy*
- *Company of older women*
- *International women's day*
- *Newsletters to membership and various downtown locations*

*The concern regarding WKWA's financial and staffing crisis brought to the forefront issues surrounding support for women's organizations. To better educate the public and gain financial sympathy for the organizations plight a public relations campaign was initiated. This included extensive coverage in local news and provincial news regarding our financial crisis and a call to the community to support us. One of the larger impacts on the local community was a festival who's strategy was to educate the community about what the Women's Centre function was in Nelson and District.*

## **5. General Information**

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- 5.1** *Please provide, in order of priority, the 3 kinds of services most frequently requested by women who use the centre (e.g.: counselling, career planning, support groups, educational workshops, shelter for victims, drug and alcohol abuse programs, etc.)*

*The three areas of priority for services most frequently requested by the Women's Centre are:*

- *Poverty issues including affordable housing, employment, income assistance information*
- *Health concerns including pregnancy (midwifery and unplanned pregnancy information), alternative health care info, women doctors taking new clients*
- *Child care issues including information on counseling or support groups for stressed parents, counseling available for teens and affordable access to childcare for respite to single mothers*

- 5.2** *Indicate in order of priority, the 3 topics of information that are most relevant to the interests of women who visit the centre (e.g. health, childcare, legal rights, literacy, skills training, abuse relationships, sexual abuse or harassment, divorce, self-help, etc.).*

*Three areas of priority are:*

- *Poverty issues due to lack of work and/or need for more training, income assistance information, free tofu offered at drop in hours, housing availability, child care stresses and feelings of isolation all factor into poverty issues.*
- *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 and resources available.*

- *Safety issues around past and present abuse and how to find legal assistance, counseling and support.*