



Annual Report 2019

COVERDALE COURTWORK SOCIETY

Coverdale History

HISTORY OF COVERDALE

1923

Responding to the needs of community



Coverdale began in Moncton, NB in 1923 as the Inter-Provincial Home for Young Women by the Anglican, United Baptist, Presbyterian, United and Methodist churches. Located across the river from Moncton in Riverview, NB, on Coverdale Road, it served as a minimum-security prison for girls 16 years of age and older who were sentenced to terms of less than three years. Educational and rehabilitative programs were provided to women.

At the time, the only other facility for women was the prison in Kingston, Ontario. The establishment of Coverdale made it possible for women to receive services at a minimum-security facility closer to home. For many years, the Home was a pioneering venture in working with women in the justice system. Eventually, with the rise of provincial prisons, and the withdrawal of government support, it was no longer possible to continue the work of the Home.



1976

Halifax Chapter Established.

In 1976 it split into two independent associations, one in Saint John, NB and the second in Halifax, NS. Coverdale changed from an institution based to a community-based service focusing on intervention and prevention. Now Coverdale plays a pivotal role in the development and implementation of innovative support programs for women.

1996

Coverdale Courtwork Society Incorporated



From a Former Member of the Board of Governors for the Home

“One should ever remember and give thanks for the countless thousands of hours of persons who have given without pay or monetary return of their time and talents, both in an official capacity and unofficially in many other forms of service to the staff, girls and the work of the Inter-Provincial Home for Young Women during the last 64 years, 1920-1984, and to those who will continue this work today and in the years to come”

July 8, 1984, by Rev. Karl F. Drew, Moncton, New Brunswick.



To decrease barriers within the criminal justice system and provide comprehensive supports so that all women, girls, trans and non-binary individuals can achieve healing and equity. We strive to empower women, girls, trans and non-binary individuals through a trauma informed, inclusive lens.

Our client centred approach strengthens emotional, cultural, and social well-being through prevention, innovation, support, reintegration and advocacy

VISION

We hold a vision of creating a community that supports transformation and pathways to healing, growth and change. We envision an inclusive and just community in which all women and trans persons live with equality and dignity

VALUES

We believe in the inherent worth of all persons and their right to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe that all persons are capable of healing, change, and growth. We are committed to being an agency that demonstrates integrity, credibility, and innovation in offering a continuum of care to those who use our services.

These values are expressed through our day to day work by utilizing a framework of practice that supports our commitment to be

Trauma Informed

Culturally Responsive

Restorative

Collaborative

Accessible

Coverdale Courtwork Society

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday June 17, 2020

7:00-9:00 PM

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Welcome and introduction of Board Members

- Adoption of Minutes of 2019 AGM
- Presentation of Chairperson/ED Report
- Presentation of Financial Report for 2019
- Appointment of Accountants
- Nomination Report
- New Business
- Presentations
- Adjournment

Coverdale Courtwork Society

6169 Quinpool Rd. Suite 203 Halifax, N.S B3L 4P8

Tel: 422-6417 Fax: 425-3160 Email: coverdale@eastlink.ca Website: www.coverdale.ca

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Public Library 5540 Spring Garden Road, Bank of Montreal Room, Halifax, NS

Thursday, June 13th, 2019 6:30pm – 8:30pm

In Attendance: Janis Aiken, Ashley Avery, Ashley L. Avery, Faith Butler, Virginia Clark, Robbie Clayton, Marlo Cooley, Nathan Jordan, Amie Leslie, Geoff Lewis, Ilana Luther, Valerie Macdonald, Carrie MacInnis, Brenda Matheson, Kathy McKay, Brenda McNutt, Teasha Murphy, Kathy Peach, Darryl Pink, Emma Pink, Ainsley Robinson, Anna Sadofsky, Angelina Simmonds, Rachelle Skinner Julie Slen, Laura Sodero, Brittany Sutherland, Youstina Tawadrous, Gregg Whitehouse, Ida Whitehouse

Regrets: Maha Raghavan

Recorder: Brittany Sutherland

Welcomes and Introduction of Board Members – Kathy McKay

Adoption of Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

Motion – Janis Aitken, seconded – Valerie Macdonald, Approved

Presentation of Chairperson's/Executive Director's Report – Kathy McKay

Staff changes: Ashley Avery resigned as the Women and Youth services Coordinator – Hilary Murphy joined the team in this position

Jeanette Milley resigned at the end of 2018 where Ashley Avery accepted the position of Executive Director.

Several new committed members joined the board allowing the board to focus on three priorities:

1. Fund Raising 2. Public Relation 3. Policy Development.

A video project was completed by a student from NSCC.

Presentation of Financial Report for 2018 – Kathy McKay

Motion to approve the financial statements – Valerie Macdonald, seconded – Kathy Peach

Motion carried

Appointment of Auditors – Sutherland Watts

Accounting Firm

Motion by Anna Sadofsky, seconded by Ida Whitehouse – Motion carried

Nomination Report

Re-appointment of all members and officers of the board with exception of Kathy McKay who completed her term as Board Chair at the AGM.

Moved – Darryl, Seconded – Julie Motion carried

Nomination of new members:

Ashley L. Avery, Angela Simmonds, Angelina Simmonds and Brenda Matheson – member vote-accepted

New Business

Jeanette Milley retired as Executive Director of Coverdale in December 2018. Coverdale extended a heartfelt thank you for everything that Jeanette has done for Coverdale.

Kathy McKay finished her term as Board Chair at the AGM where Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse agreed to fill the position for the upcoming year.

Coverdale collaborated with NSCC to create Promotional Videos to be showcased on the official website and to be used at events.

A very powerful spoken word performance, “Prison Tables” written and performed by our own, Ashley Avery!

Adjournment – Motion Kathy Peach Seconded Anna Sadofsky

Leadership Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our gratitude to Ashley Avery, our Executive Director, for her incredible leadership in the past year. She has guided the organization creatively and competently whether working with staff, in grant writing proposals or in passionately advocating for clients or collaborating with other community agencies and Government. We would like to express our thanks to Ashley for an incredible year!

Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, Chairperson

This past year has indeed been an exciting time for the society! Together, we have worked to foster agency wide growth, clarify strategic vision, strengthen our financial portfolio, and fortify relationships among community and government partners. These endeavors have assisted in bringing into focus the core work that we strive to do to assist and care for justice involved women and trans folks in our communities. In October, the Coverdale board and staff came together to reflect on the work of the agency with a focus on developing new strategies that will move us forward. Prior to this retreat, a needs analysis was conducted to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and direction for the agency. We watched the documentary film “Conviction” to ground us in the voices of those with lived experience. Sera Thompson of New Leaf Social Innovation facilitated our retreat and guided us through the exciting work of building relationships, clarifying our purpose, developing priorities, and distinguishing our individual and collective roles. Over these few days we developed four strong strategic pillars that will be our focus over the next three years. I encourage everyone to read our Strategic Plan to explore these goals in more depth. Although each objective carries significant merit, of note, is our commitment to becoming an inclusive society.

Women are fastest growing prison population, and Indigenous and Black women, women with mental health disabilities and queer and trans persons are over-represented in these statistics. Many women involved in the criminal justice system are mothers; and, most are solely responsible for their children. Many of their children end up in state care while they are imprisoned and the revolving door between jail and homelessness is of concern in our community. Increased criminalization of victims and survivors of violence, sexually exploited women and girls, poor women, women with addictions, and queer and trans individuals are realities that we are responding to in our work. We are committed to a concentrated focus on supporting equity seeking groups through service delivery and advocacy. We recognize the importance of aligning our agency structures towards Indigenous and Afrocentric worldviews, strengthening relationships with Indigenous and African Nova Scotian networks, and building organizational capacity to become leaders in responding to the criminalization of gender diverse people. I am pleased to report that since the Strategic Retreat, several of our draft initiatives have been achieved. These commitments are woven into the fabric of our society and are reflective of our ongoing dedication to being a responsible society that reflects the diversity of the communities that it serves.

Over the year, we have introduced several new programs and initiatives including the #PurseProject, our weekly drop-in center, a program series titled Wellness Inside for incarcerated women, a free counselling service, a court watch program led by Dal Law students and we have increased our overall supports in the criminal courts. We continue to be concerned about the remand rates in our province and sit on the provincial bail verification and supervision committee aimed at developing community responses to this issue. We met with the Deputy Minister of Justice to discuss our concerns around remand and engaged in collaborative meetings with government departments including Education and Health to discuss ways to work together with criminalized and marginalized women and trans folks. Of special note, being invited to present at 100 Women Who Care was a unique honor and we were absolutely thrilled to have been selected as the recipients of their group’s donations. In the pages ahead, please join us in celebrating as we feature the programs, partnerships and hard work that represent our successes. We are grateful for the commitment and support of our staff, volunteers, partner organizations and donors and continuously inspired by the resilience and successes of the women and trans people that we serve.

Ashley Avery, Executive Director

Coverdale Statistics 2019

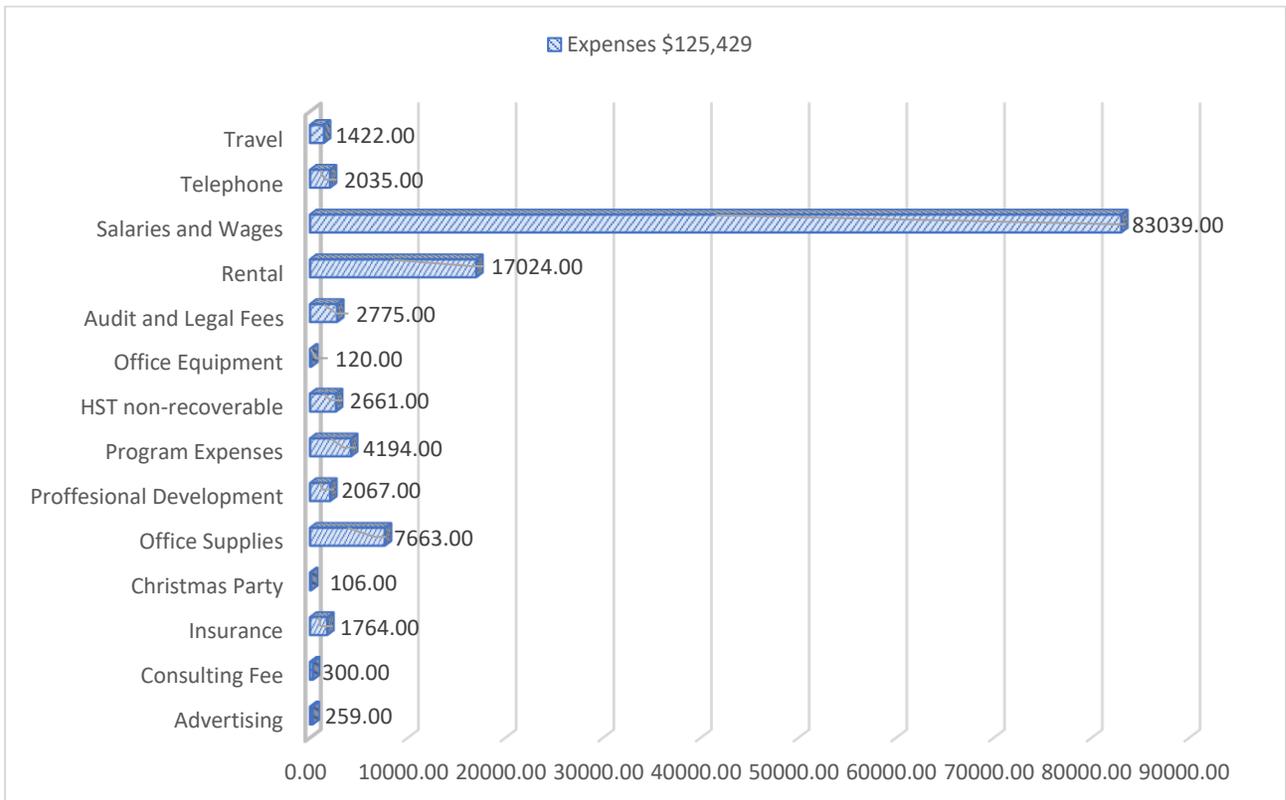
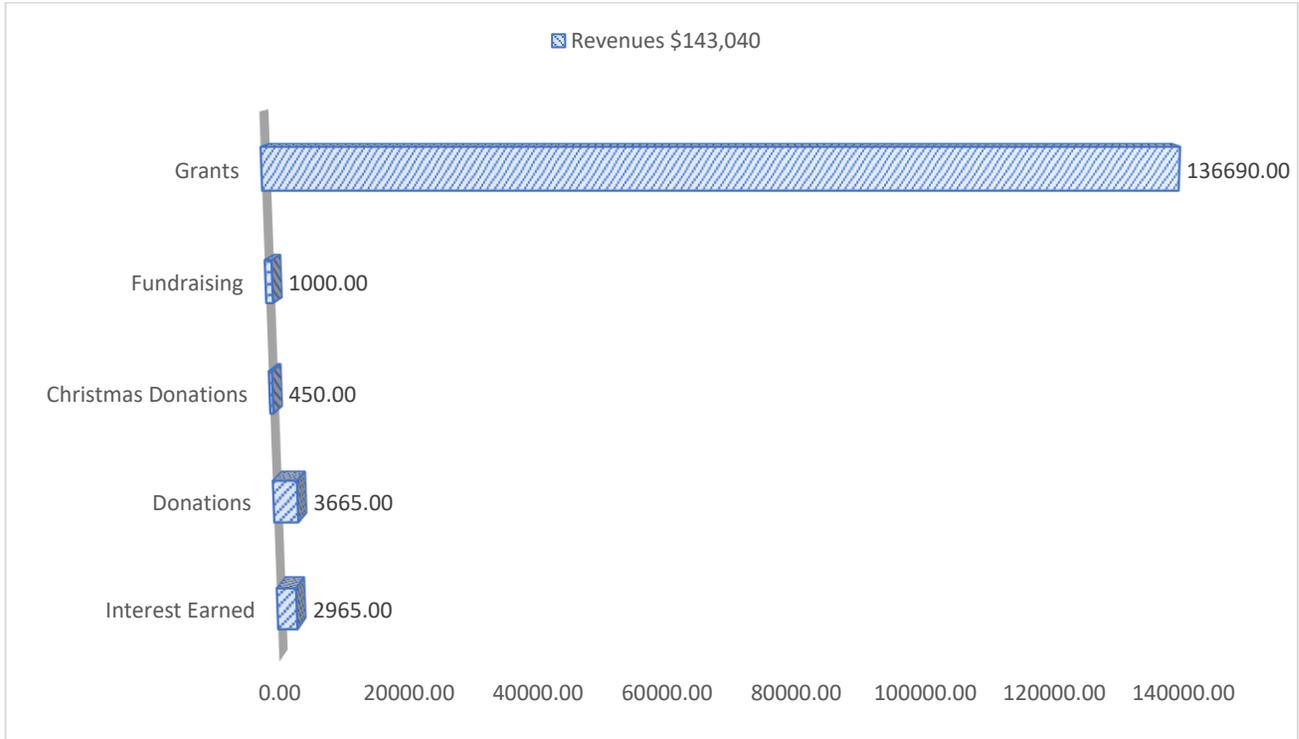


Legend 2019

Women Supported in Community	195
Women Supported in Court	340
Women Supported in Correctional Facilities	90
Workshops Facilitated	44
Workshop Participants	52
Youth Workshops Facilitated	6
Youth Workshop Participants	64
Total Telephone Contacts	1071

Women in court	# Contacted	Arrested	Racialized Women	40+	Theft/Fraud	Breach	Assault	Drug/Weapon
619	140	97	55	79	83	363	525	153

Financial Overview



What We Do

Coverdale Courtwork Society provides support and services to women and girls who are involved, and those at-risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system in the HRM and surrounding areas. Through programming, prison visits, court accompaniment, youth workshops and resource navigation, Coverdale can work alongside women and girls experiencing the impacts of marginalization, institutionalization, victimization and criminalization. Our over-all goal is to reduce risk factors, support incarcerated women, foster successful prison to community transitions, empower girls, work to break the legacy of crime, and impact systemic barriers that marginalize women while promoting dignity, equity & opportunity.

Courtwork

Coverdale Courtwork Society knows that the court system can be confusing and overwhelming, and a criminal record can make it difficult to secure future employment or housing. Our court liaisons and volunteers assist youth and adults in the criminal court. They provide legal information regarding plea options and processes, as well as assist individuals with referrals to legal and community resources.

Workshops

Healing Trauma; Understanding Anger; Healing Through Recovery; Empowering Beliefs; Wellness Inside; Voices Youth Program

In-reach

Coverdale provides meaningful services to persons incarcerated on the East Unit of the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility (CNSCF). Maintaining contact with women and trans persons sentenced to a period of custody or detained on remand helps preserve the relationships established at court and keeps the women linked to our continuum of care.

Drop-in Center

Located in the Society's office the drop-in-centre provides a place for women to talk, develop friendships, develop and build skills, receive emotional support, access personal care items, speak with a support person and access wider resources.

Community Education

Our staff and volunteers attend conferences, sit on panels and work collaboratively with women with lived experience and community organizations to provide education and information. The issues related to the gendered experience of the criminal justice system and the social determinants of justice are topics that we explore. We also discuss the work that Coverdale does in the courts, prisons and community in order to break the stigma that criminalized women and trans people experience and advocate for change.

Our Team

Staff

Ashley Avery- Executive Director

Hilary Murphy- Program Coordinator

Roberta Morrison- Court Support Worker

Kathy Peach- Bookkeeper

Student Placements

Rachelle Skinner- Dalhousie University, Bachelor of Social Work

Emma Pink- University of Victoria, Bachelor of Social Work

Christina Benvie- Yorkville University, Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology

Tristen Thomson- Nova Scotia Community College, Social Service Worker

Whitney Brown- Schulich School of Law, Juris Doctor

Payton Wood- Schulich School of Law, Juris Doctor

Suhayla Sequira-Schulich School of Law, Juris Doctor

A special thank you to the women who mentored our students throughout the year:

Angela Simmonds, Ashley L. Avery, and Ashley Avery

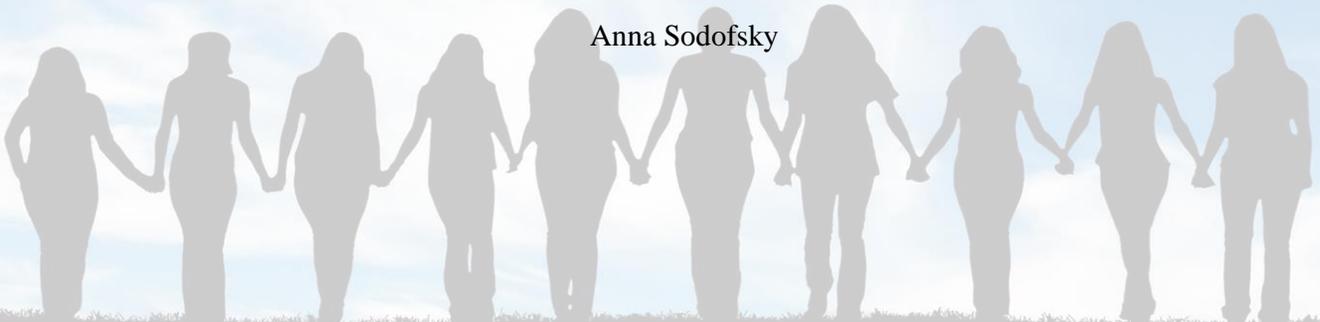
Volunteers

Jessica Doyle

Laura Sodero

Grisha Cowel

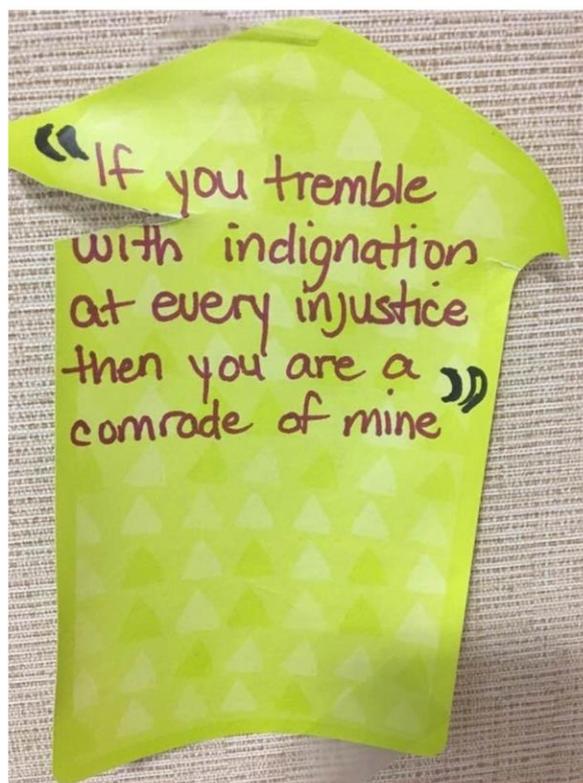
Anna Sodofsky



Our Year Our Year in Photos



Board and Staff at the 2-day Strategic Planning Retreat



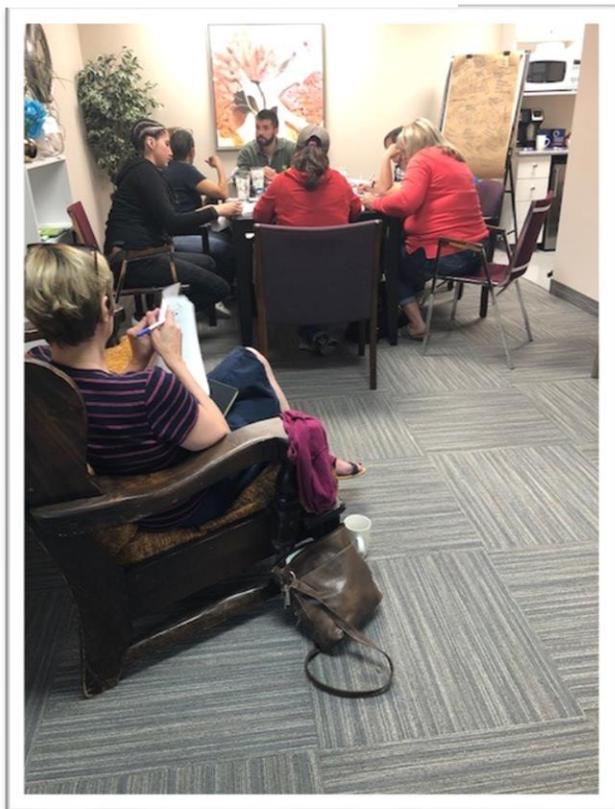
Coverdale is a Trans inclusive organization



Good Robot held a Good Will Bot for Coverdale, donating \$1 from each beer sold back to Coverdale. Staff, Students, Volunteers, and friends had a great time!



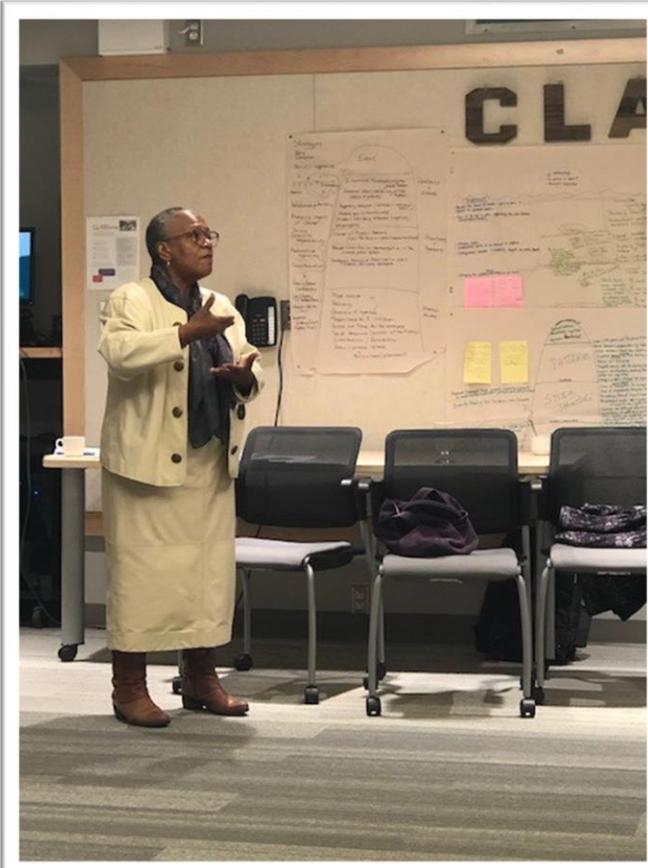
Students Tristen and Rachelle sit at the Coverdale info table and organize the raffle at the Good Will Bot



The Access Justice and Law Reform Commission came to hear about the issues that women experience in the *Nova Scotia Justice System*



Thank you to all our incredible donors and funders for helping us to make Christmas special for those we serve. Every prisoner in the jail received a gift this year. We also celebrated with Santa in our office and lots of gifts, treats, and laughter!



Senetor Wanda Bernard presented at "Mapping Our Pathways to Justice", an event held by Be the Peace and the NS Association of Black Social Workers.



We were invited to present at the 100 Women Who Care meeting in December and were incredibly fortunate to be voted the winners of the evening's donations! This funding is being dedicated to supporting families and mothers experiencing the justice system.

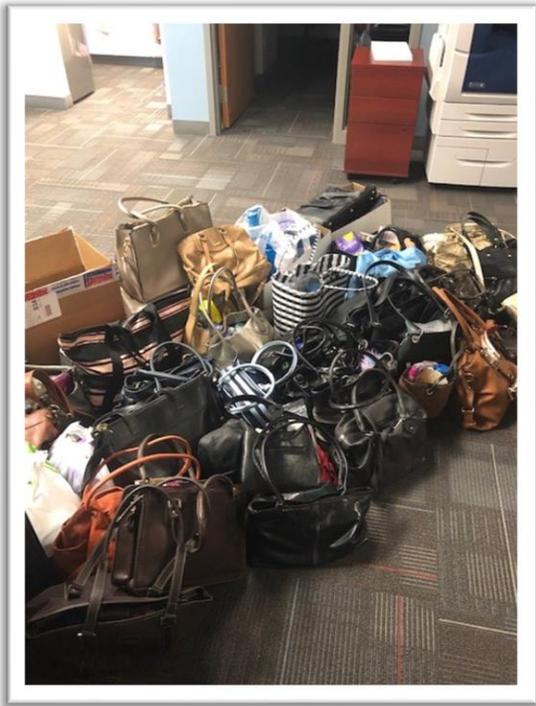


Our team enjoyed an outing to take a break and test our skills!

Nova Scotia Legal Aid's support staff collected over 80 purses for our #PurseProject. Each bag was filled with personal care products. This was our first year running this program and we would not have gotten it off the ground without the amazing NSLA!



Placement student, Freyja helped to organize the Coverdale Closet after some donations were delivered by a local church group



At the 2018 AGM We Asked Everyone to Make A Wish

Here is what you said...

To be happy

To be healthy and happy

I wish for more body acceptance, body positivity

Peace, stability, contentment

To overcome the sadness I have deep down, so in the future I don't end up in the same cycle

To become the best, I can possibly be with the time I have left on earth

To be able to calm myself down, to learn new tools

I wish the justice system was more effective

I wish for no more homeless people

Relevant services when they are needed

A community of acceptance and understanding, without harsh judgement. Everyone open and caring

Greater access to justice

I wish that our community would recognize the importance in utilizing our privilege to build up and support those who are absent of privilege

Affordable safe housing

Safe and affordable housing for all

A community free from violence and fear

More lifting up and supporting, less judgement, more love

That everyone could have their basic human needs met!!! (food, shelter, safe drinking water)

More resources, support, and education surrounding queer and trans youth

Free sexual health products, birth control, etc. We deserve better.

I wish we spent more on long term projects in health, education, and rehabilitation.

True mental health support that is timely and responds to all the different aspects of mental illness

End to Racism, Bigotry, Violence and Discrimination

To end homelessness

The cells get a renovation, our community to be more caring, loads of funding for Coverdale, on a personal note-an unlimited shoe budget.

My wish is that women no longer have to be dependent to thrive and be independent. So many services require someone to be on social assistance to qualify, meet requirements etc. Ie: income assistance tied to supportive housing.

I wish that there were more alternative options than incarceration for low level crimes

Wish that Indigenous women had more of a voice and were not victimized.

My wish for community would be to eliminate, or, more realistically, reduce poverty. It's my belief that poverty is the underlying cause of many of the problems in society today.

I wish for safer communities for marginalized women to be able to walk the streets without fear

Mobilization of the apathetic

List of 2019 Board Members

Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong Whitehouse-Chairperson

Valerie MacDonald -Vice-Chairperson

Kathy McKay -Past Chairperson

Brittany Sutherland -Secretary

Janis Aiken

Maha Raghavan

Angela Simmonds

Angelina Simmonds

Brenda Matheson

Carbo Kwan

Anna Sodofsky

Ashley L. Avery

Vanessa Lily

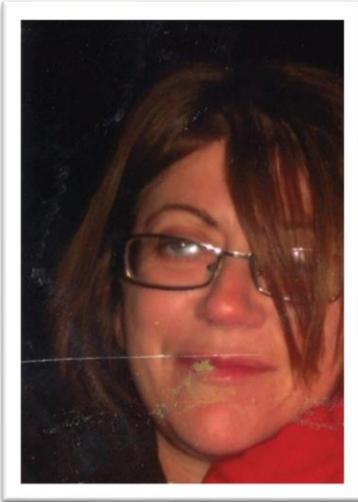
*We wish to acknowledge and thank the Coverdale Board of Directors for their dedicated work over the past year. It is with regret that we say goodbye to those that are retiring at this time. Special mention to Maha Raghavan who aided on two subcommittees and to our past chair, **Kathy McKay** for her wise counsel through her many years of faithful service and devotion.*



In Loving Memory



Elizabeth Cole



Elizabeth Cole died on September 23, 2019 unexpectedly at age 41. Elizabeth enjoyed going for walks with her girls and had a love for dogs. She would listen to her favourite artist Eminem and go for coffee with friends. Elizabeth will be missed by all who knew her, especially her pride and joy, her daughters. She is survived by her daughters, Hailey and Rachel.



Natasha Pace



Natasha Lynn Pace, born July 9, 1983, died unexpectedly on September 15, 2019. Natasha had love for everyone that she met, and the same was true of those who befriended her. Natasha came in contact with many people during her short life, and she would not want anyone to grieve for her, but to instead strive to make a difference in their own lives, as well as the lives of others.

In our hearts you will always be



We extend a sincere thank you to the following funding bodies for their recognition of the work that we do. Your financial contributions are essential to the quality and delivery of our programs and services

100 Women Who Care
Atlantic Baptist Women
Community Health Boards
Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches
Diocese of N.S. and P.E.I.- Anglican
Halifax Youth Foundation
Zonta Club of Halifax
Law Foundation of Nova Scotia
Royal Bank of Canada
Mental Health Foundation
Nova Scotia Department of Justice
Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Presbyterian Church of Saint David
Presbyterian Synod of Atlantic Canada
Sisters of Charity
The Flemming Foundation
The Maritime Conference - The United Church of Canada
Seeds of Hope - United Church Foundation
Women's Inter Church Council

& to our individual donors

William Digby
Igor Tsurkan
Sarah Osborne
The Brett Law Firm, ULC (In honor of Anna Sadofsky's advocacy efforts with Coverdale)
Valerie McDonald
Chloe Martin
John McDonald
Emma Pink