

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023

Dixon

## Funders

Thank you for your continuous and  
consistent support!



Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch



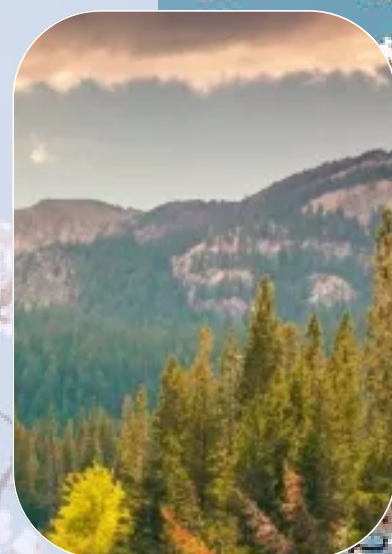
Dixon





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# Our Work

## Our Vision

Women and children are free from violence.

## Our Mission

To raise awareness about domestic violence and to provide a continuum of services including safe housing, support and counselling for women and children impacted by violence.

## Our Values

Compassion

Acceptance

Respect

Empowerment

Dixon Transition Society acknowledges that we work on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh) speaking peoples and we are grateful to be on this territory.







## Board Chair's Report

It has been a busy year of change and renewal for Dixon. I am thrilled to announce our new Strategic Plan that was developed in collaboration with feedback from our Board, leadership team, staff, clients, and stakeholders. With there being so much we want to accomplish, it was a difficult decision to narrow down our focus to the three strategic priorities that will guide our actions and outcomes for the next three years:

- **Expand Housing:** Expand our supportive transitional housing to better serve the demand of our community.
- **Grow Programs:** Continue to build programs and services through internal resources and external collaborations/partnerships.
- **Develop Positive Dixon Transition Society Culture:** Nurture a happy, healthy, secure environment with solid management structure for staff, board, and clients.



With the Strategic Plan in mind, we continue down the path to expand much needed housing. In addition to the new 18 unit building that we are hopeful will complete in 2025, we are awaiting zoning approval to add an additional six units to our existing Second Stage home. This cannot come soon enough.

Last year, we turned away 2005 women & children, a number that continues to rise year after year.

This year, the Board is sad to say farewell to long-time Board Members Anita Webster and Laura Morgan. Anita was not only our past Board Chair, but our champion supporter of fundraising events. Laura provided expert financial guidance and insight as our Treasurer. I am grateful for their passion and engagement.

Our thanks to our Executive Director Monika Verma and Manager, Claire Kalfon, and their leadership team for supporting us in our work. The Board is also deeply grateful to all our dedicated and caring staff – doing tough jobs with grace and compassion.

A special thank you to all of our donors, funders and supporters. It is because of your continued generosity and support that we are able to provide help to women & children in need.

## Executive Director's Report

We are 50 years old! For half a century, we have been providing safety and support, building resiliency, self-efficacy, and enabling healing. Looking back on the past year, we faced many challenges. Among these were the realities of a post-pandemic life, getting to a new 'normal,' and yet, for some, it will never be the same.

It's not the setbacks that matter, but rather the comeback, and we have come back stronger and fueled to go forward. With an extraordinary year behind us, we successfully completed renovations, improvements, collaborations, developments and fundraising. Some accomplishments to highlight for this past year include presenting at The Hill National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence (GBV), a conference aimed to engage all people in Canada and work towards addressing and changing the social norms, attitudes, and behaviours that aid GBV. Furthermore, we received generous funding from Women Shelter Canada, WAGE and Reaching Home, allowing us to renovate our two main facilities and back yard; and provide emergency and rental subsidies for the clients. The design plans for our new upcoming 18-unit building are completed and submitted to City of Burnaby. Dixon's Strategic Plan 2023-2026 was developed and is ready for implementation, our Equity in Education project successfully recruited youth and developed a collaboration with Kids Play Foundation, our fundraising goals exceeded our expectations, and strong financials with increased programming was recognized. Moreover, we updated our top four values, C.A.R.E., which stands for Compassion, Acceptance, Respect, and Empowerment; such an appropriate representation of Dixon's core. Lastly, we are excited to share that we have launched our new website and logo this year, consisting of a lotus flower and a butterfly, to symbolize new beginnings and transformation.

All of this would not be possible without our board, staff, volunteers, as well as the women and children we serve who have shown great leadership and strength throughout the pandemic.

Over the past year, Dixon served 449 women and children fleeing domestic violence and conducted 1071 activities and workshops; but despite the capacity growth, we had to turn away 2005 women and children due to a lack of space. The growing demand for shelter and services to support women and their children fleeing violence has increased within the past three years as a result of the pandemic. As Dixon enters its 50th year of providing safety and support, building resiliency, self-efficacy and enabling healing, we continue to thrive and keep our doors open by overcoming challenges every day.

We are deeply thankful to everyone who supported us in advancing our work this year, our staff, board, government funders and donors. Special thanks to board chair Donna Shum and board members Anita Webster, Martin Ferreira Pinho, Monica Jang, Aaron Cheung, Laura Morgan, Zoe Strazza and Shamsa Jessa for their support and leadership. We are saddened as we bid farewell to Anita Webster, Laura Morgan and Monica Jang this upcoming year. We immensely appreciated their years of service and dedication, and they will be missed. Our staff, board of directors, collaborators, facilitators, supporters, and donors have gone above and beyond in creating exceptional results again for the 2022-2023 year. Thanks to our front-line staff, volunteers, and our leadership team, Claire Kalfon, Allison Bota, Simar Saini, Liz Moss, Linda Kong, and Nicole Skuce, for supporting me and continuously improving Dixon to achieve our third-year strategic goals.

We are forever grateful to all our funders and donors as always for their continued support this past year to ensure we are providing the highest quality of service and care to our clients. Let us continue to support the healing process and I look forward to serving with you in the future.







# 2022-2023



## Our Impact in Numbers

**449**

WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN  
SERVED

**2927**

CALLS FOR  
SPACE

**1071**

ACTIVITIES AND  
WORKSHOPS  
CONDUCTED

**60**

WOMEN PLACED  
IN AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING

**249**

TOTAL  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**2005**

WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN  
TURNED AWAY  
DUE TO LACK OF  
SPACE

**1144**

COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS  
PROVIDED



## Manager's Report



As the Manager of Operations and Services, I am delighted to present my report with immense gratitude as I reflect upon the achievements and milestones we have accomplished in our ongoing mission to support and empower women and children fleeing domestic violence (DV). Our holistic services and programs offered to all women and children who walk through our doors include transitional housing, counselling, access to income provisions and legal services, and finally, support to find permanent housing.

I am proud of our team's ongoing dedication and passion, seen in each role, to create a safe and nurturing environment for the women and children. Year after year, statistics demonstrate the growing need and the impact of our services. Initiatives such as raising awareness about DV, promoting healthy relationships, and educating the public about the signs of abuse, through community engagements, is not only part of our work but a personal and ethical responsibility that we take seriously. If the startling increase in DV cases during the pandemic taught us anything, it is the importance of collective action in creating a safer and more inclusive society for women and children.

We cannot and do not do this work alone and are grateful to our funders and community partners for supporting us to meet the evolving needs and challenges faced by our clients. With Dixon's unwavering commitment to eradicate violence against women, together, we can create lasting positive change.

## Program Coordinator's Report

I want to take a moment to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for my transitional housing team of staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Each day, I witness firsthand the passion and commitment you bring to your roles. Your tireless efforts have touched the lives of each woman we serve in ways you may not fully realize. It is your hard work that forms the backbone of our success and drives our organization forward. Thank you.

Over the last year, Wenda's Place and Dixon House each gained a Team Lead. Nicole and Linda have both hit the ground running and are a natural fit for these roles with their years of experience and instinctive leadership qualities. Additionally, we welcomed two new support workers, with increased hours at Wenda's Place and an additional middle shift at the transition house to better meet the needs of the families.



Following the emergence from Covid-19, we have been actively ramping up our in-person programming and further broadening our overall program offerings. We brought back our sought-after in-person yoga! We were also pleased to bring back in-person Christmas events, treating families to appetizers, snacks and sweets while listening to Christmas music around the Christmas tree, just to name a few. We had great success with new student placements; an Art-Therapy student and an Information and Referral Legal student. We have expanded our partnership with the Greater Vancouver Foodbank, which allows us to bring vitally important groceries on site every week, now, to all housing programs, increasing food security for our families.

As I think about the highlights of the last year, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and accomplishment. I am excited about the endless possibilities that lie ahead as our organization grows.

CLAIRE KALFON



ALLISON BOTA



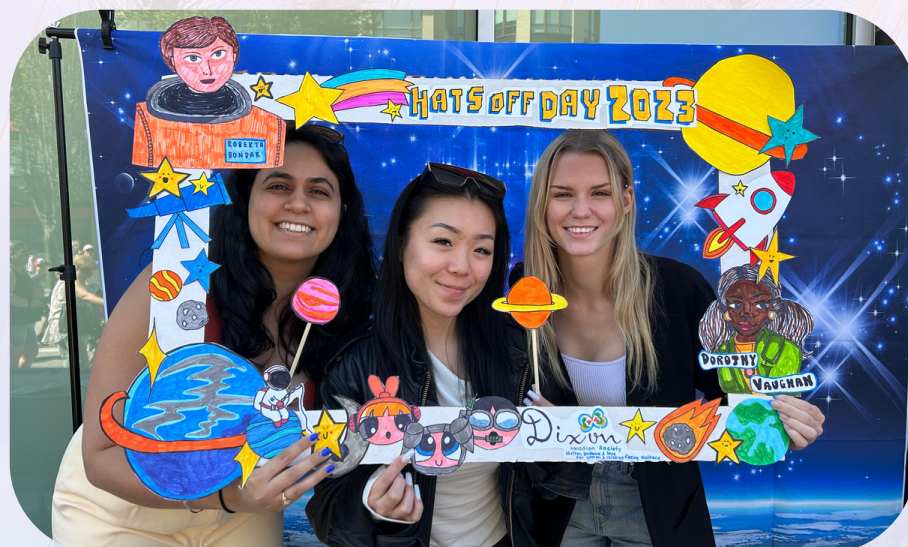


# Communications & Development Coordinator's Report

This past year, it has been amazing to see our donors' and supporters' continued generosity and compassion. In spite of the financial strains caused by the pandemic and the current economic climate, we received generous monetary and in-kind donations, surpassing all fundraising goals once again.

As the only Transition House in Burnaby, Dixon continues our efforts to support women and their children fleeing domestic abuse. Dixon made efforts to secure funding from the federal and provincial governments as well as foundations and other organizations. The contributions gained allowed Dixon to increase organizational capacity such as laying the groundwork for upcoming renovations for our second stage units, increase services provided to clients such as housing client support and further subsidies, engage in community events to spread awareness, and execute fundraising campaigns.

We are extremely grateful to all the support we have received this past year in getting one step close to our vision of the community where women and their children are free from violence.



SIMAR SAINI



# Child Support Workers' Report

In 2022, with your generous support, we provided children at Dixon House with unforgettable summer experiences, fostering joy and growth. They enjoyed various activities in the transition house backyard, including playing in sprinklers, picking fruits, and barbecues that created a sense of community. Additionally, we organized special outings like paddle boating and a visit from local firefighters, enriching their curiosity and learning.

Wenda's Place and Third Stage had a remarkable year, increasing activities by 1000% thanks to practicum students and increased staffing. Our summer featured "Campfire" activities, s'mores, and water play, with the help of Burnaby Firefighters and our Summer Recreation Program Assistant, Sophonie. Fall brought three practicum students offering Art Therapy and drop-in programming. A new partnership with Harmony for All included free instrument loans and music programming, which was greatly enjoyed by the children.



LINDA KONG



NICOLE SKUCE





LIZ MOSS



## Family Counsellors' Report

This past year, we saw a gentle reopening of our in-person sessions after having to transition to virtual sessions due to the pandemic. Clients expressed a desire for both virtual and in-person sessions, which we then started to provide. A sharp increase in incoming referrals for child and youth counselling meant that our child-focused counsellor was in high demand.

Some statistics reported over the past year include:

- 718 sessions provided, which equaled 763 counselling hours.
- 151 of these sessions were child and youth counselling sessions.
- 40 new clients were brought into the program, which was a slight increase from the previous year.
- On average the two counsellors supported 40 individuals each month with counselling services.

BEE GRANDISON



TANIA DINA



Quotes from clients when asked what worked:

"Support and encouragement, non-judgmental and she is always supportive of my ideas and understands when I go through ups and downs."

When asked what could be improved, some of the clients responded that they would like to have access to group counselling. The counselling program will begin the process of creating regular groups for both the Counselling Programs and Dixon's Housing Programs.

## Stopping the Violence Counsellors' Report

The Stopping the Violence (STV) program aims to support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and childhood sexual abuse both from our transitional housing programs and from the Burnaby and New Westminster Communities.

The program's trauma-informed counselling sessions help women to gain an understanding of how their experience of abuse and violence may have impacted them. The STV counsellors work with the women to help them develop healthy coping strategies and restore their self-esteem and sense of autonomy that abuse so often erodes. The STV counsellors also provide resources and referrals for mental health and community-based services and advocate on the behalf of the women for these services.

The past year, has been an exciting one for the STV program, as the program welcomed a new STV counsellor in September, Alisha Soni! Alisha was previously a Women's Support Worker at Dixon's first stage transition house, and is a recent graduate of Athabasca's Master's of Counselling Psychology program.

Having two part-time counsellors helped to reduce the program's waiting list and increased the program's capacity for providing group therapy and workshops. The group counselling and workshops provided, for women in the transition house and second stage, aim to support clients with their mental health and parenting. From April 2022 to March 2023, the STV program provided 426 counselling sessions to 92 women.

Overall, clients report that the STV program provides them with an opportunity to be heard, to experience safe relationships, and to develop coping skills to manage the mental health impacts of being in a relationship in which they survived abuse.



AIDA RETTA



ALISHA SONI





# Housing Support Worker's Report

Over the past year, the Housing Support Program has continued to grow and increase in demand as we continue to support the clients with finding safe, supportive and affordable housing. We have continued to feel the effects of the housing crisis in British Columbia, which has only been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple wars going on throughout the world. We have been lucky to be able to continue our relationship with BC Housing to keep providing the women and children with affordable housing when options become available. Despite this, many of the women have returned to their abusive homes due to the lack of housing options. We are hopeful that with more funding and more housing options being built throughout the next year, that our women will have more access to safer spaces to call home after their stay with Dixon.

We welcomed Hemani as our new Housing Support Worker, who has been a great addition to the housing team as I stepped into the role. We continue to receive funding from Reaching Home and Women's Shelter Canada, whose funding have helped Dixon support many of the families. Over this year, we were able to help house 27 women and 33 children. In this ever-changing world, being able to witness the strength and compassion of the families helps all of us to push forward with our work. To all our donors, volunteers, and funders, thank you for continuing to support the families during their time of need.



JENELLE

HARGREAVES



# Community Relations and Volunteer Liaison's Report

As a bridge between Dixon and the community, my role is focused on cultivating relationships that contribute to our vision of empowering women and children to establish a life free from violence. The unwavering support and generous donations have been invaluable to our organization and the families we serve, and our community's generosity serves as a reminder that compassion helps create real, lasting impact. This past year, we have received many incredible donations, ranging from diapers and childcare needs, clothing, and moving supplies; all of which have helped ease the stress of the women and children we support, allowing them to not have to worry about their basic needs during this transition period of their lives.

I would also like to thank our team of volunteers, who are an essential part of Dixon's operations. From maintaining the many fruits and plants in Dixon House's Garden, organizing the boutique, to helping provide support to staff or clients, our volunteers contribute to making Dixon a beautiful and welcoming environment for clients entering our program. Their efforts and commitment do not go unnoticed.

We are pleased to have Julia Hindy on board as Dixon's Community Relations and Volunteer Liaison starting June 2023!



As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the generosity of donors to provide our services. As such, we are still accepting donations. Some of our most requested items include skincare products, shampoo and conditioner, new underwear, diapers, and children's and adult sized slippers. Please do not hesitate to contact [communityrelations@dixonsociety.ca](mailto:communityrelations@dixonsociety.ca) if you are interested in donating.

JULIA HINDY





# Equity in Education Report



Dixon Transition Society's Equity in Education program, funded by WAGE, explores the experiences of students within the school system's policies through a gender-based lens. In Year Two of this project, we completed the development of the recruitment plan and reached out to principals, Parent Advisory Committees, and other organizations that serve youth. We were successful in securing a collaboration with KidsPlay Foundation and other youth in our local community to form the Youth Advisory Committees.

We look forward to sharing our findings and recommendations in our **Final Report** for Dixon's Equity in Education project, which will be disseminated in Year Three as the project comes to a close.



Community Events



# Indigenous Community Liaison's Report

At Dixon, we continue to embrace our community's diversity and inclusivity through our Healing Circles program. As the only Transitional House in Burnaby, we understand that Black, Indigenous, and Women of Colour face unique barriers to accessing social services. For this reason, we extended our focus on providing an inclusive service through collaborations with Reciprocal Consulting, an Indigenous consulting firm, to review our intake documentation for all programs, and collaborated with BlueSky, an Indigenous artist to conduct workshop painting orange t-shirts for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Additionally, we have been working alongside Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA) and Spirit of the Children Society (SOTCS) to make the housing programs warmer and more welcoming to women with various backgrounds and their children. Furthermore, we continue to supply women and their children with culturally specific materials and supplies such as ingredients to cook their staple foods.

We are pleased to have Manpreet Sanghera on board as Dixon's Indigenous Community Liaison starting April 2023!



## Special Grants

Canadian Women's Foundation  
Cause We Care Foundation

Ecclesiastical Insurance - Impact Grant (PEACE Program)

Greater Vancouver Foodbank - CAP Grant

Province of BC - Civil Forfeiture

Province of BC - Community Gaming - Capital Projects

Reaching Home COVID-19 Economic Response Grant

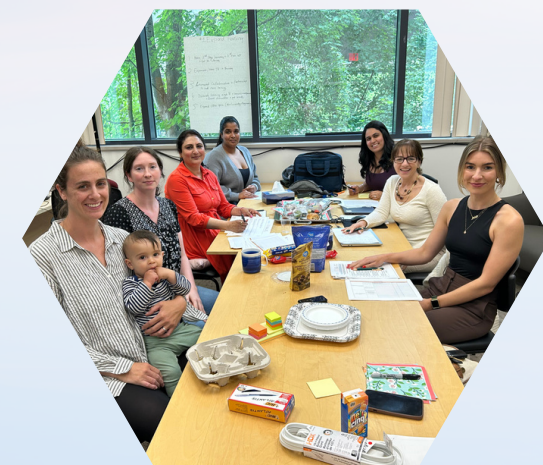
Vancouver Foundation

Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)

Women's Shelters Canada

# Staff Development and Engagement

Here at Dixon Transition Society, we value staff development and engagement. It is our priority to cultivate an environment where each member feels valued and supported.



MANPREET  
SANGHERA





## Friends of Dixon (\$250 - \$499)

AGF Management	Deborah Carlson	Monica Tuazon	
Alexia Zouzouras	Deborah Clegg	Nita Lake Lodge	Su Lien Chou
Angelo Cipparrone	Eunice Chomos	Nuria	Sundar Hair Inc.
Ann Charlton	Heather Albanti	Parkland Refining BC	Susan Rankin
Betty Chin	Home Depot Burnaby	Rajkamal Bhullar	Suzanne Kwan
Beverley Harris	Janice DeVries	Rita Chen	Tawnya Skujins
Burnaby	Jenea Tallentire	Robert Disbrow	TD Commercial
Firefighters	Julie Nadine Robert	Sainna Jain	Banking - Burnaby
Charitable Society	Kuldip Taggar	Sandra Sereda	Branch
Chelsea Richardson	Lynne Leong	Shannon Chen	Times of Canada
Cheryl Bawtree	Madeleine Rowat	Shu Hsia Chen Lai	Wenlido
Costco - Brighton	Melvin Hiebert	Stephen Barclay	Xin Wang

## Champions (\$500 - \$999)

30 Minute Hit	Craig Fraser	Jane Ross	Patricia Morgan
Burnaby	Deborah Matthews	Jinzhu Hu	Peter Pagnan
Atrina Kouroshnia	Denise Lin Photography	Joan Keller	Peter Schikkerling
BC Lions	Corporation	Kevin Huang	Qiaomei Li
Bernice Mak	Derek Williams	Laura Morgan	Rosemarie
Betty Chin	Du Hong Personal Real	Lenore Van Oene	Salvarani
BMO Global Asset	Estate Corporation	Leonard Schein	Rya
Management	Gateway Casinos &	Lynne Arbez	Sang Yuan Online
Brigitte Landsiedel	Entertainment Limited	Marc Mains	Market Inc.
Carey Morgan	Haili Su	Monika Verma	Sarah MacDonald
Catherine Webster	Heather Albanti	NorLand Limited	Sarah Spratley
Celine Ip	Hy Tea Lounge	North Shore Child	Shijuan Li
Connie Pagnan	Jane Banham	Care Centre	Susan Rankin

## Volunteers

Annie O'Donoghue	Janice Elderton	Rena Perrotta
Barbara White	Joan Turner	Ruby Tupeya
Cathy Lund	Lily Auyeung	Samantha Tseng
Eva Fyfe	Margaret Brown	Sarina Budail
Gail Thierman	May Yao	Susan Rankin
Geoffrey Waters	Megan Burnett	Taylor Griffiths
Heather Middleton	Navi Toor	Vera Gabrielson
Helen Tsepopoulos	Noah Hayes	

## Leaders (\$1,000)

100 Men Who Care	Giancarlo and Odette Tognetti	Lush - Metrotown
1327288 B.C. LTD	Legacy Trust Foundation	Maureen Meikle
Advantage Box	Global Federation of Chinese	Nurion
AG Care	Business Women (GFCBW)	Rajvir Rao
Betty Chin	Golden Top Financial Services	Raymond James Canada
Binary Stream	Inc.	Foundation
Binnie	Greater Vancouver Food Bank	Relling Family Foundation
Craft Academy Salon	Gulf and Fraser Credit Union	Sharyl Henshall
Crate & Barrel	GVC Credit Union	Shelby Tschritter
Dave Edwards	Haywood Securities	Shoppers Drug Mart
David Elliott	Heather Fisher	Foundation
Doug Morris	Heather Moffat	The Body Shop - Lougheed
Dr. Wayne Wen-Tsan Lin	John Lehmann	Mall
Inc.	La Vie en Rose	The Shoebox Project for
Eagle Travel Inc.	Laura Grace McQuillan	Women
Electronic Arts	Leon Judah Blackmore	Todd Lilley
Forge Integrated Health	Foundation	Ward Saito
Furnishr	Leonard Schein	Xuegang Gao
G&F Financial Group	Ling Xu	Zeidler Architecture
Gail Smith	Loblaw DC35	Zumiez Canada

## Board of Directors

DONNA SHUM



CHAIR

MARTIN FERREIRA PINHO



VICE CHAIR

AARON CHEUNG



TREASURER

SHAMSA JESSA



SECRETARY

LAURA MORGAN



PAST TREASURER

ZOE STRAZZA



DIRECTOR

ANITA WEBSTER



PAST CHAIR

MONICA JANG



PAST SECRETARY



# Sustainers' Circle

Alexia Zouzouras	Elys Lagumbay	Johnna Chan	Mishaal Kazani
Barbara L. Davison	Gail Young	Kathleen Fitzpatrick	Monika Verma
Betty Chin	Gina Iuliano	Kevin Dowle	Patricia Morgan
Beverley Harris	Grace Kwok	Kuldip Taggar	Paul Astrop
Buy-Low Foods	Great Lau	Laura Morgan	Peter Pagnan
Casandra Brisbois	Haywood Securities	Leonard Schein	Philip Y. NG
Costco Wholesale Ltd.	Heather Albanti	Linda Li	Rajkamal Bhullar
Crate & Barrel	James White	Linda Mah	Raymond James
Cynthia Parkin	Jane Banham	Lisa Yuen Sze Liu	Canada
Dave Edwards	Jane Friesen	Liza Shoda	Foundation
David Block	Jane Ross	London Drugs	Rich Sherwood
David Elliott	Janet Routledge	Marc Mains	Rita Chen
Dhar Dhaliwal	Jasmeen Gahunia	Melvin Hiebert	Rosemarie
Sang Yuan Online	StevenLaura	Sutton Max Realty	Salvarani
Market Inc.	ReddyKine	and Property	Wayne You
Sarah Spratley	Sunny Sun	Management	Wendy Hanna
Shamsa Jessa	Susan Gong	Tansy Chu	Susan Rankin
Shirley Bennie		Vivien Kee	



# Conferences and Presentations



Shockproofing Communities:  
A National Summit for the  
Gender-Based Violence  
Sector



BC Society of  
Transition Houses:  
2022 Annual Training  
Forum



BC Non-Profit Housing  
Association: BC's  
Affordable Housing  
Conference



Gratitude