

ANNUAL REPORT

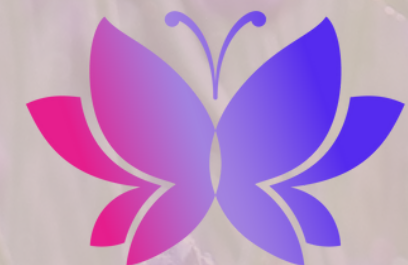


2023/2024

Funders



Ministry of Children and Family
Development
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor
General
BC Community Gaming
Vancity Foundation - Reaching Home
Civil Forfeiture



DIXON
TRANSITION
SOCIETY



Table of Contents

1. Our Work
2. Board Chair's Report
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Special Grants
5. Our Impact
7. Manager's Report
8. Program Coordinator's Report
9. Communications & Development Coordinator's Report
10. Family Counsellors' Report
11. STV Counsellor's Report
12. Child Support Workers' Report
13. Housing Support Workers' Report
14. Community Relations & Volunteer Liaison's Report
15. Healing Circles Program | Investing in Women
16. Healthy Minds Healing Bodies Program
17. Community Events
19. Staff Development & Engagement
20. Board & Volunteers
21. Donors
23. Gratitude
24. Conferences & Presentations

Dixon Transition Society acknowledges that we work on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) speaking peoples and we are grateful to be on this territory.

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:

Care
Acceptance
Respect
Empowerment



Board Chair's Report



It has been another busy year for Dixon. We have taken significant steps to implement the new Strategic Plan for years 2023-2026; developed in collaboration with feedback from our Board, leadership team, staff, clients, and stakeholders. In particular, we have focused our efforts in each of the following areas:

- **Expand Housing:** Expand our supportive transitional housing to better serve the demand of our community. This is critical as last year, we have had to turn away 2,950 women and children in need of our services due to our relatively limited housing capacity.
- **New Facility:** We continue to develop our plans to develop a new facility with 18 units. We are excited to be on track with the zoning process and now anticipate that our new facility will be complete in 2026.
- **Expand Second Stage Housing:** We continue to go through the approval process to add six units to our existing Second Stage Housing. The zoning approval has passed its third reading and it is now with the City Council for final approval.
- **Strategic Focus:** We have decided to sell our 3rd Stage housing units to repurpose our capital and efforts towards transition housing given the significant excess demand for such services.
- **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.
- **Review of Internal Policies:** We have undertaken a review of Dixon's internal policies to update them to accommodate our future growth.

This year, the Board is pleased to have recruited Shawn Miner who's brought a wealth of leadership and management experience to the board. We have also identified areas to strengthen the Board and have met with promising candidates to join the Board in the upcoming year. I am grateful for the dedication, care and thoughtfulness of all Board members. I want to recognize and wish Donna Shum, Past Chair, farewell and pay our gratitude for her service and dedication for the last six years. Our continued thanks to our Executive Director, Monika Verma and Manager, Claire Kalfon, and their leadership team for supporting us in our work. The Board remains also deeply grateful to all our dedicated and caring staff – doing challenging 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 support to women and children in need.

Executive Director's Report



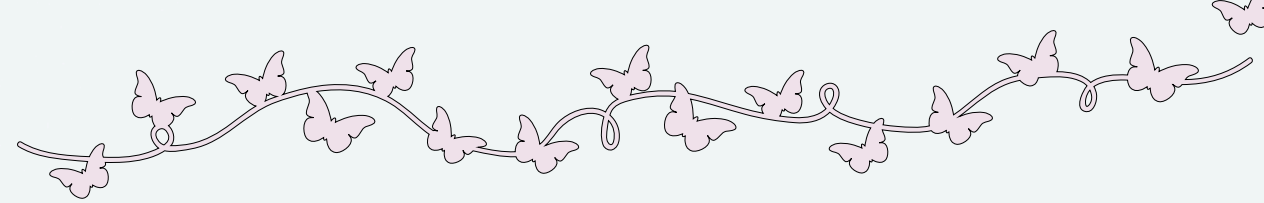
Monika Verma

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable achievements and progress Dixon Transition Society has made. Despite the numerous challenges faced by our community, our resilience, dedication, and unwavering support have allowed us to continue making a significant impact on the lives of those we serve.

This year, we welcomed over 1,200 women and children through our various programs and services, providing them with not only a safe and supportive environment but also the tools and resources needed to rebuild their lives. Our comprehensive programs—ranging from counselling, housing, and health services—have empowered our residents to achieve stability and independence. This would not be possible without the women and children that we serve, board, staff, volunteers, students, who have shown great leadership and strength throughout the year!

Our successes this year would not have been possible without the incredible support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your generosity and commitment have enabled us to expand our services and reach even more individuals in need. I am continuously inspired by the compassion and dedication shown by each member of our community.

Our staff, board of directors, collaborators, facilitators, supporters, and donors have gone above and beyond in creating exceptional results again for the 2023-2024 year. Special thanks to Board Chair Martin Ferreira Pinho, Shamsa Jessa, Aaron Cheung, Zoe Strazza, Donna Shum and Shawn Minor and for their support and leadership. We are saddened by bidding farewell to Donna Shum. We immensely appreciated her years of service and dedication, and she will be missed. Thanks to our leadership team, Claire Kalfon, Allison Bota, Simar Chang, Liz Moss, Linda Kong, Nicole Skuce, for supporting me and continuously improving Dixon to achieve our third-year strategic goals.



As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission of providing a safe haven for those in transition and empowering them to achieve self-sufficiency. We are excited about the future and the opportunities to further enhance our programs and services. With your continued support, we can build on our successes and create lasting change for more individuals and families.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing with us as we work towards a brighter future for all.



Special Grants

- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Canadian Red Cross
- Cause We Care Foundation
- Government of Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
- Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund
- Greater Vancouver Food Bank
- Province of BC - Civil Forfeiture
- Province of BC - Community Gaming - Capital Projects
- Reaching Home - Vancity Community Foundation
- Shoppers Foundation For Women's Health
- Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE)
- Women's Shelters Canada

Our Impact in Numbers

2023-2024

1204
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
SERVED

1911
ACTIVITIES
AND
WORKSHOPS
CONDUCTED

3470
CALLS FOR
SPACE

98
WOMEN
PLACED IN
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

2950
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
TURNED AWAY
DUE TO LACK OF
SPACE

1104
COUNSELLING
SESSIONS
PROVIDED

828
TOTAL
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Manager's Report



As the Manager of Operations and Services, I have the opportunity to work closely with Frontline staff, Administrative staff, Housing workers, Counsellors, and of course, our remarkable Executive Director. Being in this position to oversee the various Programs, I am afforded the chance to see firsthand the incredible work our team does every day to transform lives. Their dedication and resilience inspire hope and provide essential support to the women and children who walk through our doors.

Our team works tirelessly to enhance our services, including expanding client programming, offering client-centred counselling programs, and fostering community bonds to improve access to housing, legal, financial, and medical resources. Our team's unwavering commitment and compassion have been instrumental in delivering high-quality support to the families. The demand for our services has grown, and we must meet this demand to support all women who make the courageous decision to start their journey towards living a life free from violence.

We place a strong emphasis on staff development and well-being. Recognizing the importance of supporting our team, we continue regular training sessions such as attending the BCSTH Annual Training Forum, Healthy Communication in the Workplace, and cultural and diversity workshops.



Our community outreach continues to raise awareness and foster partnerships to better serve the women and children. I want to thank all those in our community, from volunteers to funders, who have supported us and continue to make an impact on our work with women and children fleeing domestic violence. We look forward to continuing our mission with the same level of commitment and passion in the coming year.

Program Coordinator's Report



I would like to express my profound gratitude and admiration to my transitional housing team for their steadfast dedication and relentless hard work. This year has been marked by challenges and numerous firsts. Yet each day, I have witnessed the unwavering passion and commitment you bring to your roles.

Over the past year, Dixon Transition Society has made strides in expanding and enhancing our services based on service gaps. One significant development has been the implementation of our new Health Navigator-related support. This support has already made a substantial difference in women prioritizing their physical and mental health. We also increased opportunities for women to receive support during court appearances. To clients, having staff present at court to provide emotional support and assist with navigating the system makes a world of difference. Additionally, we provided driving lessons through a trained female instructor to some clients, which allowed them to gain the independence that comes with having a driver's license.

Our transitional housing sites received some upgrades this past year. All nine units at Wenda's Place were renovated with new bathroom vanities and kitchens, including the addition of dishwashers, which have been a game-changer for moms. Furthermore, we replaced our playground at the Transition House and completed structural maintenance work in both backyards.



We continue to observe success in our support services as clients consistently report, through exit surveys, that Dixon staff are kind, warm, and supportive during times when they may feel completely alone. Staff always strive to create an environment where women and children feel safe, comfortable, and connected. This is achieved through regular pancake breakfasts, cultural potluck days, and offering a cup of tea and a chat.

Communications & Development Coordinator's Report

Last year was the first year of our new 3-year Strategic Plan for 2023-2026. The continued support and generosity of our donors and supporters have been inspiring. Despite the financial constraints caused by the current economic climate, we are ecstatic to have surpassed our fundraising goals, through both monetary and in-kind donations that support the women and their children.

As the only Transition House in Burnaby, Dixon made efforts to secure funding from federal and provincial governments, along with foundations and other organizations. We were successful in increasing organizational capacity through funds successfully received for programs such as Healing Circles, Healthy Minds Healing Bodies, and the Investing in Women programs. We increased services provided to clients through the increased subsidies for the Housing Support program. We engaged in numerous community events to spread awareness and were successful in our annual fundraising events: the Vancouver Half Marathon 2023, the Annual Christmas Sponsorship program, the Annual Silent Auction, and the 12th Annual Christmas Jazz Concert.

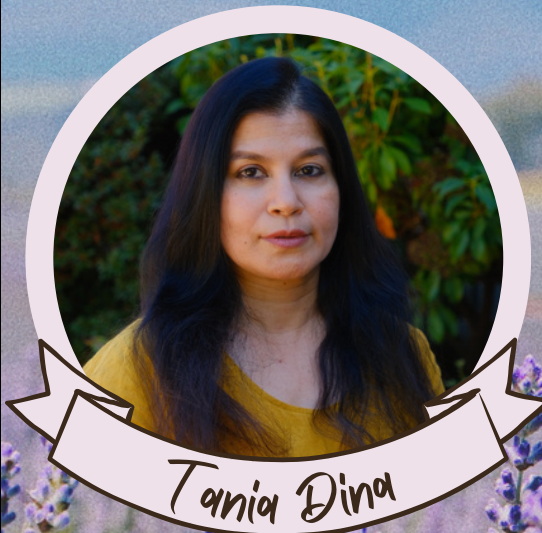
We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received this past year in getting one step closer to our vision of a community where women and their children are free from violence.



Simar Chang



Liz Moss



Tania Dina

Family Counsellors' Report

I am excited to return from maternity leave to my role as a Family Counselor for Dixon and we would like to thank Bee for filling in this past year; who did great work with clients and for the first time in this program, an art therapy practicum student was hired to provide a different experience to some of the clients. We appreciate her work during her time with the program.

In the realm of child and family counselling, Tania, completed further training in play therapy to complement her current knowledge and skill set and to be able to support young clients better. Her training also inspired the program to adapt the counselling office space to be more welcoming and conducive for play.

A different type of shift occurred in the fall of 2023 when the counsellors transferred to a digital platform for our scheduling, charting, and video sessions. We recognized the need to change with the times and the continued demand for lower barrier access to service from the parents that we serve.

Client Quote:

“

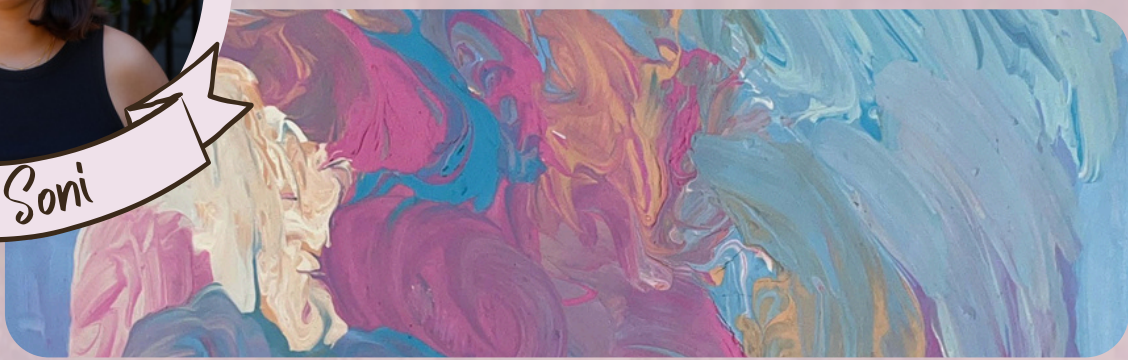
I remember the day I realized that we were not safe where we were currently living. My daughter's bubble was now shattered, and I had no plans as to where we would be safe. Dixon house welcomed us and embraced us with support, care and love. It was tough for my daughter and I, but you never gave up on us. You helped me so much when I was at my rock bottom. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much.

”

STV Counsellor's Report

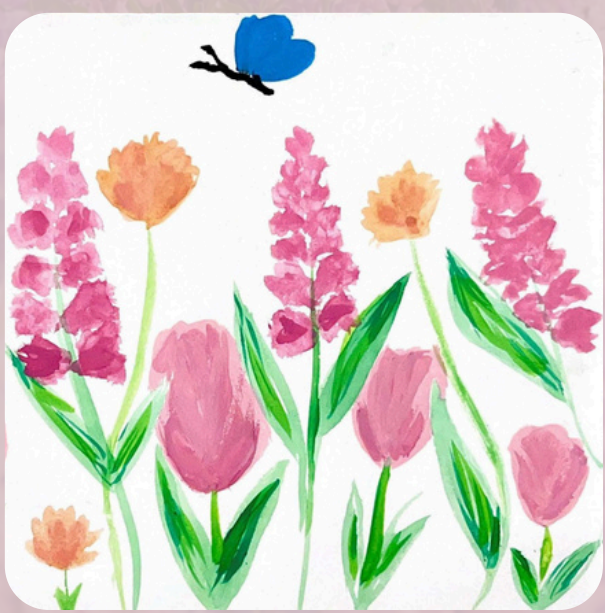


Alisha Soni



The STV Counsellor works with clients to support them with understanding their trauma, impacts of abuse and violence, and finding resources and coping tools to support their healing. We work with clients individually and in group-settings who are current Dixon clients and clients from the community.

Some highlights from the last year include regular group sessions. This has been beneficial for clients by facilitating learning about ways to heal together and creating connections. As well, supporting clients with their unique basic needs. The financial support through grants has been helpful for clients to cope with the impacts of the housing and cost of living crises.



Child Support Workers' Report



Linda Kong

Last year, Dixon House and Wenda's Place embraced new partnerships, expanded child support programming, and enjoyed numerous fun activities!

We proudly welcomed Douglas College Child and Youth Care practicum students for the first time. Their involvement allowed us to enhance our capacity for childminding during mothers' appointments and to increase our regular child support activities. We look forward to continuing this partnership.

In the spring, our Masters-level Art Therapy practicum student from Adler University successfully completed their placement. This placement featured open studio sessions, toddler and school-aged drop-ins, one-on-one Art Therapy, and a collaborative Positive Parenting workshop series with the STV Counsellors for mothers.



Nicole Skuce

Families participated in various enriching activities, including Dental Hygienist visits, Harmony 4 All music classes, and Storytime sessions with BPL Librarians. We continue to collaborate with Kids Up Front to provide families with tickets to shows and sports games throughout the year.

Our summer was filled with adventures and fun, thanks to the support of Canada Summer Jobs and the Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society. Highlights included hikes at Lynn Canyon, cookie decorating, visits to cat cafes and Science World, pedal boating at Deer Lake, and plenty of water activities such as trips to spray parks and lakes, as well as backyard slip-and-slide and ice cream socials.

We had a fantastic year and are excited to see what the next year brings.

Housing Support Workers' Report

The past twelve months have been a busy whirlwind for the Housing Support Program. The need for housing continues to increase while the supply of affordable housing decreases. Our goal of finding safe, supportive and affordable housing continues as we move into the next year.

Throughout this year, we had the wonderful support of the Women's Shelter Canada grant, as well as the Reaching Home grant. With these grants, we were able to financially support women and their children with multiple housing needs, such as security deposits, rental supplements, and moving costs. For many of our clients, without this funding, they would not have been able to secure their housing. We are happy to have secured the Reaching Home grant for another year.

Between our two Housing Support Workers, Jenelle and Hemani, we were able to support 37 women and 61 children in finding housing. In total, we served 454 current and former Dixon families. It is always such an honour to support these families, to watch them grow during our time with us, and to see them prosper after they leave us. We could not have supported these families without the support of our other staff members, volunteers, and donors. We are forever grateful to all of you for having such an impact on our clients; we cannot thank you enough.



Community Relations & Volunteer Liaison's Report

As a bridge between Dixon and the community, the Community Relations & Volunteer Liaison 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.

We 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.

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 if you are interested in donating.





Healing Circles Program

The Healing Circles Program has been a long-standing embrace of our community's diversity and inclusivity.

We acknowledge that Black, Indigenous, and Women of Colour face unique barriers to accessing social services. As a result, the Indigenous Community Liaison focuses on providing an inclusive service through collaborations with local Indigenous Elders and local Indigenous artists. Furthermore, we ensure our Transition House is stocked with diverse staple foods to create a more welcoming environment.



Investing in Women

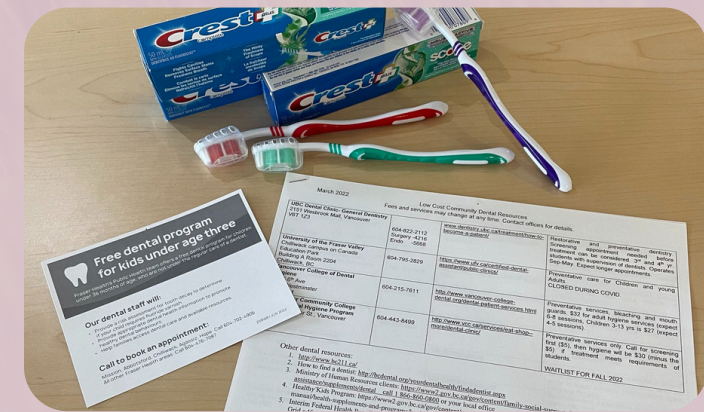
The Investing in Women project, funded by the Canadian Red Cross Community Services Recovery Fund, commenced in October 2023. The purpose of this project was to address the gaps of human resources resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and proactively prepare for anticipated growth in the next three years at Dixon Transition Society. We developed an adaptive training curriculum with a focus on the recruitment, training, and retention of staff. This was done through the creation of a streamlined standardized training guide and hiring process to better equip staff to serve the women and children fleeing domestic abuse. Furthermore, we were able to hire an external HR consultant to help effectively tackle challenges related to employee retention, ensuring a strong foundation for future growth.

Healthy Minds Healing Bodies Program

Through funding from the Shopper's Foundation, we have been able to introduce new programming that has been immensely beneficial to our clients. We have provided workshops, dental clinics, and exercise groups. Families within our Second Stage Housing program, specifically, have shown a lot of emotion for how grateful they are for the group accountability and sense of community that the additional programming has allowed. When discussing the new exercise group, one mom mentioned that she would even like the group to occur more often as she was enjoying the sense of community so much.

We have conducted roughly 27 workshops and have been able to champion and accompany 60 women through this program so far. Some highlights include:

- Created exercise group which is very popular among women, focusing on both weight training and Zumba.
- Had consistent wellness workshops facilitated by the Health Navigator and the Stopping the Violence counsellor focusing on health and self-care.
- Provided support through dental clinics.
- Provided hospital accompaniment services.
- Equipped Dixon with medical supplies such as blood pressure monitors and thermometers.



Community Events



Dixon Transition Society's Annual Christmas Jazz Concert



The Times of Canada Food Drive



Burnaby Football Club Soccer Tournament



The North America United Global Women's Association's Mother's Day Event

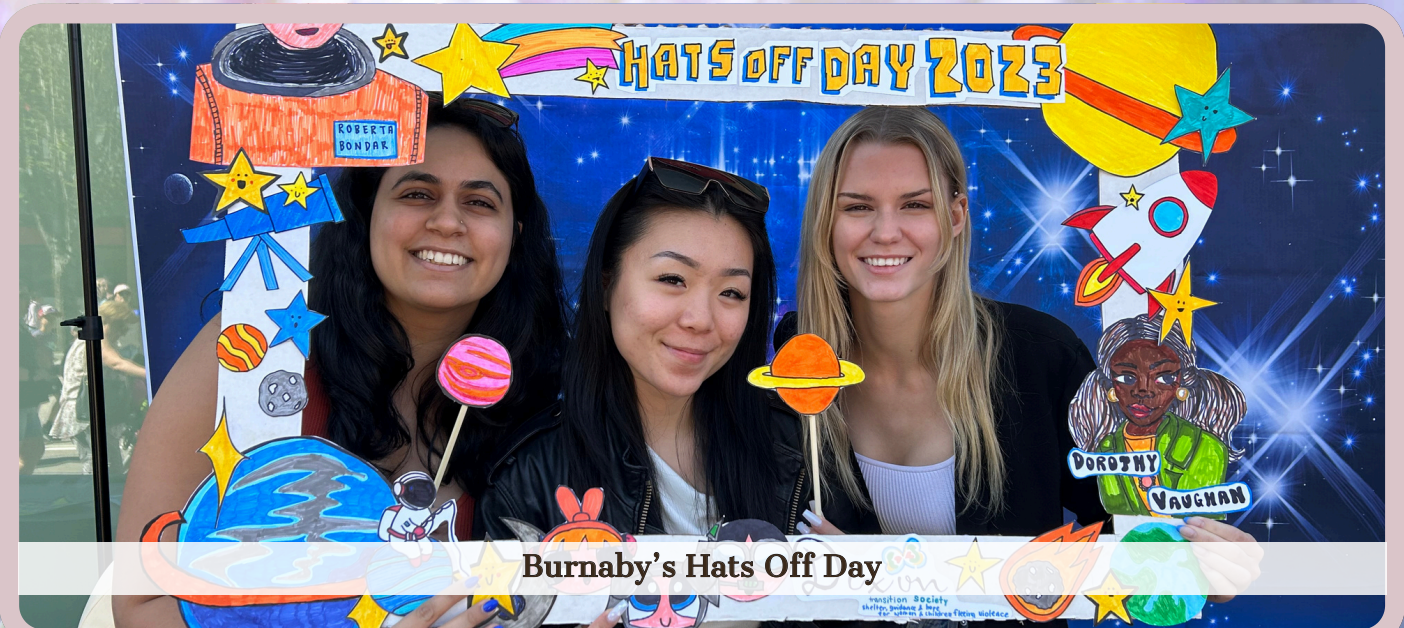
Community Events



Vancouver Half Marathon

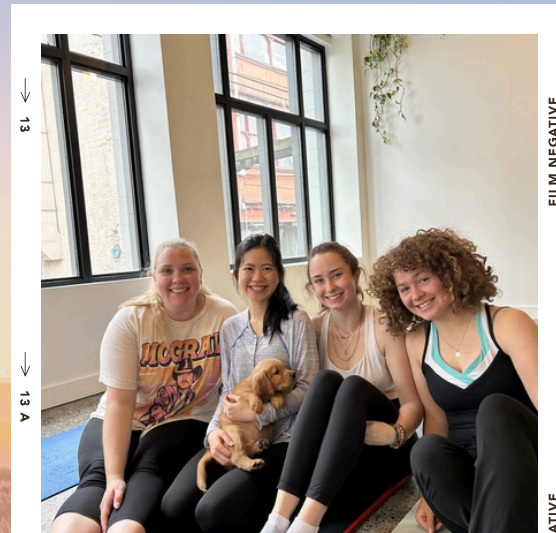


Diwali Celebrations



Burnaby's Hats Off Day

Staff Development & Engagement



Board of Directors

Martin Ferreira Pinho



Chair

Shamsa Jessa



Vice-Chair

Donna Shum



Past Chair

Aaron Cheung



Treasurer

Zoe Strazza



Secretary

Shawn Miner



Director

Special Thanks To:

Anita Webster - Donation & Fundraising Committee Member
 Farewell to long-time Board member and Past Chair, **Donna Shum**. We appreciate all your years of service. You will be dearly missed.

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

Angelo Cipparrone	Fortis BC
Anita Webster	Gail Young
Brad Sakich	Joyanne Landers
Casandra Viva Brisbois	Riley Skinner
David Block	Soon Coffee Inc.
Deer Lake United Church	Waste Control Services Inc.
	William Eric Berswick

Champions (\$500-\$999)

Bayfield Mortgage Professionals	Jane Friesen
BelPacific Excavating & Shoring	Jasmine Hindy
Costco Brighton Burnaby	Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Dave Forsyth	Meridian Rehabilitation
David Morton	Peter Pagnan
Dean and Kathy Wyatt	Rafael Santa Ana Architecture
Forge Integrated Health	Workshop Inc.
Gulf and Fraser Credit Union	Randy Wall
Heights Yoga and Wellness	Sarah Barnes
Irene Mark	Sarah Spratley
James White	Signe Jurcic
Jane Banham	Stephanie Van Eyk
	Thomas Seltzer

Leaders (\$1000+)

Amy Meikle	Haywood Securities
Barbara L. Davison	John Lehmann
Binary Stream Software	Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation
Burnaby Football Club	Navroze Sehit
CUPE Local 379	Parkland Refining BC
D-Third Development Inc.	Picton Mahoney Asset Management
David Edwards	South Burnaby United Church Women
David Elliott	StevenLaura ReddyKine
Doug Morris	Todd Lilley
Gulf and Fraser Fisherman's Credit Union	United Global Chinese Women's Association of Canada

Sustainers' Circle

Anita Webster	Fortis BC
Anne Kang	Fortis BC Surrey
Anthony Catenaccio	Gail Young
Barbara L. Davison	Gina Iuliano
Binary Stream Software	Gord French
Bodwell High School	Greg Goode
Brad Sakich	Gulf and Fraser Credit Union
Brandon Williamson	Gulf and Fraser Fisherman's Credit Union
Brooks Patterson	Haywood Securities
Burnaby Football Club	Heidi Applegate
Cameron Elementary	Heights Yoga and Wellness
Carol Pettigrew	Howard Riback
Casandra Viva Brisbois	Howes Technical Advantage Ltd.
Catherine Humphries	Irene Mark
Cynthia Parkin	Jacquie Prystae
David Block	James White
David Edwards	Jane Banham
David Elliott	Lauren Carley
David Moir	Lena Jung
David Morton	Leon Judah Blackmore Foundation
Dean and Kathy Wyatt	Linda Colasacco
Deer Lake United Church	Lisa Liu
Diane Haynes	Lucy Cameron
Doug Morris	Lynne Leong
D-Third Development Inc.	Marcel Stevens
Edward Merlo	Meridian Rehabilitation
Elsa Forgale	Michael Gilles
Filippo Berna	Wendy Hanna
Forge Integrated Health	

Volunteers and Partners

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers and community partners for their invaluable support of Dixon's ongoing projects and services. Your contributions are essential to our success and play a crucial role in bridging the gaps in our programming.

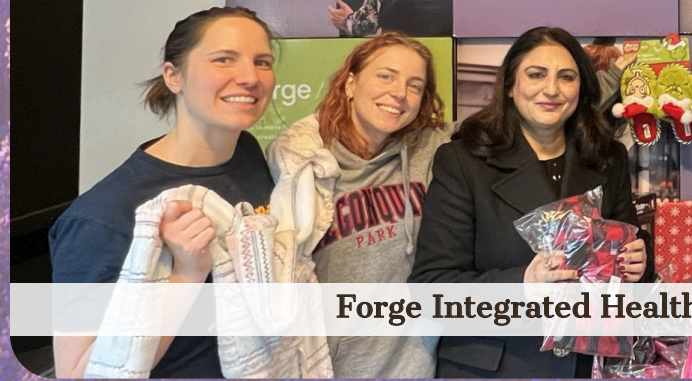
Gratitude



Friends of Wenda's Quilt Donation



Orane International College Recognition



Forge Integrated Health Annual Christmas PJ Drive



Thind Properties Cheque Presentation



Christmas Hamper Donation



Cameron Elementary Shoe-Box Donation



Forge Integrated Health Annual Christmas PJ Drive

Conferences & Presentations



BCNPCHA Conference



Women in Construction BBOT Panel



Slalom Consulting Presentation



One Billion Rising Conference



FRAFCA Youth Gala



Shockproofing Communities Conference



BBOT Truth & Reconciliation Conference



U + Me Fundraising Group Presentation