

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Agenda for the 41st Annual General Meeting
- Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting
- Report of the Chair & Executive Director
- PEI FVPS Statistics for 2021-22
- Service Reports:
 - Anderson House
 - Child and Youth Outreach Report
 - Second Stage Housing
 - Outreach Coordinators

"The staff at Anderson House were wonderful, they were always there to listen even when busy with other things. I felt safe, secure and they were so helpful with my son. Some staff played with him, engaged in conversation, helped him feel safe and happy even with all the changes going on in his life. The Anderson House was there for me 100% and I'm so thankful that this organization exists for women and their children. A safe place, with genuine kind hearted people. Thank you!"

~Anderson House Resident

AGENDA

PEI FVPS 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 22rd, 2022 | 6-8 p.m. | Virtual Meeting by Zoom

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Minutes of the 40th Annual Meeting of PEI FVPS
3. Financial Statement
4. Motion to Approve the 2021-22 Audited Statement
5. Motion to Approve Auditor for 2022-2023
6. Election of New Directors
7. Report from Board Vice Chair & Executive Director
8. Guest Speaker: Eileen Conboy
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment



*A \$25,000 donation to
Anderson House from
The Norwex Foundation
for a Brighter Future*

PEI FVPS Inc. – 40th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 2021– 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Online: Virtual Meeting

Present: Michelle Burge, Danny Gallant, Andrea LeClair-Shefler, Wanda Lyall, Caroline MacRae, Bridget Morriscey, Melissa Munro-Bernard, Ghislaine O’Hanley, Ann Sherman, Shira Zipursky, Cindy Banks, Ellen Ridgeway, Daneen MacDonald, Beth Cruwys, Jan Devine, Julie Doyle, Michelle BATTERY, Dara Rayner, Jill Lightwood, Kim McGuigan, Gloria Dennis, Joanne Ings, Lindsay Merrill, Michelle Harris-Genge, Barbie MacKay, Danya O’Malley (ex-official), Paxton Caseley (ex-official)

Regrets: Kent Bruyneel, Mary Rogers

Chair: Ann Sherman

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.

M/S: Approved by consensus.

CARRIED.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Be it resolved that the minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting held on June 17, 2020 be approved as presented.

M/S: Andrea LeClair-Shefler/ Caroline MacRae

CARRIED.

3. Financial Statements

Michelle Burge from MRSB reviewed the Statement of Financial Position, which is a snapshot of the financial position of the organization at March 31, 2021. It is the opinion of the auditor that it presents fairly and in accordance with Canadian accounting standards. Consistent with previous years. The organization has received a clean bill of health.

Total assets for the year were 1.7 million which is an increase of 250k. Cash on-hand at year end was approximately 494k which is also an increase from the previous year. Accounts receivable was 62k. This is comprised of an 11k HST rebate, owing to women’s allowance of 14k, and a grant from the John Howard Society for 35k. There were prepaid expenses including a 14k downpayment on the new CaseWorks software. Property and equipment increased in value due to the purchase of computers and shelter renovations throughout the year. The endowment is now a little over 1 million. This increase is due to additional donations, but the most significant reason being the investments performing very well.

Accounts payable equal to 64k for wages, bills, RRSP, etc. Deferred revenue is significant due to having multiple projects in progress, totalling 359k. The largest amount deferred is the funds raised through Burger Love, but all funds are committed. Rogers Family Grant for 34k, Youth Programming for 37k, and an additional 10k grant from Province for transportation needs. There was an overall small operating loss of \$4500 for the year.

Revenues increased by approximately 93k. Donations are down from last year likely due to lack of opportunity to host fundraising events. The organization has done well financially despite COVID-19, due mostly to a very successful Financial Campaign.

4. Motion to Approve the 2020-21 Audited Statement

MOTION: Be it resolved that the audited financial statement be accepted from MRSB Chartered Accountants for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

M/S: Shira Zipursky/ Melissa Munro Bernard

CARRIED.

5. Motion to Appoint Auditor

MOTION: Be it resolved that MRSB Chartered Accountants be appointed as auditors for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

M/S: Julie Doyle/ Ghislaine O'Hanley

CARRIED.

6. Report on Board Terms

Bridget and Caroline presented the report on the status of renewing Board members. Julie, Andrea, and Caroline have all chosen to renew their terms. There are no new members to elect. Mary Rogers is stepping down from the Board. Ann thanked Mary for her contribution.

7. Report from Board Chair and Executive Director

Danya O'Malley – Executive Director

Congratulated staff and Board members for exceeding expectations and overcoming the many challenges thrown our way this year. Reflected on where we are now as compared to last year. In particular that almost all staff are fully vaccinated. The pandemic exposed inequalities and gaps which need to be addressed for society in general (e.g. childcare being accessible). The 40th anniversary of the organization is this year and Danya enjoyed the process of compiling information and stories for the video. In doing so, she learned aspects of the organization's history that she was previously unaware of, which has been very meaningful. She's been Director for 5 years now and is continuously working on her vision of having the organization being a 'one-stop shop' for anyone who has experienced family violence, whether they are a victim or perpetrator. Nick Frid has been hired as the Men's Services Coordinator and already has clients, both victims and perpetrators. While this is new territory for the organization, Danya is very optimistic.

Ann Sherman – Board Chair

Ann looks forward to meeting with the Board in person as the easing of COVID-19 restrictions allow. Finds that conversations in person are richer and more in-depth. Missing the personal touch of gathering together. Recognizes that PEI is exceptionally lucky in not having extended lockdowns which has meant that domestic violence has not been worsened in the same way as in many other jurisdictions and provinces. Looking forward to doing more community outreach and education which we had not been able to do last year. Thanked all staff for stepping up and continuing to do exceptional work in spite of a global pandemic and all that it brings.

8. 40th Anniversary Video and Discussion

9. Other Business

Beginning in 2022, Family Violence Prevention week is moved to May.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Be it resolved that the 40th annual meeting be adjourned.

M/S: Danny Gallant

CARRIED.

FVPS Board Member

Date

FVPS Recording Secretary

Date

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Another year of Covid 19 restrictions is over and done, and I am proud of the staff of Family Violence Prevention Services for the way they have navigated through this difficult time. It's been hard, staff and Board have been challenged, and professionalism and commitment have helped us make it through. Danya O'Malley has woven together a strong and responsive team. Hopefully this pandemic is dwindling and we can move forward strengthening old ways, and forging new ways to meet our mission, to eliminate physical, sexual, and emotional violence in families through advocacy, prevention programs, and the provision of quality services designed to empower and support those affected by family violence.

As an organization we are always learning, and one of the items up for preliminary discussion by the Board this year, is our name. A Board member raised the issue that some people feel the word "family" in our name excludes them from accessing FVPS services, so we are going to explore this and think hard about how our name can be, like our organization is, inclusive and welcoming.

This year two of our long-term staff members have left us: Kim McGuigan after 23 years, and Jan Devine after nearly 40 years. Their presence will be missed at Anderson House, and we wish them both well in the next stage of their life journey. Two long-term Board members are leaving us too: Kent Bruyneel, treasurer, and Shira Zipursky, secretary. They have both been dedicated and thoughtful members of the board and we will miss them even as we look forward to welcoming new members to the Board following the Annual Meeting.

As always I wish to acknowledge our Executive Director, Danya O'Malley for the exemplary work that she does every day. She steers the FVPS ship, develops crucial partnerships, keeping us on track and ensuring that the Board has the information we need to support her, our staff and the organization's work.

My thanks to all involved in FVPS for their part in working for justice, equality, and peace.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Sherman
Board Chair

2021 -
2022

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The past fiscal year has been one of amazing growth for the organization. I am so proud of the ways that we have been working to further our efforts to address and prevent violence. We have had renewed effort in working with youth, we've successfully created a position overseeing men's services, and we continue to address gaps in service in creative ways that benefit our clients. An example of this is our new in-house trauma therapy pilot, with Eileen Conboy. The new things we do always keep me motivated and excited for what's possible.

These things are all important, and you can read about much of the good work happening throughout this organization in this report. I choose instead to dedicate my report to a former colleague, Colleen MacDougall. I recently lost an acquaintance who died quite prematurely. It has made me rather introspective about untimely death in general, and Colleen was a beautiful soul who left this earth far too soon.

I first met Colleen in the spring of 2008. She was working as a relief worker at Anderson House while completing her master's in science at UPEI. I was a student in the shelter and part of my hours were on Saturday mornings each week, so I spent a lot of time with Colleen. We started to spend a little time together outside of work as well, and she was smart, charming, and charismatic. I recall her saying she was amazed to move to PEI where everyone could spell her last name, something she had not experienced in Ontario.

She talked often of the travel she was going to do after she graduated. Going through her social media collecting information about her, I was amazed to see the countries she traveled through after leaving PEI. Mali, Gambia, the Canary Islands, Morocco... She had often talked about her plans to go to Africa, and we were all happy for her. Before she left, she gave me some of her clothes. Some pieces I still have and can't bear to part with. The final time I saw her was her going away party, where we sang karaoke and did a duet of 99 Red Balloons.

2021 -
2022

...CONTINUED

Sadly, on May 7, 2010, Colleen died just a few months prior to her 28th birthday. Her father posted the following on social media:

For those of you who came to know Colleen, then you came to love her as well. Colleen passed from us in an African Hospital as dawn broke this morning from complications that resulted from a typhoid infection. Colleen was the most loving person that any one of us has ever had the fortune of meeting. She loved everyone, she loved everything, she loved life itself, she lived to love those around her. We are deeply saddened by our loss, but are comforted by the love we received from her. forever love, dad

Did she know she was dying? Was she afraid? Was she in pain? I often wonder these things.

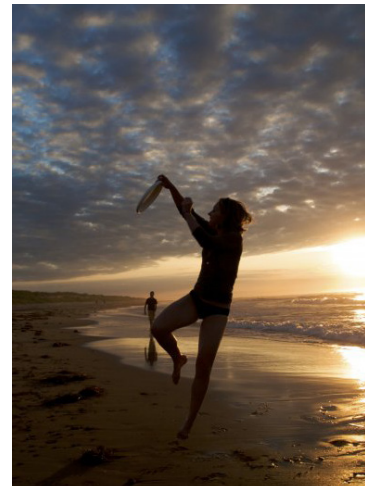
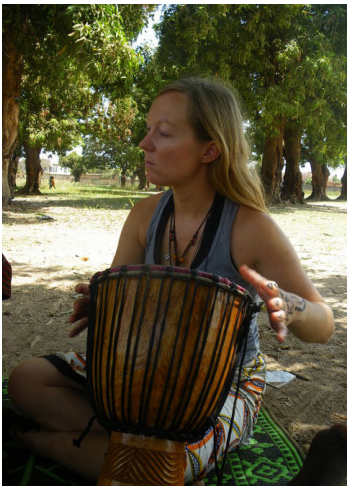
This year Colleen would have turned 40. Where would life have taken her? We have no way of knowing. The grief among our staff was profound. She was a beloved member of our team. We still talk about her from time to time. Last summer I chanced to meet someone who knew her, and she mentioned having raised money for Anderson House in Colleen's memory shortly after her death.

Colleen was fit and active, we talk about having a bike rack installed at Anderson House with a small plaque saying that it is in her memory. I still believe this should happen. There are many on the team who knew her. Those who didn't would have also appreciated so many things about her.

Yours,

Danya O'Malley, MSW

Executive Director



Colleen MacDougall 1982-2010

ANNUAL STATISTICS 2021-2022

Anderson House - Annual Statistics 2021-22

Admissions - Adults		
Total number of women admitted:		76
By Age:	>18	
	18-24	32
	25-34	18
	35-44	19
	45-54	5
	55-64	2
	65+	0
By Marital Status:	Common Law	15
	Divorced	1
	Married	6
	Never Married	54
	Separated	0
	Widowed	0
	Unknown	0
By Location:	West Prince	2
	East Prince	11
	Queens	43
	Eastern Kings	8
	Southern Kings	6
	Out of Province	6
	Unknown	0
Admitted with:	1 child	9
	2 children	6
	3 or more children	7
Admitted for current violence/abuse		58
Admitted for the first time to AH		45

Admissions - Children			
Total number of children admitted:			38
	Gender:	F	M
By Age:	0-2	8	9
	3-6	1	5
	7-12	4	3
	13-16	4	4
Total by Gender:	Female		17
	Male		21
Admitted for current violence/abuse			28
Admitted for the first time to AH:			24
	West Prince		0
	East Prince		8
	Queens		17
	Eastern Kings		4
	Southern Kings		9
	Out of Province		0
	Unknown		0

...CONTINUED

Outreach - Annual Statistics - 2021-22

Clients Receiving Services (count once for the year)		
Total number of women served:		238
By Age:	Youth	5
	18-24	39
	25-34	75
	35-44	67
	45-54	23
	55-64	17
	65+	12
By Marital Status:	Common Law	31
	Divorced	11
	Married	24
	Never Married	91
	Separated	77
	Widowed	4
	Unknown	0
Receiving outreach services for first time this year:		148
Children		
Client:	Living with Children	99
	Children in Care	37
Women living with	0 children	102
	1 child	61
	2 childre	45
	3 or more...	29

Services		
Total number of supportive contacts:		4837
	Visits	1039
	Calls	1381
	Emails	2417
Contacts		
Average number of contacts per woman:		9.5
Total number of women with...		
	1 contact	15
	2-4 contacts	50
	5-9 contacts	53
	10+ contacts	120
Geographical Location of Client's Residence		
Location		Number of Women
West Prince		38
East Prince		73
Queen's County		80
Eastern PEI		47
Out of Province		0
Unknown		0
Supportive Contacts		
Average number of contacts per woman:		3.8
Number of women receiving contacts		144
Total number of contacts:		541

...CONTINUED

Men's Services - Annual Statistics - 2021-22

Clients Receiving Services (count once for the year)				
	Total number of men served:		14	
	By Age:	Youth	0	
		18-24	3	
		25-34	3	
		35-44	6	
		45-54	0	
		55-64	2	
		65+	0	
	By Marital Status:	Common Law	5	
		Divorced	0	
		Married	1	
		Never Married	5	
		Separated	3	
		Widowed	0	
	Unknown	0		
Receiving outreach services for first time this year		14		
Children				
Client:	Living with Children		9	
	Children in Care		3	
	Men living with	0 children		2
		1 child		6
		2 children		3
		3 or more...		3

Services			
	Total number of supportive contacts:		129
		Visits	59
		Calls	47
		Emails	22
Contacts			
	Average number of contacts per man:		9.2
	Total number of women with...		
		1 contact	0
		2-4 contacts	2
		5-9 contacts	6
		10+ contacts	6
Geographical Location of Client's Residence			
Location		Number of Men	
West Prince		0	
East Prince		3	
Queen's County		7	
Eastern PEI		4	
Out of Province		0	
Unknown		0	
Supportive Contacts			
	Average number of contacts per man:		0.0
	Number of men receiving contacts		0
	Total number of contacts:		0

ANDERSON HOUSE REPORT

Our clients still face many barriers and services can be difficult to access, particularly mental health and addictions services. At times our clients require a level of support for addiction or mental health issues that cannot be accommodated by the shelter and need other services before coming to us. The cost of rent and the cost of living continue to rise, adding increased financial burdens on our clients.

Our focus remains on developing case plans that are tailored to each resident. Each case plan identifies any barriers a client would have to securing housing, jobs or financial aid. It also includes a self-care component and we encourage using our Mindfulness room for quiet time, mindfulness activities and using our Muse device. The case plan is adaptable to a client's changing needs and breaks tasks down in order of priority to make it more manageable. The case manager or shelter staff can assist clients in doing their tasks – we don't do the tasks for the clients, but we walk alongside each client that needs help as a way of teaching and empowering.

I am so proud of our shelter staff for rolling with each and every change that we had to implement in the shelter due to the COVID restrictions. For many months, during this past year, we had to switch to a 24-hour shift model to reduce staff exposure in the shelter in an effort to keep the shelter open. This worked very well, but was hard on staff as they often were working alone. It was a hard thing to ask of our staff, but everyone was more than willing to do what needed to be done to keep things operating. I will forever be in awe of their dedication.

Our outreach workers continued to modify their way of working to continue supporting clients through changing mandates. As well, Danya, Paxton and Lindsay adapted their working hours and style to accommodate any restrictions.

This was a year of change at FVPS seeing long-time employees Jan Devine and Kim McGuigan leave the shelter. Jan took an early retirement after 38 years of shelter work, she began working at Anderson House on August 13th, 1984. Kim started at the shelter on September 25th, 2000 and has left the shelter for a new opportunity. Both women have left their mark on the shelter and are missed daily. Anderson House was fortunate to have women of their calibre, for so many years.

Respectfully submitted,

Dara Rayner

Manager of Operations



Donations for Mother's Day from The Body Shop's "Another for a Mother" campaign.

CHILD & YOUTH OUTREACH REPORT

2021 was yet again, another strange and challenging year in so many ways. Reflecting back today on how we moved through this period of time is such a strong reminder of how cohesive, flexible and resilient we are as a staff team. Extraordinary leadership and 'outside of the box' problem solving, allowed the shelter to remain open and for vital support systems to continue to be delivered.

Anderson House saw thirty-eight children stay with their mothers for varying lengths of time. Covid rules and regulations continued to present challenges for women and our families with remote learning and other ever changing but necessary protocols. In my role as Youth Outreach, I supported twenty-eight individuals on both a one time or an ongoing basis. Three of the individuals were under eighteen and referred by a guidance counsellor from a local high school. This really highlights the need for on-going youth programming around healthy relationships in schools. I continue to thoroughly embrace this newer addition to my role within the organization.

I am fortunate that once again, thanks to technology, I could continue to provide education and presentations to groups and classes around various topics, specifically Intimate Partner Violence and Child Witnessing. UPEI Nursing students as well as the Holland College Child & Youth Worker Program continue to use our knowledge and expertise on a regular basis. I was delighted to be able to return to 'face-to-face' presentations in the fall semester. Other audiences included the Adventure Group Youth Program, Child & Family Support Workers, as well as community groups like Y'Men.

Another area that has been challenging with so many safety protocols in place, is the launch of the drop-in sessions at both Holland College and UPEI. I was welcomed into both post-secondary education facilities to be on site to offer support, information and tools for students experiencing unhealthy/abusive relationships. However, by Christmas, it was quickly recognized that this just wasn't the time. What is exciting however, is the fact that conversations and planning meetings have continued and there is a solid plan beginning with student orientation week later this summer. Holland College also wants us to extend our services in their campus at the western end of the island.

I continued to be a part of the national, two-year project out of Western University and member of the working group, Recognizing Critical Expertise in Gender-Based Violence. Unfortunately, we did continue to have all meetings via Zoom, none the less, the knowledge, experience and expertise in the group continues to be inspiring. The project came to an end early this year. I also continue to hold my position on the Youth Engagement Working Group (PAC). We have continued to meet consistently every month but predominantly remotely throughout the year.



Drop-in Services at UPEI and Holland College Campuses

...CONTINUED

In closing, I once again would like to commend the unique leadership of both Danya and Dara during these strange and unprecedented times as well as say how proud I am to be part of a phenomenal group of women who make up the Anderson House team. This September sees me celebrating twenty years in their midst and I continue to learn from each and every one of them every day.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Buttery

Youth Outreach/Children's Services Coordinator



*Michelle presenting
to the 1st year Child
& Youth Care Workers
at Holland College*

2nd STAGE HOUSING REPORT

The ASPIRE Program is in its twelfth year. ASPIRE is an individualized empowerment and strength-based program for women experiencing barriers after leaving abusive relationships. ASPIRE has given support to 37 women in the past year. The ASPIRE program supports women who may be homeless, live in poverty, need assistance to obtain more education, wish to further their career opportunities, or need supportive intervention with substance use and mental wellness issues. The ASPIRE program helps women who may need advocacy, housing, transportation, and accompaniment to appointments.

In addition to our work with abused women, the Aspire Program supports homeless women. Funds through a federal initiative, Reaching Home, help us to facilitate ASPIRE+. Two homelessness beds were created in a unit at Second Stage Housing. ASPIRE Plus offers many of the same supports as the ASPIRE Program. There is a two-month maximum stay with ASPIRE+. The ASPIRE+ Program housed 4 women and 3 children over the past year.

Work continues with Women's Shelters Canada (WSC), a national network of shelters across Canada. PEI is represented on the Advisory Board of WSC. The goal currently is to have a National Action Plan on VAW.

Many families come to Second Stage from Anderson House Emergency Shelter, Outreach Services or Victim Services. Residents can stay at Second Stage for a maximum of 1 year. A total of 9 women and 4 children resided at Second Stage in the past year. Our apartment complex at SAS House, housed 9 women and 5 children. SAS House has 9 units for residents and their children. SAS House is long term housing and is rent geared to income for its residents. Recently, we had the opportunity to house and provide programming to women at our Beach Grove location. This is a new and exciting partnership between PEI FVPS and the Provincial Government. Beach Grove has 10 units and housed 10 women. These women are participants in the Aspire Program.

Aspire Case Story:

A young woman Tara, who is homeless and has an addiction history arrived at Anderson House in September, 2021. Tara has past trauma and is a survivor of abuse since she was 8 years old. After Tara stayed at Anderson House she moved into an Aspire+ unit in January 2022 and became involved in the Reach Program in Stratford. Over the winter months in 2022 the Reach Program paid Tara a wage and then arranged for a job placement. Tara met weekly with staff at Aspire to discuss her successes and challenges. Tara resides at Beach Grove now, staying clean, preparing to start a summer job in June.

Thank you to all donors who gave to our programs. Your generosity help staff to assist survivors of abuse with added resources that make a difference in their lives. Thanks to all staff and Board members for creating avenues and opportunities to assist women in very meaningful ways.

Respectfully,

Ellen Ridgeway

Program Manager

WEST PRINCE OUTREACH REPORT

I enjoyed year one enough to keep going forward! I would like to, first of all, say thank you to the board, Danya and Dara for the opportunity to keep enjoying this position.

July and August of 2021 were quite productive months as I was able to pilot a new program within Family Violence Prevention that was originally one I coordinated in my previous roles. I was able to create some new partnerships within this role to help with year one of a Summer Girls Group. It was well received and with that we are working on year two now. New partners included the Caring Cupboard of West Prince who supplied food and snacks for our weekly outing, and Transportation West who provided a smaller bus which enabled us to travel as one group. Former partners from my past were West Prince Sport Council, The Westisle Family of Schools Student Well-being Team, and The Family Ties Program. These last three partners provided me with other professionals to co facilitate and allowed for extra numbers of girls to attend our weekly outings. They also chipped in with cost of some of the activities and materials as well as bringing participants to the group. The summer went so well that one of the partner programs wanted to take the lead this summer. We said we would be happy to continue to have them involved.

September to May seemed to go in a whirlwind. Covid, once again, reared its ugly head to make a return to working from home for a portion of the year and still taking serious precautions at this time. West Prince had been quite spared but once Covid-19 started up here it has been difficult to slow it down. My experience with working remotely and so cautiously has been well received by clients.

The change of date for Family Violence Prevention Week was very positive. With the hiring of the new position for West and East Prince, a very active and well received schedule was maintained and improved upon. Karen did great work with her event planning and I was able to participate in almost every event that didn't overlap with another.

I have been able to complete a couple of trainings, ODARA and SARA, as well as participate in the training for our new case management software, Caseworks. I believe this method of recording will work well and we will get a really good sense on our next quarterly report.

Caseloads continue to remain steady and the day to day operation remains busy. I appreciate, as do my clients, the ability to flex my hours to accommodate their schedules as well as my own.

Again, thank you for the tools to do this job, the great team I have to work with and the wonderful leadership and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbie MacKay, BEd, HRD

West Prince Outreach Coordinator



Family Violence Prevention Week proclamation in West Prince



Walk for family violence prevention in Tignish during FVP Week 2022

EAST PRINCE OUTREACH REPORT

This year will be my 6th year in my role as Outreach Coordinator for the east prince region. When beginning this role, I could not have imagined the pandemic of the last few years. We had to evolve our services for individuals dealing with the complexities of a pandemic and forced periods of isolation with their abusers. As the waves of lockdowns kept us on our feet, our services evolved to meet the needs of our clients. We started a texting crisis line and accommodated clients with texts, emails, video and phone chats.

The nature of our services changed, as did my perspective on meeting clients where they are in their journey. I recognize, more than ever, that some individuals require various levels of support. While some clients may thrive in a one-on-one session, others find comfort in texting or emailing for support. Often, that first text to reach out looking for support can be the hardest. That text can lead to a phone conversation and ease them into speaking in person. Every client's journey is different and so is their comfort level of support. I appreciate the insight this pandemic has given me.

As restrictions began to ease within the community, I began to reconnect with other services in the area. It has been great to be involved again! In the last year, shelter worker Tyler Goebel and myself reconnected with the high schools in the east prince region. We had the wonderful opportunity to present a newly created two-day presentation to grade 10's, discussing healthy relationships with yourself and others, and family violence. These presentations are essential in educating students and showing a face to connecting services. After each presentation, a student reached out to us for support.

I have also reconnected with the amazing staff at East Prince Youth Development Centre. They have opened space to do educational presentations and offered rooms to provide support to individuals taking their programs. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with them. I have also connected with mental health and addictions staff. They have allowed me space to meet with staff and discuss our services and I am currently working on a collaboration of services during their walk-in clinic hours.

I look forward to making connections and building that collaboration of services with other community resources. I believe strongly that working together as a unit is essential in supporting our mutual clients. When everyone works together, it eases the anxieties and doubts a victim may be facing and allows them to feel supported.

I want to thank those that I work closely with in the community- the amazing crew at EPYDC, the wonderful staff at Victim Services, Immigration Support, Housing, Legal Aid and RISE, CPS, Mental Health and Addictions, and so many more. You all help to make things possible for my clients and we couldn't do it without you. Also, a shout out to our amazing workers at FVPS- thank you for your guidance. I look forward to what the next year brings with our new staff in office- Karen MacCarville and Tim Veinotte, are wonderful additions to have on our team.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Anne Inman

East Prince Outreach Coordinator

*Storytime at the
Summerside Library
during FVP Week*



QUEENS COUNTY OUTREACH REPORT

The Outreach Service in Queen's County has been in place since September 1996. That is the same year the Victims of Family Violence Act was enacted in PEI. Twenty-five years of assisting women beyond the scope of what Anderson House emergency shelter was able to provide. The start of Queen's County Outreach Service meant that supportive service could go to the women. Women could receive services in the community they live in, often in their home if appropriate and safe. The Victims of Family Violence Act which includes Emergency Protection Orders often meant women and their children could remain in the home, in the community, connected to friends, neighbors, family and the resources in their community such as children's school and daycare. It meant that in situations where an Emergency Protection Order was put in place, women and children did not always have to be displaced by going into shelter. There have been numerous positive changes in the past 25 years. PEI Family Violence Prevention has a positive, well-established visibility across the island. Women, services, and community feel comfortable reaching out for assistance in situations of family violence.

During this past year I have continued offering supportive service to women who have reached out or who have been referred by other community services/organizations/agencies. The pandemic continued to impact how service was delivered and how comfortable people were with in-person meetings. The economic spin-offs from the pandemic have created greater barriers for women leaving their abusive situations; partners home making reaching out difficult, housing costs that just keep rising so the availability of appropriate affordable housing is very limited and for families with pets it is much worse. More recently the cost of oil has impacted the basic needs of families such as food, clothing and transportation.

Outreach has been active in a number of ways beyond client service. Community has included public education and involvement on committees ensuring the needs of victims of family violence are addressed.

I have continued to work with Justice Options for Women, the main focus has been to increase the ability to offer Circles of Safety and Support- A Collaborative Safety Planning Process developed in PEI. Training and on-going coaching of shelter workers in northern communities; Peace River Alberta, La Ronge Saskatchewan and Watson Lake Yukon has been happening since 2019. Here in PEI there has been a focus on increasing the capacity to offer Circles of Safety and Support by creating a training for more Safety Circle facilitators. Information on Circles of Safety and Support can be found at <http://justiceoptions.ca/safetycircles/> and <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-ipv-circle-of-safety-domestic-violence-1.5471818#:~:text=called%20Circles%20of%20Safety,killed%20by%20their%20former%20partners>.

I have also continued as a member of the PEI Bridge Model Situation Table. The Situation Table meets 2x a week and with a strict adherence to process that protects confidentiality; members representing social, medical, educational and justice agencies/services reach out to individuals and families that are experiencing heightened risk for harm to offer services. Further information for the Bridge Model can be found at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/bridge-model-connecting-islanders-risk-harm-programs-and-services>

...CONTINUED

It has been an honor to support the many women that have reached out for service. I continue to be inspired by their strength and courage.

Respectfully,

Gloria Dennis

Queens County Outreach Coordinator



Charlottetown Walk in Silence for FVP Week 2022

EASTERN PEI OUTREACH REPORT

It has been another year of Covid with lockdowns, restriction and service challenges! I have found the year to both fly by and be seemingly endless at different points as I'm sure we all have. Covid definitely threw a whole new set of challenges in for people already in a difficult situation with many barriers.

Housing, or lack of, continues to be one of the predominant challenges with many women staying in abusive relationships longer as they feel there are no other options. While there was an unexpected surge of movement that saw 4 clients obtain housing just before Christmas, the remainder of the year had been relatively stagnant with little to no movement. The housing subsidy program for anyone working is a fantastic program, however with current rental rates and lack of affordable housing, women struggled to find anything available within their given rental ceiling.

A second theme of challenge this year was the difficulty in obtaining legal representation. Many women were turned away from legal aid, not due to financial reasons, but because Child and Family Services were involved and the assistance of a lawyer to develop a parenting plan was deemed redundant while visits were being supervised. While some women were able to obtain a lawyer, a few of those then had to reapply again after being unable to communicate with the lawyer and too much time passing. Many are in the same situation they were in a year ago, still dealing with their abuser around access as they can't afford a lawyer and have been unable to secure legal aid.

Providing service to clients this year definitely had it's challenges. While most women already engaged in service were comfortable moving to phone appointments, it was difficult to engage new clients over the phone. I find in this line of work it is so important to have face to face contact both for myself and the client. While very few may like the anonymity of sharing their story over the phone with someone that can't see them, most indicated they found it difficult and wanted to wait until service was able to be provided face to face again. This was due to a few reasons including having young children at home and being unable to talk uninterrupted or out of earshot, partners being at home, and just not finding the level of support the same over the phone - for some women it was one of their only opportunities to get out of the house. For a few women, they found they liked the option of a quick check in weekly on the phone and have continued to do so as it fit their busy schedule better.

On a positive note, it was amazing to be able to offer services at all during times when many services were not running. Although it may have looked different, it was still available, and I know it made a difference for many in a time they felt they had no supports.

I am looking forwards to this year and having more of a presence within the high schools, doing more presentations and connecting with the community! Here's to hoping Covid keeps its ugly head at bay this fall and services are able to continue without interruption and modification.

Respectfully,

Rachel Hoogerbrugge

Eastern PEI Outreach Coordinator



Walk in Montague for FVP Week 2022