

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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THE VICTORIA CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND COUNSELLING CENTRE RESPONDS TO CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER TRAUMA BY PROVIDING VICTIM SERVICES, COUNSELLING, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION WITHIN THE GREATER VICTORIA COMMUNITY AND CONSULTATION THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**Victoria Child Abuse  
Prevention & Counselling  
Centre**



# STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS PAST AND PRESENT

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## Board of Directors

### PREVIOUS

Graeme LeBlanc, Chair  
Beth Sayles, Secretary  
Lauren Duffield  
Jeremy Leahy  
Mikhail (Misha) Smirnov  
Chris Faulkner

### CURRENT

Katy Hutchison, Chair  
Misha Smirnov, Secretary  
Lauren Duffield, Treasurer  
Jeremy Leahy  
Arnold Guerin  
Sarah Cotton  
Kelly Montgomery  
Michelle Tousignant  
Huf McIntyre

## Staff

### PREVIOUS

Laura Vye, Executive Director  
Shawna Herlinveaux, Manager of Practice  
Renu Bawa, Manager of Victim Services and  
CYAC Coordinator  
Samuel Cameron, Admin Manager

Anna Kelly, Clare Conlogue, Courtney Mengual,  
Carrie Ohlheiser, Heather Duncan, Kayanne  
Carleton, Megan Buchkowski, Meghan Thom,  
Rose Wu, Susan Payne

### CURRENT

Laura Vye, Executive Director  
Shawna Herlinveaux, Manager of Practice  
Renu Bawa, Manager of Victim Services and  
CYAC Coordinator  
Samuel Cameron, Admin Manager

Avalon, Forrester, Courtney Mengual, Carrie  
Ohlheiser, Christopher Cunin, Kayanne Carleton,  
Leah Russell, Megan Buchkowski, Meghan  
Thom, Rose Wu, Susan Payne

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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It is with great pleasure that I report as Chair of the Board for the 2024 Annual General Meeting. Having taken on the role in June after joining the Board earlier this year, I would like to begin by thanking Graeme LeBlanc on behalf of the Board for his seven years of service to the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre. Graeme's stellar legacy of leadership and deep respect for the organization will inspire and inform the Board as we continue to provide VCAPCC with robust policy and governance support.

The Province continues to face the challenges of an economic downturn, strained health care system, affordable housing shortage and toxic drug crisis. This political climate puts additional pressure on non-profit agencies seeking stable and sustainable core funding. Despite the current economic realities and increased costs, the Centre's Executive Director and staff have worked tirelessly to maintain and grow funding to cover programming, operational costs, and staff resources. Financial statements reflecting the Centre's operations are made available for review by the public.

VCAPCC is one year into its current four-year Strategic Plan. The mission, vision and values of the agency are reflected in the goals of providing inclusive and culturally safe care through accessible and timely services delivered by an engaged and qualified staff team. Well-articulated metrics are reported on to the Board through regular and comprehensive updates from the Executive Director.

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

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Human resource management in the post-pandemic world has been challenging. As the market settles and the economy begins to correct, the Centre is gradually seeing greater workplace stability. The hiring of a number of qualified employees on both the counselling and CYAC/VS (Child and Youth Advocacy Centre/Victim Service) teams has strengthened the agency's foundation. Management is focusing on retention through training, mentoring and clinical supervision. Staff engagement is being addressed through the implementation of joint labour/management meetings and a culture of care is being nurtured through employee recognition and wellness initiatives. Staff in the Centre are preparing for CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) Accreditation in December.

I had the pleasure of attending the CYAC Cultural Training Forum in April. It was an outstanding event focusing on "Enhancing Cultural and Community Safety for Children and Youth". The CYAC Provincial Training hosted by the agency in September was a further opportunity to cultivate key relationships with other service providers, funders, politicians and the community at large. The Board looks forward to supporting the Centre's ongoing community engagement, its website and social media development and in particular its Indigenous outreach initiatives. To that end, we will be making the San'yas Anti-Racism Cultural Safety Training Program available to all Board members.



# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

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In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their service. Our Board is diverse, skilled and committed to supporting the VCAPCC team and the crucial services they provide to our community's most vulnerable citizens. In addition to bidding farewell to Graeme LeBlanc, we acknowledge the long-standing service our Secretary, Beth Sayles who has also retired from the Board. Stepping into the role of Secretary is Misha Smirnov who, along with Lauren Duffield (Treasurer), Kelly Montgomery, Michelle Touisignant and Jeremy Leahy welcomed our newest members Arnold Guerin, Sarah Cotton and Huf McIntyre. I look forward to working alongside these dedicated volunteers to support the vital work of VCAPCC.

**Katy Hutchison**

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year we find ourselves in an election year with political instability, post Covid challenges, and increasingly challenging times for so many people in our local communities which affect the children, youth, and families that we serve. Despite this, the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre has much to be grateful for this year. Our vision is for accessible, collaborative, inclusive and timely prevention, advocacy and counselling services for children, youth, and caregivers affected by abuse with a commitment to engagement with diverse communities in the Greater Victoria region. We continue to provide high level trauma informed interventions and service excellence within the sphere of a non-profit Society. We have persisted and forged ahead in alignment with our key priorities, goals, and objectives from the Strategic Plan.

One of the goals is for accessible, timely services which includes reducing wait time and providing effective pathways for family service. Our team continually assesses and implements strategies to reduce waits. This has included adding extra resources during high case load and intake times, providing parent group sessions, and referring out to other community services when it is in the best interest of the client. The children, youth, and families that we serve are provided access to programs and services through networks and communities that promote safe, secure environments following reports of abuse. It is our hope that children can get back to being children in a healthier way.

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

Our team is at a full complement, and we are fortunate to have added some experienced and diverse members to our counselling, intake, and advocacy teams. We have invested in training opportunities to expand the treatments, therapies, and supports we provide to the children and youth we serve. The majority of our counselling staff completed Emotionally Focused Therapy for Families training to facilitate the creation of secure, vibrant connections between children and their caregivers while addressing anxiety and trauma.

The Victoria and West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centres consistently partner with our Multi-Disciplinary Teams that work together including law enforcement, child protection, victim services, and community mental health and health sectors, to intervene and prevent child abuse and violence. The West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centre opened in the Spring of 2023 and since then we have welcomed our law enforcement, government, victim services, Crown Counsel, and community partner agencies to share our new space to improve service and access for the children, youth, and their caregivers who reside in the Western Communities and surrounding Indigenous Territories. At the Victoria CYAC the final touches are being made on a Remote Testimony room. We hope that all children and youth required for court testimony will have the ability to testify about their abuse experience in a safe, secure, environment away from the courthouse and without the potential of facing their abuser.

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

Our agency is a member of the BC Network of CYACs which strengthens our knowledge, capacity building, service delivery, and advocacy efforts throughout BC. In September, our CYAC was the host agency for the BC Network of CYACs, which brought together over 150 colleagues, government contacts, and partners committed to the advocacy and protection of children, youth, and families provincially. As part of the conference agenda, over 45 provincial partners attended an open house tour of both the Victoria CYAC and the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre. In April, our CYAC program hosted a local MDT Training Forum: Enhancing Cultural and Community Safety for Children and Youth. With 86 community partners in attendance, presenters included the Honourable Jody Wilson Raybould, Dr. Dustin Louie, and The White Hatter. The event was centered around cultural awareness, increasing culturally safe environments, and further engagement with Indigenous and diverse communities to build upon new and existing relationships.

Our agency and team have formed new connections with the First Nations Health Authority Wellness Table Network, the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, and by attending community and education events at local Nations. We continue to make cultural safety, inclusivity, and diversity a priority at our agency, so all children, youth, and families feel safe when they walk through our doors. A large number of our staff have engaged in the Community Learning Program through the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and our managers are enrolled in the year long Transformative Reconciliation Program being led by



# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

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Dr. Dustin Louie. We have boosted our prevention and education efforts in the community. Our staff have attended school, community, and workplace events to educate Greater Victoria about our agency and programs.

Our Board of Directors led by new Chair, Katy Hutchison, have played a crucial role in fostering meaningful input, support, and strategic direction.

We are grateful for funding provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development that supports our Sexual Abuse Intervention Program. An enduring goal for our agency is to secure core sustainable funding to support all of our other integral programs including our Child Abuse Trauma Counselling program for children who experience physical abuse, neglect or are exposed to intimate partner and family violence. We are deeply grateful for our individual and group donors who held fundraising events and organized donations. We thank the Civil Forfeiture Office, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Federal Department of Justice, Department of National Defence, and BC Gaming for project specific funding and hope for a future with sustainable core funding.

We are thankful for many supportive community partners: DA Levinson and Associates, and Allen and Kraul Inc, our police and child protection partners, our community partner agencies, and many others in this room who have contributed to our agency through your collaboration, service, funding, or donations.

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

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I would also like to acknowledge and honour our exceptional staff who together with generous donors, funders and supporters, make it possible for us to continue to pursue our vision, mission, and values as an outstanding and respected organization.

Together, with our generous community of supporters, the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre can continue to advance our vision for: Healing and Hope for all Children, Youth, and Caregivers affected by Sexual Abuse and Other Trauma.

**Laura Vye**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

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I would like to sincerely thank our members and stakeholders for their continued support of the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre. I am very happy to report that we have again maintained fiscal stability in the 2023/2024 year.

I'd first like to recognize both the Government of BC and Federal Governments of Canada for their continued support towards the agency's core programming and operations. In order to supplement this support, the Agency has continued to seek out annual and longer term grants and donations when possible in order to cover gaps in government funding to provide services for all forms of trauma.

VCAPCC has been successful in securing several new grant sources this year and will continue to develop these relationships to hopefully grow into long term partnerships. We are deeply thankful to the organizations and individuals who have generously donated to the agency and for the grants received, approved and considered in the past year. While we are conscious of continued risk factors, such as the rising costs of living and business, growing inflation, and gaps in core funding, we are pleased with the grants and support that we have secured which will aid the agency in continued fiscal stability into the 2024/25 year.

# REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (CONT.)

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I would like to thank David Levinson, Diondra Hall, and Rajvir Gill of D.A. Levinson and Associates Inc. for their accounting services and Sara Krauel of Allen & Krauel Inc. for her review engagement services. I would also like to express gratitude to our Executive Director, Laura Vye, for her commitment to VCAPCC's financial security.

**Lauren Duffield**

TREASURER

# CLINICAL PROGRAM

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Counselling is offered through various programs including:

1. Sexual Abuse Intervention Program (including counselling for Youth with Sexual Behaviour Problems (YSBP) between the ages of 12- 19),
2. Child Abuse Trauma Counselling (CATC) program.
3. Prevention Services (community engagement)

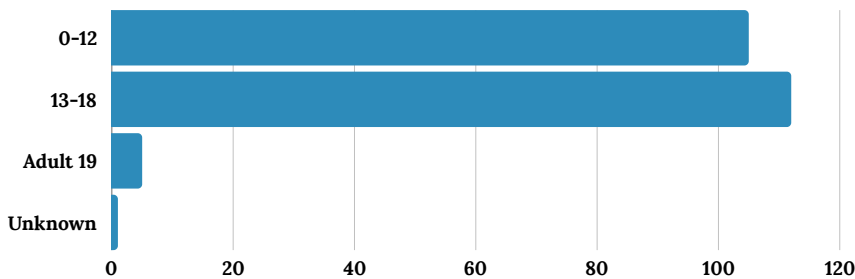
Interventions range from brief service to longer term support (up to a year +), depending on the client needs, strengths, environmental stability and other community involvement.

The Clinical Counseling Services:

- Had 121 active clients during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
- Provided approximately 3,217 direct contact and face to face session hours, despite operating with reduced clinicians due to staff turnover.
- Experienced a reduction in waitlist numbers and waiting times.
- Continued to see increasing demand for support through the CATC programs.
- Re-engaged in offering group support.
- Supported therapists in enhancing their culturally sensitive practices as well as various other professional development areas.



# REFERRALS

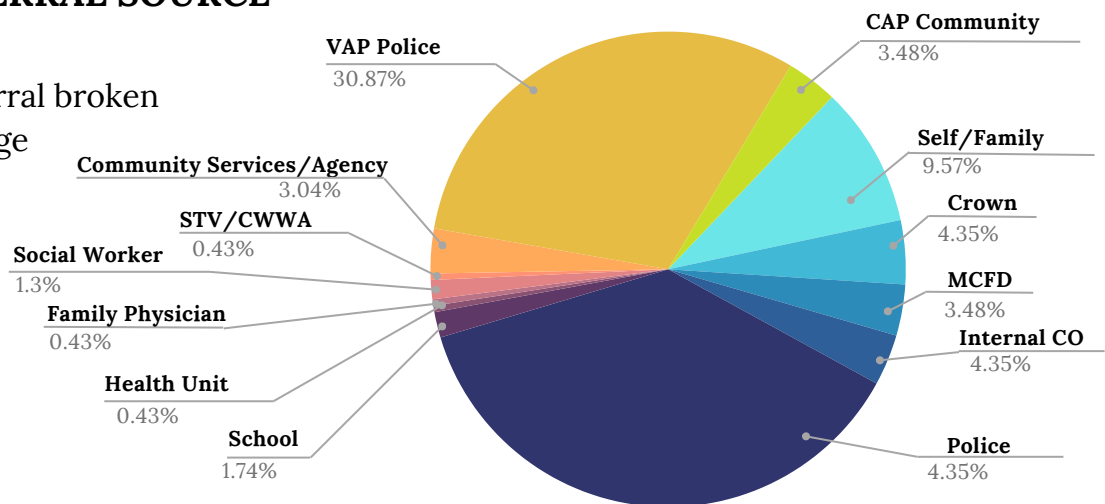


**FIGURE 1. REFERRALS BY AGE (LEFT)**

Number of referrals broken down by the age of the client at the time of the referral

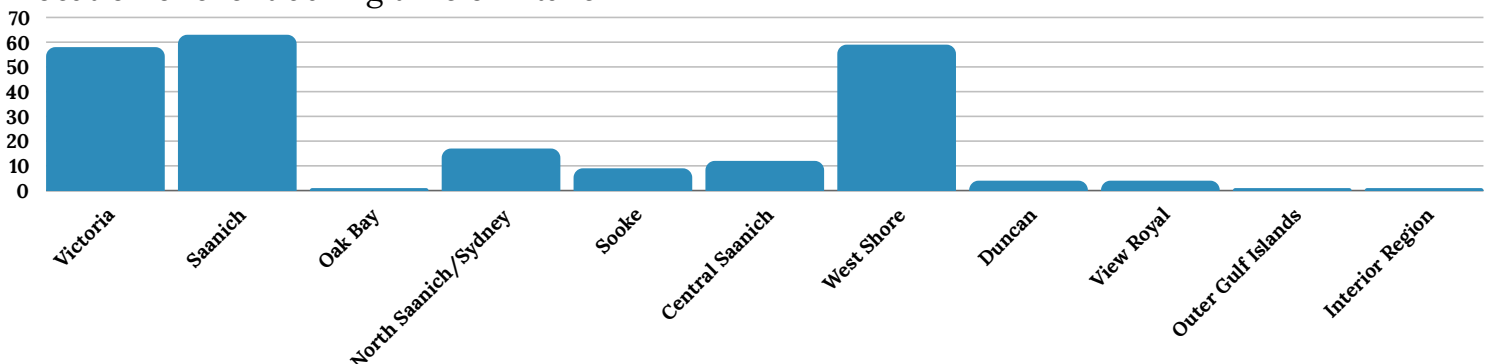
**FIGURE 2. REFERRAL SOURCE (RIGHT)**

Source of the referral broken down by percentage



**FIGURE 3. LOCATION DURING REFERRAL**

Location of client during time of intake

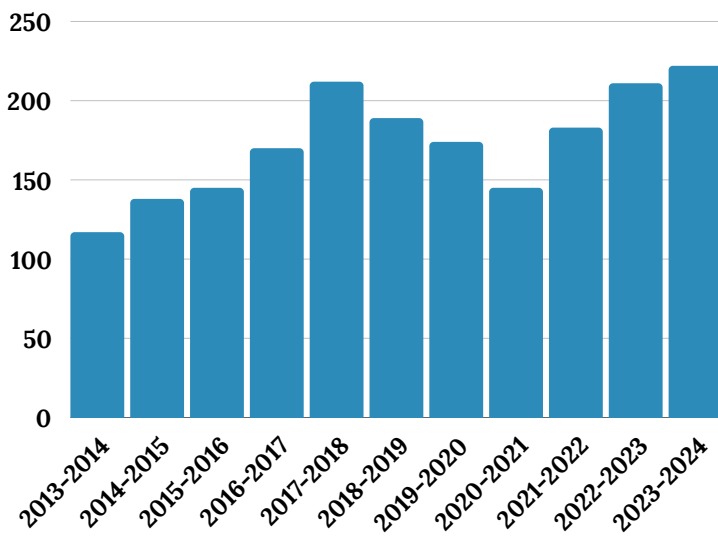


# REFERRALS



**FIGURE 4. NUMBER OF REFERRALS IN THE PAST DECADE**

In 2022-2023, VCAPCC received a total of 211 referrals

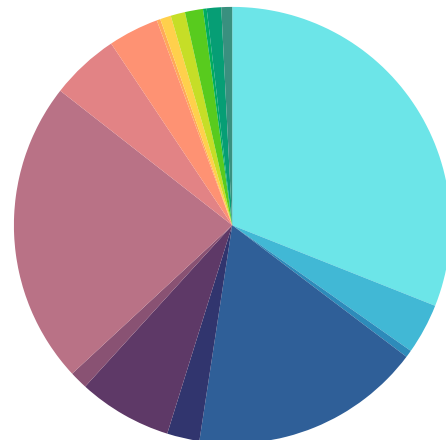
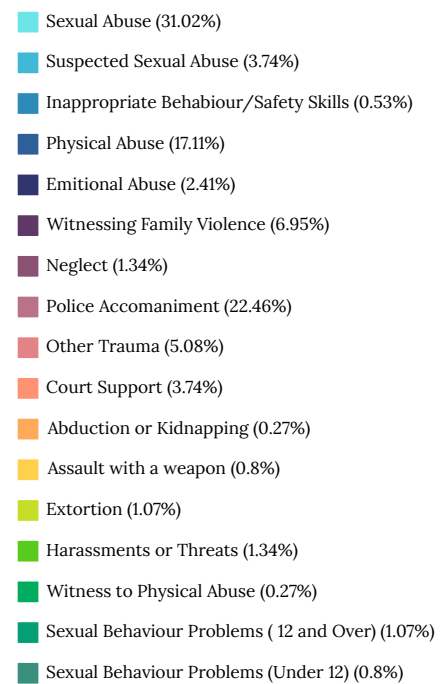


## GENDER OF NEW CLIENTS:

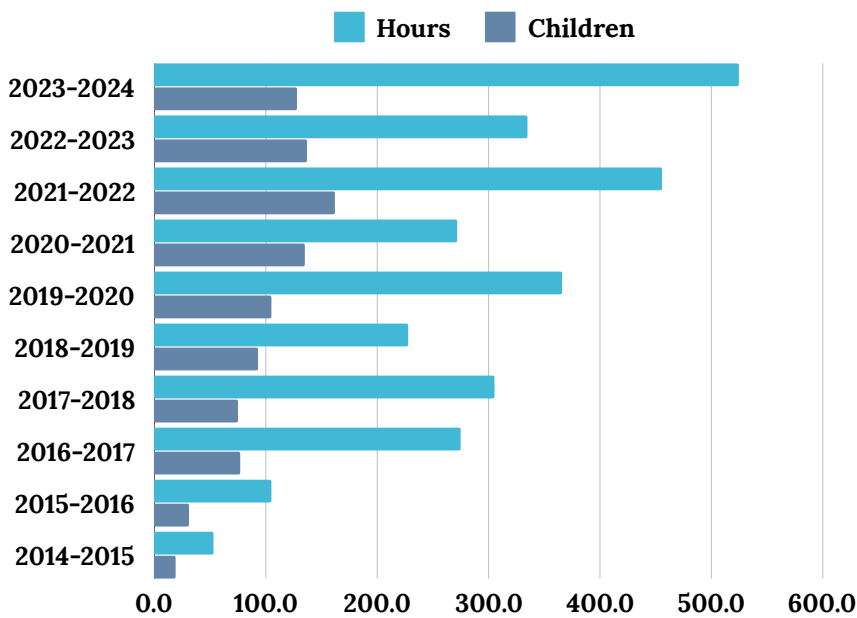
Female: 141  
Male: 79  
Transgender Male: 2  
Non-Binary: 6  
Unspecified: 2

**FIGURE 5. REASON FOR REFERRAL**

Reason for referral broken down by percentage



# VICTIM SERVICES



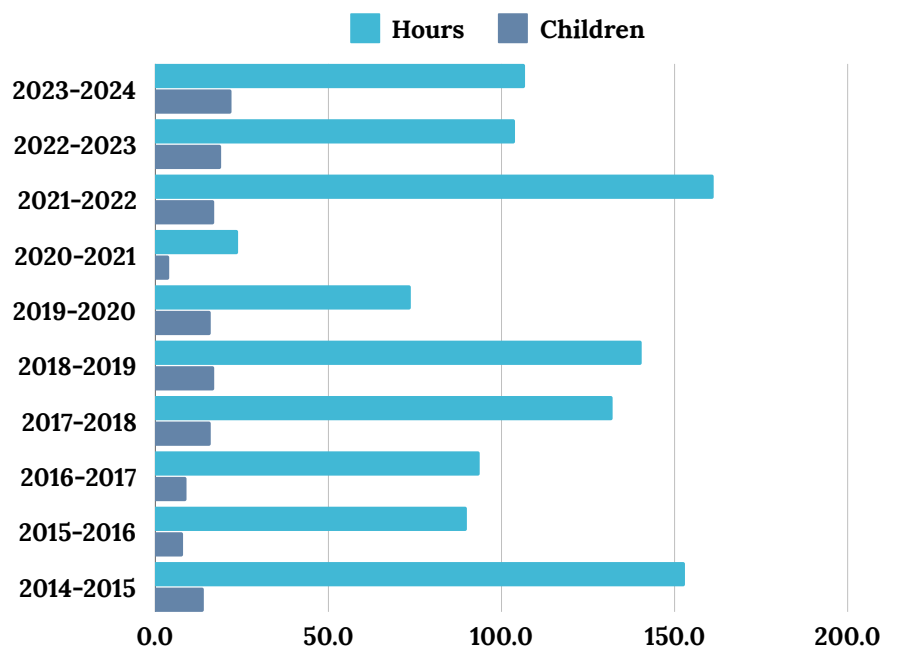
Our clinical intake and victim service team handles all of the referrals to VCAPCC. Our statistical report includes the following charts which illustrate the number of clients and hours of service provided in court preparation, and court accompaniment.

**FIGURE 6. COURT PREPARATION**

Number of children provided with court preparation and number of hours spent on court preparation over the last decade

**FIGURE 7. COURT ACCOMPANIMENT**

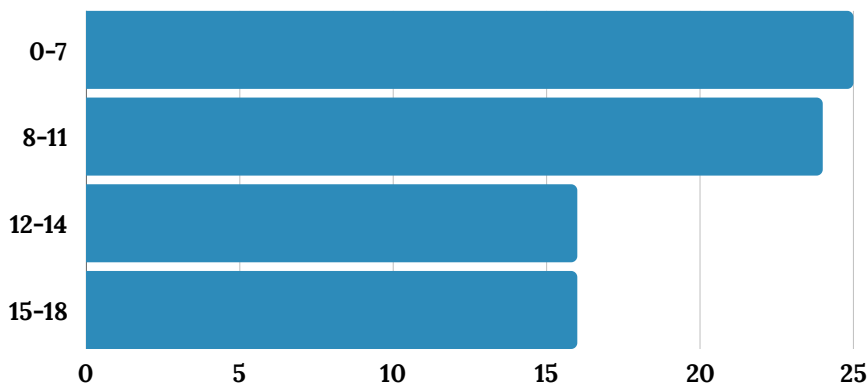
Number of children provided with court accompaniment and number of hours spent on court accompaniment over the last decade



# CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE



The Victoria Child and Youth Advocacy Centre received referrals with interviews completed. Over 69 individuals were supported by Victim Services and connected with resources.

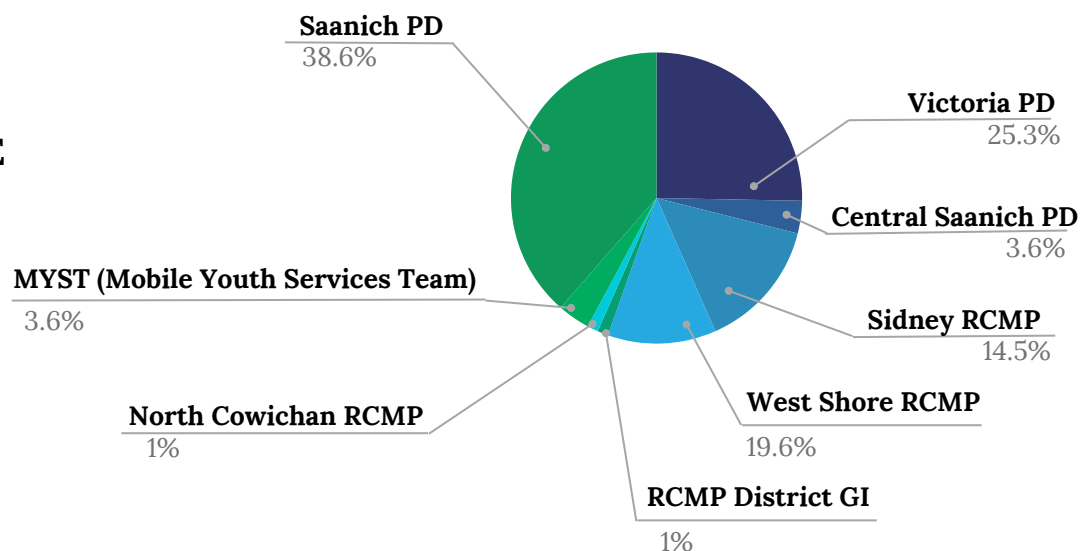


**FIGURE 8. CYAC INTERVIEWS BY AGE**

Number of interviews broken down by the age of the client during the time of the interview

**FIGURE 9. INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY PARTICIPATING POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Number of interviews broken down by police department



# OUR TREATMENT PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES

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- Every individual is unique and worthwhile and has the capacity to change.
- Child abuse affects the whole person and recovery or healing requires addressing all parts of the person including: psychological, physical and spiritual
- Child abuse affects the family and significant others of the person who has experienced abuse and treatment must address the needs of the family and others significant to the individual
- Child abuse affects the whole society: the treatment of child abuse is a shared community responsibility

VCAPCC strives to tailor its treatment program to be consistent with the following principles:

- The goal and primary objective of all interventions are to promote and facilitate the emotional, physical and social well-being of the family and child. This objective takes precedence over any investigative or other objective
- The agency recognizes the complexity of issues involved in child abuse and that in many instances abuse is inter-related with other issues. Accordingly, treatment must be provided by qualified, professional counselors with broad experience in counselling and therapy and specialized skills related to treating child sexual abuse.
- Clients are accepted in a non-judgmental manner.
- The clinical team values the contribution of a number of different therapeutic perspectives in the areas of child abuse. Different perspectives and techniques are used in accordance with the assessed needs of the client.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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## PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL FUNDING AND GRANTS

BC Gaming Grant, Civil Forfeiture, Federal Department of National Defence, Federal Department of Justice, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

## ORGANIZATION/GROUP DONATIONS

100 Women Who Care Westshore, Benevity, Canada Helps, Canadian Online Giving Foundation, Cyber Grants, Cedric Steele Realty, DA Levinson & Associates, Donate a Car Canada, Downtown Victoria Business Association, Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Keycorp Consulting, Norgaard Foundation, Paypal Giving Fund, Pixelart Computers, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Rotary Club Victoria-Harbourside, Smith Hutchison Law Corporation, TD Bank, Telus Communications, United Way, Victoria Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation, Victoria Foundation, Vital Youth, Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Canada

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Alicia Bolton, Andrea Kats, Ann Jackson, Beverly Brookman, Christina Holmes, Dasha Armstrong, Judy Forrester, Kenneth Seidman, Kevin Gabriel, Sara Cotton-Elliott, Sarah Danzo, Sarah Pridy,

And to all of our anonymous donors... Thank you!