

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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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  
Tasha Mckelvey, Treasurer  
Lauren Duffield  
Jeremy Leahy  
Marvelee Papaloukas  
Miranda Kinniburgh  
Mikhail (Misha) Smirnov  
Chris Faulkner

### CURRENT

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

## Staff

### PREVIOUS

Laura Vye, Executive Director  
Shawna Herlinveaux, Manager of Practice  
Renu Bawa, Manager of Victim Services and  
CYAC Coordinator  
Samuel Cameron, Admin Manager  
  
Angela Scott, Anna Chadwick, Clare Conlogue,  
Emmy Lyytikainen, Heather Duncan, Jeevan  
Atwal, Joban Dhanoa, Lauren Goostrey, Susan  
Payne, Vanya Hanson

### CURRENT

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

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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I am pleased to present the report as Board Chair for our Annual General Meeting. It is my privilege to serve as your Board Chair and share with you the significant achievements, challenges, and our vision for the future.

Over the past year the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Center has made substantial progress in aligning our mission, vision, values, and goals. This means that no matter what the challenges, our dedicated team, supported by the board and our key partners, we will continue to have a meaningful impact in Greater Victoria.

I wanted to highlight some of the agency's key achievements in the past reporting year. First and foremost, the opening of the satellite office in Westshore allows us to grow and support under-represented populations that need assistance. The subsequent, and at times, refreshed partnerships with the RCMP and First Nations have allowed for a renewed focus fostering positive relationships with our stakeholders.

The Board continues to play a pivotal role in shaping our strategic direction. The recent completion of our Strategic Plan will provide a solid roadmap that will guide our agency into 2027. This includes goals of inclusive and culturally safe care, accessible and timely services, and as always, a commitment to service excellence. Put more simply, this is a focus on culture, both internally and externally, sustainable finances, and people – always people!

While we have much to celebrate, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges we have encountered over the past year. As a non-profit organization, financial stability is always a concern. Our commitment to financial stewardship is evident in our ability to maintain a balanced and healthy budget, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our organization. We remain transparent and accountable in our financial practices as evidenced by the detailed financial statements available to you for review.

# REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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We have also faced challenges in the area of recruiting and retention. These include a competitive job and talent market and the associated economic pressures brought on by the health pandemic, interest rates, and high inflation. The path to delivering high quality services is through the retention of qualified and engaged staff. As outlined in the Strategic Plan, this will be achieved by developing and implementing a Human Resources Plan, nurturing a sense of inclusion, and ensuring that agency staff are supported, qualified, and experienced.

As a policy governance Board, we are committed to implementing the policies, including the Strategic Plan, that make up the foundation of this agency. The Board members, Lauren Duffield, Chris Faulkner, Jeremy Leahy, Beth Sales, Misha Smirnov, and of course, myself, remain dedicated to our mission, and are confident that, with the continued support of the staff and community, VCAPCC will achieve even greater success in the future.

**Graeme LeBlanc**

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Mission of the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre states: VCAPCC 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 British Columbia.

This past year, VCAPCC has continued to recover from the after effects of the pandemic, but has also thrived in so many ways, while simultaneously fulfilling our Mission. We have continued to support and provide integral services to hundreds of children, youth, and their caregivers, who not only received services for the trauma they experienced, but were also in the process of their own pandemic recovery. The children, youth and families we see, often have increasing complexities, and concurrent disorders, particularly in the post pandemic environment. At the same time, they are navigating the drastic changes that have occurred in our communities, such as return to school/work, high costs of living, housing and food insecurity, just to name a few. On our clinical counselling side of our agency, we are so happy that we have resumed in person therapy and programs to support the children, youth, and caregivers who come to our centre. Mental health services and clinical counselling for childhood trauma continue to be in high demand in our community.

Like many other organizations and businesses, our recovery period saw changes and pressures with our staffing, some of our practices, and our work place environment. Our management team and staff have stepped up to the challenges and displayed resiliency to move us forward through the complex times. As a result, our agency has experienced not only change, but growth. We are extremely fortunate to have hired some accomplished new staff at our agency, Rose, Anna, Megan, and Meghan, our new Intake and Clinical Counsellors; Carrie who is our Administrative Assistant; and Courtney, and Kayanne, our Victim Service Advocates. Our new team members bring fresh ideas, and quickly implemented our existing staff to form a dedicated collective that respond to child abuse in our community. Our clinical counselling team continues to provide high level trauma informed therapeutic interventions that contribute to improved outcomes for child and family mental health and wellbeing, which in turn directly benefits the Greater Victoria Community.

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

The Victoria Child and Youth Advocacy Centre and Victim Service Programs continue to grow. Victim Service Advocates were unwavering in their responses in supporting child abuse investigations through their work with the Multi-disciplinary Team which consists of local municipal police departments, Military Police, RCMP, MCFD child protection, Crown Counsel, the Mobile Youth Services Team, and Vancouver Island Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect. After many years of plans to expand to the Western Communities, we opened a satellite West Shore Child and Youth Advocacy Centre in the Spring of 2023. We welcomed our law enforcement, government, victim services, and community partner agencies to share our new space at an Open House Event. Having a trauma informed forensic interview room available in this region improves service access for the children, youth, and their caregivers who reside in the Western Communities and surrounding Indigenous Territories. Our agency is a member of the BC CYAC Network which strengthens our knowledge, capacity building, service delivery, and advocacy efforts throughout BC.

After so much time was spent apart during the pandemic years, there was a concerted effort to reconnect and collaborate with the community, our Multidisciplinary Team partners, Indigenous agencies, Child and Youth Advocacy Centres in BC, and other partner agencies. Our agency and staff continue to participate in opportunities that build relationships through engagement with Indigenous children, youth, and caregivers. Our staff and management team have formed relationships through the First Nations Health Authority Wellness Tables and community events at local Nations. We continue to assess cultural safety, inclusivity, and diversity at our agency, so all children, youth, and families feel safe when they walk through our doors. We are boosting 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.

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CONT.)

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Our Board of Directors are unwavering in their dedication to VCAPCC as they support our agency through their governance. The Board of Directors is a diverse group of people who are dedicated to setting the mission and overall direction of VCAPCC. Thank you to each of you for your service and in particular, to the Chair of the Board, Graeme Leblanc.

In the last year, the Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre served just under 500 children. We are deeply grateful for our individual and group donors who held fundraising events and organized donations. This allowed us to meet clients' needs when our government funding was inadequate. Together, with our generous community and government funders, donors, and supporters, we can continue to advance Our Vision for: A safe and healthy community for children and families.

**Laura Vye**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VCAPCC | ANNUAL REPORT 2021

# 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 happy to report that we have maintained fiscal stability in the 2022/2023 year.

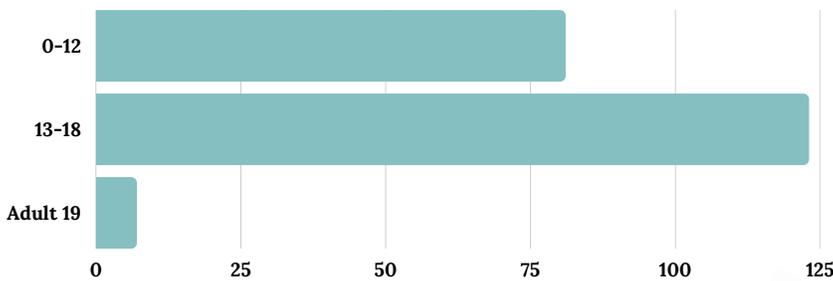
It is important to acknowledge the continued support of the provincial and federal governments towards the agency's core programming and operations. In addition to this support, the Agency has continued to seek out annual and longer term grants and donations when possible in order to cover gaps in government funding for all forms of trauma. VCAPCC has been successful in securing several new grant sources this year which has allowed our agency to expand our Child and Youth Advocacy Centre services to a new location in the West Shore. 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. The 2022/2023 fiscal year has seen a significant shortfall in terms of revenue over expenses. This was largely due to several one-time expenses and capital costs that were foreseen, planned for, and budgeted using some savings and surplus from previous years. While we are conscious of continued risk factors, such as the rising costs of living, 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 2023/24 year.

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

# REFERRALS

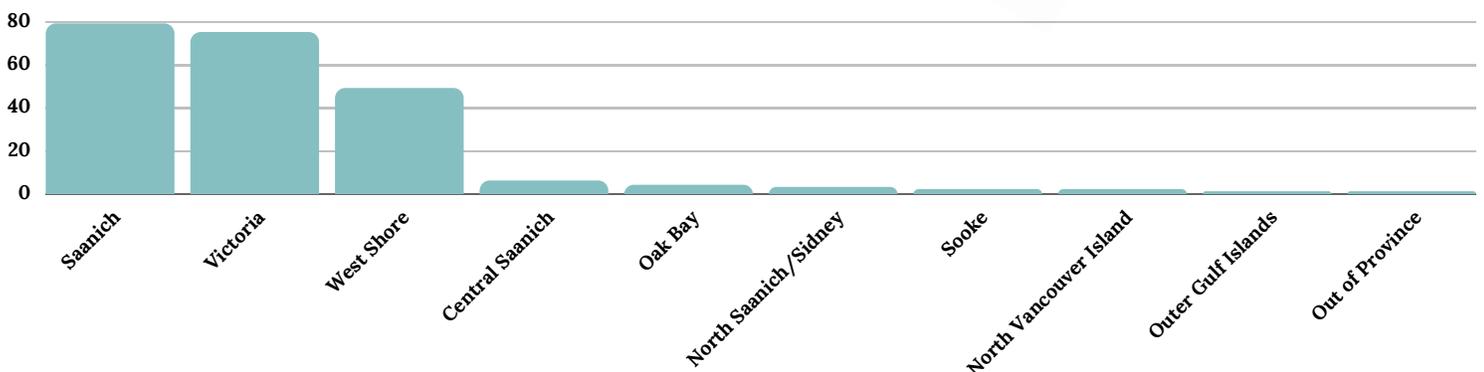
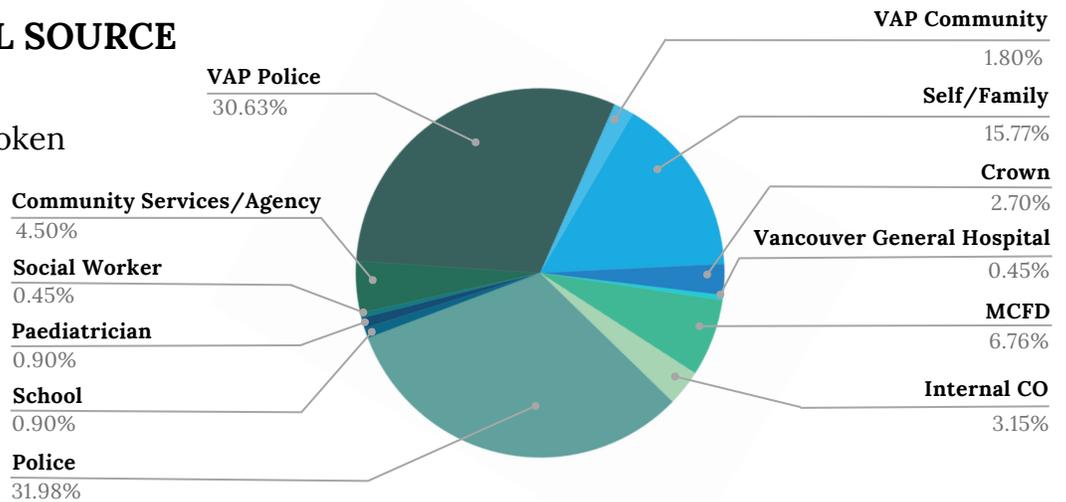


**FIGURE 3. REFERRALS BY AGE (LEFT)**

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

**FIGURE 4. REFERRAL SOURCE (RIGHT)**

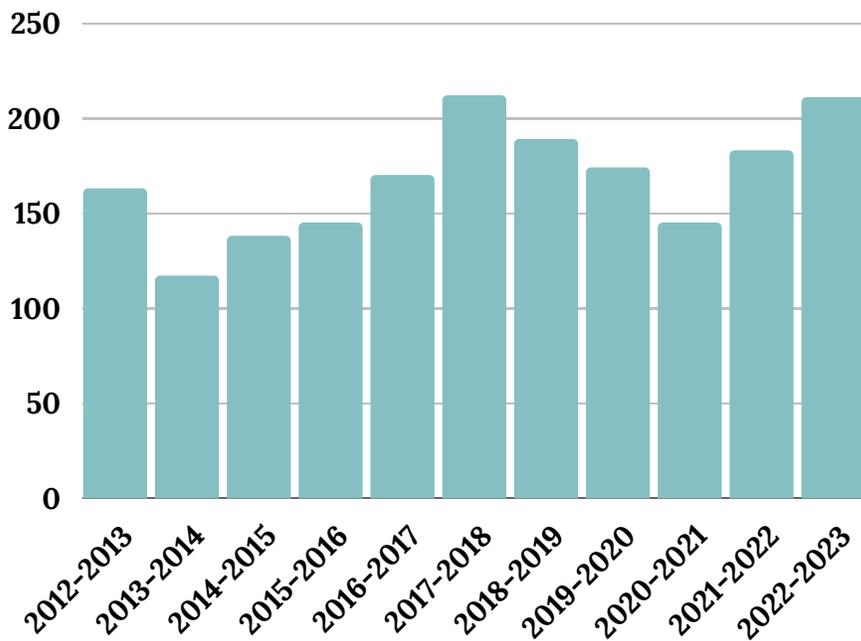
Source of the referral broken down by percentage



**FIGURE 5. LOCATION DURING REFERRAL**

Location of client during time of intake

# REFERRALS



## GENDER OF NEW CLIENTS:

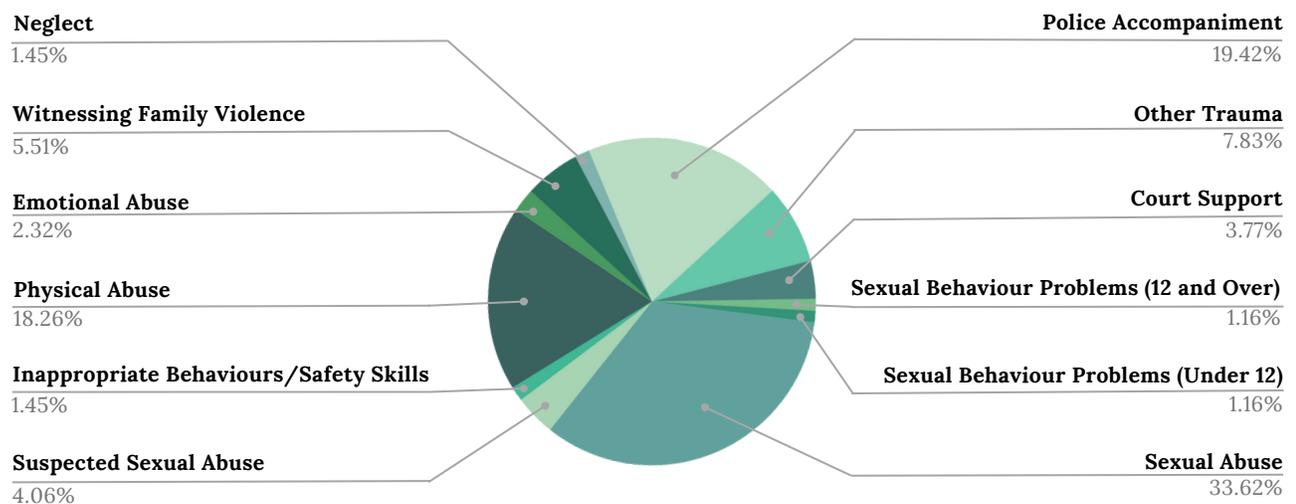
Female: 144  
 Male: 64  
 Transgender Male: 1  
 Non-Binary: 10  
 Unspecified: 3

**FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF REFERRALS IN THE PAST DECADE**

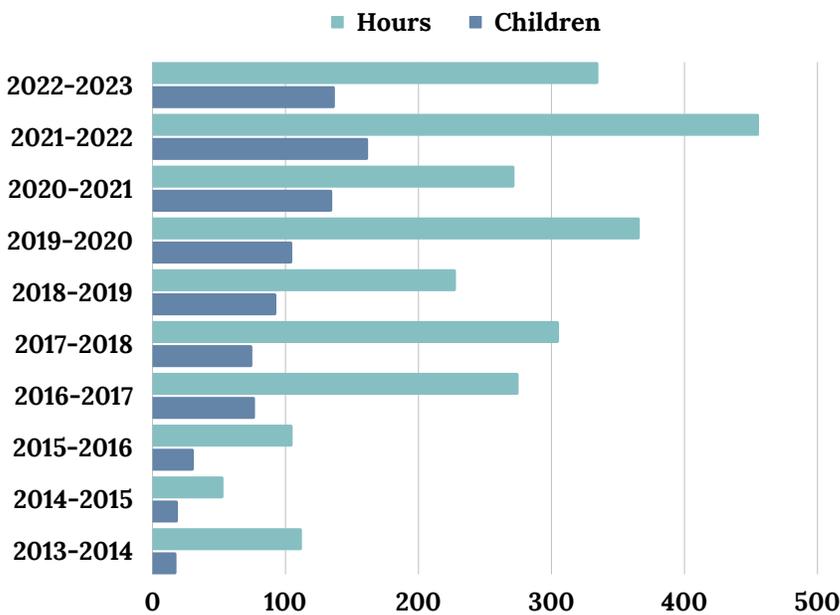
In 2022-2023, VCAPCC received a total of 211 referrals

**FIGURE 2. REASON FOR REFERRAL**

Reason for referral broken down by percentage



# VICTIM SERVICES



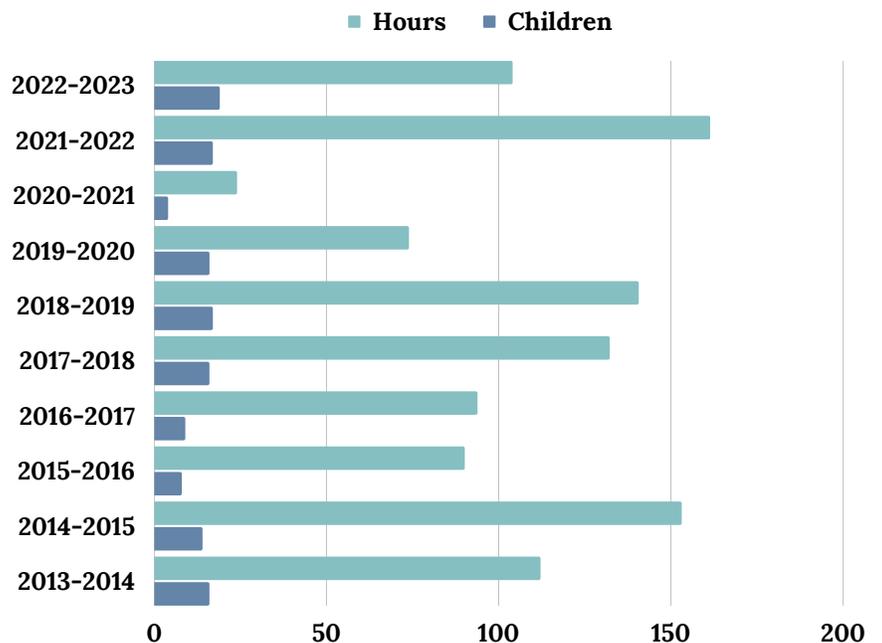
Our intake and victim service team handles all of the referrals to VCAPCC. Our statistical report includes the following charts which illustrate the number of clients and hours of service provided in court preparation, and court accompaniment.

**FIGURE 6. COURT PREPARATION**

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

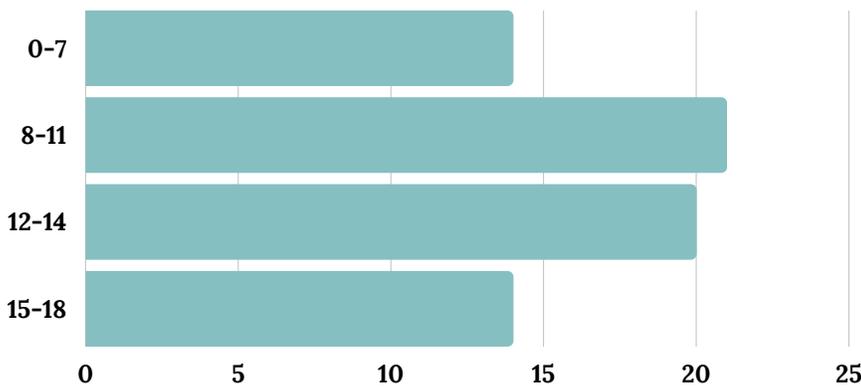
**FIGURE 7. COURT ACCOMPANIMENT**

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.

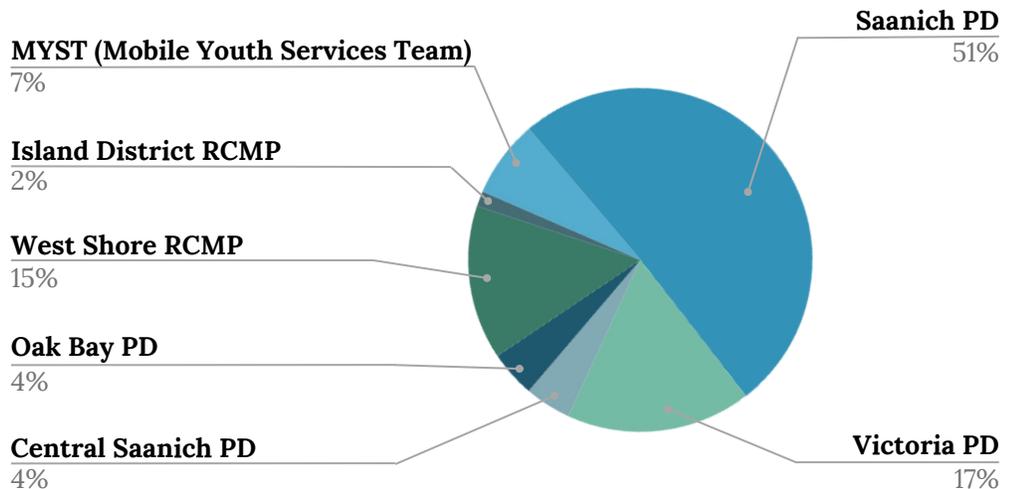


**FIGURE 8. CYAC INTERVIEWS BY AGE**

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 Victoria and Langford, Benevity, Canadian Women's Foundation, 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, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Janis Jean Photography, Johns Southward Glazier Walton & Margetts LLP, Keycorp Consulting, Lovett Westmacott, Norgaard Foundation, Paypal Giving Fund, Pixelart Computers, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, Service Canada, Smith Hutchison Law Corporation, TD Bank, Telus Communications, Tim Cormode, United Way, Vancouver Foundation, Victoria Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation, Victoria Foundation, Vital Youth, Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Canada

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Albion Kent, Alicia Bolton, Anastasia Schwartz, Andrea Kats, Ann Jackson, Beverly Brookman, Carmen Reppel, Cheryl Pardue, Christina Holmes, Daniel Grant, Darwin Schindler, Diana Nicholson, James Crowhurst, Jennifer White, Jody Patenaude, Laureen Skinner, Macarena Schindler, Maria Helgesen, Marie-Eve Tremblay, Michael Gair, Mohammed Kabli, Rachael Drakes, Sam Wallace, Samantha Prowse, Sara Cotton-Elliott, Sarah Priddy, Tasha McKevey, Tyler Thompson.

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