



RICHMOND WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

The front page photo is courtesy of *Richmond News*

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Annual General Meeting Report
Richmond Women's Resource Centre
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Annual General Meeting 2014-2015
May 28, 2015
Room 340 – 7000 Minoru Blvd,
Richmond, BC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of 2014 AGM Minutes
3. Approval of 2015 Agenda
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Executive Director's Report
7. Other Business
 - Future plans/vision
 - Ask for help
8. Existing Board to stand down
9. Election of new Board
 - Present slate for new Board
 - Any other nominations
10. Recognition of Volunteers
11. Closing Remarks/Special Thanks
12. Adjournment

Richmond Women's Resource Centre
2014 Annual General Meeting,
May 29, 2014

2014 AGM Minutes

Present: Approximately 56 members, guests and friends

Staff: Florence Yau and Penny Menezes

Regrets: Mayor Malcolm Brodie

Colleen Glynn welcomed everyone to join in taking some light refreshments and to take part in the Checkerboard Bottle Draw fundraiser.

1. Call to order by President Colleen Glynn. Agenda adopted as presented.
2. Minutes of the previous annual general meeting adopted as presented.
3. Annual Report presented – see attached.
4. Auditor's Report presented – as in the package.
5. Stand down of Previous Board
6. Election of Board Members – Nominations received for Colleen Glynn, Iveta Williams, Marielle Demorest, Mary Scott, Chris McDowell, Gemma Hui, Shireen Grégorious, Judy Chu, Xinya Wang and Elaine Lin
M/S/C that we accept all the nominees.
7. Other Business – Colleen invited Chris McDowell to speak about our project Remember Our Sisters Everywhere (ROSE). ROSE is dedicated to the prevention of violence against women all over the world. Chris encouraged members to join ROSE and take part in events
Kathy Kent reminded everyone about our upcoming Tea & Trivia Fundraiser on Saturday, June 21, 2014.
8. Closing remarks and volunteer recognition followed by a Zumba performance by Joanne Ma and Jenny Zeng.
9. Meeting Adjourned



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre. It is wonderful to see everyone here this evening. A special welcome to the volunteers and special guests.

Tonight, I want to acknowledge and introduce the Board Members present. I am Mary Scott the Acting President, Iveta Williams is Secretary, Shireen Gregorius is Acting Treasurer, Chris McDowell, Marielle Desmorest, Judy Chu and Xinya Wang are members at large. Janice Wong is our Youth Now representative from Leadership Richmond. Together we have contributed 892 hours of volunteer work. Please give our Board your applause.

Our hard working, dedicated staff, Florence Yau the RWRC Executive Director and May Wang our Administrative Assistant, also deserve recognition.

Every year presents its challenges and this was no exception. Shortly after last year's AGM the Board had to make the difficult decision to close the Centre for 6 weeks in the summer as a money saving strategy. The Board also made the decision to close Fridays. These cuts allowed the Centre to continue providing Richmond women with services and programs for most of the year. The need for cuts has continued, and we will be closing 8 weeks this summer.

The funding base for the RWRC is our BC Gaming Grant which was \$50,000 and the City of Richmond grant which was \$15,762. Van City and Coast Capital Savings also help with Work Ready grants and donations. As well we have a small endowment fund. This money is not available to spend but is a saving fund that could over time help the Centre to become self sufficient.

We continue to have relationships with the Literacy Steward Program and the ROSE online community (Remember Our Sisters Everywhere). December 6th, 2014, was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the massacre of fourteen women at *L'Ecole Polytechnique* in Montreal. We participated in the actions of remembrance at the Women's Monument on December 6th, to protest male violence against women. The "Leftover Women" phenomenon in China was challenged by women from the Richmond Women's Resource Centre

The Board has been busy fundraising for the Centre and sponsored four events this past fiscal year: the Beatles Singalong, the International Women's Day breakfast, Tea and Trivia, and Zumba. We now hold an annual direct mail campaign and are launching today an online crowdfunding appeal. We have reached out for help to Richmond's merchants and the response was very positive. We look forward to having more merchants involved with our fundraising efforts.

Richmond City Hall was approached to increase our funding. Although this was unsuccessful for the current year I am hopeful that when we next submit our grant request that we will receive a considerable increase.

(Above photo courtesy of *Richmond Review*)

RWRC continues to be involved with women's issues and continues to explore partnerships with other non-profits. As a Richmond non-profit we attend Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee monthly meetings at City Hall. This gives the Centre an opportunity to connect with other non profits.

Florence will introduce the programs. These programs are the backbone of the Women's Centre. A new violence prevention program which was popular this year was the Wenlido women's defense taught by Jennifer Kirkey which was free to all.

In conclusion, I want you to know we are looking for help with fundraising, marketing, and increasing our profile on social media. Please consider volunteering. I am sure that some of you have concerns about the future of RWRC. I want to reassure you that the Women's Center is resilient. We have weathered problems before. With everyone's support I am certain that conditions will improve.

Thank you,

Mary Scott





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Richmond Women's Resource Centre continues to serve the community by delivering programs and services that make a difference in women's lives. We are proud to report that from April 2014 to March 2015 we responded to more than 7,000 individuals and provided them with important community programs and services.

Programs

Continued funding from our core funders: the Province of British Columbia, City of Richmond, Vancity, Decoda Literacy Solutions Society and financial support from our members and donors enable us to offer popular programs and services such as: English Conversation and English Writing, Computer Training, Information and Referral, Book Club and Movie Night, French Speaking Women's Support Group, Grandmother's Support Group, Single Mother's Support group, Hot Ink Creative Writing for Teens, Community Volunteer Income Tax, Peer Support, Canadian Work Experience Program, Richmond Shares, ROSE and Family Financial Smarts for Life in Canada.

Events

We would like to thank our members and supporters for their participation in many of our events such as potlucks, movie screenings, December candle light vigil, Christmas party and various fundraising initiatives: Fundscrip, the International Women's Day celebration and breakfast fundraiser, Tea & Trivia, Zumba and Beatles Sing Along and the fundraising letter mail out campaign. With your support, we were able to raise the much needed funds to continue to provide services to the community.

Highlights

We would like to extend our congratulations to our founding member Marielle Demorest and our Acting President Mary Scott. Marielle was awarded the title of Woman of the Century by the Alliance des Femmes de la Francophonie Canadienne for her decades of service to the community. Mary Scott was the nominee for the 2015 Ethel Tibbits Awards. We are honoured to have dedicated women like these to serve on our Board.

Resources and Challenges

I would like to thank our Board members, staff and all our volunteers who worked hard to make the delivery of our programs and services possible! Our work is made possible with the talent and commitment from our dedicated staff, facilitators and 58 amazing volunteers with over 2,458.25 volunteer hours in total! Thank you for contributing your time, talents and diversity to help build the work at the Centre, to serve women and make a difference in our community! We are grateful for the resources we have and we are confident that together we can make a difference in the lives of women!

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Yau

Executive Director

Every year the current Board of Directors “stands down” at the Annual General Meeting, and a new Board is voted into position by the membership of the Richmond Women's Resource Centre.

STAND DOWN OF 2014-2015 Board of Directors

Marielle Demorest

Colleen Glynn

Chris McDowell

Mary Scott

Gemma Hui

Iveta Williams

Judy Chu

Shireen Grégorious

Xinya Wang

Elaine Lin

SLATE FOR 2015-2016 Board of Directors

Marielle Demorest

Chris McDowell

Iveta Williams

Mary Scott

Shireen Grégorious

Tammie Belfer

Terra Yang

Bea Subion

Janice Wong

WORDS FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS

I had been studying English in Russia at school, then later at university, as probably many newcomers to Canada do in their countries. Despite all those studies my perception of English was as of dead language of books. When in Canada I first time have called some company and in response have heard 'Good afternoon' and then some question, I was scared and hanged up.

Time flew. I stayed home day after day while my husband was at his work. I felt lonesome and isolated from social life. One day I came across some information about the Caring place. Finally, I dare came to the place: first door to the left. That was RWRC. I entered that door and was met with open arms. Here I've learned that I was not alone: almost every immigrant woman faces the same difficulties, more or less, as I had after I moved to Canada, such as language barriers, job search, development of professional career and befriending new people.

RWRC became the place where I was given social support and I was helped my adjustment into the new life. I'm very thankful to my teachers, Sarah, Debora, Laurie and Carol. They have taught me how to compose a Resume, how to pass an interview successfully, and most importantly, to be confident and not be afraid of anything. My special thanks go to Florence and May for their support and good advice during my volunteer hours. I can hardly overestimate the valuable experience of my volunteer work in the office environment. As a return for all the services and support I have received, I am volunteering in the office to provide support to other women. Thank you all at RWRC and good luck.

Elena Sergeeva

(Student in English Conversation and Writing Programs since 2014 and Work Ready Program participant in 2015)

My family immigrated to Canada at the end of 2010. After settling down in Richmond, I joined "Work Ready Program" in April 2011. Through the Program, I learned to write resume, business letters as well as some computer skill. I also attended a few workshops by RWRC. I started to know more about Canada financial industry and learned the way to budget my daily expenses. Near the end of "Work Ready Program", I got my first job in Canada as a sales assistant in a small online sales company.

Up to now, my family has been in Richmond for four years, I have been keeping on learning, searching, and tried several different kinds of works e.g. tax professional in H&R block, a listed public tax company; meanwhile, I invest my savings to work for me and use my investment income to pay all of my family living expenses. It works! I do enjoy investment. I began to realize that this is my career, my passion; so, I took courses and passed the exam, got my licenses and became a financial security advisor, and I joined Freedom 55 Financial, a reputed, native Canadian financial giant. I am very excited about my financial career because I love it and I want not only I am successful in investment, and I would like to help other people as much as I can, to be successful.

I am grateful for RWRC, it is my new life start point and I have been membership since then. I feel like it is my home place. I am grateful for Claire and Sarah. They remain warm impression in my mind. I miss Vicky and her Ivy group where I danced and met friends. I wish every woman has financial freedom, live with independence and dignity.

Grace Zhang

(Work Ready Program Participant in 2011)



Grandmother's Support Group

In the past year, the activities in Grandmother's Support Group included:

- RAG Tour and group discussion
We visited a modern art exhibitions called "Elder and Roots" held in Richmond Art Gallery. Grandmothers enjoyed the tour especially post-tour discussion. They shared their experiences and feelings about the exhibition during the discussion.
- The Minoru Park Tour
We had lots of fun during the Minoru Park tour and took some pictures there.
- Celebration parties
We held a potluck party and a tea party for celebrating the Chinese New Year. Grandmothers shared traditional Chinese food, sang and danced during the parties.
- Healthy Food & Cooking
Health, nutrition, food & cooking are the popular topics among the grandmothers. We held two workshops about these themes: The guest speakers from Richmond Food Security Society gave us a talk about "Gene-modified Food"; in another group meeting, one of our grandmothers, Margaret, who has been a vegetarian for over twenty year, shared her experience on how to eat healthily. The grandmothers benefit from these workshops.
- Learning English
We had six sessions of English study during the past year. They love to learn and practice their English as a second language in order to better participate and be involved in the community.
- Older Women's Dialogue Project (OWDP)
We had one information session of OWDP and another four sessions of OWDP. All the grandmothers are actively involved in the project and quite co-operative during the meeting.

In summary, grandmothers love all the activities and services we provided to them, and actively participate and support all the activities. They also enjoy the chatting with other members in the beginning of the group time and expand their sister-hood relationship.

Patricia Wang

Program Statistics
Number of
Participants: 282
Sessions per month: 2

Facilitator:
Patricia Wang



Basic English Conversation

The RWRC Conversational English has enjoyed another year of opportunity to develop language skills. An enthusiastic, determined group of women inspire me to do the best I can to facilitate progress. Do we aim for 'proper' English or 'everyday' English? The English Conversation design focus applies to 'real life' communication. For example, many speakers including native speakers neglect to pronounce the ending of words, such as going has become goin. This is Standard English. It's neither right nor wrong. It's simply 'everyday English'. Each learner has different interests and different requirements and every facilitator has different styles and different approaches.

The Westcoast Reader newspaper provides current events facing us every day.

Elections, shopping for groceries, First Nations, British Columbia are only a few of the topics we focus on.

"The best way to learn is to teach". One of the richest examples was when our most senior student (over age 90), demonstrated this when the Westcoast subject was *Travel in Outer Space*. (It was about Kamloops students whose science project was selected by *NASA* to travel to the International Space Station. In all lesson planning we begin with 'New Vocabulary' relative to the Westcoast Reader article. The lessons end with idioms, poems, or quotes common to the topic. "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", offered rhythm, practice, and relevance. Our eldest member surprised us by confidently singing the song. She complimented her presentation by reminding me we need to focus on speaking. I thank her for fairly and firmly reminding me each Monday is an English Communication opportunity, not a history lesson. Other learners have credited the Monday group for leading to Citizenship or acceptance to higher learning. It is important to me to remind them that they did the hard work.

A constant guide is "I speak 20% of the time and learners speak 80% of the time". Although this is ideal, lack of confidence, level of learning or anxiety about errors make this simple guideline challenging. To compensate, 'handouts' coupled with the Westcoast Reader Newspaper, allow learners to practice their personal 'style of learning' in the form of practice away from Mondays structured learning. Questions, clarification, suggestions are always welcome.

Carol Brindle

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants:
703

Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator: Carol Brindle

Volunteer Facilitator:

Jacquie Siemens

Winnie Kwok



Basic English Writing

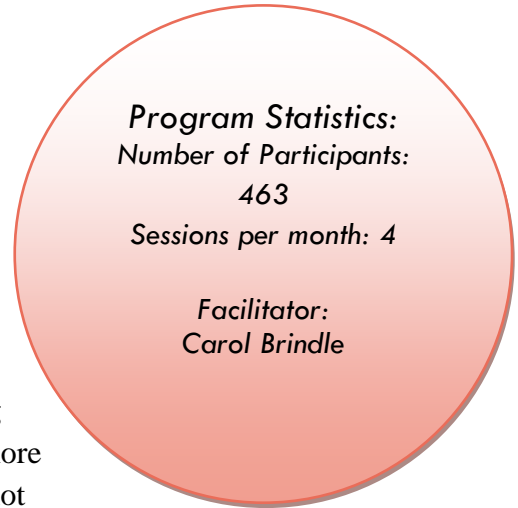
The RWRC Basic Writing Group continues to grow. The broad variety of learners' requirements and teachers' objectives must complement each other. The *8 basic Parts of Speech* and *Basic Writing* sounds simple and straightforward. They may sound easy on paper but are demanding in application.

How does an average group size of 15 for 2 hours once a week meet the learning demands of the basic writing skills needed for creative or business compositions? Do we focus on quick learning or accurate learning? Answers to these questions simply lead to more questions. 'Instant answers' like 'instant learning' is desirable but not achievable. Techniques for meeting these challenges on a limited budget include group work and/or pair work.

Textbooks coupled with Workbooks would be best. Lack of government funding disallows this. "Dictionaries are our best friend". Pronunciation, parts of speech, spelling, meaning, and punctuation all requested by learners, are vital. Electronic dictionaries are popular with learners. However hard back dictionaries are practical and economic in the classroom. One dictionary per an average of 15 students each Tuesday is not workable. We were blessed by a previous guest speaker who attended our Monday group to 'show & tell' about knitting. She works in a thrift shop and has and is collecting good quality dictionaries for our classroom. We have 6 now and more are coming.

Our project this year was to imagine if we had millions of dollars and were able to speak many languages, what business would we own and operate. We gave our business an appealing name, and are writing different emails to sell, to inform, to congratulate, to request, to propose, to terminate someone or something, and more reasons. Writing allows unending imagination. A basic rule of facilitating English Writing is '*don't assume ideas are limited by language*'. I have been pleasantly surprised by the creativity we all possess.

Carol Brindle



Computer Training

Every month files left on the computers are removed. All software is updated so we stay current as well. By keeping the computers clear of files we can insure our computers remain relatively fast and not get bogged down. That way too, students always have their files on their flash drives. We use **Professor Teaches Office 2010**. We continue to use **Professor Teaches Office 2007** for those who have an older version of office they need to learn or relearn. We also have installed **Professor Teaches Windows 8**. All the computers now have headphones plugged in so they can listen to files on the internet such as YouTube. **Mavis Beacon** is also used in the lab for practicing typing skills.

In the summer the Computer Lab is closed.

We get a lot of compliments on our tutorials that we use from our Work Ready students. The tutorials, with skill consolidation exercises, are designed to teach **Word** (including mail merge), **Excel** (including formulas, graphing, charting and Lookup Tables), and time permitting, **PowerPoint**. They also include a lesson on the Office **drawing tools**.

Laurie McEwan

Program Statistics:
Number of Participants: 226
Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator:
Laurie McEwan



Richmond Shares

Mission: Richmond Shares is dedicated to serving low income families in Richmond.

The Richmond Shares web site continues to provide a “virtual” place for donors to post quality used goods for recycled use by other Richmond community members in need. This public-service program has been helping low-income Richmond families, new immigrants, single parents, and residents coming out of transition houses. This year we had a total of 308 matches of donated items. That means at least 600 participants benefited from the program. Richmond Shares is playing the go-between for the exchange of the give-and-take practice all year round.

Program Statistics:

Number of matches: 308

Transport Volunteers: 1

Facilitator: Portia Kwok
Volunteer: Linda Ling

In order to keep the donations coming in, I widely distributed Richmond Shares posters and pamphlets for posting in a variety of public places. I mailed Richmond posters with information tabs to churches, community centres, libraries and senior clubs periodically. Besides, to get the words out about Richmond Shares, I visited some residential apartments in Richmond area, talked to the property managers who were willing to help us by putting up our poster on their bulletin boards.

This March, I attended a meeting organized by the Outreach Working Group of Richmond Homeless Coalition. The purpose of the discussion was to talk about the basic supports that outreach workers in Richmond would access as they support people to come off the street. I had a chance to introduce Richmond Shares to other participants including staffs of Chimo Services, Salvation Army, and Richmond Family Place, etc. Our program could possibly be one of those resources as there is some temporary housing available in Richmond, but household items and furniture is needed. We might be able to provide assistance in collecting donated furniture and household items for these temporary shelters in the future. Hence, Richmond Shares will be part of this outreach approach to build a local capacity and coordinated resources for at-risk individuals and homeless.

Richmond Shares was developed as a result of wanting to encourage community giving and sharing above and beyond the peak seasons of giving to a year round practice. I will do my best to maintain this place where community members can benefit, either by donating items or receiving items.

Portia Kwok



Single Mother's Support Group

Single Mother's Support Group continued meeting in a theme of exercise and group discussion. We explored programs existing in the community and develop different themes fitting various needs.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

We hang out for coffee where the single moms could socialize and share experiences and encouragements. For our cooking sessions, single mothers in the group presented their creativity in making Japanese cheese cake, vegetable roll, etc. It was the moment of highlight when all participants sat down to enjoy what they have prepared.

CELEBRATION

We held a Christmas celebration for single moms and their kids. We enjoyed dancing with music for relaxation and sharing nice food.

ART

We participated in the monthly art program held at Richmond Art Gallery. We attended the "Collage Night" and "Pick Up Your Pencil" programs. The relaxing and artistic environments impressed the participants very much. A volunteer instructor was available to help to draw, to collage, or to create whatever you like.

KIDS WELCOME

In order to support the single mothers with small children, we try to incorporate kids welcome activities into our program. We started our Movie Night in February 2014 to watch family movies such as "Frozen" and "Despicable Me".

Some single mothers with young children are interested in joining the Single Mother's Support Group but cannot attend because of the need of child-minding. In the future we hope to develop KIDS WELCOME activities to include the single mothers with young kids.

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants: 46

Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator:

Patience Tsai

Maryam Soltani

Hot Ink Creative Writing For Teens

This year was a little unusual for Hot Ink. From the getgo, we experienced some of the same challenges as other clubs based out of schools did with the long running teacher's strike. We had a late start, however, we were able to forge ahead and build a relationship with the wonderful librarians at the Richmond Public Library. So, this year, Hot Ink moved from Richmond High up the street to RPL Brighthouse, and after a few weeks of shuffling, became a Tuesday afternoon fixture in the Community Place room upstairs. There have been a few small hiccups, in that our primary librarian contact had to go on maternity leave a lot earlier than expected, but I have recently had the pleasure of meeting with Head Children's Services Librarian, Melanie Au, who has lots of wonderful ideas about how the library and Hot Ink can work together in the future to provide more services to the girls and further promote and grow the program. Melanie tells me that the library has been quite happy to host us, and many of the girls are pleased to be writing "where all the books live".

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants:

118

Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator:

Caroline Dyck

There have been several familiar faces this year, as well as a few new ones. I can't really put a number on our core group, because although it fluctuates from week to week with the girls' exams and other extra-curriculars, some weeks we have around 5 girls, but they're not always the same 5 girls. We have about 12 "regular" attendees who show up every other week or so.

This year, we've taken less of a lesson based approach, and more of an inspiration based approach. Since many of the girls were in the program last year, we already covered a lot of the topics that they wanted to know more about, and were able to put some of that into practice. This year, we've "found poetry" between the lines of library books, written "advice" columns that probably nobody should follow, and focused a lot on how to develop our own characters (and let the characters determine where our stories go). We've also worked extensively using story based card games, such as Apples to Apples, Funglish, and Mad Scientist University as writing prompts. I find that the girls really respond well to these cards and visual based stimuli for inspiration. We also had one of our girls receive an award from Scholastic for a piece that she wrote at Hot Ink last year! It's been very exciting, and I am constantly impressed by the talents and enthusiasm of these young ladies.

As always it is a pleasure working with them.

Care Dyck



Work Ready

The Work Ready Program has now been in existence since September 2008, and is growing in popularity as an increasingly larger number of women have participated in the Program.

At the end of June 2015, we will have completed 21 sessions and this year we will have trained 18. Over the past seven years, the level of education and experience of our participants has continuously risen, and consequently more women are finding suitable employment after completing the Program and sometimes even before completion.

Our sponsoring body, VanCity, offers a 2-hour presentation to each group providing information about Basic Banking and Budgeting, which is always well received and appreciated.

Although we have received the volunteer assistance of a career coach this year in the area of Job Search Skills, we have now also hired another part-time instructor to assist in delivering this part of the Program. This is a past participant of the Work Ready Program and is able to provide up-to-date information concerning new methods and technology required for effective job searching.

For the time being, I have agreed to continue facilitating this Program, but plan to share more of the responsibility in future with our Administrative Assistant while continuing to deliver the classes on English Writing and Communication Skills.

Sarah Ross

Program Statistics:
Number of Participants:
6/session; 3Sessions per year

Facilitators:
Sarah Ross
Laurie McEwan
Meena Bangash
Volunteer: Deborah Turner



Peer Support

Significant achievements:

- This year the peer support program has provided support for 68 women through individual appointments and workshops.
- In a single appointment, clients were able to open up about their emotions, current issues or conflicts they are going through, as well as talk about their lived experiences. Having someone to listen and help them getting their story out can be an empowering experience.
- The program has also organized two Women's Self-defense workshops this year. These workshops are organized with the intention of improving women's well-being. Jennifer Kirkey facilitated the workshops, which consisted of four sessions each. Clients have spoken of their appreciation of being able to take home what they learn from these workshops and would like to see more like them. Suggestions for future workshops are always welcome.

Program Statistics:
Individual appointments: 4

Self defense workshop: 64

Facilitator:
Anna Marie Parayano
Maryam Soltani

French Speaking Women's Support Group

The French group continues to meet every Wednesday at the Dining Terrace, Richmond Central Mall. They exchange information on the coming events of the French group, the Women's Centre and the community.

The French Speaking Women's Support Group participated in the programs at the Richmond Women's Resource Centre.

The Group held a workshop in October on self-confidence and Laughing Yoga at the Women's Centre.

Respectfully submitted

Marielle Demorest
Chairperson

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants:

281

Sessions per month: 4

Facilitator:

Marielle Demorest



Movie Night

More than simply a film series, the monthly Movie Night has been a gathering place for women to meet and bond over cinema and latest news and experiences. Our core group of dedicated attendees is always pleased to welcome new faces and love discovering what drew them to the evening.

We continue to alternate between fictional films and documentaries with a focus on independent productions, and this year, watched a variety of flicks including “*The Sapphires*,” “*Educating Rita*,” and “*The Mosuo Sisters*.” Hearing the reflections that follow the films is a unique experience, where personal stories abound including those about how we each navigate feminism and women’s issues then and now.

Program Statistics:

Participants: 122

Sessions per month: 1

Volunteer Facilitators:

Clare Yow

Three special screenings took place this year that we were delighted to help support:

- **April:** RWRC held a screening/fundraiser of “*Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer*”
- **June:** We worked with the City of Richmond and Cinevolution Media Arts to hold “*Lessons in Forgetting*,” which included a panel discussion on gender-based violence (Board member Chris McDowell participated)
- **August:** Board member Elaine Lin facilitated a screening of “*Double Happiness*,” partnering with Check Your Head and Cinevolution

The donations we have kindly received go back towards providing treats and supplies for our events. New this year, we elected to fund a Kickstarter film campaign on the national inquiry into Canada’s missing and murdered Indigenous women. We will organize a special public viewing of “*Our Sisters in Sprit*” upon receipt of the completed film.

Tremendous appreciation goes out to regular supporters Gail Thompson, Mary Miller, Mary Scott, Colleen Glynn, Marielle Demorest, Kathy Kent, and Linda McNabb whose many hands make light work in helping before and after each event when possible.

In Solidarity,

Clare Yow



Bread and Roses Book Club

RWRC's Book Club met in Rm 110 in Oct., Dec., Feb. and Apr. Our last session until next October will be on June 11, 2015. (Book pickup May 19 at Movie Night or in the office after that date.)

Six to eight of us gathered each time to discuss plot, style, issues presented and how some of them related to our own lives. Kathy Kent led the group and made the selections (for better or worse) from the RPL list of book club-available sets.

Oct. – *STORIES OF EVA LUNA* by Isabelle Allende (Chilian) A wide variety of tales, all taking place in South America. Women featured prominently – sometimes doing well, sometimes not. Bawdy, depressed, vengeful, loving, etc.

Dec. - *THE SAVING GRACES* by Pat Gaffney. Four friends – the “graces” keep secrets from each other, annoy and analyze, as friends do, but ultimately know that their friendships are a good thing indeed.

Feb. – *LOUD AND CLEAR* by Anna Quindlan. Ms Quindlan was a journalist for a well-known USA paper in the late 70s to early 90s. Her essays touched on a variety of social issues – women's lib, motherhood, politics, etc. Some issues were, by now, a bit “old hat”, but many, for better or worse, are still with us.

Apr. – *GREEN GRASS, RUNNING WATER* by Thomas King. Written in 1993 and was up for the Giller Prize. About folks from an Alberta Blackfoot reserve, their lives and loves on and off the reserve interwoven with First Nations lore mixed with Christian stories and introducing the Dead Dog Cafe, which CBC listeners will remember from a radio comedy series in which Tom King also took part. Mr. King is part Greek/Part First Nations and often takes a tongue in cheek look at life in general and government bureaucracy, as well. (For a non-fiction view of First Nations/White man relations over the years, read his *The Inconvenient Indian*.)

Enjoyable evenings of discussion and camaraderie – thanks to all who participated.

Kathy Kent

Program Statistics:

Number of Participants: 23

Book Club Coordinators:
Kathy Kent



Remember Our Sisters Everywhere

Overview

ROSE has continued to research and publish local and international efforts to prevent male violence against women and girls. Speaking as the moderator, as I work on the ROSE website community it is apparent to me that violence against women is increasing, and increasing hugely in countries that are at war or that have legalized prostitution.

Everywhere in the world women and girls are organizing against the violence. Many dynamic organizations exist to help women and girls to survive, and to educate and change attitudes. ROSE tries to bring light to the darkness of violence by highlighting these efforts. Please visit the online community to learn more. Here ROSE offers a snapshot of the resistance to violence, which is widespread and gaining momentum.

The Nordic Model

The Nordic Model approach to prostitution is one of the great game changers of our time in the struggle to end violence against women. The Nordic Model criminalizes the johns, or perpetrators, and decriminalizes the women who sell sex. It is based on the perception that prostitution is inherently exploitative and violent. Where the Nordic Model is fully implemented violence against women is reduced. At the same time there is a decrease in the number of men and boys who consider buying women and girls for sex to be a male entitlement. This attitude is gradually replaced with the understanding that buying sex is a criminal act of exploitation.

The Nordic model was invented by feminists in Sweden over a period of approximately 10 years. It is a configuration of laws and policies that work together to criminalize the johns while decriminalizing the women and girls and offering them support to exit prostitution. In countries where the Nordic Model is implemented sex trafficking/slavery is notably reduced. In countries where legalization of prostitution is implemented, sex trafficking/slavery greatly increases, along with the horrific violence and suffering prostitution and trafficking brings. Some very good news this year is that Ireland has joined the ranks of countries who are implementing the Nordic Model.

Events

1. ROSE participated in organizing and contributing to the December 6th 2014 event at *Marker of Change*, the Women's Monument. December 6th was the 25th anniversary of the assassination of 14 women at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique. RWRC applied for event funds to Vancity and was awarded \$500. We worked closely with RWRC, Battered Women's Support Services, Margaret Dragu, elder Audrey Rivers of the Squamish First Nations, and many more groups and individuals. Ceremony and protest actions were held in the pouring rain that day to honour all women and girls who have suffered violence.
2. Women's Self-defense instructor Jennifer Kirkey twice gave a series of free self defense lessons available to Richmond women and girls. ROSE paid Jennifer a small stipend to cover her gas and dinner the nights she was teaching. RWRC provided a space for the workshops at the Caring Place.

3. ROSE is currently working with the WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre and feminist author Lisa Price. We are organizing an event in memory of Pamela Sleeth, the feminist who started Vancouver Incest and Sexual Abuse Centre Society. A free public panel is planned for this October at VCC, Vancouver Community College. VCC and WAVAW will speak about the two years of research they designed and implemented to gauge and reduce violence against women at VCC. A feminist counselor will discuss and explain what feminist counseling is: Feminist analysis, approaches and counseling are based on the facts of women's and girls' actual lives. That is what makes feminist practices, theory and counseling so different from "normal" thinking and assumptions we find every day in society. Please attend to learn more.

SFU Archive

ROSE is participating in the further archiving of the Women's Monument Project, including actions at the site of *Marker of Change*, plus the original proposal written for ROSE.

ROSE' RWRC Board Duties

ROSE moderator Chris McDowell was asked to serve on the Board in return for ROSE's acceptance as a RWRC project. This agreement is being revisited. The ROSE moderator would appreciate the opportunity to take some time off, perhaps starting next year, to fundraise and hopefully launch the ROSE project, Women and Girl's Stories of Resisting Violence.

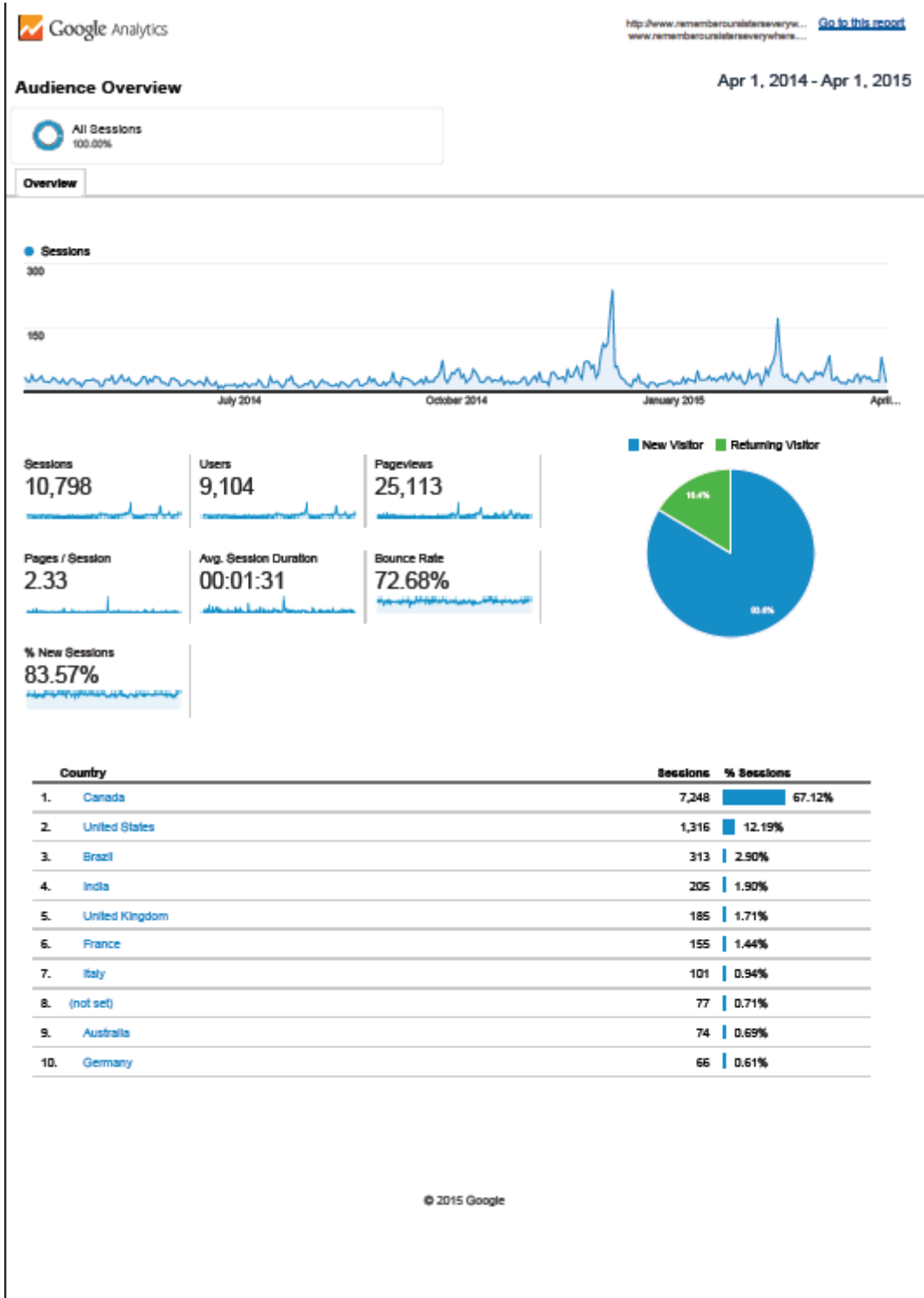
Thank you for the support RWRC has given ROSE. Every aspect of that support, from the December 6th funding to the smallest word of encouragement, keeps me going.

Sincerely,

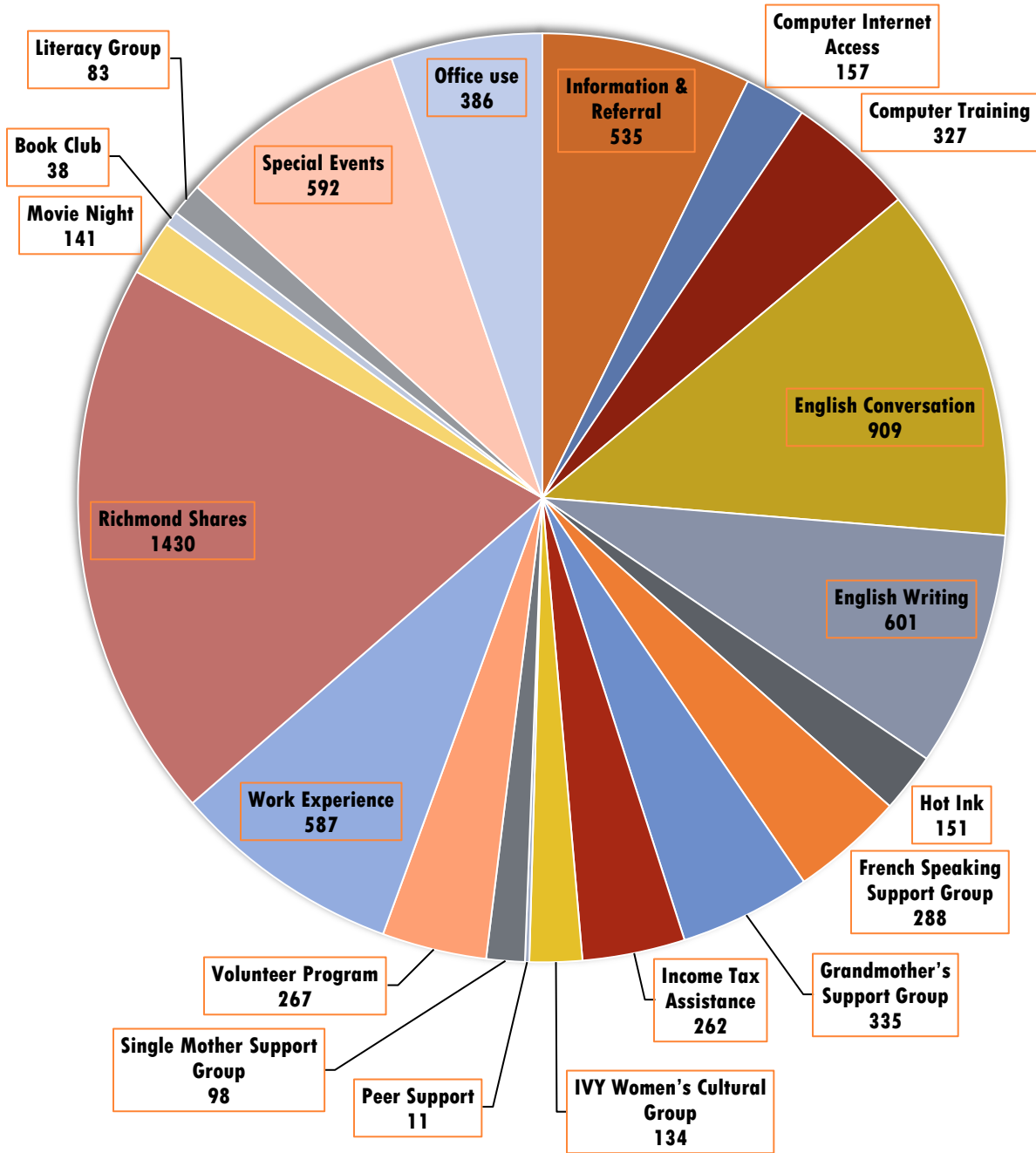
Christine McDowell



Remember Our Sisters Everywhere: Google Analytics

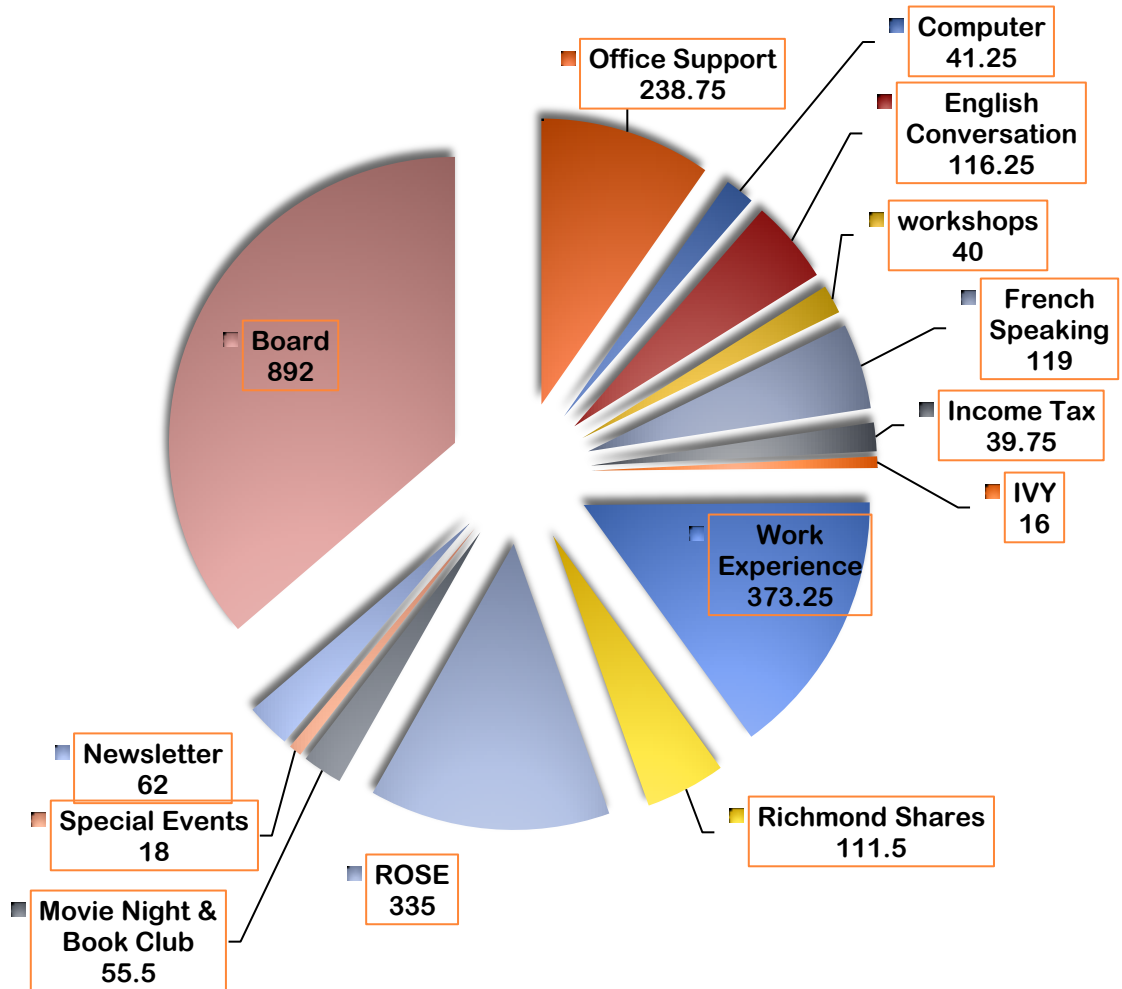


PROGRAM STATISTICS
April 2014 to March 2015
Total of 7332 persons used our services



Volunteer Hours

April 2014 to March 2015
 Total Hours: 2458.25



THANK YOU! VOLUNTEERS

During 2013-2014 fiscal year, we had the privilege of working with over 58 amazing volunteers. They have added a vibrant and diverse atmosphere to the Richmond Women's Resource Centre. We would like to thank each and every one of them personally for their enthusiasm and support of the women in their community. Without them, this Centre would not be the same.