

# LATE DISTRIBUTION FOR P&E - April 22, 2010

Supports Item No. 5  
P&E Committee Agenda  
April 22, 2010



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 9, 2010  
Contact: Michelle Vernooy  
Mario Lee  
Contact No.: 604.871.6682  
604.871.6034  
RTS No.: 08528  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: April 22, 2010

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment  
FROM: Managing Director of Social Development  
SUBJECT: Appeals of Community Services Grants Recommendations - 2010

### *RECOMMENDATION*

That Council approve a Direct Social Services Grant of \$23,896 to Vancouver Status of Women. Source of funding is the 2010 Community Services Grants budget.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

### *CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS*

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing recommendation.

### *COUNCIL POLICY*

On November 22, 1994, City Council established that reconsideration of grant recommendations can only occur if they are based on one or both of the following premises:

1. that eligibility criteria have not been properly applied; and/or
2. the financial situation of the applicant has not been properly assessed or understood.

### *PURPOSE AND SUMMARY*

This report provides information and staff recommendations on appeals of six 2010 Community Services Grants applications. Grants that were not appealed were approved by Council on March 23, 2010 (RTS #08527).

Of the six applicants appealing, five are not recommended for funding and one applicant, the Vancouver Status of Women, is recommended for funding totalling \$23,896. Two of the applicants appealing - the Aboriginal Front Door Society, and Marpole Oakridge Area Council

Society - allocations for \$40,000 and \$36,300 respectively, have been put in Reserve until staff clarify and resolve some financial and management issues.

### ***BACKGROUND***

In late 2009, a staff review team assessed 119 Community Services Grants applications using approved criteria and priorities. Applicants were advised of staff recommendations in January 2010 and of the appeal process that could be used if they disagreed with the recommendations.

### ***DISCUSSION***

Applicants were asked to provide a written submission supporting their appeal request to Social Policy staff by February 19, 2010. (Details on the appeal process are attached in APPENDIX A).

In the appeal process, staff review for a second time the original application, supporting materials, interview notes, and any new information provided by the applicants. Staff then prepare comments on reasons for their original recommendations, on their review of the additional material submitted by the groups, and on any revisions to the original recommendations. This material, together with the applicants' submissions, is attached as APPENDIX B.

Funding criteria used to assess the original applications include:

- Performance outcomes of previous years funding,
- Council priorities,
- Project feasibility and impact,
- Organizational capacity, and
- Role and mandate of the City vis a vis activities proposed.

Applicants can only be reconsidered based on the following premises:

1. That eligibility criteria have not been properly applied; or
2. The financial situation of the applicant has not been properly assessed or understood.

### **Organizations Appealing**

Staff's response to the six applicants appealing are listed below:

#### 1. Aboriginal Front Door Society (AFD)

An allocation of \$40,000 for the Aboriginal Front Door Society (AFD) has been put in Reserve until staff clarify and resolve some financial and sustainability issues related to the management of the organization and this grant.

#### 2. Living Systems Counselling: Education, Training & Research Society

Staff do not recommend a grant because funding is limited and other applications are rated higher in regards to meeting City priorities.

3. Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (MOACS) - Seniors

An allocation of \$36,300 for a seniors program has been put in Reserve until staff clarify and resolve some efficiency and governance issues related to the management of this program and the management of the facility.

4. Network of Inner City Community Services Society - YELL and Y2

Educational programs are not funded where the Province has a mandate and responsibility. Other applications are rated higher in regards to meeting City priorities.

5. Strathcona Community Centre Association - Food Coordinator

Food programs are not funded where other sources and the Province (Vancouver Coastal Health) has a mandate and responsibility.

6. Vancouver Status of Women - Referral and Resource

The applicant received \$34,592 in 2009 and is recommended for a reduced amount of \$23,896. Other applications better reflect City priorities, produce stronger outcomes, and are therefore ranked higher.

### Summary of Discussion

The appeal recommendations made by staff remain unchanged from the original 2010 grant recommendations for the six organizations that submitted an appeal.

The appeal recommendations include:

- a grant for a reduced amount from 2009 for Vancouver Status of Women - Referral and Resource;
- no grant for:
  - Aboriginal Front Door Society,
  - Living Systems Counselling: Education, Training & Research Society,
  - Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society,
  - Network of Inner City Community Services Society - YELL and Y2, and
  - Strathcona Community Centre Association - Food Coordinator.

Funds will continue to be held in reserve for future delivery of programs to urban Aboriginals in the DTES and for seniors in the Marpole area.

### ***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

The Community Services Grants recommended in this report total \$23,896, with the source of funds being the 2010 Community Services Grants budget. These appeal recommendations are separate from the Community Services Grants recommendations in RTS # 8527 approved by Council on March 23, 2010.

Should Council approve the recommendations in this report, there will be no unallocated funds remaining in the 2010 Community Services Grants budget.

AGENCY	Original Recommendation	Appeal Recommendation	2010 Request
Aboriginal Front Door (1)	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Living Systems Counselling: Education	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (2)	\$0	\$0	\$55,000
Network of Inner City Comm. Services Soc. - YELL and Y2	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
Strathcona Community Centre Association - Food Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
Vancouver Status of Women - Referral and Resource	\$23,896	\$23,896	\$58,890
<b>Total: 6</b>	<b>\$23,896</b>	<b>\$23,896</b>	<b>\$273,890</b>

(1) \$40,000 has been put aside in a Reserve, for future allocation to programs serving urban Aboriginals in the DTES area.

(2) \$36,300 has been put aside in a Reserve, for future allocation to programs serving seniors in the Marpole area.

\* \* \* \* \*

## REQUEST FOR APPEAL PROCESS for City of Vancouver Community Services Grant

Vancouver City Council has adopted an appeal process for grant applicants who disagree with the recommendations submitted by Social Policy Division staff. The process is intended to ensure that all relevant information presented in an application has been fairly and completely presented and reviewed and to provide City Council with written reasons for any disagreement, from the perspectives of both the applicants and Social Policy staff.

Note: Council has established that grant recommendations can be appealed only if the request is based on one or both of the following premises:

1. that eligibility criteria have not been properly applied; or
2. the financial situation of the applicant has not been properly assessed or understood.

The process adopted by Council contains the following steps:

- Applicants are notified, in writing, of Social Policy's recommendations, along with reasons for reduced or no grants. Any conditions or comments which may help to explain the rationale for specific recommendations may also be provided.
- Applicants who wish to dispute the recommendations may then submit a request for an appeal to the Social Policy Division (see the next page for details on how to make such a request).
- Applications which are not in dispute (i.e. the applicant has not requested an appeal) are sent directly to City Council. This year, Council will consider these recommendations on March 23, 2010. Council does retain the right, however, to direct that any recommendations about which it has concerns be referred to the appeal process. Payment of approved grants will be processed as soon as possible following the Council decision.
- The appeal process for disputed recommendations will take longer. After written notice and the supporting information have been received by Social Policy, staff will review: the applicant's reasons for requesting an appeal; the information provided on the grant application form and attachments; and information provided during any interviews. Applicants will be contacted if there are questions, and every effort will be made to clarify misunderstandings. Staff will then prepare a written summation of their findings, including the decision to either amend the original recommendation or to keep it as is.
- The applicant's rationale for requesting an appeal, as well as staff comments and recommendations will then be compiled in a report to City Council for its consideration. Relevant sections of this report will also be forwarded to all applicants involved in this process.
- City Council is currently scheduled to consider the recommendations coming out of the appeal process on April 22, 2010. Any applicant wishing to make a presentation to

Council concerning its grant application may do so at that time by making prior arrangements with the City Clerk. Instructions on how to do this will be provided in advance. Council will make a decision on these grants at the April 22, 2010 meeting. Payment of approved grants will be processed as soon as possible following the Council decision.

**Please refer to the other side of this notice.....**

**HOW TO REQUEST AN APPEAL OF YOUR GRANT APPLICATION**

**Appeal Submission:** Deadline February 19, 2010

You must notify the Social Policy Division, in writing, that you are requesting an appeal and indicate which of the following two reasons form the basis of your request. Please note that Council has established that the appeal of grant recommendations will be considered **only** if it is based on one or both of the following premises:

1. that eligibility criteria have not been properly applied; or
2. that the financial situation of the applicant has not been properly assessed or understood.

In addition to the request itself, you may submit a written statement explaining your reason(s) for seeking the appeal. This statement should relate specifically to the basis for your request (that is, eligibility or financial situation) and **should not exceed two typewritten pages**. The information you provide will be submitted, verbatim, to City Council, along with Social Policy's response on the request.

Your REQUEST FOR APPEAL must be received by Social Policy NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM on **Friday, February 19, 2010**. Requests received after the deadline cannot be considered. We must be firm about this because City Council needs to be advised in a timely manner about who is or is not requesting an appeal.

**MAIL OR BRING REQUEST FOR AN APPEAL AND THE SUPPORTING INFORMATION TO:**

If by mail, send to:

Social Policy Division  
Social Development Department  
West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1V4

If by hand or courier, send to:

Social Policy Division  
Social Development Department 453  
Ste. 100 - 515 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4A8

Or Fax it to 604-871-6048

### Aboriginal Front Door Society (AFD) (#1)

2010 Request	\$50,000
2009 Grant	\$45,900
Social Policy Initial Recommendation	\$0
Social Policy New Recommendation	\$0

### Program Description (summarized from the grant application)

Requested funding is for the Executive Director position of the organization. They provide a safe environment for Aboriginal people to gain an understanding of their cultural tradition in a caring environment and a deeper appreciation for themselves as they make their way in their healing journeys. They provide daily nutritional supplements at their drop-in and have a weekly schedule of aboriginal healing circles and a drum group.

### Social Policy's Initial Response

An allocation of \$40,000 for the Aboriginal Front Door Society is being put in Reserve until staff clarify and resolve some financial and sustainability issues related to the management of the organization and this grant. A Recommendation on funding for this program will be reported in the Council Report for the 2010 Community Services grants, presently scheduled for March 23, 2010.

### Basis for Appeal

In the appeal letter (attached), the agency states that their financial situation and the sustainability of the operations of the organization are not understood. AFD also lists their partners and provides information about their funding and explains that the management and operations of the AFD would be with a new board that has experience in board management and strategic planning.

### Social Policy Comments

The Aboriginal Front Door has experienced increasing instability in recent years, both in terms of its day-to-day operations, as well as its governance structure. The organization has not demonstrated any new committed funding through its Appeal, with only \$20,000 confirmed for 5 months, a contribution to their rent for space for a program that is offered, and the sum of \$5,000 in additional project funding. Funding for the organization's main program activities - provided by the federally funded Metro Urban Aboriginal Strategy - ended on March 31, 2010. AFD is still in the process of searching for other funding, but is currently running a deficit.

As the programs provided to this Aboriginal population in the Downtown Eastside are important, the City has provided assistance to help build this organization's capacity. Despite these additional supports, core governance and financial issues remain unresolved.

As a Reserve of \$40,000 for programs serving urban Aboriginals in the Downtown Eastside was approved by Council on March 23, 2010 (RTS# 08527), this population can continue to be served through another organization that has yet to be determined.

### Recommendation

Staff recommend NO GRANT.



## The Aboriginal Front Door Society

February 15, 2010

Re: Letter of Appeal

To: Mario Lee

Dear Mario,

Please be advised that the Aboriginal Front Door Society is requesting an appeal. This appeal is in compliance with financial situation of the society and understanding of the sustainability of the operations of the organization. We currently have in the Aboriginal Front a partnership with Downtown Community Court, (Ministry of Attorney General) Native Education College (Ministry of Advanced Education) and Aboriginal Connections to Employment (Human Resources Canada) (See attached letters). We, at the society, also have a potential collaboration with SFU Community Education Program's Literacy Lives, (Human Resources Canada) and their Community Education Program. Insofar as sustainability, the society can be sustainable with the grant in terms of the salary allocation, and strict adherence to the allocation as to be only for the salary.

The management and operations of the Aboriginal Front Door Society would be with a new board that has experience in board management and strategic planning. We are seeking, therefore, an appeal based on a Mapping Project with an allocation of \$5,000.00, from SFU's Department of Geography, and a grant that will be forthcoming in April of \$20,000.00 for a traditional foods project with Oppenheimer Park (City of Vancouver) and other partners such as Hey Way Noqu Healing for Addictions Society, who pay partial rent to the Aboriginal Front Door Society. As a result, we are to receive an allocation of (\$5,000.00 towards rent and administration)\$20,000.00 from Vancouver Coastal Health's Aboriginal Health Initiative Program, and \$350.00 from Hey Way Noqu Healing for Addictions Society as well as Native Education College through the H.O.W. Program for rent of \$833.33. There is also a potential private donor and a series of fund raising events starting on February 20, 21, 2010 as well as partner building with the Red Cedar Hat Association..

However, the question as to sustainability for the continuance of the staff person in question would be put in doubt as to our partnership building and potential long term outlook with respect to our potential partner with the Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU/Burnaby Campus through the implementation of the Tracings Initiative. Despite this, we currently have the H.O.W.(Honesty, Open Mindedness, Willingness) Program that is in partnership with Native Education College. This allocation had been for \$20,000.00 until the end of March, and we are anticipating a renewal of the program in the next fiscal year, (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada). All in all, we have many direct and indirect partners that would be affected by our doors closing as outlined above should this appeal not be successful. In the above described letter of appeal, the City of Vancouver is not the only funder, as we have additional funding sources in place and are forthcoming including a \$ 60,000.00 donation and fundraising activities.

Sincerely,

Dennis Easter, GradDipGH  
Executive Director  
Aboriginal Front Door Society



February 17, 2010

**City of Vancouver – Social Planning Department**  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

**Attention: Mario Lee, Senior Social Planner**

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I write in support of Dennis Easter and the Aboriginal Front Door. Through the last year and a half, we at Downtown Community Court have worked with the Aboriginal Front Door in a variety of capacities. Firstly, they were willing and receptive to being a community service placement for Aboriginal clients of Downtown Community Court. They supervise and support offenders, and provide the opportunity for them to complete community service hours in a supportive and culturally relevant setting, (performing culturally relevant tasks).

Aboriginal Front Door is also a partner in a collaborative project between Native Education College, Aboriginal Connections to Employment, and Downtown Community Court providing Adult Basic Education upgrading. Dennis Easter exerted enormous effort recruiting and supporting students for the program.

Dennis consistently demonstrates interest for Downtown Community Court's projects and ideas, by attending neighbourhood information sessions and community events and offering an Aboriginal perspective. Dennis and other members of the collective respectfully participate and advocate for their program and Aboriginal people.

For Aboriginal people in the Downtown Eastside, the Aboriginal Front Door is often the first and only point of contact with the community of service providers, it's location and inclusive nature allow for the most vulnerable to access a safe, culturally appropriate space.

This is vital and needed program for Aboriginal people in the downtown eastside.

Sincerely,

Sharon Belli  
Manager Community Engagement  
Downtown Community Court

07/19/2010 14:58

604-686-2736

CARNEGIE CTR

PAGE 04/04



**NEC Native Education College**  
285 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5T 1H2  
Phone 604-873-3772 Fax 604-873-9152

February 18, 2010

Appeals Committee

Vancouver City Direct Services Grant

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is written in support of the application by the Aboriginal Front Door (AFD) for continuation of their funding grant.

The NEC Native Education College (NEC) has worked in a limited partnership funded by MVUAS, with AFD in the recruitment of students for the academic upgrading program with the Downtown Community Court. This partnership also involves the Healing Our Spirit Society and the ACCESS program. AFD provides much needed support for students who attend the upgrading program.

Additionally, we work directly with AFD, funded by MVUAS, to provide healing circles to Aboriginal men in the Downtown Eastside. AFD staff have proven effective in assisting their clientele address their multiple challenges.

NEC would like to encourage the Appeals Committee to renew the AFD grant so that they can continue their role as service providers for residents of the Downtown Eastside. They are an important partner in the services we all seek to provide for the residents of the Downtown Eastside.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

Leslie Murray

### Living Systems Counselling: Education, Training and Research Society (#51)

2010 Request	\$20,000
2009 Grant	\$10,200
Social Policy Initial Recommendation	\$0
Social Policy New Recommendation	\$0

#### Program Description (summarized from the grant application)

Living Systems provides counselling services, training and education programs. The grant is used to subsidize counselling fees for low income residents (under \$30,000/year) residents and to offset administrative and office support necessary to support this program.

#### Social Policy's Initial Response

Not Recommended. Organization meets eligibility criteria, however, staff do not recommend because funding is limited and other applications rated higher in regards to meeting City priorities.

#### Basis for Appeal

Living Systems states that the loss of the City grant will adversely affect their ability to serve the very population (e.g. mentally ill, homeless, sex trade workers, alcohol and drug addicts, troubled youth) that are a priority for the City.

They are concerned about other funding cuts from Gaming and Vancouver Foundation and fewer donations that will also impact their ability to subsidize low income clients.

At the same time that they are receiving funding cuts, they are seeing an increased demand for subsidies.

#### Social Policy Comments

Living Systems provides an important service for low income clients in need of counselling services. Given the available grant resources and other applications that rated higher in meeting City priorities, NO GRANT is recommended.

#### Recommendation

Staff recommend NO GRANT.

Living Systems – Appeal Letter

February 14, 2010

Mr. Mario Lee  
Social Planner  
City of Vancouver  
Community Services Group  
Social Development, Social Policy  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mario:

**RE: REQUEST FOR APPEAL**

Further to our conversation on Thursday, February 4, 2010 this is an official request for an appeal of our 2010 Community Service Grant application. The basis for this appeal is the premise that the financial impact of this decision on our organization will adversely affect our ability to serve the very population (mentally ill, homeless, sex trade workers, alcohol & drug addicts, troubled youth among others) who you have designated as priorities for the coming year. The following outlines our concerns.

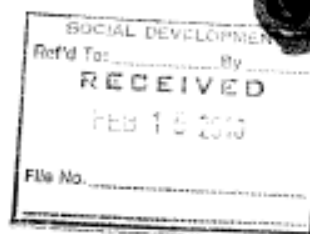
**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON SERVICES:**

We are very uncertain if gaming funds will come through for our organization this year. Many organizations have had funds cut or eliminated by the Gaming Commission. We use gaming funds to subsidize low income clients in Vancouver and throughout the lower mainland. Further, Vancouver Foundation funds, which we also use to subsidize low income clients, have been significantly cut this year.

The donations we receive are down 50% due to the economic recession. Our Board is committed to sustainable funding and restricts our ability to draw on reserves to meet shortfalls. This means we may very well have to restrict services for low income clients.

We have already experienced a 10% increase in referrals in the past year of low income clients. Many agencies have had to cut back their adult counselling services and as a result have increased their referrals of low income clients to our agency. We anticipate this trend will continue in the coming year. A high percentage of any grants or donations we receive go directly to client services because we minimize our administrative costs. We have volunteers that do the work of people who would otherwise have to be paid and we have only one paid, part-time person in the business office. In addition we operate on a contract model so we do not have the overhead and rent required for salaried clinicians.

Revd. Feb 15, 2010



living systems

Counselling  
Education, Training and Research

www.livingsystems.ca | living.systems@vancouver.ca

Living Systems – Appeal Letter

2

**MARGINALIZED POPULATION:**

Our services are critical because we offer counselling to people marginalized by their low income and emotional difficulties. Many clients have serious emotional illnesses, alcohol and drug addictions and some are trying to leave the sex trade. Timely counselling can sometimes make the difference in stabilizing a person or family member so they do not have to be hospitalized, lose their job or even become homeless.

At the urging of your social planning department we opened an office in East Vancouver over six years ago to serve the needs of the most troubled segment of our population. Many of our clients have children and adolescents who are at risk if their parents cannot improve their own functioning. There is a growing waiting list for our East Vancouver office; referrals are up 25% in that location.

We use family systems theory to help family members strengthen their relationship with each other and ameliorate symptoms among family members. We served over 150 families in 2009 in the Vancouver community providing 900 clinical hours of service.

Living Systems has been serving the community since 1971. As a Society we are very committed to helping our fellow citizens without regard for their ability to pay for counselling services. Funding from the City of Vancouver is essential for us to continue to serve this group of people. We urgently request that you reconsider and restore our funding for this important part of our mission.

Sincerely,



Mark Smith  
President of the Board



Leila Howard  
Program Manager

### **Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (MOACS) (#53)**

2010 Request	\$55,000
2009 Grant	\$40,800
Social Policy Initial Recommendation	\$0
Social Policy New Recommendation	\$0

#### **Program Description (summarized from the grant application)**

Organization provides a variety of programs, including: Forever Learning program: Seniors advisory committee, seniors and students mending, yoga, tai chi, walking, computer classes, ESL, bridge club, table games, coffee talk, stitch in time, table tennis, bus trips, special events (holly tea & sale, community bbq, mothers day tea, Christmas luncheon, etc.), partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (a Chinese-speaking social group), outings, computer classes, sharing meals, Friday morning community breakfast and Thursday evening community supper with evening guest speakers or social/recreational special events.

#### **Social Policy's Initial Response**

An allocation of \$36,300 for a seniors program presently managed by the Marpole Oakridge Area Council is being put in Reserve until staff clarify and resolve some efficiency and governance issues related to the management of this program and their management of the facility that is City owned. A Recommendation on funding for this program will be reported in the Council Report for the 2010 Community Services grants, presently scheduled for March 23, 2010.

#### **Basis for Appeal**

In their letter of appeal (attached), MOACS indicates that rather than see monies being put in a Reserve, that the City provides them with the grant immediately. This is based on several factors, including: increase in membership, a new cohesive board of directors, a couple of "problematic" board members no longer acting as Directors and reviewing the 5-year plan. Furthermore, MOACS argues that they continue to provide ongoing program activities such as: partnership with SUCCESS and PIRS (serving local immigrants), literacy program, and several seniors clubs.

#### **Social Policy Comments**

The Social Policy staff recommendation remains unchanged. While acknowledging recent efforts towards stabilizing the functioning of the Society's Board, more time is needed to fully assess program development, space utilization issues, and governance issues of this city-owned facility.

On March 23, 2010, Council already approved the placing of \$36,300 in a Reserve for future use in supporting programs for seniors in the Marpole area.

#### **Recommendation**

Staff recommend NO GRANT.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

Appeal  
Community Grant – MOACS

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Marpole Place is an important community resource and we want to see it continue as a vital part of the community. Without doubt, we are motivated to work with the City's staff to stay current with meeting the needs of the neighbourhood.

I write to you on behalf of the Board of Directors as appeal of your decision to set aside \$38,000 in reserve rather than recommending that we receive this grant.

I re-joined the Board of Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society last year and became its president in September 09, when Patricia Mendes resigned for personal reasons.

Let me list some of the positive developments I have witnessed, instigated and or was part of in 2009 (and continuing):

- MOACS' membership has increased by at least 50 individuals/families
- There is a cohesive board of directors in place with the addition of a long time member of MOACS.
- We are reviewing the existing 5-year plan (implementation progress and updating) and are exploring the VCH offer to do a "mission" workshop.
- We are currently recruiting for board member appointments with finance and legal skills. There are vacancies on the board which can be filled with "appointees" until our AGM in June 2010
- We have successfully dealt with two problematic former board members who were part of an ongoing, very disruptive and real danger to the health of the Society and its members. This culminated in a special meeting of our membership. On February 6, thirty members voted to revoke the membership (3 people voted not to) of one of the individuals who was the specific subject of the special meeting. The Board interprets this result as a vote of confidence by the membership.
- A maintenance committee is attending to a list of ongoing building jobs and in April will develop an updated preventive maintenance program
- Staffing was a challenge as a result of a prolonged health leave of the "permanent" program manager. She is now scheduled to return on a graduated return to work basis that will be phased in over the next month and a half.

- While there was a ¾ time replacement/substitute for our regular fulltime program manager – an arrangement that was suitable for the temporary program manager at the point of hiring – that assignment was increased to full time hours. The 6-month period ¼ time was allocated to develop and run a pilot intergenerational community kitchen program with our cook. That trial ends March 30.
- The publication of our periodic newsletter the Marpole Place, Your Community Connection has resumed
- We continue to monitor ongoing programs and pursue every realistic opportunity to offer additional and appropriate service/programs.

- These are some of activities/courses/clubs etc at Marpole Place:

Long term users & Members

Family Place Drop-in (A large number of adults and toddlers)  
Two faith groups (40+ individuals in total)  
PIRS – ESL Group (20+)  
SUCCESS – Assisting new immigrants with classes, lectures &  
Computer classes (50+ individuals- predominantly women)  
Brownies (10 children, 5 adult volunteers)  
Marpole Area Network (1X month 5-20 community members)  
Literacy group - occasional  
Local band rehearsal (BackTrax)  
Law Students program (6 per night multi-generational)  
Private functions (memorial gatherings, birthday parties  
And other rentals)

Clubs

Stitch and time (10 seniors)  
Table tennis (30+ mostly seniors but multigenerational)  
Bridge Club (20 seniors)  
Computer Club (18 seniors)  
Book Swap Club 10  
Coffee Talk (7 seniors)  
South Granville Big Book Step Group (15+/-)  
Cribbage/Scrabble/Sequence (10 seniors)  
Day Trips for Seniors (30)  
Garden Club (5 Seniors)  
Friday Breakfast club (seniors)

Services & other programs/classes

Children's Super Saturday drop-in (10 children 3 volunteers)  
Adult Saturday Drop-ins Arts & Crafts (10+/- multi-generational  
but mostly seniors)  
Foot Care-pedicures (12+ seniors)  
Community Kitchen (10 per session multi-generational & family  
oriented)  
Thursday Night Program/ Supper (35+seniors & family oriented)  
Fitness classes- Low impact Re-fit and chair yoga (8 +/-seniors)

Computer Classes – beginners to advanced (8 a session seniors)  
Chinese Calligraphy (6 seniors)  
ESL- conversation (multi-generational all women)  
Blood Pressure Clinic (10+ seniors)  
Seniors monthly social luncheons (40+/-)  
Swimming at Pearson (just started)

(The danger of listing the activities is the possibility of omitting something important that is worth mentioning.)

The energy at Marpole Place is not static - the staff, board and volunteers work well together and meet regularly, as well as stay in touch by email. Staff and the president now meet once a week to provide continuity and appropriate direction. It also provides a double check and support for the staff.

The Social Planning staff formed the opinion that the level of activity at Marpole Place is not up to "usual standards for City facilities of a like nature, e.g. neighbourhood houses". It would be of great assistance to the board and staff if you would provide us with some concrete examples or, preferably the specifics about where you perceive a 'short-fall'. That way we may be able to respond, either by clarifying or rectifying the situation.

For your information, some time ago, we had initiated a visit from the Director of the ANH. She explained the services they provided and we would have really liked to join up then and there. Their accounting person even assisted us with calculating the operating cost per square foot when the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House operated the ADC at Marpole Place. Unfortunately, at that time it was not possible for us to join the organization for financial reasons but it is our not so hidden agenda to not only to function like a neighbourhood house but to actually be one.

We urge you to restore the funding to Marpole Place – the Forever Learning Program forms a vital part of our offerings to our seniors.

We are available to answer any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Gudrun Langolf*  
President,  
Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society

e-copy Board & staff

**Vernooy, Michelle**

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**From:** Karen Schaefer [kschaefer@live.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 2:58 PM  
**To:** Vernooy, Michelle  
**Cc:** Gudrun Langolf  
**Subject:** MOACS 2010 DSS Community Services Grant

Hello Michelle,  
On behalf of MOACS at Marpole Place, please accept this email as notice of appeal of the COV decision rendered in regard to the status of our 2010 DSS Community Services Grant.

Thank you,

Karen M. Schaefer  
Interim Program Manager  
MOACS @ Marpole Place  
Phone: 604-266-5301

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Not using Hotmail on your phone? Why not? [Get it now.](#)

## Network of Inner City Community Services Society - YELL and Y2 (#66)

2010 Request	\$30,000
2009 Grant	\$0
Social Policy Initial Recommendation	\$0
Social Policy New Recommendation	\$0

### Program Description (summarized from the grant application)

Network of Inner City Community Services Society in cooperation with Moresports requested funding for a Yell-Y2 Coordinator. This Coordinated will develop community partnerships and capacity by working with participants and using positive peer influence to promote a healthy, supportive and respectful educational and community environment. YELL provides a unique approach for deliberate leadership development, providing young people with leadership potential to develop, refine and practice these skills; experience their power to effect change by exercising leadership in their environment vial formal and informal interventions.

### Social Policy's Initial Response

Not recommended. Organization meets eligibility criteria for a Direct Social Services grant, but not an Organizational Capacity Building grant that was applied for. Community Services Grants have not been used to fund educational programs where the province has a mandate and responsibility. As such, other applications rated higher in regards to meeting City priorities. In addition, the CS grants already provide significant support for services to children and youth, with almost 20% of grant allocations funding this sector.

### Basis for Appeal

The agency is requesting reconsideration on the basis that the eligibility requirements have not been properly applied. They disagree with the Social Policy comments that stated that they had not applied under the correct grant category, that their grants are used to fund educational programs that the province has a mandate and responsibility for, and other grants are rated as higher priorities.

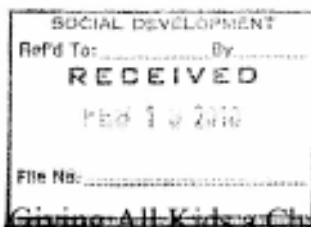
### Social Policy Comments

The original recommendation by Social Policy stated that the organization was not eligible for an Organizational Capacity Building Grant (the application that was submitted), however, that it was eligible for a Direct Social Services (DSS) Grant. The basis of the recommendation was not related to eligibility, as it was assessed as a DSS Grant.

Although this program provides significant leadership skills to youth, given the context of the City's available funding in relation to other higher priorities, staff recommend no grant at this time. Currently, this organization receives a Community Services grant for their Roving Leaders Program.

### Recommendation

Staff recommend NO GRANT.



Giving All Kids a Chance to Play!

Feb 18, 2010

Re: Request for an Appeal

Hand Delivered to:

Social Policy Division, Social Development Department,  
#100 – 515 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4A8

ATTN: Michelle Vernooy, Social Planner

Dear Ms. Vernoy,

This letter constitutes our written request for an appeal to your decision not to recommend our application for a 2010 Community Services Grant for YELL & Y2. We are making the appeal under the first premise that the eligibility requirements have not been properly applied in our situation.

Your reason state that we are did not apply under the correct grant category and that grants are not used to fund educational programs that the province has a mandate and responsibility for and other grants are rated as higher priorities. We disagree.

YELL is increasingly seen as a valuable leader development resource that can be fostered by the key institutional partners in Vancouver. It has been given credit bearing status by the schools and is part of formal curriculum recognized by Parks and Recreation, community organizations and even our BIA's who train and recruit leaders and seasonal staff from the experienced YELL leaders base.

It continues to be difficult to describe YELL simply. While it is commonly recognized that most people have some leadership potential, the skills needed to lead do not necessarily emerge in the course of ones lifetime automatically. YELL provides a unique approach for **deliberate leadership development**, providing opportunity for young people with leadership potential to develop, refine and practice these skills; experience their power to effect change by exercising leadership in their environment via formal and informal interventions. YELL is not a singular program of one organization but a comprehensive strategy incorporating the collective resources of multiple partners including schools, neighbourhood houses, community residents, youth, business, recreation, and sports clubs.

The partners work in a coordinated and non-competitive manner to provide training, experience, practice venues, access available funds and grants for leadership, recreation and sport activities. This cooperative behaviour has meant higher participation rates; increased talent and capacity available; more success in continuity of activities from one year to the next; has improved cross neighbourhood relationships, and expanded social networks and collaborations into other areas of interest between neighbourhoods.

The emerging components of YELL that appear to be strengths are:

1. Defined overall vision, goals, area of focus and community need shared by many partners (Comprehensive)
2. Youth have opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills; create positive change
3. Broad support from School and Recreation community, including administrators faculty, staff, parents, other community leaders, organizations
4. Consistent, committed adult leadership
5. Integrated deliberate process-training (understanding issues), practice, mentorship, teamwork, accomplishing common goals
6. Youth developed and led programs and activities - as they learn they establish their own goals and activities for delivery of peer projects in the community



Giving All Kids a Chance to Play!



7. Opportunity for reflection, celebration and recognition, ongoing evaluation of efforts e.g. processes for sharing, and feedback

This is a challenge that includes needing to find, provide, monitor and coordinate safe volunteer and practicum placements for over 1500 youth who have participated that have joined the YELL project. The ability to monitor placements continues to be a key concern. Getting approved programs/organizations to understand what it means to support this function, and also be able to meet the School Board and Parks Board MARS ( Making all Recreation Safe) and risk management guidelines continues to require a great deal of attention.

Traditionally staffs in civic organizations are conditioned to delivery of program/ service through paid instructors/staff. These people are typically uncertain and uncomfortable with the role of mentoring, supporting and supervising volunteers. The struggle to re-enforce an integrated model where staff role encompasses capacity building and service delivery must continually be pursued if the goal is to truly nurture community leadership.

Incorporating capacity building into how staff/organizations work is the ground work for the paradigm shift that needs to happen, particularly in low-income and challenged neighbourhoods. In these neighbourhoods it is staff operating *service delivery models* that control and often (in exclusion of community people) make decisions on resources, priorities, and even what should be provided. To create and successfully develop internal community strength, staff and organizations must more successfully give and share access to these functions and be prepared to relinquish some of the power and authority to emerging community leaders; as well as making a commitment to work as part of a larger comprehensive approach to address community /neighbourhood challenges.

YELL and Y2 are community youth development programs, and creatively they use existing established training curriculum and municipal infrastructure in new and exciting way to engage youth as community builders. Training incorporates already developed and proven curriculums. Many of these are recognized nationally and carry certifications which assist youth in job and career paths. There is no need to recreate new curriculum when such good material and formats already exist.

The composition and opportunities for YELL participation has had to be a thoughtful and deliberate process. Over the course of the last two years with an increasing demand; this has been a difficult road. Striving to ensure inclusion of diverse groups of youth, who are representative of their neighbourhoods, has meant exploration of diverse new approaches and perspectives in YELL.

Many potential youth leaders reside on the fringes of school culture; they do not play sports or inhabit mainstream community or school life. However, these youth demonstrate an ability to influence the thinking and action of the peers in their social circles. Often these fringe leaders may be called “negative influencers”, but, if they can be included in leadership opportunities and change their own attitudes and behaviours, they can become powerful agents for positive change in their community and among their peers. The process of working with youth who have been excluded and on the fringes not only often requires more patience and skill, it often requires more time for relationship building and a different set of resources and approach.

The *YELL community based program stream* has allowed for some specialized approaches for those not in the typical or traditional leadership groups. The route may be different but these youth come together as leaders when both groups have learnt the program content concurrently along with the skill development process. A youth leader needs to build understanding of issues and the context of the program in which they will be providing leadership. For example; a youth leader interested in helping with incidents of bullying and name calling may lack an informed understanding of the development of stereotypical thinking, and therefore undermine their efforts by snickering at an insensitive homophobic joke. Conversely, those in the School based



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stream may need to have content that helps them have empathy towards the experiences and ideas of others who are from different socio-economic backgrounds.

YELL includes a diverse group of youth, and they form teams and work together successfully in leadership roles. The strength of this methodology is that it incorporates experiences and perspectives from diverse youth groups and promotes a community where differences are accepted and respected.

YELL volunteers are important to the sport and recreation sector which relies almost exclusively on volunteers and hence volunteer leadership development (coaching) is the key to building the capacity of the sector. BUT our extensive research (evaluation) shows that our volunteers from YELL are doing much much more. They are leading arts, cooking, and culture programs, taking on neighbourhood social issues, provide active healthy role models and program opportunities for younger children who are excluded or not engaged. Take a look at the number of YELL youth chosen for the Olympic Torch Relay due to their community involvement and contributions @ (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjR6mGvnaGQ>).

On top of providing courses to youth, we provide mentored placement opportunities in out of school time physical activities for younger children that are part of the MoreSports program and other neighbourhood, city programs and events. These activities are clearly not part of the school system nor the provincial education mandate; they just happen to occur in facilities owned by the School Board or Parks, Neighbourhood Houses, sports and/or youth groups (e.g. classrooms, gyms and fields). We reach many of the youth through and at secondary schools because that is where they are every day during the school year.

To date YELL & Y2 are reaching almost 1000 youth annually who are helping to coach, lead and act as role models for over 7000 kids who otherwise wouldn't have an opportunity to play. Our programs provide an enormous benefit to the youth and families of our city at almost no cost to the city.

YELL was not designed to just be about the leadership skill a youth learns and how many hours they volunteer in programs. The vision is about benefits that extend far beyond the immediate into the development of effective leadership for the future in all sectors of the community. YELL success will be promoted by establishing and articulating levels of youth leadership autonomy, extending responsibility to these leaders for all aspects of the program, including public relations, fundraising, planning, recruitment and placements etc. Although initial goals and objectives for the programs, and projects may have been established by a staff and partnership steering committee it is important that youth leadership also have the opportunity to set their own goals for delivery of programs in their communities and be part of supervision and maintenance of these. WE ARE AT THAT STAGE!

We are seeking assistance with the cost of staff to coordinate this process and the partnerships between organizations that help to deliver and provide these opportunities for quality leadership and citizen engagements in a way that has continuity and builds capacity of both the institutions and the community. This is a fantastic and proven capacity building and Youth supported program it deserves City support.

Sincerely,

Dick Woldring  
MoreSports & YELL & Y2 Coordinator

## Strathcona Community Centre Association - Food Coordinator (#86)

2010 Request	\$60,000
2009 Grant	\$0
Social Policy Initial Recommendation	\$0
Social Policy New Recommendation	\$0

### Program Description (summarized from the grant application)

Strathcona Community Centre Association (SCCA) would like to hire a full time Food Coordinator position to strengthen and expand their current food programs. This position would hire staff and volunteers, do fundraising and other administrative responsibilities. New program development would include community gardening, sustainable food production, and teaching culturally sensitive, family oriented community food preparation. All work would be in accordance with the Vancouver Food Charter.

### Social Policy's Initial Response

Not recommended. Although food security is a growing trend, Community Services Grants currently do not have the capacity to support requests for food coordinator positions in neighbourhoods throughout the city. Note that Vancouver Coastal Health supports this type of activity, albeit to a limited extent.

### Basis for Appeal

The Strathcona Community Centre Association suggests that their application should be reviewed based on the merit of their application and community need regardless of what other neighbourhoods may apply for in future. They have a long track record of running food programs that are critical in their community due to the high needs there. They have also recently learned that since the initial grant review, they have lost one third of their corporate funding for their breakfast program, and are in the process of negotiating operations funding reductions with the Park Board. They are also anticipating provincial funding cuts as well.

The SCCA was unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from VCH's Community Food Action Initiative program as they did not meet the funding criteria (VCH funds programs with target population ages 35-64 and SCCA's food programs are primarily targeted to children and youth).

### Social Policy Comments

The SCCA offers many needed food programs in their community that complement other social, recreational, and educational programs. Given the context of the City's available funding in relation to other higher priorities, staff recommend no grant at this time.

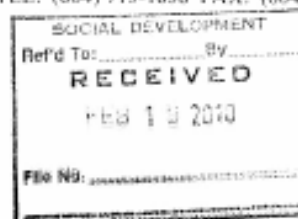
### Recommendation

Staff recommend NO grant.



士達孔拿社區中心委員會  
**STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION**

601 KEEFER STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6A 3V8 TEL: (604) 713-1838 FAX: (604) 713-1848



Michelle Vermooy  
Social Policy Division  
Social Development Dept.  
Ste. 100-515 West 10th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4A8  
Fax: 604-871-6048

February 18, 2010

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to provide notice of appeal of the staff recommendation that the Strathcona Community Centre Association (SCCA) not receive funding in the form of a Community Services Grant.

We are appealing on the following grounds: "the financial situation of the applicant has not been properly assessed or understood."

The staff comment on our rejection letter reads as follows: "Not recommended. Although food security is a growing trend, Community Services Grants currently do not have the capacity to support requests for food coordinator positions in neighbourhoods throughout the city. Note that Vancouver Coastal Health supports this type of activity, albeit to a limited extent."

This comment suggests that our application may not have been properly understood. We applied for funding for one (1) community food program position for Strathcona Community Centre, not for multiple positions throughout the city. Perhaps the staff comment was expressing a concern that funding our application would set a precedent which would result in future requests for funding from additional community centres and neighbourhood houses. If this is the case, it is not an appropriate basis upon which to reject our application. Every application should be assessed on its own merits, weighed against policy priorities and available resources.

Furthermore, as our application made clear, Strathcona has unique characteristics and considerations which do not necessarily apply to other neighbourhoods throughout the city. Strathcona is characterized by a high need: low income levels and concentrated social housing put food security at the top of the community center's agenda. The

neighborhood is also characterized by a high degree of social cohesion and the Community Centre plays a pivotal role in the fostering of this cohesion. The fact that the Centre runs 16 food programs and has run many of these programs for over 10 years demonstrates community need and support, rather than 'trendiness.'

With respect to the assessment of our financial situation, our funding base has shrunk radically in the time since the CSG application was submitted as the effects of the financial crisis continue to ripple through the private and public sector. For example, our breakfast program has seen its corporate funding reduced by 1/3. We are currently negotiating an operations funding reduction from Park Board and we are bracing for additional cuts from the Provincial Government. A community food coordinator is even more essential now; we need a dedicated fundraiser to address the budgetary shortfalls and an administrator to find us operational and procurement efficiencies.

We appreciate the suggestion that we look to Vancouver Coastal Health for support. Our Centre has a good working relationship with VCH as demonstrated by our application's letter of support from Barbara Crocker, a VCH community nutritionist. Unfortunately, as noted in your letter, the available funding for food-related initiatives from VCH is indeed limited. For example, the Healthy Living Program has a \$40 000 budget for supporting short term projects. Grants must be one-time and not exceed \$10 000. Moreover, the target population is adults 35-64 whereas our programs cater largely to children. The Centre did apply for a grant from the VCH's Community Food Action Initiative in November 2009 but regrettably did not meet the funding criteria.

The Centre continues to pursue funding opportunities from many agencies. The SCCA is committed to the principle of partnership and our record supports this. More specifically, we are actively seeking additional funding partners to supplement CSG funding for our food program co-ordinator position. We expect to be able to announce a partner in April.

Thank you for considering our application and this appeal. We trust that any misunderstanding arising from the original application has been clarified.

Sincerely,



Patricia Badir  
President, Strathcona Community Center Association

## Vancouver Status of Women - Referral and Resource (#110)

2010 Request	\$58,890
2009 Grant	\$34,592
Social Policy Initial Recommendation	\$23,896
Social Policy New Recommendation	\$23,896

### Program Description (summarized from the grant application)

Vancouver Status of Women (VSW) works with women to ensure our full participation in the social, political and economic life of our communities, in the profound belief that women's self-determination is a crucial step towards a just and responsible society. VSW's work includes: popular education & anti-oppression workshops, a volunteer program, phone and drop-in information, referrals & support, a feminist lawyer referral program, and the Leadership Empowerment & Activism Program (LEAP).

VSW's programs and services are primarily for women facing systemic barriers around issues such as race, age, poverty, queer/lesbian/two-spirited/trans-identity, disability, single motherhood, immigration.

VSW is requesting a grant to support a Women's Centre Coordinator (35 hrs/wk) and a Volunteer Program Assistant (21 hrs/wk). Working closely with the Women's Centre Coordinator, the Volunteer Program assistant will co-coordinate trainings, update and distribute volunteer orientation packages, coordinate volunteer appreciations, and offer ongoing support to volunteers.

### Social Policy's Initial Response

Recommend reduced amount of funding. Organization received \$34,592 in 2009. Other applications better reflect City priorities and stronger outcomes, and were therefore ranked higher. Staff are recommending reduced CS grant of \$23,896 at this time and the organization will be provided with suggestions to strengthen application for future years.

### Basis for Appeal

The organization has indicated to City staff that the reduction of the City's grant puts the organization at peril of not being able to function (see attached letter). The organization has received funding cuts from both the federal and provincial governments, including the denial of gaming funding this year.

VSW indicates that "while they have experienced challenges due to funding constraints, high turn over of volunteers, and a growing need in the community, they have maintained hours of operations, a resource centre, publications, public education forums, skill-building through workshops, and a strong volunteer program."

The organization also indicates that the position of the Women's Centre Coordinator (in part funded by the City grant) is crucial for the various programs happening at VSW. Aside from continuing support of existing programs, VSW also hopes to engage in some new initiatives like creative writing training with a language justice focus.

### **Social Policy Comments**

Services to women are one of the priorities for allocations from the Community Services grant program. Close to 12% of the program funds, are directly dedicated to women related services. In addition, there are many other targeted services (e.g. services to immigrants, youth, and seniors) where women (and girls) are the recipients of needed social services.

Given the context of the City's available funding in relation to other higher priorities, staff recommend a grant to VSW for \$23,896 at this time. Staff is concerned about the financial stability of the organization and their ability to retain funding from other sources. Staff is willing to work with VSW staff and Board to help explore additional sources of funding for the organization.

### **Recommendation**

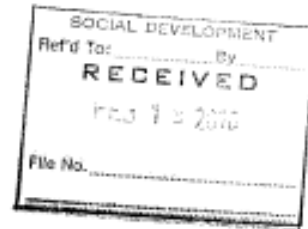
Staff recommend a grant for \$23,896.

Social Planning – Community Services Group  
453 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Re: Vancouver Status of Women Grant Reduction**

To Whom It May Concern:



This letter is in response to Michelle Vernooy's letter dated January 28th, 2010 informing us of our \$10,696 funding cuts. We at Vancouver Status of Women would like to appeal the decision based on the reasons that the City did not take into account our financial situation and that the eligibility criteria was not properly applied.

**Financial Situation.**

Vancouver Status of Women has been consistently providing community services and support for the last 39 years to a diverse group of women. In the last few years, access to our centre has increased significantly. At the same time, our Centre's resources are stretched to capacity in order to cope with the increased need. The City's funding cut further puts our organization and our ability to serve women in great peril. We have been receiving funding from the City for close to fifteen years. Due to historical funding cuts from both the federal and provincial governments as well as, anticipated Direct Access Gaming funding cuts, we are very dependent on grants provided by the City. The \$10,696 cut will seriously impede our ability to maintain our centre and our ability to do our work.

**Our Work.**

We feel that we are in accordance with a number of city priorities and ongoing policy concerns and thus fit the eligibility criteria for the Community Services Grant. This includes the gender equity, multiculturalism and diversity and the social sustainability policies. Vancouver Status of Women has been fighting for women's self-determination for 39 years now. We have long been a leader of innovation in these areas constantly updating ourselves according to the needs of our community and remaining relevant to the multiplicity of issues facing women in Vancouver.

We have worked hard to make our space more inclusive over the last few years, recently incorporating a children's play area within our drop-in center. We possess public computers for women to access as well as training sessions which are provided as needed. Within the neighborhood of Hastings-Sunrise there are no other resources available to the public like the ones we provide, making us an invaluable part of the area.

While we have experienced challenges due to funding constraints, high turn over of volunteers, and a growing need in our community, VSW has maintained operating hours, a resource centre, publications, public education forums, skills-building through workshops, and a strong volunteer program.

At VSW we have a sincere and deep commitment to our volunteers and engage with women so as to empower them to build skills that are not readily accessible elsewhere. We also facilitate their connection to a wider network of feminist organizing and prepare them for work. An example is the unique series of workshop we have organized for upcoming weeks, so that our volunteers are better able to assist women facing serious barriers. This includes a Women and HIV workshop, a workshop on how to assist women with mental illnesses, and one on how to provide referral services for women in distress.

Our Single Mother's Resource Guide (SMRG) is an invaluable resource to the community, was created with the help of volunteers. We had planned to update it again this year. With the loss of City funding we likely will be unable to do this. The SMRG provides our volunteers with

important research skills, information about essential provisions in the Greater Vancouver area and resources to help them improve their computer, graphic and design skills.

We are also planning on publishing our Racialization of Poverty project and are anticipating that it will be in great demand. The City's funding cuts will seriously jeopardise this project.

Our emphasis at VSW is on skills building, empowerment and self-determination so that women are able to better participate in civil society. This stretches to all areas of our work, from our volunteers to the women who access our resources and programming. This is evident in our planned programming for our upcoming year. We intend to expand our successful theatre of the oppressed program by training a group of women to become facilitators in theatre of the oppressed. This will ensure that community training and participation is being carried out at a much wider scope, allowing these women to return to their own communities with a valuable skill and an ability to empower those around them.

Our anti-discrimination work in the community is a direct service that benefits and empowers individuals and society as a whole. In the last year, our services (including publications, telephone calls, and public education forums) have serviced thousands of women. Given our limited resources, we feel we have been able to reach out to and support women as a stable, efficient women's centre. We are also planning on expanding the scope of our diversity workshop, making them more accessible to other community organizations and businesses in need.

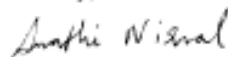
We commend the city on creating its innovative social sustainability policy and would like to emphasise that this is one of the central goals of VSW, of developing women's individual and human capacity through skills building and facilitating social networks that improve their community capacity, their own well-being and also that of our communities.

#### Our Space

Both the space of VSW and the position of the Women's Centre Coordinator is crucial for the various other programming that happen at VSW. We currently run the Leadership Empowerment and Activism Program (LEAP), which involves around fourteen women who are taking part in facilitation training, popular education and Creative expression. We also have around ten women taking part in IGNITE, which is a media arts training project that offers women facing systemic barriers the opportunity to share their realities. We are also investigating possibilities of combining programming happening under LEAP with the rest of the centre so that we are able to reach an even wider diversity of women. This includes beginning a creative writing training program with a language justice focus, so that women facing marginalisation through language are able to find empowerment and access civic participation. We are carrying on a small initial language justice workshop in March, so as to assess the needs and interest of the community. All of this programming is maintained by only 2 full-time staff at VSW and these cuts will greatly impact the resources that these women will be able to receive from the space and the future programming that we have planned.

We ask you sincerely to reconsider this decision, and look forward to years of collaboration with the City of Vancouver.

Sincerely,



Swathi Nimal

Women's Centre Coordinator