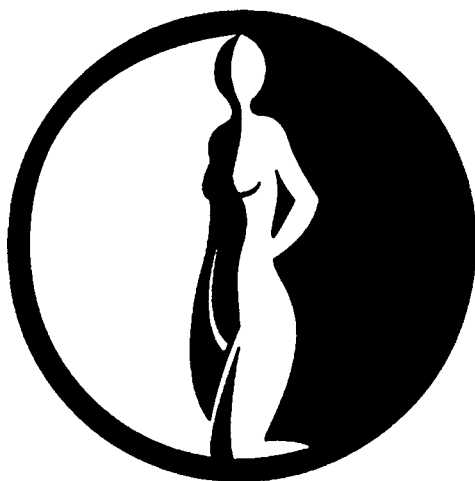


*Vancouver  
Women's  
Health  
Collective*



*Annual Report  
2000/2001*

# *Vancouver Women's Health Collective*

1 - 175 East 15th Avenue  
Vancouver BC Canada V5T 2P6  
Information Centre Line 604-736-5262  
[www.womenshealthcollective.ca](http://www.womenshealthcollective.ca)  
Administration 604-736-4234

## *Our Purpose*

We have all been taught that only medical experts know about good health care. In fact, health information has been passed down from one generation of women to the next for centuries. Since our founding in 1972, the Vancouver Women's Health Collective (VWHC) has promoted and supported women helping women help themselves.

## *Our Mission Statement*

The Vancouver Women's Health Collective provides information, resources and other support for women to empower themselves to take charge of their own health care.

## *Our Members*

We are a charitable, non-profit women's organization, funded primarily by donations, membership fees, grants, and fundraising initiatives. Volunteer members are an essential part of the VWHC — without them we could not offer our services to the women of British Columbia.

## *VWHC Goals*

- actively work on racism, ageism, heterosexism, classism and discrimination against people with disabilities, within and outside the collective
- create an environment that increases participation in, and use of, the collective, and ensure that both reflect the diversity of our society
- work in a healthy way on issues of power and conflict within the collective
- support and actively practice taking care of ourselves within the collective
- strive to be a self-sufficient structure while remaining autonomous and not compromised by funding sources
- actively participate in information exchange and support with individuals and groups locally and globally who share our perspective
- support every woman's right to continue or terminate a pregnancy
- engage in education and consciousness-raising around issues of reproductive choice
- create an active and representative women's health lobby to foster change in the health care system by exposing the roots of economic corruption and power imbalances in the established health care industry
- value and promote knowledge about health based on women's tradition and experience
- promote the vision that women are more than the sum of their reproductive parts

- provide a broad range of health-related resources and a critical analysis of the established health care system, thereby offering options by which women can make their own health care decisions
- inspire, support the development of, and engage in an ongoing exchange with issue-specific self-help, support and educational groups which, although functioning independently of the collective, share our philosophy and values
- continue to develop our understanding of health and healing through the critique of the "disease model" of health, and promote a model based on the mind/body/spirit that addresses women-identified health problems
- actively respond to, and expose, the ways that the health care system perpetuates violence against women

### *Thanks to our 2000/2001 Funders*

BC Ministry of Women's Equality  
Vancouver/Richmond Health Board  
Vancouver Foundation  
BC Gaming Commission  
Job Creation Partnerships, HRDC  
Summer Career Placement Program, HRDC  
VWHC Members and Donors

## *WWHC Members*

Saille Abbott • Jean Adler • Karen Barber • Irene Barr • Barbara Bell  
Genevieve Blanshard • Susan Boroevich • Laura Bucci • Diane J. Burton  
Aidan Cameron • Kristen Campbell • Cathy Chabot • Arlene Churchill  
Gail Clement • Sharon Coates • Lara Coutts  
Cranbrook Women's Resource Centre • Naznin Dawoodi • Karen Dias  
Stephanie Docherty • Patricia Dubberley • Lehe Elarar • Renee Fernandes  
Pam Fichtner • Jacqueline Gingras • Lu Hansen • Coreen Hanson  
Terrie Hendrickson • Darby Honeyman • Christa Hymanyk • Alison Karst  
Helen Kearns • Jennifer Kelly • Meredith Kimball • Ima Krayenhoff  
Lorraine Kuchinka • Carol Latter • Kathie Lindstrom • Barb Little  
L. Whitney McMillan • Shazia Muhammad • Silvia Musholt  
Rhodea Omler • Pacific Post Partum Support Society • Diane Payette  
Pentiction & Area Women's Centre • Trisha Phillips • Maureen Picone  
Lynn Redenbach • Joan Robillard • Sunita Romeder • Adrienne Ross  
Bettina Rothe • Eng Sengsavang • Rolly Sidher • SFU Women's Centre  
Marion Smith • Connie Spataro • Kaleigh Staritt • Ellen Tallmann  
Tanya Thiessen • Angelica Torres • University of Victoria Women's Centre  
V/R Mental Health Network • Kim Versfeld • Linda Ward • Susan Wendell  
Women's Contact Society • Amy Woods

## *WWHC Donors*

Megan Arundel • Liz Bennett • Burnaby Hospital Parr Gift Fund  
Judith Burke • Elizabeth Burrell • BC Teachers' Federation  
Children's Hospital Psychiatry Fund • Mary Ann Code • Melanie Conn  
B. Conner • Beverley Conner • Diane Desroches • E.K. Dolan  
Rebecca Frame • Muriel Harris • Health Sciences Association of BC  
Hospital Employees' Union • Alice Kidd • Nancy Kleiber  
Helen Lane • Margaret Leitner • L'Hirondelle Financial Services  
Mary Anne McWaters • Sara Menzel • Jane Munro • K. Ochs  
OPEIU - Local 378 • Susan Penfold • Janet Riehm • Adrienne Ross  
Winona Rowat • Jane Rule • Debra Seaboyer  
S. Surrey/White Rock Women's Place • Nicola Stewart • Eunice Stronach  
Diane Trovato • UBC Medical Students for Choice • E.M. Wheeler  
Anna Zavalkoff

*2000/2001*

*Steering Committee Members*

Lucette Hansen, President  
Aidan Cameron, Vice-president  
Terrie Hendrickson, Treasurer  
Alison Karst, Secretary  
Kim Versfeld, Member-at-large  
Renee Fernandez, Member-at-large

*Employees*

Anna-Lisa Boye, Information Centre Coordinator  
Caryn Duncan, Administrator

*CHA Employee*

Angela Gray, Community Health Advocate Coordinator

*Work Placement*

Coreen Hanson, Volunteer Coordinator

*Practicum Student*

Laura Bucci, Web Page Designer

*Summer Student*

Samantha Kelly, CHA Project

## *Year In Review*

Throughout 2000/2001, the Vancouver Women's Health Collective continued to provide health information for women through our health information line, health resource library, our newsletter, HER VOICE, and our Community Health Advocate project. We are very excited about our new communication tool; we will be launching our VWHC web site on July 1, 2001 ([www.womenshealthcollective.ca](http://www.womenshealthcollective.ca)).

The collective responded to at least 1,500 women's queries by telephone, e-mail, and by assisting women who visited the Information Centre. Women's organizations, community groups, health practitioners, and individual women held meetings, training sessions, and support groups among other events at the VWHC Information Centre.

The Community Health Advocate project was, again, enthusiastically supported by women's and community organizations wishing to co-host the Patient's Rights workshop in their community.

Women continue to seek health information, and the collective serves the vital role of health information provider. We had a wonderful first year at our new location, 175 East 15th Avenue in Vancouver.

## *Health Information Centre*

As usual, it was a busy year at the Information Centre. We welcomed new volunteers and wished others farewell. From April to September, thanks to funding from the federal government, we

hired a volunteer coordinator. The coordinator worked with volunteers one-on-one, developed new recruitment material, and recruited new volunteers for the Information Centre. We continue to strive to make our Information Centre a vital and exciting place to visit and to be involved with. Staffed exclusively by volunteers, in 2000/2001 the Information Centre was open 20 hours per week, which translates into more than one thousand volunteer hours.

The VWHC maintained its presence in the community by attending various events and workshops throughout the Lower Mainland. In addition to the daily business of the Information Centre, new ideas were brought to fruition:

- we created a VWHC web site with a launch date of July 1, 2001
- we are now recommending reading materials in our health files so that women may search out further information at other libraries or resource centres
- health files were expanded to include health-related topics such as stem cells, alternative insemination, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
- we continue to expand our files and other resources regarding complementary therapies
- to raise our profile in the community and make us easier to find we had a beautiful sign designed and hung above the building entrance to the VWHC Information Centre as well as a sandwich board for the side walk entranceway

Again in 2000/2001, we focused on recruitment and retention of volunteers, and adequate and consistent staffing of the Information Centre. Through the initiative, commitment and hard



work of volunteers and staff, the VWHC Information Centre will continue to promote informed, woman-centred, self-determined health care for the women of British Columbia.

## *HER VOICE Newsletter*

HER VOICE, the Vancouver Women's Health Collective newsletter, was published twice last year. HER VOICE, provides a forum to connect the collective with its members and donors, and the community at-large around women's health issues and activities taking place at the collective. The January 2001 issue dealt with disordered eating. Menopause was the focus of our Spring 2001 issue. Submissions about women's health and well-being are always welcome.

## *Community Health Advocate Project*

In 1998, the Vancouver Women's Health Collective began offering women training under its Community Health Advocate (CHA) project. Last year, the project shifted from training advocates to offering women a Patient's Rights workshop. This year we began developing an information kit for workshop participants as well as a CHA promotional leaflet in English, Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, Punjabi, and Chinese. In 2000/2001, the following organizations co-hosted the Patient's Rights workshop for women:

- BC Women's Hospital, First Nations Advocacy Program – May 2000
- Mount Pleasant Family Place – June 2000

- Women of the Downtown Eastside – July 2000
- North Shore Women's Centre – August 2000
- MOSAIC, Somali women – September 2000
- Northshore Women's Centre – November 2000
- MOSAIC, Vietnamese Women – December 2000
- Pacific Immigration Resource Society, Leads Group One – December 2000
- MOSAIC, Kurdish Women – February 2001
- MOSAIC, Vietnamese Women – February 2001
- Strathcona Park Mental Health Women's Group – February 2001
- Pacific Immigration Resource Society, Leads Group Two – March 2001

Workshop participants learn about their right to access safe, respectful, and appropriate health care. The workshop includes a range of information including: an introduction to the services provided at the VWHC; self-advocacy skills; things to think about when choosing a doctor; informed consent; commonly asked doctors' questions; routine exams; self-care; and resources and information sharing amongst workshop participants.

The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board is committed to providing basic funding for the CHA project as well the Vancouver Foundation matched the health board funding for CHA for one year. In the summer of 2000 a student worked exclusively on the project with the CHA coordinator.

# Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

year ended 31 March 2001, Unaudited  
(with comparative figures for 2000)

	2001	2000
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grants	68,483	70,836
Gaming	42,232	46,406
Donations	5,353	2,924
Information Services	530	433
Membership fees	990	1,465
Office Services	5,028	21,798
Other	285	835
	<b>122,901</b>	<b>144,697</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Accounting & bookkeeping	2,711	4,086
Advertising & promotion	2,674	0
Amortization & depreciation	4,154	4,427
Conference fees & training	848	105
Equipment rent & service	7,632	6,464
GST expense	1,708	1,776
Honoraria	0	280
Insurance	805	805
Literature for resale	0	3,265
Materials & supplies	4,253	3,476
Miscellaneous	212	2,468
Moving charges	1,683	0
Office expenses	873	5,358
Printing & production	2,947	2,870
Rent & parking	20,579	42,665
Resource materials	774	761
Salaries & contract services	68,989	61,499
Telephone & fax	2,677	2,048
Travel	120	0
	<b>123,641</b>	<b>142,353</b>
<b>Deficit/Surplus for the year</b>	<b>(739)</b>	<b>2,344</b>

Please note: the VWHC's 2001 financial review was conducted by Loren & Company while the 2000 review was conducted by Joanne Dorman. Some expenses i.e. miscellaneous expenses and office expenses appear to differ significantly from 2000 to 2001. This is due to expenses being grouped differently. In fact, expenses in 2000 and 2001 remained more-or-less constant the one significant difference being rent, which was reduced considerably with our move in June 2000.

## *Vancouver Women's Health Collective Information Centre*

### *Offers all Women:*

- a women's health resource library
- health information files
- practitioner & therapist directory — from surgeons to naturopaths — includes evaluations completed by women who wish to share their experiences with other women
- questionnaires completed by practitioners & therapists about their services
- videos on women's health
- VWHC Menopause Kit
- alternative health products for sale including 'The Keeper' menstrual cup and reusable cloth menstrual pads
- information about complementary services and support groups

Staffed exclusively by volunteers, please call the  
Information Centre for our hours of operation:  
604-736-5262

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