

November 30, 2011

Re: Announcement - Administrative Consolidation between Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre Society (WSAC) and Victoria Women's Transition House Society (VWTH)

Dear Community Partners,

As community partners and supporters of the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre and the Victoria Women's Transition House, we are happy to share with you the results of our extensive work over the past year exploring a potential collaboration between our agencies. Over this past year we researched opportunities in our community and worked very closely investing time and resources to conduct a thorough study. Through consultants, leadership teams, and Board members of both agencies, we explored options ranging from partial partnerships to full merger. We financially audited both agencies, reviewed missions and values; business plans; and strategic plans of each agency; and also looked at potential partnerships with other community agencies. In order to address the ever rising operating costs of both organizations, WSAC and VWTH explored options that would help to save administrative cost overhead.

As a result of this exploration, we are pleased to announce that WSAC and VWTH entered an administrative consolidation on October 1, 2011 for an 18 month trial basis. An administrative consolidation includes combining administrative staffing costs, purchasing, and exploring the possibility of sharing space. Additionally, we plan to research some joint programming to enhance services. We expect that both agencies will experience administrative cost savings in the long run. I will be the Executive Director for both WSAC and VWTH during this time. Carolyn Fast, Project Manager for VWTH, is working on a feasibility study to explore a non-profit community centre, which would not only benefit local agencies but also create a hub of services in the community. This administrative consolidation will leave both agencies intact with their individual identities and history, providing the same high level of services and making an effort to handle our funds most effectively in the current tight economic environment.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our process.

Warm regards,



Makenna Rielly, MA
Executive Director