



KAMLOOPS AND DISTRICT

Elizabeth Fry Society



Annual Report 2017-18

Message from the President and Executive Director

Last year was one of continued challenges and opportunities. The Society continued to offer high quality programs in its focus areas, community justice, women and youth programs and housing. To enhance our services for women and children, we worked closely with the United Way and TRU, developing Empower Her, designed to increase women's safety and financial independence.

In the area of community justice, we had the opportunity to meet with the Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, as well as Judy D'Arcy the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to highlight the particular challenges people in Kamloops face. In January we were able to provide input into the provincial Poverty Reduction consultations that were underway throughout the province. Working with the

Living Wage for Families Campaign, we calculated and publicized the living wage in Kamloops. We were also involved in meetings with the City of Kamloops and BC Housing relating to improving the response to homelessness in Kamloops and advocating for new housing.

In the spring of 2018 we celebrated Loretta King reaching 20 years of employment with the Society and the retirement of Rhonda Hall, the Library/Pretrial Coordinator.

A particular highlight was the recruitment of a new Executive Director. The Board of Directors invested considerable time and energy into the process and were rewarded with finding an excellent candidate.



Jennifer Murphy, Board President

J. Murphy



Louise Richards, Executive Director

Louise Richards

Board of Directors 2017-18

President: Jennifer Murphy

Vice President: Penny Douglass

Treasurer: Robbie Tallon

Secretary: Susie Mabee

Director: Mollie Both

Director: Rachel Lammers

Director: Grayden Flanagan

Director: Heather Lloyd

Housing *Housing services at a glance ...*

213 Individuals housed in our affordable **Housing** buildings.



5 Women and their children living in **Family Stepping Stones** supportive second stage housing to rebuild their lives.



1220 Individuals received **Housing Resources Services** to find housing and supports.

267 Women were assisted in maintaining and acquiring housing through our **Women's Housing Support Program**.



21 Loans given out through our **Rent Bank** to help those vulnerable to homelessness stay in their homes.



"I first went to the Elizabeth Fry Society for safe, secure and affordable housing. I felt really heard and understood in the housing interview. The atmosphere was so calming. This experience was so refreshing! They have such honest compassion. I didn't know much about the Elizabeth Fry Society so I began volunteering. I love my job and I am learning more about my self and what matters to me. I would recommend Elizabeth Fry to everyone for volunteering or for services, so that they can help them like they helped me. The confidence I have gained I never thought was possible. I can now enjoy my children in my community. Thank you. From our hearts to yours." – Corrina and Family



Spotlight: Family Stepping Stones

Family Stepping Stones was established in 2015 as the first women's second stage housing in Kamloops. We identified a need for 350 women in our community that could benefit from this type of long term supportive housing model. Family Stepping Stones provides 5 units to help address this need. Since 2015, we have helped 7 women and their children successfully transition to independent living.

Legal Advocacy & Support

Poverty Law: 2256

2256 clients served to 45% Income Issues (Income Asst, Person with Disability, CPP), 40% Residential Tenancy and 15% Other (Debt, Employment, Small Claims, Family).

Library / Pre-Trial: 3115

3115 clients served.

Legal Aid: 5080

5080 clients served.

Courtwork: 7314

7314 Total Assists.

Bursary

The Kamloops Elizabeth Fry Women's Educational Bursary provides financial assistance to women, 18 years and older, who are working to enhance their economic independence and self-sufficiency. The bursary is awarded to a Canadian citizen or permanent resident who will be attending a recognized Canadian college, trades school, or university in the Kamloops area. Any program is considered, with the goal of obtaining a certificate, diploma and/or a degree.

We awarded \$1000.00 to Jaquelyn Broad for our Annual Woman's Educational Bursary this year.



Youth & Families

Jesanne:

Being a caregiver has been a gift to my family, my children have gained understanding of the importance of kindness, compassion for people and connections even if only for a short term. For myself it's about knowing that we have given a child a safe, comfortable and nonjudgmental space while they work towards trying to make big changes in their lives, and that's why I continue to do it because that's important work. At the time when I started, I was a single mom, working multiple jobs, spending hours outside of the home and away from my children, but once I was a caregiver I only financially needed to work a single position and it allowed me and my family the resources to spend more quality time together and afford opportunities where couldn't have before.

This past year we have had youth:

Connect and Engage with family members



Graduate from high school

Obtain employment



86%

Our program had a 86% **Successful** completion rate



Elizabeth Fry Society's Great Gatsby Gala

We raised \$15,200 for Family Stepping Stones!

Thank You

Thanks to all our sponsors, donors and guests for contributing to the Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry's Society 6th annual Gala. You have made a difference to the lives of many in our community! We are so proud of our community and all of the willingness to support such a great cause.

After 15 years, Louise Richards retires

It has been an amazing 15 years of change and growth for the Society. Within months of starting at EFry, it was obvious that we needed to find new office space, we were located on Victoria Street - above street level and next to Tenisci Piva. The space was unaffordable and not well suited to our needs as the offices were not private - the walls didn't go to the ceiling. After considerable searching for rental space and not finding anything better, we decided to purchase a small house, 827 Seymour! It was too small but we were able to obtain renovation funding and with considerable volunteer hours from the Board, Staff and the community, we completed the much-needed addition. We moved into the office space before the addition was completed as construction was behind schedule, so we worked in extremely cramped conditions with one staff member even working out of the basement!

The addition of the Poverty Law Advocacy Program to EFry was a major enhancement to our services. In 2002 the Kamloops Legal Services Society office discontinued all its poverty law services so the community lost a much-needed resource. With the funding from the Law Foundation, we were able to restore some of the services lost. It continues to be an essential program in our community.



Our involvement in creating the Kamloops Homelessness Action Plan stands out for me as another major initiative. The lack of safe, affordable, appropriate housing began to reach the crisis level in 2005 or so and continue to today. The Kamloops HAP established connections between the City of Kamloops, non-profits, and the federal and provincial governments. It raised the profile of the problem and contributed significant research about homelessness. Some of the work is still used to inform the continuing work to end homelessness.

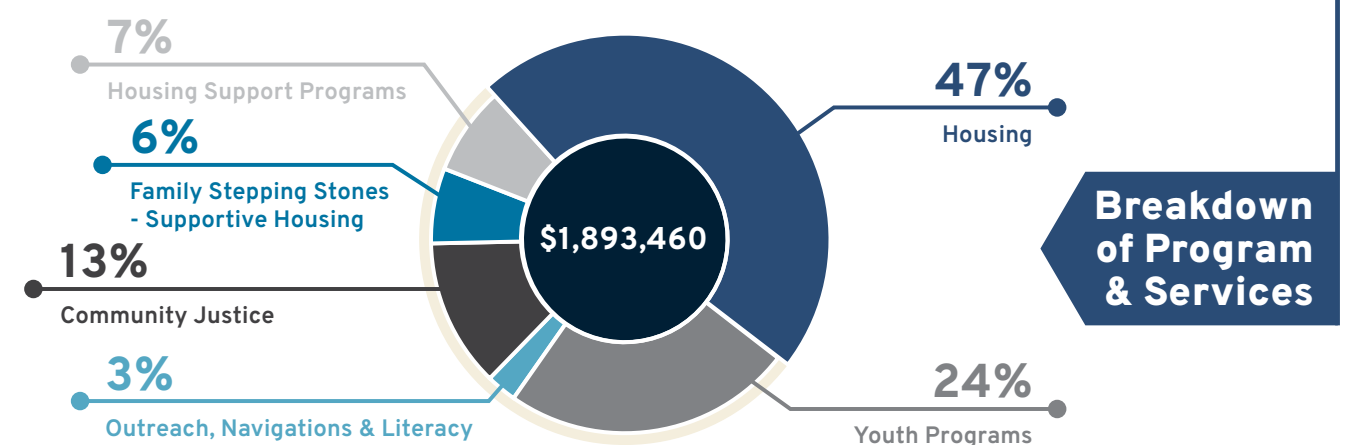
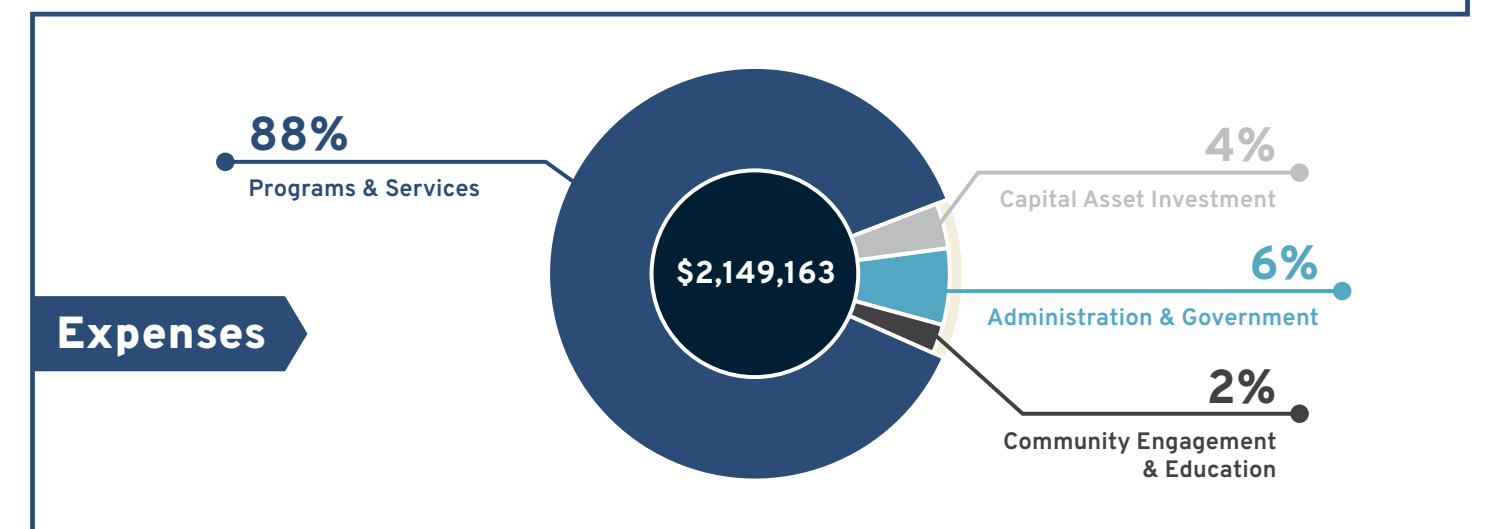
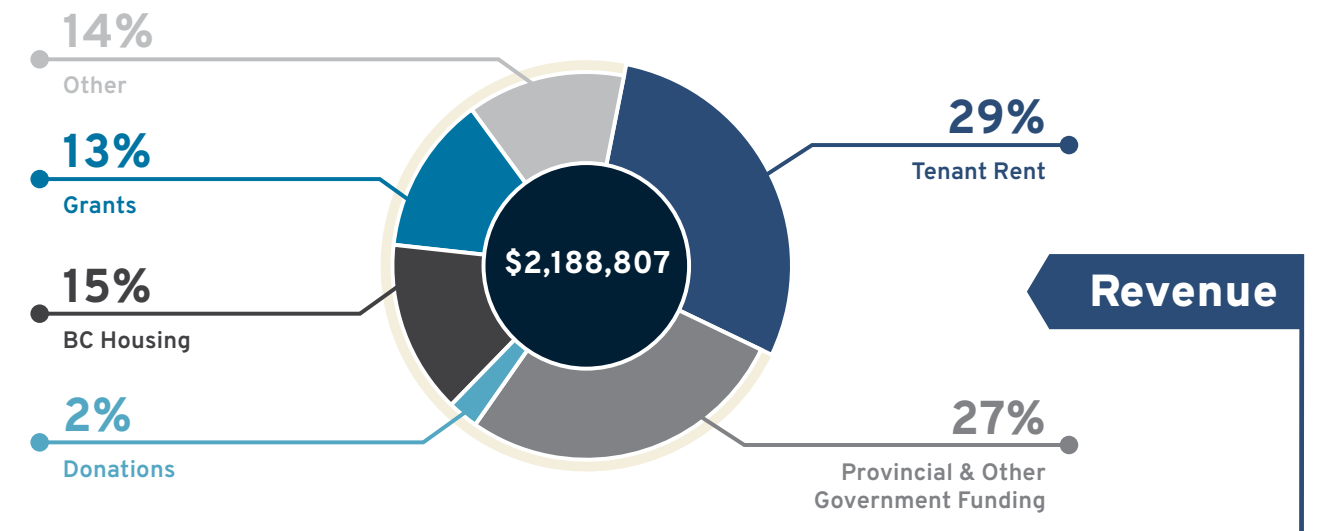
Volunteering as a Regional Advocate for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies provided me with the opportunity to stay very connected to the reasons why it's important to continuing to work in the community. Jails do not solve problems and the best thing we can do is to prevent people from entering the criminal system. I was able to work closely with Mollie Both, Kamloops Board member and fellow Regional Advocate. Mollie and I met with many women who working hard to overcome the challenges that resulted in them going to prison, and some succeeding, despite the way jails work.

And of course, establishing Family Stepping Stones, the first women's second stage supportive transitional housing in Kamloops. This project was MANY years in the making and involved so many different groups, from the research work that was done, to the Board exploring different alternatives, a variety of funding applications...It is a significant and unique resource in the community. The fact that we were able to accomplish this without government funding is a tribute to the commitment of so many people. Achieving some level of government support as we now have is so important but if EFry hadn't pursued it on its own, I don't think it would exist at all.

The ongoing challenge, of course, has been funding. We can identify a need in the community but the ability to address that need depends upon finding funds to offer a program or service. A related problem is the shortage of administrative time to do things like fundraise, properly provide support to staff in the programs, conduct program evaluations and complete reports to the various program funders.

I hope to see EFry continue to build more housing for women and children, specifically housing that includes supports, appropriate to the family's needs. I would like to see the Society be able to continue to work on other prevention type of programming. We have such a great team at EFry! I will miss the day to day contact with my coworkers and staff at other community organizations working toward common goals. I am working on deciding how to stay involved in resolving social issues in the community, where I will be best able to use my skills and knowledge.

Finances



Thank You! We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, sponsors and funder whose support has changed the lives of women and youth in our community.

Year ended March 31, 2018. This information has been extracted from the audited financial statements prepared by Tenisci Piva Chartered Professional Accountants. The full statements are available at www.kamloopsefry.com or by request.



**827 Seymour Street
Kamloops, BC V2C 2H6**

**www.kamloopsefry.com
@KamloopsEFry**

**Charitable Number:
10755 6086 RR0001**

