



# OCTEVAW

*Ottawa Coalition To End Violence Against Women*

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# COCVFF

*Coalition d'Ottawa contre la violence faite aux femmes*

## *Annual Report* *2008-2009*

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## *Report from Steering Committee*

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The Steering Committee is excited to report on our second year of accomplishments. The committee consisted of Mandy Faulkner (Chair), Halina Siedlikowski (Vice-chair), Mary Montgomery (Secretary/Treasurer), Isabelle N. Miron (Chair of the Accessibility and Outreach Standing Committee), Lula Adam (Chair of the Advocacy and Public Engagement Standing Committee), Angelika Lorinser (Chair of the Justice Standing Committee), Sandy Milne (Chair of the Front-line Support Standing Committee), Jenny-Wolff Jean-François (Member-at-large), Christine Culham-Keays (Member-at-large), Sandy Onyalo (Member-at-large), Bonnie Stephanson (Member-at-large), Lee-Ann Lee (Member-at-large) and Erin Williams (Staff - Executive Director).

This past year has been a very busy and fruitful one. There have been a number of new and exciting initiatives that have been undertaken by the coalition as a whole.

With the dedication of Joan Gullen, the rich herstory of RCCEVAW/ OCTEVAW will be forever preserved. Contact was made with the Canadian Women's Movement Archives at the University of Ottawa to have all of the coalition's materials organized and archived with them. It is accessible to all coalition and community members for reference.

With project funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), OCTEVAW was able to embark on a city-wide data collection of women abuse and sexual assault statistics. This is something that we hope to be able to build on in the future.

The three Steering Subcommittees have been quite busy working to develop and put into place the appropriate policies, procedures and work plans, all in line with the mission and vision of OCTEVAW. The three Subcommittees consist of the following: Governance and Nominations, Human Resources and Finance.

The Governance Subcommittee chaired by Halina Siedlikowski, included Merelie Kemp, Lee-Ann Lee, Sandy Onyalo and Erin Williams. Over the past year, the Subcommittee has been meeting regularly to work on the following objectives, 1) Reviewing OCTEVAW's constitution to ensure that it continues to accurately reflect OCTEVAW's practices and values, 2) Amending the elections policy to ensure that our elections process is clear, transparent and as accessible as possible, 3) Reviewing timelines for AGM planning and ensuring that members with specific skills are invited to put forward their nominations to the Steering Committee, and 4) Drafting a conflict of interest policy for approval by the Steering Committee. In the coming year, we will be involved in providing feedback to the strategic planning process and continuing to ensure that governance of OCTEVAW is consistent with the vision of our restructuring.

The Human Resources Subcommittee chaired by Bonnie Stephanson, included Jenny-Wolff Jean-François, Halina Siedlikowski, and Erin Williams. It is responsible for policy and procedural issues pertaining to OCTEVAW staff and volunteers, including the coalition's relationship with Family Services à la famille Ottawa (FSFO) regarding payroll and similar issues. Our new and comprehensive HR policy, which the Subcommittee completed last year, was formally approved at the Steering Committee in the fall of 2008. To date policies and procedures are working well, and there have been no challenges or changes to them. Plans for the coming year include further development and revision of a performance review tool for the Executive Director (ED) position. Our policy states that we will

provide the ED with an annual performance review, and to date we have borrowed elements from tools used by both Western Ottawa & Eastern Ottawa's Community Resources Centres.

The Finance Subcommittee chaired by Mary Montgomery, included Nathalie Lafrenière, Sandy Onyalo, Christine Culham-Keays and Erin Williams. The Committee continued to work extremely hard to establish a sustainable and accountable financial system. This work was done in part with the extraordinary help of Adva Cohen from FSFO. We continued to engage our primary funder, the City of Ottawa and our secondary funder, MCSS and to broaden our funding base and investment opportunities. A commitment was made to distribute a portion of our surplus monies to our Standing Committees in order to support them in their work.

We are confident that OCTEVAW will continue to engage its members and the community in the valuable work that the coalition undertakes. Only in solidarity and united voices can we continue to strive to end all forms of violence towards women and its impact on children.

## ***Report from Executive Director***

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I am happy to announce that I have been the Executive Director of OCTEVAW for nearly two years. The first year after our organizational review was dedicated to building internal and external capacity and governance structures to meet the needs of the Ottawa community and our member agencies. It was a tremendous but necessary task which enabled us to be properly prepared for the work ahead. This year OCTEVAW focused on actively pursuing initiatives aligned with our strategic plan 2008-2010. Increases in visibility, outreach and advocacy have been front and centre and our achievements during this fiscal year speak to our continuing advancements to address violence against women in our community.

### **Events and Projects**

#### Professional Development Day - April 25, 2008

In collaboration with the Sexual Assault Network, OCTEVAW co-hosted a day of education and discussion on women survivors of sexual violence who experience multiplicities. We had close to thirty women from different social service agencies share the day alongside our fantastic presenters. A large thank you goes out to Brenda Saxe, Clara Coleman, Lori de Laplante and Ellie Kanigsberg for sharing their thoughts, expertise and life stories with us. A special mention goes out to Theresa Willoughby from SAN, my organizing partner extraordinaire and Stephanie Coward-Yaskiw, who facilitated our workshop and wrote up the final report with humor and grace.

#### Launch - May 12, 2008

Our public website launch to celebrate Mother's Day was a brilliant success. Thank you to our MC, Kimothy Walker, and our special guest speakers Joanne St. Lewis, Joan Gullen and Reine Ghafari who inspired us with their vision, historical significance and personal experiences. I would also like to acknowledge our performers who wowed the crowd with their enthusiastic poems, youth video and dance. Thank you to Danielle Gregoire and the Summit Slam Poets, Tina Vincent with the aboriginal youth video "The Love You Give," and Jig on the Fly! Special mentions also go out to Barbara Laskin and Shari Graydon who through their guidance and expertise allowed us to welcome over 70 people as we unveiled our new website.

### Fashion Show – September 28, 2008

OCTEVAW was lucky to be the beneficiaries of an independent fashion show fundraiser organized by two community members, Antonietta Bruni and Anna-Lisa Ferrari. The event was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in downtown Ottawa and raised a total of \$360.00 which went directly into the continued development of our public website. A large thank you goes out to the organizers for their support in assisting us in outreaching to our community.

### Professional Development Day – February 18, 2009

OCTEVAW hosted an afternoon discussion on working with women survivors of violence with mental health concerns and addictions. Our wonderful speakers were Sara McConnell from the Anxiety Disorders Association of Ontario (ADAO) and Gundel Lake from Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre. Thirty-six participants were present and nearly twenty women were placed on the waiting list. This was clearly an important topic for coalition and community members and one recommendation is to host a follow-up session.

### Hidden from Sight Statistical Report – November 2008 to March 2009

OCTEVAW received a grant from MCSS to conduct a research project on the prevalence of violence against women in Ottawa from 2007-2008. The first of its kind in our city, the project had two main goals: to consolidate currently available VAW data collected by local agencies and to educate the public on the prevalence of VAW in Ottawa. In total, 16 agencies, services and institutions contributed by providing relevant data. A final report was written detailing our findings along with recommendations arising out of the process.

## **Human Resources**

### Permanent Staff

The ED position was increased from a 0.8 FTE (full time equivalent) position to a 1 FTE position as of August 25, 2008. The increase was due to the annualized financial support of MCSS.

### Contract Staff

1. Annelies van Oers continued in her role as our website technician.
2. Gaele Card continued in her role as bookkeeping support.
3. Pierrette Moreau continued in her role as our French language translator.
4. Trina Forrester was hired in November 2008 as our Researcher to plan, compile and write our statistical report *Hidden from Sight: A look at the Prevalence of Violence Against Women in Ottawa (2007-2008)*.

### Students

1. Yamikani Msosa joined OCTEVAW through Canada Summer Jobs as an Outreach and Information Officer for six weeks in the summer 2008.
2. Ashley McConnell from the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa completed her Master's field placement with special attention to the Justice Standing Committee during the 2008-2009 academic year.

### Volunteers

1. Samantha Algan joined OCTEVAW as our volunteer Outreach Coordinator in January 2009 to assist primarily with website postings and project support for the Advocacy and Public Engagement Standing Committee.
2. Christine Moncrieff joined the Justice Standing Committee as our minute taker in March 2009.

A sincere thank you goes out to all our contract staff, students and volunteers who make the administration and project coordination of our coalition strong and relevant to our members and the Ottawa community.

### **Partnerships**

In 2008-2009, OCTEVAW began or continued to contribute to and/or support the following agencies, projects and committees:

1. CAAST Committee, Minwaashin Lodge
2. Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women
3. Canadians for Choice
4. City for All Women Initiative
5. Comite Réseau
6. Court Accompaniment Program, Ottawa Victim Services
7. Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee
8. Family Law Advisory Committee, Legal Aid Ontario
9. In Love and In Danger, Family Services à la famille Ottawa
10. International Women's Day 2009 Pan-organizational Committee
11. Neighbours, Friends and Families
12. Rising Stronger, Crime Prevention Ottawa
13. Sexual Assault Network
14. Shake the Justice Tree Women's Community Group
15. Women with Pets Escaping Violence Project
16. Women's Event Network - Clothesline Project 2008, Take Back the Night 2008

## ***OCTEVAW Membership and Statistics***

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### **Voting Member Agencies (2008-2009): 21**

Catholic Family Services Ottawa/New Directions  
 Children's Aids Society/VAW Integrated Services Project  
 Comité Réseau  
 Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre  
 Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa  
 Family Services à la famille Ottawa  
 Hunt Club/Riverside Community Services Centre  
 Immigrant Women Services Ottawa  
 Interval House of Ottawa  
 Jewish Family Services of Ottawa - Shalom Bayit  
 Maison d'Amitié  
 Minwaashin Lodge - Aboriginal Women's Support Centre

Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre  
Ottawa Victim Services  
Pinecrest-Queensway Health and Community Services  
Sexual Assault Network  
Sexual Assault & Partner Abuse Care Program (Ottawa Hospital)  
Somerset West Community Health Centre  
University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic  
Women's Initiative for Safer Environments  
Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre

OCTEVAW also has five (5) individual voting members.

**Non-Voting Participant Agencies (2008-2009): 6**

Council on Aging of Ottawa  
Crime Prevention Ottawa  
Crown Attorney's Office  
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services - Probation and Parole  
Ottawa Police Service: Partner Assault Unit, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit, Victim Crisis Unit  
Victim Witness Assistance Program

**Statistics 2008-2009**

Coalition Participation:

1. Accessibility and Outreach Standing Committee  
Total Participants: 7  
Total Participant Hours: 112
2. Advocacy and Public Engagement Standing Committee  
Total Participants: 24  
Total Participant Hours: 125
3. Justice Standing Committee  
Total Participants: 39  
Total Participant Hours: 492.5
4. Front-line Support Standing Committee  
Total Participants: 26  
Total Participant Hours: 260.5
5. Steering Committee  
Total Participants: 12  
Total Participant Hours: Unavailable

Strategic Plan:

1. Visibility and Media Contacts (i.e. press releases, letters to editor, interviews, info tables)  
Total: 28

2. Outreach and Public Relations Contacts (i.e. presentations, consultations, conferences)  
Total: 59
3. Advocacy Initiatives (i.e. letters, meetings)  
Total: 19

## *Reports from Standing Committees*

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### *1. Accessibility and Outreach (AO) Standing Committee*

The AO Standing Committee chaired by Isabelle N. Miron (Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre) consisted of Martine Dore (Chrysalis House), Yvette Uwitonze (Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre), Natalie Hopkin (Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre), Meghan Simmons (Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa), Line Lebel-Lylyk (Comité Réseau), Aline Gahimbare (Voisins, amis et famille) and Erin Williams (OCTEVAW). The Committee initially established a work plan, but had trouble fulfilling it during this fiscal year due to mandate duplication with the OCTEVAW office and internal structures. In the short time it was functioning, the Committee completed an accessibility checklist for all OCTEVAW meetings and sent outreach letters to community houses regarding our services. We also completed an outreach day to distribute our pamphlets to community health and resources centres and early year centres across the city.

Upon reflection at the Steering Committee, it was decided in the fall of 2008 to temporarily suspend the AO Standing Committee and amalgamate it within Steering as a fourth subcommittee. It is still chaired by Isabelle N. Miron.

### *2. Advocacy and Public Engagement (APE) Standing Committee*

The APE Standing Committee chaired by Lula Adam (Interval House) consisted of Bailey Reid (Neighbors, Friends and Family), Joan Gullen (Community Member), Mandy Faulkner (Chrysalis House), Mirjana Pobric (Ottawa Victim Services), Nancy Worsfold (Crime Prevention Ottawa), Samantha Algan (OCTEVAW), Theresa Willoughby (Sexual Assault Network), Valerie Collicott (Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments), Michelle Thompson (Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre) and Erin Williams (OCTEVAW). This year, Mandy Faulkner stepped down as Chair to become the Chair of OCTEVAW. The Committee continues to be a sounding board for the ED in areas such as media responses, advocacy and pamphlet distribution. APE strives to support OCTEVAW on the various outreach and education opportunities as they arise and is continuing to work on fulfilling the commitments laid down in our strategic plan.

One of the main initiatives that were identified this year as paramount was finding positive ways to engage men in ending violence against women. As such, the Committee decided to focus on organizing events that involve men and their role in positive relationship behaviour. Michael Kaufman the founder of the White Ribbon Campaign is invited to present his newest resource

*ManTalk* in the fall of 2009 to OCTEVAW members and the community-at-large.

### ***3. Justice Standing Committee***

The Justice Standing Committee, chaired by Angelika Lorinser (WOCRC-Chrysalis House), consisted of Jan Armstrong (Children's Aid Society), Madelena Arnone (Ottawa Victim Services), Anne Marie Blais (Military Resource Centre, Family Crisis Team Lead), Andrea Blakeley (Assistant Crown Attorney), Toby Brooks (Community Member), Monica Christian (Ottawa Police Partner Assault), Larry Colotelo (Ottawa Police Partner Assault), Emily Comor (Family Law), Christine Culham-Keays (Ottawa Victim Services), Margaret Dunn (Council on the Aging), Melissa Gordon (Eastern Ottawa Community Resource Centre), Joan Gullen (Community Member), Mark Holmes (New Directions), Holly Johnson (University of Ottawa Department of Criminology), Peter Jupp (Ottawa Police Partner Assault), Noha Kirkish (Victim Witness Assistance Program), Serge Legault (Victim Witness Assistance Program), Stefanie Lomatski (Ottawa Victim Services), Brigitte Mainville (Maison d'Amitié), Sandy Milne (Family Services a la famille Ottawa), Ashley McConnell (OCTEVAW/University of Ottawa), John McGetrick (Ottawa Police Sexual Assault/Child Abuse), Andrea McCue (Victim Witness Assistance Program), Christine Moncrieff (OCTEVAW), Sandy Onyalo (Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre), Lynne Oreck-Wener (Jewish Family Services), Sarah Palmer (CAS/VAW Integrated Services Project- WOCRC), Sandy Pinhey (Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre), Louise Quinn (Probation and Parole), Darlene Scantland (Victim Witness Assistance Program), Tammy Seguin (Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre), Halina Siedikowski (Community Member), Vivian Lee Stewart (Assistant Crown Attorney), Richard Tomlinson (Sexual Assault & Partner Abuse Care Program), Louise Toone (Director, University of Ottawa), Roxan Vailancourt (Victim Assistance Services of Ottawa-Carleton), Donna Watson-Elliot (Ottawa Police Victim Crisis Unit), Annette Werk (Community Member) and Erin Williams (Ottawa Coalition To Ending Violence Against Women).

Throughout the year a number of subcommittees worked on particular issues raised in our work plan. To increase awareness of healthy relationships among youths with a focus on dating violence, we conducted an agency-based survey to scan current resources in the Ottawa community and to build partnerships. The Committee assisted the In Love and In Danger program to update their current dating violence pamphlet as an initiative to reach youth. The design was and future printing of this pamphlet will be supported by the Ottawa Police Service.

The Committee focussed on the issue of cross training with judges and Justice of the Peace (JP) on VAW issues. There was a need for the members of the Committee to further understand the current credentials and training given to the JPs and to also understand the degree that the current JPs understand VAW issues. A letter was also sent to Mr. Christopher Bentley, MPP for the purpose of offering to reciprocate information on woman abuse to the local JP office. Presenters brought to the table for clarification included:

1. Hon. Judge Eugene Hyman from the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara (San Jose), who discussed the lack of coordination between the family and criminal courts. Judge Hyman has presided over cases in the criminal, civil, probate, family, and delinquency division of the court for 18 years.
2. Justice of the Peace Brian Mackey, the Educational Representative for the Justice of the Peace. His role was to answer questions pertaining to: what role they play, the appointment process,

bail process, peace bonds, impartiality, and the application process.

Discussions followed centering on the importance of empowering women to ask questions when meeting with their lawyer and the importance of understanding how to work with their lawyer. The Committee took on the task of researching and potentially drafting a pamphlet that women could use when accessing lawyers. Findings resulted in referring women to "Working with Your Lawyer, A Toolkit for Survivors of Domestic Abuse" by The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic along with Pro-Bono Law Ontario.

Other important initiatives included, 1) A presentation from Stephanie Ehert, PhD student, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa and Robin Macdonald, Restorative Justice Network on the top concerning Restorative Justice Approach to Intimate Partner Violence, 2) The creation of an informational report addressing the *rights of victims* in regards to the media publishing their names, 3) The Court Watch Committee continued to work on and test their court monitoring survey and coding manual for the Ottawa Domestic Violence Court, and 4) Canadian Observatory on Justice Responses to Intimate Partner Violence begun at the University of Ottawa to develop methodologies for assessing the effectiveness of justice system responses from the perspective of women who have accessed the system.

#### ***4. Front-line Support (FLSC) Standing Committee***

The FLSC Standing Committee chaired by Sandy Milne (Family Services à la famille Ottawa) consisted of Annick Lavoie (Carlington CHC), Ashley McConnell (OCTEVAW), Barb Sohn (Nelson House), Esther Cesaire (FSFO/IH), Kerri Bjornson (Chrysalis House), Louise Blackburn (OVS), Lynn Urquhart (CFS), Lynne Oreck-Wener (Community Member), Madelana Armone (OVS), Marie-Louise Boudreau (CFS), Martine Romulus (EORC), Nancy Isaac (OPS), Natalie Hopkin (EORC), Sarah Caspi (JFS), Shar Chowdhury (FSFO, Minwaashin Lodge), Theresa Willoughby (FSFO), Ubah Hersi (WOCRC, CAS/VAW ISP), Vivian Chan-Brouillette (IWSO), Vivienne Filiatreault (WOCRC) and Erin Williams (OCTEVAW). In total there are approximately 25 members, with about 17 active members (who attend committee meetings). Attendance ranges from 10-15 members per meeting. FLSC meetings are held from Sept to June approximately every 6 weeks on Friday mornings at Family Services à la famille Ottawa. There were 6 meetings held in the fiscal year April 2008 to March 2009.

A work plan was established with the following goals: 1) to provide a forum for networking sharing information and providing support; 2) identify trends; 3) optimizing options for women seeking service re abuse; 4) maintain a grassroots perspective of service delivery; 5) engage in political action and advocacy; 6) promote public awareness regarding VAW; 7) support and promote diversity and accessibility; and 8) acknowledge workplace safety and emotional well-being.

The FLSC maintains a lawyer list and support group list which is forwarded to OCTEVAW for its website. Committee members were kept informed regarding different services/projects such as Pet Safe and the Court Accompaniment Training. The FLSC has a representative that sits on the Ontario Legal Aid Advisory Committee for Family Law and as a result reviewed the training for lawyers and will provide feedback at the next advisory meeting. The FLSC also has kept a list of presentations that members made in community which is reviewed annually. Members have agreed to be involved with the Ottawa Hospital in initiatives to raise awareness about VAW and will continue to share resources,

handouts and provide support to one another.

There is little representation from the sexual assault community on the FLSC. Workers who deal with children exposed to woman abuse are meeting independently as the FLSC did not appear to be the venue to focus on this issue. The committee has opened up its meetings to all OCTEVAW members when there have been presenters speaking on specific topics such as the Court Accompaniment Training and Review of Legal Aid Ontario Training for Family Law Lawyers. French interpreters were provided. Extending the invitation to all of OCTEVAW provided an opportunity for members to attend regarding a particular topic of interest as well as attending with a view to perhaps becoming a member of the committee.

## *Financial Report 2008-2009*

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### **Statement of Revenues and Expenses April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009**

#### **REVENUE**

SWC Grant		-
City of Ottawa	\$	66,267.75
Donations	\$	25.00
Membership Fees	\$	610.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	733.00
HRDC - Federal Govt SS	\$	1,744.00

Ont. Proxy Equity	\$	2,072.04
MCSS	\$	30,836.70
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>102,288.49</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries & Benefits	\$	59,291.97
Occupancy Costs	\$	4,506.00
Equipment & Repairs	\$	708.29
Staff Development	\$	-
Travel/Transportation	\$	295.11
Outreach	\$	4,426.51
Telephone & IT	\$	1,297.80
Translation/Cultural Interp.	\$	10,312.80
Accessibility Supports	\$	566.41
Professional Fees	\$	3,489.93
Administration	\$	8,084.50
Meetings & Expenses	\$	9,418.02
Supplies, Printing & Postage	\$	3,408.53
Other Expenses	\$	6,240.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>112,045.87</b>
<b>REVENUE LESS EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Net (Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(9,757.38)</b>
<b>OPENING SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>34,498.38</b>
use of surplus	\$	(9,757.38)
<b>ENDING SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,741.00</b>

**Appendix**

1. Family Service à la famille Ottawa Auditor's Note
2. Steering Committee Terms of Office