



OCTEVAW

Ottawa Coalition To End Violence Against Women

COCVFF

Coalition d'Ottawa contre la violence faite aux femmes

Annual Report
2007-2008

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Report from Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the newly implemented coalition is excited to report on our first year of accomplishments. The committee consisted of Nathalie Lafrenière (chair), Halina Siedlikowski (vice-chair), Mary Montgomery (Secretary/Treasurer), Isabelle N. Miron (Chair of the Accessibility and Outreach Standing Committee), Mandy Faulkner (Chair of the Advocacy and Public Engagement Standing Committee), Angelika Lorinser (Chair of the Justice Standing Committee), Jenny-Wolff Jean-François (Member-at-large), Merelie Kemp (Member-at-large), Lee-Anne Lee (Member-at-large), Sandy Onyalo (Member-at-large), Bonnie Stephanson (Member-at-large) and Erin Williams (Staff - Executive Director).

During this implementation period we welcomed and supported the coalition's new Executive Director. In addition, we created three Steering subcommittees that enabled us to put in 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, Personnel, and Finance.

The Governance Subcommittee chaired by Halina Siedlikowski, included Merelie Kemp, Lee-Ann Lee, Sandy Onyalo and Erin Williams. Over this past year, the main thrust of the committee was to monitor the way in which our new constitution has served the coalition. As is commonly the case with new documents of this nature, ironing out the kinks is a priority. To this end, we have suggested some additions, such as the statement on accessibility. The Steering Terms of Office spreadsheet was also developed so that participation of Steering members could be easily tracked. It also illustrates to the membership whose term is up and what positions require new candidates. The nomination form was also amended. The committee has overseen the creation of an orientation package for new OCTEVAW members as well as new members of the steering committee. The governance committee has also endeavored to ensure that there is consistency between decisions made at the last AGM, the constitution and implementation of the constitution. To this end, some amendments and additions to the constitution are being proposed at this year's AGM.

In the coming year, it is expected that we will be drafting a conflict of interest policy for OCTEVAW, the description of the duties of Steering will be reviewed and further attention will be paid to recruiting members of OCTEVAW who have the skills needed for the Steering. We thank Merelie Kemp for her contribution to this committee as she is stepping down from the Steering Committee. We also welcome Sandy Onyalo who joined this committee over the summer. Last but not least, Erin, our courageous and hard-working ED has helped enormously with keeping everything on track and bringing issues forward as they arose.

The Personnel Subcommittee chaired by Bonnie Stephanson, included Halina Siedlikowski, Jenny-Wolff Jean-François and Erin Williams. We continued to engage Barbara Laskin of Meta4 who has been an invaluable asset to this committee. Our primary task this year was the development of a comprehensive Personnel Policy for OCTEVAW. We submitted a draft policy with recommendations to Steering on July 14, 2008 and hope to have it approved this fall. The committee also approved a performance evaluation tool which was used for our ED's probationary review in April 2008. We will continue to work with Family Services a la famille Ottawa (with whom we contract to provide administrative and payroll services) to ensure clarity and accountability in our shared handling of documentation and in procedures related to Human Resources.

The Finance Subcommittee chaired by Mary Montgomery, included Nathalie Lafrenière, Sandy Onyalo and Erin Williams. Over the course of the year, this committee worked extremely hard to establish a sustainable financial system to ensure accountability in relation to the coalition's finances. This was done in part with the extraordinary help of Adva Cohen from FSFO and Gaelle Card, our contract bookkeeper. We also engaged our primary funder, the City of Ottawa, in a discussion regarding our funding and established a relationship with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Our major success was securing annualized funding from MCSS in the tune of \$17,833.00.

We are confident that in the coming year 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

It is incredible to report that almost a year has gone by since I joined the OCTEVAW community as Executive Director. What a year this has been, tremendous successes and challenges alike! I have been able to work alongside the most brilliant and compassionate women and men all with the same objective: ending violence against women and children in our community. I have grown both personally and professionally this year and given my all to make OCTEVAW a success. The astonishing accomplishments made this year would not have been possible without the dedication of my incredible Steering Committee who have guided and supported me in this year of development and learning.

The focus for OCTEVAW this year was to build internal and external capacity to meet the needs of the Ottawa community and the women, children and men we serve. The result was an increase in visibility, outreach, advocacy and governance structures, which make up the four Strategic Directions (2008-2011) decided upon at our December 10, 2007 Strategic Planning Meeting.

Professional Development Day

In collaboration with the Sexual Assault Network, OCTEVAW co-hosted a day of education and discussion on women survivors of sexual violence who experience on April 25, 2008. 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

Our public website launch on May 12, 2008 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!

Contract Staff and Students

This year was a big year for OCTEVAW and I am happy to announce that we employed four contract staff to assist me with the administration of the coalition. Annelies van Oers was contracted last year and will continue to stay on in her capacity as our website technician. Amazing work! Thank you, Annelies! Maria Alexopoulos was contracted as an Events Coordinator last year and her help was truly invaluable. Thank you, Maria! Gaele Card was contracted and will continue to support me in her bookkeeping role. Thank you, Gaele! Last but not least, our amazing translator, Pierrette Moreau, is able to turn English into French at world record speeds. Thank you, Pierrette!

OCTEVAW was also incredibly lucky to offer two students educational experiences in our office. Our first student Farrah Smith joined us from Carleton's School of Social Work for a very short time before she left to pursue a more clinical placement. Our second student, Yamikani Msosa, joined through Canada Summer Jobs as an Outreach and Information Officer for six weeks. Her commitment and dedication was felt throughout the coalition and we wish her the best of luck! This fall, I am excited to welcome Ashley McConnell from the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa. She officially begins her field placement this week paying special attention to the Justice Standing Committee.

Finally, the Executive Director position was increased from a 0.8 FTE (full time equivalent) position to a 1 FTE position as of August 25, 2008. That increase is due to the financial support of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. As you can imagine, this is very good news for me!

Special Partnerships

In 2007-2008, OCTEVAW has contributed to and/or supported the following agencies and projects:

1. Women's Event Network - International Women's Day 2008, The Clothesline Project 2008, Take Back the Night 2008
2. Balkans Youth and Health Project, by the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) and World University Service of Canada (WUSC)
3. Neighbours, Friends and Family Campaign
4. Comité Réseau
5. Court Accompaniment Program, Victim Assistance Services of Ottawa-Carleton
6. In Love and In Danger, Family Services à la famille Ottawa
7. Sexual Assault Network
8. Canadian Observatory on the Justice System Response to Intimate Partner Violence
9. Network for Women with Pets Escaping Violence
10. Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women – Embracing the Complexities of Women's Lives Project (Intersectional Feminist Framework)
11. "Shake the Justice Tree" Women's Community Group

OCTEVAW Membership and Statistics

Voting Member Agencies (2007-2008): 20

Catholic Family Services Ottawa
Comite Réseau
Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre
Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
Family Services à la famille Ottawa
Immigrant Women Services Ottawa
Interval House of Ottawa
Maison d'Amitié
Lowertown Community Resource Centre
Minwaashin Lodge - Aboriginal Women's Support Centre
Nelson House of Ottawa-Carleton
Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre
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
Victim Assistance Services of Ottawa-Carleton
Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments
Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre

OCTEVAW also has 7 individual voting members.

Non-Voting Participant Agencies (2007-2008): 10

CAS/VAW Integrated Services Project
Council on Aging of Ottawa
Crime Prevention Ottawa
Crown Attorney's Office
Ontario Probation and Parole
Ottawa Police Service, Partner Assault Unit
Ottawa Police Service, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit
Ottawa Police Service, Victim Crisis Unit
Ottawa Public Health
Victim Witness Assistance Program

Statistics

2007 Actual

Total amount of in-kind volunteers (coalition members): 50

Total amount of in-kind volunteer hours: 3900

Average amount of individuals, agencies and organizations that used our services: 150

Average amount of times per year that these above individuals, agencies and organizations used our services: 4

2008 Forecast

Total amount of in-kind volunteers (coalition members): 70

Total amount of in-kind volunteer hours: 4800

Average amount of individuals, agencies and organizations that will use our services: 200

Average amount of times per year that these above individuals, agencies and organizations will use our services: 8

Our services include public education, consultations, partnerships, service coordination, program development, advocacy, media relations, information and referral. The stats include website hits, committee meetings, in-person meetings, emails and phone contact.

Our Strategic Planning put into Action - 2008 To Date

Visibility and Media Contacts, i.e. press releases, letters to editor, interviews, info tables: 19

Outreach and Public Relations Contacts, i.e. presentations, consultations, conferences: 18

Advocacy Contacts, i.e. letters, meetings: 10

Reports from Standing Committees

1. Accessibility and Outreach (AO)

The AO Standing Committee is OCTEVAW's smallest with currently four members. Chaired by Isabelle N. Miron it consisted of Yvette Uwitonze (Eastern Ottawa Resource Center), Martine Dore (Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre) and Amanda Smithers-Ryan (Neighbors, Friends and Family Campaign). Our first priority was to build our mandate from square one. Second on the list was the analysis of our membership. We identified missing agencies and sectors around the OCTEVAW table and strategized on how we could engage them. So far we have contacted 8 agencies to let them know about our new structure and the advantages of membership. We also listed our public education resources and materials in a letter addressed to community developers and community house coordinators in the Ottawa area. We have committed ourselves to making sure that every OCTEVAW meeting is as accessible as possible to all members. Therefore, we have developed a checklist that could be used by OCTEVAW committees as an accessibility guide. We also created various outreach and membership documents as the need arose throughout the year. Last but not least, this committee has been blessed with the help of two students, Farrah Smith and Yamikani Msosa, who were devoted to our mission despite their short stays.

2. Advocacy and Public Engagement (APE)

The APE Standing Committee, chaired by Mandy Faulkner, consisted of Joan Gullen (Community Member), Lula Adam (Interval House), Mirjana Pobric (Victim Assistance Services of Ottawa-Carleton), Nancy Worsfold (Crime Prevention Ottawa), Theresa Willoughby (Sexual Assault Network) and Valerie Collicott (Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments). Our first objective was to tweak our amalgamated mandates and to create a work plan to guide our work. Another huge task as a result of our reorganization was the building of our new website, keeping in mind both functionality and user-friendliness as priorities. With the help and guidance of Annelies van Oers, our website technician, our amazing site was ready for the spring launch. The launch was a huge success, attracting over 70 people from all sectors of the community to celebrate OCTEVAW's new image and mission.

In an effort to hear from the membership and general VAW community about advocacy priorities and the directions they would like to see us take, a survey was created and sent to approximately 120 people. The results will be reviewed in early fall. We also recognized the need for relationship building with the media, and thus a focus was put on developing both reactive and proactive media responses with much success. Over the year, we made a total of 12 media contacts through letters, releases and interviews. A sexual assault pamphlet called "Sexual Assault is a Crime" was created this year to compliment our detailed partner abuse pamphlet. The financial consequence was to suspend our smaller and more general "Message to all Women" pamphlet until more funding becomes available. Finally, we believe there is much importance to having OCTEVAW's materials more widely distributed throughout city and are therefore exploring various avenues to achieve this goal. We look forward to reconnecting in the fall so that we can continue our work in raising awareness to end all forms of violence against women and their children.

3. Justice

The Justice Standing Committee, chaired by Angelika Lorinser, consisted of Jan Armstrong (Children's Aid Society), Toby Brooks (Community Member), Anne Marie Blais (Military Resource Centre, Family Crisis Team Lead), Monica Christian (Ottawa Police Partner Assault), Larry Colotelo (Ottawa Police Partner Assault), Emily Comor (Family Law), Christine Culham-Keays (Victim Assistance Services of Ottawa-Carleton), Melissa Gordon (Eastern Ottawa 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), Stefanie Lomatski (Victim Assistance Services of Ottawa-Carleton), Angelika Lorinser (WOCRC-Chrysalis House), Andrea McCue (Victim Witness Assistance Program), John McGetrick (Ottawa Police Sexual Assault/Child Abuse), Brigitte Mainville (Maison d'Amité), Sandy Milne (Family Services a la famille Ottawa), 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), 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 (University of Ottawa), Donna Watson-Elliot (Ottawa Police Victim Crisis Unit), Roxan Vailancourt (Victim Assistance Services of Ottawa-Carleton) and Annette Werk (Community Member). This year we spent a lot of time developing our work plan and strategic directions for the upcoming 3 years. As we continue to strengthen and build our relationship with the police, Chief Vern White came to speak to us in January 2008 to share his views on restorative justice and how this could be applied to VAW issues in our community.

A number of smaller subcommittees were also developed to work on the areas we identified as priorities. A Court Watch committee was created and is continually developing a plan and a funding proposal to go about introducing the program in Ottawa. Another group developed a survey to gather information on community groups and their efforts to increase awareness amongst youth regarding healthy relationships and dating violence. The Ottawa Hospital and the Sexual Assault & Partner Abuse Care Program in conjunction with other members of the committee began to collaborate on how women can be better screened for DV and SV during the emergency room intake process. Through our members, procedures were also created which will allow all relevant medical information (ambulance records, Kit/DV forms and medicals charts) be made available in one package to police investigators. Finally, we had a number of interesting guest speakers throughout the year. Persons Against Ritual Abuse and Torture – Jeanne Sarson and Linda

MacDonald accompanied by a survivor of torture and Madeline Gilchrist of Canadian Voice of Women for peace spoke to us about their goal to amend the Criminal Code to include non-state acts of torture. Secondly, a presentation on restorative justice and domestic violence was presented in May 2008 by Stephanie Ehert, PhD, Department of Criminology, U of O and Robin MacDonald of the Restorative Justice Network. We thank you all for coming in and sharing your knowledge with us. Our committee plans to continue with the work mentioned above in the upcoming year.

Early in the summer we were startled by the murders of three women in our community within two weeks. Taking the temporary name, Shake the Justice Tree, several of us got together, informally asking, how we could respond. We decided to approach city leaders who had been helpful in the past.

Councillor Diane Holmes had suggested reviving the Round Table on Violence Against Women. Marian Dewar (of blessed memory), said she supported us. We have a meeting scheduled with Councillor Holmes on October 6, 2008.

4. Support Services

The Support Services Standing Committee in the past year was engaged in shaping the committee under the new OCTEVAW structure. The committee will continue to provide a place to share resources, identify issues, invite guest speakers on relevant issues and support one another in doing front-line work. Guest speakers this year included: Jamie Liew from feminist law practice Galldin Liew and Court Accompaniment Program Coordinator, Stefanie Lomatski.

*Please see OCTEVAW's website www.octevaw-cocvff.ca -> Members-only Forums -> Committee Work plans for more details regarding our Standing Committees and their plans for this upcoming year.

Financial Reports 2007-2008
Rapports financiers 2007-2008

Statement of Revenues and Expenses
Operating Budget (City of Ottawa Renewable Community Funding)
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUE			
Surplus as of March 31, 2007	\$ -	\$ 69,803.73	\$ 69,803.73
SWC Grant	\$ -	\$ 8,383.46	\$ 8,383.46
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ -	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 4,600.00
City of Ottawa Funding	\$ 64,919.22	\$ 64,919.22	\$ -
Pay Equity	\$ 2,072.02	\$ 2,072.02	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 66,991.24	\$ 149,778.43	\$ 82,787.19
EXPENSES			
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 47,547.31	\$ 67,440.24	\$ (19,892.93)
Occupancy Costs	\$ 2,926.50	\$ 4,506.00	\$ (1,579.50)
Equipment & Repairs	\$ 275.00	\$ -	\$ 275.00
Staff Development	\$ 312.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 282.50
Travel/Transportation	\$ 714.50	\$ 228.07	\$ 486.43
Outreach	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10,825.33	\$ (8,825.33)
Telephone & IT	\$ 864.00	\$ 1,335.56	\$ (471.56)
Translation/Cultural Interp.	\$ 3,398.52	\$ 873.49	\$ 2,525.03
Accessibility Supports	\$ 1,375.00	\$ 277.85	\$ 1,097.15
Professional Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 12,051.52	\$ (11,801.52)
Administration	\$ 4,561.25	\$ 4,411.51	\$ 149.74
Meetings & Expenses	\$ 4,012.50	\$ 12,691.01	\$ (8,678.51)
Supplies, Printing & Postage	\$ 1,185.00	\$ 696.92	\$ 488.08
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 69,422.08	\$ 115,367.50	\$ (45,945.42)
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES			
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	\$ (2,430.84)	\$ 34,410.93	\$ 31,980.09

Statement of Revenues and Expenses
Ministry of Community and Social Services – Year 3
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUE	69,901.42	69,889	12.42
EXPENSES			
PROJECT EXPENSES			
Governance Model & Project Exp	1,000.00	1973.55	-973.55
Protocols & HR	3,500.00	2120.90	1,379.10
Strategic Planning	2,800.00	4305.00	-1,505.00
Website	2,000.00	2500.00	-500.00
MOU	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Media Consultant	7,500.00	2738.72	4,761.28
Prof Development Day	8,000.00	9364.43	-1,364.43
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	25,800.00	23,002.60	
OPERATING COSTS			
Translation	12,500.00	12496.75	3.25
PM	8,500.00	10157.21	-1,657.21
Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Supplies	589.00	752.76	-163.76
Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administrative Fees	7,000.00	6999.96	0.04
Miscellaneous Fees	500.00	1484.91	-984.91
Other - Expenses (NFF)	15,000.00	15000.00	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	44,089.00	46,891.59	
TOTAL PROJECT & OPERATING COSTS	69,889.00	69,894.19	
Monthly Surplus/Deficit		3.88	

Appendix

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

Annexes

1. Notes du vérificateur financier de Family services à la famille Ottawa
2. Durée des mandats des membres du comité directeur