



POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

Positive Women's Network, a partnership of women living with and affected by HIV, supports women in making informed choices about HIV and health.

We provide safe access to support and health education to women in communities throughout British Columbia.

Positive Women's Network provides leadership on women's HIV health and social issues locally and nationally.



Positive Women's Network

614-1033 Davie Street, Vancouver, BC, V6E 1M7

604 692 3000 | 1 866 692 3001 (toll-free BC)

pwn@pwn.bc.ca | www.pwn.bc.ca

twitter.com/PWN_BC | facebook.com/positivewomensnetwork

“ I AM TAKING HOME WITH ME THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WOMEN ARE SURVIVORS WE SHARE A COMMON SPIRIT AND WE CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. ”

PWN member and participant at May 2011 Skill Development Weekend

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REPORT FROM

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wow, this year marked the 20th anniversary for PWN. With the grace and style they have become known for, the staff, board, and volunteers marked this momentous occasion with an amazing gala in October. Our goal was to celebrate, and we did that in spades. In terms of fundraising, we also did that well and raised over \$20,000, officially marking our historic moment with great success and pride.

Despite our great efforts and wonderful support from the community, the ongoing challenge of funding continues. Not unlike last year, decreased government funding is now our reality, and while we continue to pursue a number of grants, demand for PWN services is such that we will be posting a minor deficit this year. The board recognizes the reality of the situation, so it will be our role in the upcoming year to work towards different funding avenues, which include an increase in the number of monthly donors, more corporate giving, and more focused fundraising events.

During this past year, the board has worked very diligently on their fundraising activities, which included The AIDS Walk, A Night at the Movies with Reel Causes, Whole Foods Donate for Your Bag Program, Jean's Day, and corporate support for Springboard 2012. In order to ensure that this strong momentum continues into the new year, we have set solid goals based on a vision of long-term sustainability for PWN.

Board recruitment is always on our minds and this year we have welcomed six new board members. Having more women living with HIV on the board is always our aim, and this year we will be meeting with more members to work with them around their potential contributions as board members.

Throughout 2012–2013, we will remain focused, continue to build our board strengths and skills to exceed expectations, and find better ways to serve PWN members. We appreciate your trust and support. I would like to thank all the board members and staff for their endless energy and commitment to PWN. Thank you for making PWN such a great success!

On behalf of the PWN 2011–2012 Board of Directors,



Patti Telford

BOARD CHAIR

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Annual General Meeting of the Positive Women's Network is always a good time to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year and to look forward to what the future may hold.

Celebrating our 20th anniversary in October was certainly a highlight for members, board, staff, volunteers, and community allies. Serving women in BC for two decades and evolving as a leader locally, regionally, and nationally has been a testament to the tenacity and vision of many people. In these difficult times of fiscal restraint and less-than-supportive human rights policies, our endurance as a vital organization in BC is something to celebrate.

The next period of our history will prove to be equally dynamic. Leadership, an important strategic direction for PWN, is proving to be a theme in many of our initiatives, especially in terms of engaging women living with HIV and providing opportunities and support for them to be leaders in their diverse communities. As an organization we will continue to take on various leadership roles, working with our colleagues across the country to fight stigma and discrimination and to raise awareness about the complexities of the HIV epidemic.

It is an honour to carry on the legacy of our founding members under the guiding principle of women, both infected and affected, working in partnership to ensure that women attain the dignity, respect, and rights they deserve.

Thank you to our ever-growing community for your ongoing support and for the opportunity to be a part of such an inspiring organization.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcie Summers

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20 years



Staff and board members at the 20th-anniversary gala

“OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS WERE VERY CLEAR. THE POSITIVE WOMEN SAID THEY NEEDED **ALLIES** TO SHARE THE WORK— SO IT COULD BE CARRIED ON WHEN THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO.

IT WAS PRETTY SIMPLE BUT **REALLY POWERFUL.**”

Marcie Summers, Executive Director

SUPPORT PROGRAM

Leadership opportunities, peer engagement, and skill development were focuses for the support program this past year. Projects ranging from peer support training, community capacity building, and skills-building weekends were key highlights of our work.

One exciting new partnership was the Literacy Lives Project at Simon Fraser University. Eight PWN members attended classes from September to March in Vancouver. They developed and evaluated their own community-based projects, and graduated with a Certificate in Community Capacity Building. It was an honour to see them at the ceremony!

In partnership with the Oak Tree Clinic, a new Aboriginal women's support group has started at PWN. The group is funded by Oak Tree Clinic and co-led by two peers, both graduates with a Certificate in Community Capacity Building. The group—Strong Women in Numbers—was envisioned to give Aboriginal women a safe, supportive, and healing place to meet and share views. The group meets monthly to focus on healing and moving forward with traditional supports.

Provincial outreach allows PWN to visit partner ASOs across the province, providing information to frontline staff and support to members in those regions. This year, visits were made

to the Kootenays, including Nelson and Cranbrook. Strengthening our ties again in the communities of the Fraser Health Authority is another key outreach component. Focus has been put on developing a partnership with the Fraser Valley Institute to provide support and information to women living with HIV who are in prison.

After 20 years of coordinating wellness retreats for HIV+ women in BC, we decided to offer something new for PWN members this year: a weekend focused on the themes of peer connection, leadership, and skill development. Two Skill Development Retreat Weekends were held. The retreats were huge successes, and 52 women from all regions of BC travelled to Maple Ridge to participate.

Also, a big thank-you to Catherine McIntyre, Master of Social Work student at the University of British Columbia, for her many practicum hours, particularly the coordination of the REACH report *AIDS Service Organizations in British Columbia: Still Relevant?* which analyzed the issue of integrating hepatitis C work at ASOs in BC.

Respectfully submitted,



Bronwyn Barrett

SUPPORT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

HEALTH PROMOTION

Health promotion is an ongoing process of reviewing new information on the natural history, treatment research, and social issues that surround HIV. We reflect, compile, and direct information locally and across the world. This year we've worked online, in print, and in person.

Online

Our online work continues to make us a key player in the country. We have two distinct presences anchored by two websites: Positive Women's Network (www.pwn.bc.ca) and You Should Know (www.youshouldknow.ca). The content of these two sites and the social networking updates sent out daily are designed to reach different populations. The first is for those living with and/or working in HIV; the second is prevention based for women at risk. Sites are updated regularly with new resources and blogs.

Our activity on Twitter, FaceBook, and YouTube creates links between people and organizations working in HIV, violence against women, sexual health and education, human rights, housing, food security, and psychosocial support.

Print

Close to 11,000 print resources were distributed nationally this year, some by our national distribution partner, CATIE. Our ongoing publications include *The Positive Side*, which is our newsletter aimed at women with HIV, and *HIV Trends and Women's Sexual Health*, which is for anyone with an interest in women-focused treatment and research news. See www.pwn.bc.ca for archives and contact us at pwn@pwn.bc.ca to subscribe.

FIND US ONLINE



Positive Women's Network
You Should Know



PWN_BC
YouShouldKnowCA

STAFF CHANGES

Positive Women's Network has welcomed four new staff members over the past year.

MONIQUE DESROCHES and **ARETHA MUNRO** share the Clerical Assistant position.

ERIN SEATTER joins us as Resource Coordinator.

VALERIE VAN CLIEAF has filled the position of Support/Outreach Worker.

In Person

Face-to-face workshops have great impact on people's understanding of HIV and the issues that surround it. Workshops this year were delivered to a range of ages (youth to grandmothers) and covered topics that included HIV transmission, prevention, and treatment, as well as violence against women.

Our eighth annual SpringBoard conference looked at "Living Out Loud" in the context of social media and HIV research, legal issues of HIV disclosure, mental health, and peer support. Many thanks to Abbott, the conference's exclusive pharmaceutical sponsor, as well as Deloitte and Vancouver Coastal Health. We also presented at a number of health fairs and education events, including the popular "living book" event on World AIDS Day at Simon Fraser University. Two posters—one on health education workshops and one on social media—were presented at the Canadian Association for HIV Research conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Madsen

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

WHO WE ARE

STAFF

Marcie Summers, Executive Director
Donna Tennant, Director of Development
Nancy Hoo, Bookkeeper
Aretha Munro and Monique Desroches, Clerical Assistants
Bronwyn Barrett, Support Program Coordinator
Sangam Grant, Support Worker and Educator
Melissa Medjuck, Support Worker and Retreat Coordinator
Valerie Van Clieaf, Outreach Support Worker
Janet Madsen, Communications Coordinator
Erin Seatter, Resource Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Brown	Margaret Lau
Ivana Cikes	Kendra Loewen
Sarah Hoffman	Hayley Owens
Helenka Jedrzejewski	Surita Parashar
Jennifer Keefe	Patti Telford
Jestina Kusina	Amanda Witter

VOLUNTEERS

Catherine McIntyre, UBC MSW Practicum Student
Angel, Corrine, and Lora, Support Program Volunteers
Complementary Health Volunteers

THANKS

Our programs are supported by the generosity of many individuals and institutions. Thanks to all who contributed to our weekend retreats and our 20th anniversary gala. We also appreciate the continued support of our sponsors.

SPONSORS

Abbott ❖ BC Gaming ❖ Deloitte ❖ Valeria and Les Finnigan
Hydrecs Fund ❖ Janssen ❖ MAC AIDS Fund ❖ Merck
Public Health Agency of Canada ❖ Provincial Health Services Authority of BC
RBC Foundation ❖ Reel Causes ❖ Shooting Stars Foundation
Trigger & Girlgig Productions ❖ Vancouver Coastal Health
ViiV Healthcare ❖ Whole Foods

FINANCIALS

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Cash	\$170,783	\$92,678
Term deposits	80,491	80,343
Accounts receivable	20,996	11,380
Prepaid expenses	16,837	20,227
	289,107	204,628
Capital assets	13,872	13,126
	302,979	217,754
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$74,657	\$17,529
Deferred revenue	80,046	66,646
Deferred gaming revenue	40,280	35,000
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	1,590	—
Total liabilities	196,573	119,175
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	12,282	13,126
Internally restricted	90,000	90,000
Unrestricted (deficiency)	4,124	(4,547)
Total net assets	106,406	98,579
	302,979	217,754
REVENUE		
Grants	\$645,959	\$646,993
Donations	88,720	64,881
Gaming	31,020	10,879
Other	21,361	11,331
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	680	—
	787,740	734,084
EXPENSES		
Wages, benefits and contractors	\$527,561	\$510,281
Programs	87,159	85,667
Rent	76,434	71,021
Office and other	49,054	45,712
Utilities	13,005	10,415
Bookkeeping	11,996	11,396
Amortization	9,204	5,195
Professional fees	5,500	4,748
	779,913	744,435
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	7,827	(10,351)

Challenging HIV.
Changing women's lives.

