

## Time for Change!





2016-2017

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

# Reducing Remand Use

Last year, we were able to report that after two years of community engagement that CAROW was embarking on an initiative to reduce the use of remand in Ontario. The project implementation has been championed by Marg Welch, current Assistant Deputy Minister for Corrections in the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Chief Bryan Larkin, Waterloo Regional Police and Lori Montague, Deputy Crown Attorney, Peel Courts.

The McConnell Foundation provided a two year grant for our ambiguous goals to see a 60% reduction in the use of Bail Hearings, a 40% increase in the use of pre-charge diversion, and a 25% increase in post-charge diversion for women within two communities.

To assist us to change focus, Liz Mulholland, provides CAROW advises and strategy support; and Holly Pelvin who has just completed her PhD at the Centre of Criminology and Socio-legal studies on the issue of bail and remand and been engaged to complete the evaluation.

The project has been implemented at the A. Grenville and William Davis Courthouse in Brampton and is moving to the Queens Park

Courthouse in Toronto. EFry Peel-Halton's Court work Program has led the way in developing the processes necessary within the court to see women released and given support. EFry Toronto has now indicated their willingness to similarly implement the pilot in their court work program at the Queen's Park Court House.

The Waterloo and Halton police have indicated willingness to implement the pilot in their departments. The pilot would see a change in police practices and the increased use of releasing individuals with a Notice to Appear rather than holding them over for a bail hearing.

After a year of mapping processes, identifying police policy and charge practices, engaging Crown, and identifying for the pilot criteria for charges included the project has begun.

As, the belles on duty for this initiative, the three of us can report it has taken much longer for the data mapping and process identification than we had hoped before a woman was actually affected. However, we are pleased to report it is underway with the support of all.

Deb Riddle, Heather Kerr, Shawn Bayes

## 5 profiles of women effected

Client 1 Charge: Uttering Threats. No history of housing concerns nor impediments to functioning, health or well-being. Held over in city cell, released, post charge diversion.

Client 2 Charge: Assault with weapon. Homeless for past 1.5 months due to relationship breakdown. She was connected to crisis services, placed into short term homeless shelter and connected to a violence against women worker for support, released pending court date.

Client 3 Charge: Theft, Breach of Probation. Homeless for past 5 months and diagnosed mental health issues. Was without meds in city cells. Referred to shelter with a vacant bed. Released pending court date.

Client 4 Charge: Theft Under. Woman homeless for the past year. Chronic health and addiction issues, struggles to manage her daily functioning and emotional regulation. She was referred for addiction treatment. Woman released, court date set ahead to allow treatment.

Client 5 Charge Theft Under. Women was homeless staying in Toronto shelter.
Struggling with daily living tasks, had untreated mental health and dental issues.
Arranged return to shelter where located, provided information for health support.
Released pending court date.

# Looking Back 5 years

2012: Contracted by CSC, provided Social Enterprise Training in Montreal for 18 organizations. Training included how to identify business opportunities, estimate the size and scope of the business opportunity, develop a business and marketing plan, and identify opportunities for capitalization.

**2013**: Review of the 18 organizations that attended the Social Enterprise training and their developed initiatives. Commissioned report for CSC on the impact of training and recommendations. *Gender, Employment, and Social Enterprise: Comprehensive Integration for Canadian Federally Sentenced* 

2014: Peer reviewed article in Occupational Therapy Now: Integrating occupational therapy students into correctional halfway houses: An outcome of the 2013 CAOT conference details national initiative and placement of Occupational Therapists across Canada within CSC regions and holistic planning for clients



2015: Innoweave Project on Constructive Engagement to develop a plan to reduce the number of women held on remand in

2016: McConnell Foundation partnership to implement Ontario change model: increase release of individuals charged on a notice to appear, reduce use of bail measures, increased use of diversion.

#### SUMMARY

Focused efforts to reduce the number of women incarcerated, increase their success in the community, and increase options for community alternatives.



# Looking Ahead

Over the course of the coming year CAROW will renew its strategic plan. Residential options in the community are key to CAROWs mission. Our mission will be reviewed.

The Canadian Association of Residential Options for Criminalized Women (CAROW) is a not-for-profit society dedicated to the establishment of gender-specific transitional housing in communities across the country for women coming from prison transitioning to the community.

Our mission was founded to expand women only housing because of the larger inventory of co-ed housing for women exiting prison on parole than women only housing. CAROWs activities in the past 5 years have focused on:

- reducing the number of those women,
- increasing the ability of women exiting prison to access income, housing, and health supports,
- increasing the use of community alternatives; and
- expanding options available to women at risk of criminalization.

The coming year provides opportunity to review the balance of mission, activities and intention for now and in the future.

CAROW 7TH ANNUAL REPORT |

## Considering A New Strat Plan

CAROW will be renewing its Strategic Plan and consulting with the membership to develop a new 5 year horizon of work to achieve.



### **Increasing Options**

The cornerstone of our mission, CAROW will review the role of residential options in the use of community alternative, and reducing the prevalence of women coming into contact with the justice system.

#### **FAST FACTS**

92%

Sentenced women serve less than 6 months.

65%

Federally Sentenced Women with Substance Misuse Issues.

#### **NEEDS**

Options need to address the context of short sentences, and the correlation for women with substance misuse, mental health issues, and lower academic achievement and vocational skill training than men.

CSC AND STATS CANADA DATA Sources upon reuest

# Finance Report

Balance Sheet As at	31-Mar-16	31-Mar-17	
Cash	-	37,416	
Total Assets	-	37,416	
Accounts payable	3,533	-	
Deferred revenue	-	37,416	
Retained Earnings (deficit) Net Surplus (Deficit)	(17,033) 13,500	-	
Total Liabilities and Equity	-	37,416	

# CAROW Statement of operations For the fiscal year ended

31-Mar-16	31-Mar-17
20,500	37,584
-	23,062
-	7,489
7,000	3,533
-	3,500
7,000	37,584
13,500	-
	20,500 - - 7,000 - 7,000

### The Membership

**Ann Davis Transition Society** Atira Women's Resource Society Circle of Eagles Society Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Van. Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto John Howard Society of Kamloops John Howard Society of Calgary Our Place Peel Peardonville House Treatment Centre **Phoenix Transition Society** Shelter Nova Scotia Salvation Army Dundas-Hamilton St. Leonard's Society of Toronto St-Leonard's - London Region Stonehenge Therapeutic Community Talitha Koum Society Tamarack Rehabilitation Inc. The Marguerite Centre The Stella Burry Foundation **Tsow-Tun Lelum Society** YWCA Regina

## TIME FOR RENEWAL

CAROW was incorporated in BC under the Society Act. The Act governs how societies (not-for-profit corporations) are created and run in B.C. The Act includes significant updates to allow for more flexibility in how societies operate, while still protecting the public interest.

CAROW therefore has revised its bylaws to meet the new Act. Under the New Societies Act the changes will be minimal but there are some

- The vote on Special Resolutions, the margin is reduced from three-quarters to two-thirds.
- If a member should ever be considered for expulsion it must be done in writing.
- The notice period for Member meeting is reduced to seven days from fourteen, with a maximum of 60 days.
- AGM meetings be held at least once each calendar year.
- A quorum at a General Meetings is reduced to at least three voting members from 10% or at least 8 members.
- Requires all societies to annual register with the Registrar of Societies.
- Requires directors to have no recent convictions for fraud, to be bankrupt, and at least 18 years old with some exceptions.
- Requires directors to act with a Duty of Loyalty, care to supervise, and of confidentiality

The new bylaws for CAROW have been prepared by Rose Norton in compliance with the Act, and are scheduled for a vote in September 2017.

If you would like a copy of the new bylaws please reach out to us below.

Over the course of the 2017-2018 year, CAROW will be reviewing its membership and requiring annual renewal.

Look for your bright red envelop coming in February just in time for Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year and take the opportunity to show you care about the development of effective solutions that keep criminalized women in the community and develop needed residential programming.

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TO:			