MISSION
The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton exists to empower individuals affected by sexual abuse and assault and to empower communities so they can take action against sexual violence.

CORE BELIEFS
We believe...

~ sexual violence is an abuse of power and trust;
~ people can heal;
~ in valuing diversity and respecting all people;
~ individuals should be free to make their own life choices;
~ each person should have the opportunity to learn and grow;
~ in creating a safe environment and maintaining confidentiality;
~ inability to pay should not be a barrier to receiving service;
~ in providing support and advocacy for people who have been affected by sexual violence;
~ services must be accessible to children, adolescents, women and men;
~ communities must take action to protect vulnerable people and to become free from violence;
~ offenders, not victims, must take responsibility for violence;
~ teamwork is essential;
~ volunteers are crucial to our agency and provide a link to the community.
Message from the Board Chair

Once again it is my honour and pleasure to introduce the 2012 Annual General Report to the membership, funders, staff and volunteers. Inside you will find all of the great work that the staff has completed in our various communities.

Thank you to the following funders who support the work of SACE: The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Human Services and Status of Women Canada. We are also very grateful for the financial support of many other donors including our landlord, AB Edie Equities Inc., City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant, the Province of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Community Initiatives Program Grant, Alfie Lickkfold, ATCO, AUPE, Bank of Montreal, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canadian Western Bank Group, Covenant Health Employees' Charitable Fund, Donner Canadian Foundation, Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton and District Labour Council, Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers, Our House, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Fund, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, TELUS Corporation, Union 52 Benevolent Society, Wawanesa, and YouCan (Youth Canada Association).

I must acknowledge my delightful Board colleagues and all of the work that is completed at the governance level. Their support to SACE is invaluable. This past year we have established working sub-committees for the review of the following topic areas: Personnel and Policy, Risk Management, Social Media and Strategic Planning. We will have completed and/or updated the existing documents by the end of 2013.

My colleagues include Ryan, Mary Frances, Denise, Allison, Gillian, Mona, Shawna, Pat, Deb, Amber, Laura, Carlynn, JoAnn, Kirsty, and John. Thank you for your continued support to the Board and the agency. You make my job very easy. Farewell and thank you to Sherry, Sean and Betty for all of their years of dedicated service to SACE.

To all of the talented staff members who deliver programs and services every day to our clients, a heartfelt thank you. To Karen Smith who, with tremendous skill and ability, leads and directs the staff in the work that we do, I extend my gratitude and thanks on behalf of the Board.

Susan Jamieson,
Board Chair
Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE

Susan Jamieson
Chair

Mary Frances Fitzgerald
Secretary

Ryan Schetzsle
Treasurer

Denise Watson
Past Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

Allison Downey-Damato
Gillian Evans
Mona Gill
Shawna Goodkey
Pat Harrish
Deb Jolly
Amber Krasowski
Laura Lee
Carlynn McAneeley
JoAnn McCartney
Kirsty Prasad
John Ratcliff

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."
Marianne Williamson


**Treasurer’s Report**

SACE continues to remain in a financially stable position due to the generous contributions of our funders, combined with the efficiency and dedication of the volunteers, staff and management of SACE.

SACE is extremely grateful for the financial support received from its core funders, the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services, Alberta Human Services, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, and Status of Women Canada.

Additional funding is provided to SACE from a number of other organizations. This funding provides supplementary support to our core services, and also presents opportunities for additional, unique service provision. SACE would like to thank the following organizations for their financial support: City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant, the Province of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Community Initiatives Program Grant, Alfie Lickfold, ATCO, AUPE, Bank of Montreal, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canadian Western Bank Group, Covenant Health Employees' Charitable Fund, Donner Canadian Foundation, Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton and District Labour Council, Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers, Our House, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees' Charitable Fund, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, TELUS Corporation, Union 52 Benevolent Society, Wawanesa, and YouCan (Youth Canada Association). SACE would also like to acknowledge the continued generous support and assistance received from our landlord, Allan Edie, of A.B. Edie Equities Inc.

SACE’s financial goal is to use its available financial resources in a highly efficient manner such that SACE can continue to provide the much-needed exceptional services to the community that it has for many years. For 2012, SACE achieved an operating bottom line of approximately breakeven and provided those exceptional and essential services to the community. SACE, like many other not-for-profit organizations, faces rising operational costs. With the continued and increasing support of its funders, and through efficient financial resource management, SACE is committed to meeting those rising operational costs, and still be able to provide its high level essential services to the community.

Ryan Schetzsle,
Treasurer

**Strategic Planning Committee**

During 2012, the SACE strategic priorities included:

1. **Striving to meet the growing, unique demands of our caseload with a minimum of specialty-trained resources.** SACE experienced a 35% increase in adult intake requests from clients seeking individual counselling and group therapy services. The increased demands continue to be managed through creative staff initiatives to stagger office hours and work through personal time to ensure client needs were met. In addition, SACE continues to offer INDIGO triage educational groups to clients on the wait list.

2. **Enhancement to “Don’t Be That Guy” Campaign:** In collaboration with SAVE (Sexual Assault Voices of Edmonton), Phase II of the “Don’t Be That Guy” awareness campaign was launched, again aimed at the prevention of alcohol-facilitated sexual assaults and consent issues. The campaign has again reached worldwide recognition, being translated into several languages, to primarily target young adults.

3. **Focused collaboration with Community Agencies, including Edmonton Police Service, on Public Awareness and Education Programs.** The number of sexual assaults reported to the Edmonton Police Service continues to increase. Increased community awareness, and the collegial relationship that SACE has with EPS, has made it more conducive for individuals to come forward to the investigators and report the crime.

Pat Harrish
Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
In 2012, the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton took another step in its mission to "empower communities to take action against sexual violence". With funding provided by Status of Women Canada, SACE partnered with MacEwan University to establish the U-SOLVE initiative. This name is a reflection of the individual accountability of each person to respond to gender-based violence - hence the tag line "the end of gender-based violence starts with you" - but is also an acronym that reflects the need for collective action: University Students Offering Leadership for Violence Elimination.

Throughout the year, U-SOLVE hosted many activities and information sessions on campus, including events during Sexual Assault Awareness Week and International Day of the Girl. For Remembrance Day, Dr. Sophie Yohani gave a presentation on women's experiences in and with war. Also in November, the Minister for the Status of Women, Rona Ambrose, hosted a press release at MacEwan's City Centre Campus and praised U-SOLVE's efforts. In December, U-SOLVE acknowledged the 16 Days of Activism against Gendered Violence by presenting the campus community with 16 simple ways of being advocates: a kick-off event that featured singers from MacEwan's Centre for Fine Arts and Communication Campus, almost 300 signs were installed on the front lawn, and a memorial was set up for the victims of Ecole Polytechnique Massacre in Montreal.

Beyond events, U-SOLVE educated the campus community through presentations to Residence Assistants, Sociology and Nursing students, faculty, and volunteers from Peer Support. Feedback from these presentations was overwhelmingly positive.

This work was complimented by sustained engagement through online media, including Twitter and Facebook. This audience received announcements about local events and news and information on gender-based violence.

As we move into 2013, our focus will shift. We will continue to host events, now with the assistance of student volunteers, and we will be working towards developing a sustainable campus community plan. This will include continued communication and partnerships with MacEwan stakeholders and substantial research, both quantitative and qualitative. These measures will put U-SOLVE in a position to implement student-based changes that respond to gender based violence on campus - to reach our goal!

Kimberly McCall,
U-SOLVE Project Co-Ordinator
Message from the Executive Director

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE) believes in, actively promotes, and works to achieve unity within our society by challenging and changing existing beliefs, attitudes, policies and procedures. We recognize the need to question and denounce systems and structures that perpetuate myths concerning sexual violence. Our organizational collective efforts are for all individuals who are rendered vulnerable to sexual violence. Every day SACE staff members respond to inquiries for information and pleas for help. We offer them information, resources, and referrals to our counselling programs as required.

When I reflect back on our 2012 accomplishments, I am amazed at what our small organization has done. We have initiated the U-SOLVE two year project with MacEwan University, funded by Status of Women Canada, to address sexualized violence on campus. Our Diversity Outreach Team began a new series of learning opportunities to the public, known as DISO-OLVE. Public Education collaborated with the Voices and Faces project in Chicago to offer a two-day testimonial writing workshop for some of our clients to explore additional ways of processing their trauma. SAVE launched another highly-successful poster campaign, that is currently in use around the globe addressing consent issues.

I would like to thank our funders for their continued support and belief in what we do: The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, City of Edmonton Family and Community support Services, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Alberta Human Services and Status of Women Canada.

We are also very grateful for the financial support of many other donors including our landlord, AB Edie Equities Inc., City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant, the Province of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit Community Initiatives Program Grant, Allie Lickfold, ATCO, AUPE, Bank of Montreal, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canadian Western Bank Group, Covenant Health Employees’ Charitable Fund, Donner Canadian Foundation, Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton and District Labour Council, Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers, Our House, Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees’ Charitable Fund, Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, TELUS Corporation, Union 52 Benevolent Society, Wawanesa, and YouCan (Youth Canada Association).

The SACE Board of Directors sadly said good bye to three very valuable members of our governance team. We all bid a fond farewell to Sean Armstrong, Betty Lafferty, and Sherry Melney, knowing, however, that they will continue to be a part of our SACE family.

I would like to thank the SACE Board of Directors for their vision and leadership: Susan Jamieson, Ryan Schetzsle, Mary Frances Fitzgerald, Denise Watson, Allison Downey-Damato, Gillian Evans, Mona Gill, Shawna Goodkey, Pat Harrish, Deb Jolly, Amber Krasowski, Laura Lee, Carlynn McAneeley, JoAnn McCartney, Kirsty Prasad, and John Ratcliff. A note of special appreciation goes to Susan Jamieson (Chair) and Ryan Schetzsle (Treasurer) for always going above and beyond. Their mentorship and guidance are extra-ordinary!

The SACE volunteers are truly the unsung heroes of our organization. They are a group of individuals who are dedicated to improving the lives of people who have experienced sexual violence. We are so grateful to them for their commitment to SACE and the clients we serve together.

The day-to-day work would not be done without the passion and determination of our incredible staff: Jasmine Bajwa, Nicolette Bernier, Alycia Chung, Marion Desplenter, Karen Dushinski, Maddalena Genovese, Shirley Howarth, Terra Irvine, Mary Jane James, Hala Kais, Matilda Kamara, Kimberly McCall, Christine Mhina, Shazin Mohamed-Standing (Maternity Leave), Stephanie Olsen, Monika Penner, Clare Patershuck, Joy Schmold and Lauren Wiles.

Sexual violence remains a critical issue in Edmonton. SACE is committed to articulating the need to provide healing and recovery to victims of this crime as well as working with the community to prevent the crime from occurring.

Karen L. Smith, Executive Director
Personnel

Executive Director
Karen L. Smith

Financial Administrator
Melanie Brochu

Assistant Executive Director
Mary Jane James

Office Manager
Terra Irvine

Director of Public Education
Nikki Bernier

Public Educators
Stephanie Olsen
Hala Kaiss

Director of Client Services
Dr. Karen Dushinski

Child & Adolescent Therapists
Dr. Karen Dushinski
Monika Penner
Shazin Mohammed-Standing (Maternity Leave)
Lauren Wiles

Intake and Adult Counsellors
Shirley Howarth
Matilda Kamara
Maddalena Genovese
Alycia Chung
Chandra Ashton
Jasmine Bajwa
Clare Patershuk

Director of Diversity Outreach/Court Support Program
Dr. Christine Mhina

Diversity Outreach and Court Support Workers
Matilda Kamara
Maddalena Genovese

Director of Volunteer Services
Joy Schmold

U-SOLVE Project (Students Offering Leadership for Violence Elimination)
Kimberly McCall (Project Co-Ordinator)
Client Services Department

The year 2012 was another year full of challenges, which were balanced out with wonderful successes. I continue to be amazed at the passion and dedication of my colleagues and feel very fortunate to learn from each and every one of them. It has again been an honour to continue in the role of Director of Client Services with such an amazing group of professionals.

Child and Adolescent Program
In 2012, the Child and Adolescent Program consisted of three capable staff members: Monika Penner, Shazin Mohamed-Standing, and Karen Dushinski. The Child and Adolescent Program received referrals from various sources including: the Zebra Centre, the Child and Adolescent Protection Centre at the Stollery Children's Hospital, Region 6 CFSA, Metis Child and Family Services, Edmonton Public and Catholic School Systems, Alberta Mental Health, doctors, psychologists and other community agencies.

Adult Counselling Program
The Adult Counselling Program at SACE offers group and individual counselling for individuals of all genders over the age of 18 who have been affected by sexual violence. Clients may attend individual counselling sessions, with the focus on stabilization and encouraging healthier coping mechanisms in their healing. Individual counselling also helps to prepare clients for the appropriate groups available at SACE.

Our adult counsellors received over 600 calls for new intakes in the past year, which is an increase of almost 35% from the previous year. In addition to the thousands of hours spent counselling individual clients, we also provided 12 therapeutic groups. SACE continued to benefit from the hard work and expertise of the adult counselling team: Shirley Howarth, Matilda Kamara, Laura Kennedy, Jill Green, Alycia Chung, Maddalena Genovese, Jasmine Bajwa, Clare Patershuk, Lauren Wiles, and Chandra Ashton.

Another part of our role in Edmonton is to provide training to frontline professionals and students. Many of our counsellors have presented at professional conferences, provided formal training on the impact of trauma, and have worked to increase capacity in our community to respond to the issues of sexual violence. SACE also has relationships with the various counselling and social work programs in the city. In 2012, we provided placements for several students, including Lauren, Maria, Lesley, Jane and Guida. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to our clients.

Innovative Programs
In 2012, we offered a Men's Information Night as well as a Men's Therapy Group for adult male survivors of sexual violence. In addition, we provided a Writing Workshop for SACE clients, and continued with the Movement Group. All of these initiatives were a great success and we hope to be able to offer them again in 2013.

Dr. Karen Dushinski,
Director of Client Services

~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling
Diversity Outreach, Intake and Court Support Program

The Diversity Outreach, Intake and Court Support Program had another successful year in meeting its mandate of REACHING out to individuals, community groups and agencies to assist them to take action against sexual violence. This program is responsible for building relationships with diverse communities, including Aboriginal peoples, ethno-cultural communities, immigrants, seniors, persons with disabilities, and those who identify as a sexual minority or gender variant, while providing counselling, court support and outreach education.

One of the program goals has always been to increase the accessibility of our services to the targeted communities. We achieved this through partnerships with various community agencies, including Edmonton Police Service, Region 6 CFSA, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Changing Together, Center for Ending All Sexual Exploitation; Wicihitowin Shared Responsibility, various local community groups, and faith leaders. In 2012, our program spent 350 program hours networking and partnership building.

Our program facilitates a recovery and healing process for those who have been affected by sexualized violence through support. Individuals access the SACE programs through the intake process, where personal information and history is gathered, after which the individual is placed on our waitlist. Hundreds of individuals contact SACE every year to begin the process of healing from the trauma of sexual violence. The Diversity Outreach team supports victims of sexual assault who choose to report to the police by providing emotional support while clients go through the court process. In 2012, many staff hours were spent providing assistance to clients with form completion, court orientation, preparation and accompaniment.

Our program also provided various workshops and presentations throughout the year, in addition to facilitating many community dialogue sessions. Topics ranged from impact of and strategies to deal with trauma; sexual exploitation among sexual minority and gender variant; community engagement and partnerships as well as diversity and inclusion.

This year’s work was possible because of the enormous passion, dedication, creativity and wisdom that Maddalena Genovese, Matilda Kamara, and Christine Mhina, brought to SACE. The spirit of cooperation among team members allowed the opportunity for mutual learning and combination of synergistic ideas and abilities. It is our hope that, with the same spirit, new approaches to tasks may be discovered.

Dr. Christine Mhina,
Director of Diversity, Intake and Court Support
Public Education

2012 was an exceptionally busy year for the Public Education team, which allowed us to successfully achieve our mandate of empowering communities to take a stance against sexual violence.

The vast majority of our work within the community continues to be spent facilitating information sessions for a number of schools, community organizations, and other professionals. In 2012, our Public Educators facilitated a total of 321 information sessions to 9395 unique individuals, a significant increase from 2011. We responded to the needs and requests of the community by creating new information sessions for youth and adults, including a presentation on sexual violence facilitated through the use of technology, as well as a presentation on gender, pop culture, and the media.

The Public Education team represented SACE at many community events throughout 2012. Notably, we had booths at Edmonton's Queer Prom and Pride celebrations, at two screenings of the Edmonton-based documentary, "Who Cares?", at the 2012 Diverse Voices conference, rave dance parties, and at a number of school health fairs. Attending these events and information fairs is important as it allows us to increase SACE's visibility in a number of diverse community settings. In 2012, our booths made information on SACE available to hundreds of individuals.

In September, 2012, we planned, organized, and hosted a week of activities for Sexual Assault Awareness Week (SAAW). The week featured a number of events, including a Proclamation at City Hall, an evening of spoken word poetry featuring the work of local artists, a workshop on Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence, and a film screening at MacEwan University. The week culminated with our annual "Take Back the Night" March and Rally. The feedback from the week was extremely positive, generating much coverage from the media and support from the community. During SAW, the Public Education team also offered the community a workshop on "Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence", which provided anyone working with survivors of sexual violence the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills needed to better support survivors. Due to the positive feedback and demand from participants, we facilitated this workshop an additional seven times during 2012.

In October 2012, the Public Education team launched SACE's new website. Updating the website was essential to our progress as an organization, as it has enabled us to make SACE more visible in the community, and more accessible to those who need the assistance of our services. With better website hosting and site management, we are able to keep the information on the website up to date, while also tracking how many people are visiting the site. The new site also offers a number of important features for SACE volunteers, making it easier for existing volunteers to fulfill their duties on the crisis line, and streamlining the process for interested people to become volunteers with our organization.

Throughout 2012, the Public Education team facilitated the I.N.D.I.G.O. information session for clients on the waitlist and their supporters. With positive feedback from clients who attended I.N.D.I.G.O. sessions throughout the year, we look forward to offering this essential service to our clients in the year to come.

Our Public Education team, which includes the indispensable work of Hala Kaiss and Stephanie Olsen, works efficiently and cooperatively, with each of us sharing responsibilities and offering unique interests and insight. We share a common vision for how we would like our department to grow and develop throughout 2013, and we look forward to sustaining our active presence throughout the community in the coming year.

Nikki Bernier
Director of Public Education
Volunteer Services

I spent 2012 on maternity leave from SACE, during which Erin Martin and Charlene Bleu stepped in to fill the position of Acting Director of Volunteer Services at various points throughout the year. Many exiting changes were implemented by both Charlene and Erin, which improved the volunteer experience for all of SACE's volunteers. Thank you so much, Erin and Charlene.

I am so grateful for the 254 volunteers that contributed to our agency, and therefore our community, in 2012. These volunteers gave their time, energy, and passion in a variety of ways that are vital to the work that SACE does to combat sexualized violence in our communities.

Last year, Erin and Charlene trained many new crisis line volunteers who joined volunteers already trained in taking calls on our 24-Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line. Our crisis line volunteers continue to demonstrate the strength, courage, and compassion as they face an issue that many in our community turn away from. These volunteers answer crisis calls with empathy and understanding as they support survivors of child sexualized abuse and sexual assault. I am continually in awe of the commitment these volunteers have for the crisis line.

SACE's fundraising volunteers deserve a special thank you as well. These volunteers support SACE through regular attendance at fundraising events. We are very grateful for the work our fundraising volunteers do, whether it is a bingo, casino or special event, these volunteers put their heart into the work.

SACE's office volunteers deserve a special mention, as well these incredible individuals continue to inspire with dedication and kindness and are pivotal in helping SACE run as smoothly as it does. These volunteers are always eager for work to do and new tasks to take on. For that, we are all incredibly grateful.

Each one of our volunteers is doing incredible work in the way that they know best in order to join us as we work toward making change in our community. They continue to inspire hope in us that a caring community is a powerful motivator for change. Thank you to all of the SACE volunteers.

Joy Schmold
Director of Volunteer Services
Volunteers


~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling

"What we have done for others alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." — Albert Pine
2012 Crisis Line Stats

Victim Age at Time of Assault

Assault Type - Inter Familial

Assault Type - Extra Familial
2012 Crisis Line Stats

Perpetrator Identified As

- Male: 86%
- Female: 3%
- Transgendered: 1%
- Unknown: 10%

Perpetrator Age at Time of Assault

- 13-17 years: 10%
- 18-64 years: 86%
- Senior: 4%

Perpetrator Relationship to Victim

- Parent: 46%
- Partner/Spouse: 4%
- Sibling: 2%
- Grandparent: 6%
- Friend: 4%
- Clergy: 1%
- Stranger: 1%
- Dating Relationship: 6%
- Aunt/Uncle: 8%
- Cousin: 1%
- Neighbor: 2%
- Acquaintance: 20%

Self Identified Gender of Victim

- Female: 89%
- Male: 11%

~ providing crisis intervention ~ public education ~ counselling
Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton

~ providing crisis intervention    ~ public education    ~ counselling

Suite 205, 14964-121A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta  T5V 1A3
Business line: 780-423-4102
T.T.Y. (Telephone Device for the Deaf) line: 780-420-1482
fax: 780-421-8734

24 hour crisis line: 780-423-4121

www.sace.ab.ca
info@sace.ab.ca