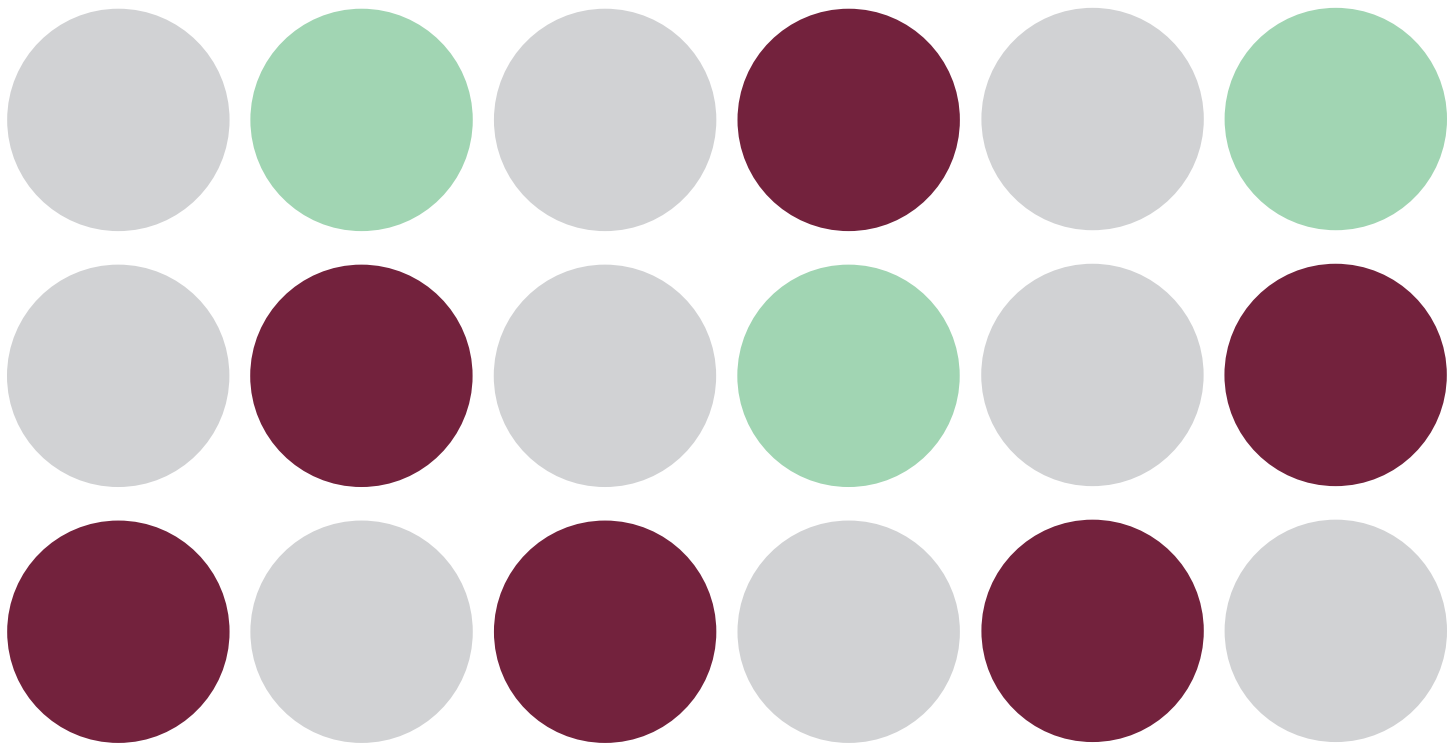


2016 Annual Report

sace sexual assault centre
of edmonton



• 1 in 3 Women have been sexually assaulted • 1 in 6 Men have been sexually assaulted

Listen. Believe. Support.

Mission

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE) exists to support people impacted by sexual violence and engage communities to promote respect and uphold a culture of consent.

Our core beliefs

We Believe...

- sexual violence is an abuse of power and trust;
- people can heal;
- 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 by valuing diversity and respecting all people;
- 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 and adults of all genders;
- 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.

Board of Directors

Executive

Susan Jamieson, Chair
Denise Watson, Past Chair
Carlynn McAneeley, Vice Chair
Jennifer Forsyth, Treasurer
JoAnn McCartney, Secretary

General Members

Allison Downey-Damato
Gillian Evans
Mary Frances Fitzgerald
Namrata Gill
Shawna Grimes
Pat Harrish
Amber Krasowski
Devin Laforce
Laura Lee
John Ratcliff

“
People start to heal the moment they feel heard
-Cheryl Richardson
”

Staff

Executive Director

Mary Jane James

Counselling Services

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Consuelo Arriagada
Shristi Bali
Morgan Bissegger
Janelle Boisvert
Jennifer Dodd
Lisa Hardy
Christy Hennig
Terra Irvine
Hala Kaiss
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Sara Cameron
Marion Desplenter
Annette Klevgaard
Jessica Macumber
Shannon Netterfield
Stephanie Olsen
Meital Siva-Jain
Chloe Song
Derek Warwick

Financial Administrator: Mélanie Brochu

Our Services



24-Hour Support
& Info Line



Prevention
Education
Consultation



Group Therapy



Child & Youth
Counselling



Information
Sessions



Expressive Arts
Therapy



Court Support



Diversity Outreach



Public Education



Adult
Counselling



Volunteer
Services



Policy
Consultation

Message from the Board Chair

As always, it is my honour and privilege to bring greetings from my Board Colleagues to the membership and the general public. We are a Governance Board, so the members of the Strategic Planning, Policy and Procedures, and Risk Management Committees provide research and information to assist in decision making, as well as providing the framework that forms the basis of our work,

I wish to thank our funders whose ongoing support is integral to the fabulous 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, Alberta Health, and the many donations from individuals, organizations and corporations.

As always, our volunteers need to be acknowledged for the valuable contributions to the Agency, including my Board colleagues: Allison Downey-Damato, Gillian Evans, Mary Frances Fitzgerald, Namatra Gill, Shawna Grimes, Pat Harrish, Amber Krasowski, Laura Lee, Carlynn McAneeley, JoAnn McCartney, John Ratcliff, Denise Watson, Jennifer Forsyth, and Devin Laforce.

Our “We Believe” fundraiser in February was a fabulous success and showcased the resiliency, hope and strength of survivors of sexual violence. The funds raised at the event will be used to provide services and support to the many individuals who have been impacted by the crime of sexual assault/abuse.

Susan Jamieson

Board Chair

Treasurer’s Report

SACE endeavors to provide its valuable services to the community in a fiscally responsible manner. The goal each year is to break even from an operational perspective in the use of available resources. SACE achieved that goal again in 2016 as programs were essentially on budget for the year. There was again a small profit from our gala fundraising event, the profits from which will be used in the future where most needed.

SACE continues to be in a stable financial position. This is due to the generous contributions of our funders, combined with the resourcefulness and dedication of the volunteers, staff and management of SACE.

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

Additional funding is provided to SACE from a number of other organizations and individuals. This funding provides supplementary support to our core services, and also presents opportunities for additional, unique service provision. SACE would also like to acknowledge the continued generous support and assistance received from our landlord, Allan Edie, of A.B. Edie Equities Inc. Our funders and supporters are the reason SACE is able to provide services where they are needed most.

The services SACE provides are essential to our community, and SACE is proud to continue to provide those services at an exceptionally high level.

Jennifer Forsyth

Treasurer

Message from the Executive Director



The issue of sexual violence continues to have a very consistent presence in our society, with the number of very public and personal revelations being highlighted in every corner of our world. Because of this, SACE continues to be engaged in, and in fact on the leading edge of, more public, open, and vibrant discussions than ever before. Sadly, the silence and victim blaming surrounding this issue continues to shape much of the dialogue for so many in our society. However, we continue to push forward with educating our community and building a culture where the conversations are focused on the inexcusable choices and behaviors of perpetrators, and not on the behavior of survivors. Indeed, we have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. There is hope, and we can certainly rejoice in that.

Among the many initiatives, partnerships, and collaborations in which SACE was engaged over the last year, two of those, in particular, stand out. In February, we were proud to host our third annual fundraising gala, We Believe. The evening was enormously successful on every level, and most importantly, in elevating awareness of the prevalence of sexual violence in our community. Sheldon Kennedy was our Guest Speaker. In September, SACE once again joined with our allies and friends from the Alberta Association of Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) in unveiling Phase Two of the province-wide, multi-layered public awareness campaign aimed at educating the public about how to respond to disclosures, and the power of the three simple words, "I Believe You". Survivors of sexual assault are our neighbours, friends, colleagues, and family members. They live with us in our community, and their experiences impact all of us. How we respond speaks to who we are as human beings and as a society as a whole. In Canada, there is an estimated 24 sexual assaults per year for every thousand people over the age of 15, the vast majority of which go unreported. This is a staggering and unsettling statistic, and the unintended, but unquestionable, societal consequences are all-encompassing.

SACE could not do the work that we do, and reach out to the community as we are asked, if it were not for the generosity and commitment of our core funders, Alberta Human Services, Alberta Health, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Status of Women Alberta, United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, and the City of Edmonton Family and Community Support Services. There are also many individuals, organizations and corporations who, consistently but quietly, demonstrate their financial support and belief in what we do. For this, we are deeply grateful.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their immeasurable support, guidance and commitment. As I reflect over the past year, I know, without a doubt, how incredibly fortunate I am to be part of such a selfless, and truly inspiring team of staff members and volunteers, all of whom bring light, hope and healing to the individuals who access our programs every single day.

I in 3 girls. I in 6 boys. We all know someone who has been impacted by sexual assault. My wish for 2017 is that we continue to impact, inform and lead the conversation surrounding sexual violence. That we change the way we think about it. The way we talk about. The way we DON'T talk about it. Together, we can be the change we want, and need, to see. Listen. Support. Believe. We can all do something.

Mary Jane James

Executive Director

We Believe people can heal.

Child and Adolescent Program • Counselling Services

In 2016, the Child and Adolescent Program consisted of several passionate and caring staff members: Monika Penner, Lauren Wiles, Morgan Bissegger, Hanelle Sawa, Lisa Hardy, Shristi Bali and Karen Dushinski. During 2016, our staff had over 3,764 consultations with community members, parents and professionals, as well as over 2,160 hours of individual counselling with children and teens. 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, Métis Child and Family Services, Edmonton Public and Catholic School Systems, Alberta Health Services, Physicians, Psychologists and community agencies. Our counsellors continue to be considered experts in the field of sexual trauma by those in the community looking for information and resources to better support children and their families.

Adult Program • Counselling Services

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 logged over 5,000 hours of 1-1 client hours. In addition, our adult therapists consulted with over 3,800 community members. Over the course of the past year, we provided 11 therapeutic groups to 91 clients. In addition to our therapeutic role, SACE provides support for individuals who are navigating the justice system. SACE continued to benefit from the hard work and expertise of the adult counselling team: Christy Hennig, Janelle Boisvert, Ruth Pullam, Robin Klasson, Hala Kaiss, Erin Martin, Jennifer Dodd, Consuelo Arriagada and Barna Talukder.

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton also plays an integral role in the professional development of graduate students in Masters and Doctoral Programs in Counselling Psychology. We have hosted students from several programs, including the University of Alberta, City University-Seattle, Athabasca University, Grant MacEwan University, and Yorkville University. These students learn to support our clients through hands-on individual, as well as group therapy with SACE clients. SACE continues to be an important trauma training centre for the Edmonton area. We are very grateful that our training has resulted in an increased capacity in our community to respond to the issues of sexual violence. In the fall of 2016, we provided placements for four students, Gwen Villebrun, Nicolette Sopcak, Taylor Cumming and Lindsay Straiton. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to our clients.

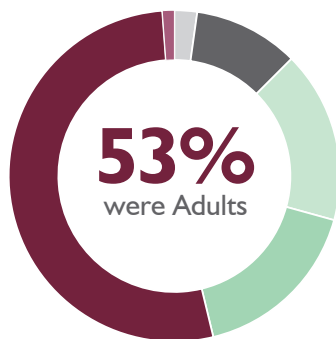
Dr. Karen Dushinski
Director of Client Services

The 5 Points of Consent

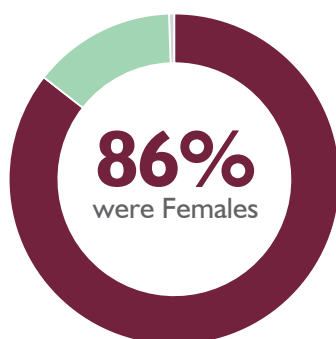
Consent is mutual, ongoing, and conscious. It is communicated verbally, physically, and emotionally! Consent has not been given if:

- Someone is incapable of giving consent (unconscious, etc.).
- Someone says or implies no through their words or behaviours.
- There was an abuse of power, trust, or authority.
- Someone changes their mind.
- Consent has not been given if it was given by someone else.

Our clients at a glance:

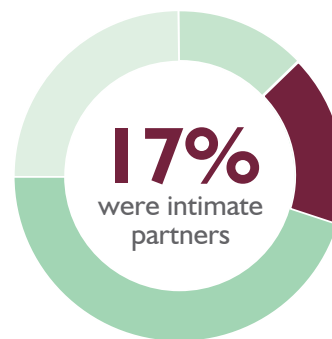


- 1% Senior/elder 65+
- 2% Child 1-5
- 10% Child 6-12
- 17% Adolescent 13-17
- 17% Youth Adult 18-24
- 53% Adult 25-64

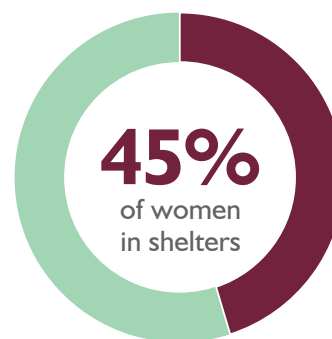


- 86% Female
- 14% Male
- 1% Trans

The intersection of sexual and domestic violence:



- Casual Acquaintance
- Stranger
- Non-spousal Family Member
- 17% Intimate Partner



- 45% of women in a 2010 study by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) reported having experienced sexual abuse in their intimate relationship

We Believe in Community Engagement

Highlighted Partnership • Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

In 2016, SACE and the Mennonite Centre partnered to create sexual assault and consent education for English language learners in Edmonton. With the support of their teachers and cultural leaders, we created the content for this session and piloted it for 12 classes of English language learners. This gave us the opportunity to speak to over 1,030 new immigrants and members of various ethno-cultural communities in Edmonton. This is important as we know that many newcomers are settling in Canada after leaving countries experiencing conflict and, at times, have come from environments where sexual violence is used as a tool of war. Additionally, this type of education is important as newcomers to Edmonton often experience isolation and are disconnected from community resources. We also partnered with Newcomer TV and the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers to create two educational videos on the topic of learning consent for new immigrants in Edmonton. We look forward to their release in 2017.

Highlighted Partnership • Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton

Throughout 2016 our team has been in partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton to offer SACE education services to women experiencing incarceration. In partnering with the Elizabeth Fry Society, we have been able to implement ongoing education-based support programs for women incarcerated at two different institutions. For the past year, we have provided monthly sessions at these institutions, and the response from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to continuing this work in the coming years, and our team would like to expand this program to other incarceration facilities in Edmonton.

Highlighted Conferences • 2016

- Calgary Sexual Exploitation Conference
- Calgary Consensual Expression Conference
- Dreamcatcher Conference
- Sexual Exploitation Working Group Conference
- Diverse Voices Family Violence Conference
- Alberta Health Services Conference, Reach Out, Speak Out: An Event to Promote Healthy Relationships in Alberta

Volunteer Awards • Community Engagement



Rick Chalifoux / Jean Gauthier Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award

Presented to Kelly T.

This award is presented in memory of two SACE Volunteers who worked on the crisis lines, with training and with fundraising. Rick and Jean were partners and died within a few months of each other of HIV. Jean is the artist who did this beautiful painting.

This award is given to a volunteer who goes above and beyond what is expected. Someone who puts in extra hours, extra responsibility, has been volunteering for a while, and who is helpful to new volunteers. Kelly has been volunteering with SACE since June of 2015. Since that time, Kelly has been extremely dedicated to volunteering on the line, as well as contributing to SACE as a whole. In 2016 Kelly volunteered 178 hours on the line, attended six volunteer meetings and volunteered as a mentor during role plays in training. In addition to their dedication, Kelly is also extremely knowledgeable and takes her role on the line very seriously, which was demonstrated to all of us when she won first place in a game of review jeopardy at our June Volunteer Meeting. Congratulations to Kelly, and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!



Donna Leskie Memorial Community Builder Award

Presented to Maria M.

This award was donated by Susan Jamieson, president of our Board, in memory of her partner Heather, a volunteer manager at Catholic Social Services, who passed away of breast cancer.

This award is presented to a volunteer who comes up with “creative” ideas or solutions to problems or is just plain “creative” in their assistance to SACE! The 2016 recipient of this award is a volunteer who identified a gap in the education that we provide to our volunteers, and in the interest of creating as safe a space as possible for our callers and for the community, suggested that a committee be created to address this. Since this suggestion, this volunteer has become one of the three volunteers on the Inclusive Language Committee, whose aim is to create a volunteer manual chapter, an educational session on the use of inclusive language. In addition to this committee work, she continues to contribute hours to the support and information line, has assisted with volunteer training and has represented SACE at community booths. Congratulations to Maria and thank you for sharing your creativity with us!



Heather Huet Memorial Volunteer Award

Presented to Gabrielle H.

This award is new this year and was donated in memory of Donna Leskie, a long-time volunteer with SACE, by her sisters Lorrie and Deborah.

This award recognizes of a volunteer who extends their reach into the community. This year’s recipient contributed 198 hours to the support and information line in the first 11 months of 2016. She also has volunteered as a mentor volunteer during volunteer training. But most importantly to this award, is her eagerness to help represent SACE at community events. This year alone, the recipient volunteered at YEGsemicolon, PRIDE, Daughter’s Day and the Edmonton Expo, creating a safe space where people could ask about SACE and engage in conversations about sexual violence. Congratulations to Gabrielle and thank you for all of the times you have been a welcoming presence at a booth, or a supporting person on the line.

We Believe in providing accurate, research-supported sexual violence education.

Public Education • Community Engagement

Throughout 2016, Public Education worked tirelessly to represent SACE in various capacities and to provide our educational programming to the community of Edmonton at no fee. This year our team was exceptionally busy, providing supportive interventions in order to increase our community's understanding of sexual violence, and to increase community capacity to prevent sexual abuse and assault and supportively respond to those impacted by this crime.

The majority of 2016 was spent facilitating workshops and presentations on the topic of sexual violence to youth, adults, and professionals. Our team prides itself on catering each individual session to meet the specific needs of participants, and feedback from these sessions is consistently positive. This year we facilitated a total of 412 presentations to 14,007 unique participants. Of these participants 10,720 were youth and young adults, which is significant as this demographic is at an increased risk of experiencing sexual abuse and is often disconnected from community support resources. Additionally, 1,471 participants were professionals within the community. This is a considerable increase from 2015, and is important as it enables our agency to extend our capacity and impact by targeting community leaders who work closely with survivors of sexual violence.

2016 saw a substantial increase in the number of presentation hours facilitated by our team. This increase reflects a trend we have noticed and the emergence of a new type of need, as many organizations, institutions, and workplaces, from both the non-profit and for-profit sector, are looking to address the issue of sexual violence in an ongoing, systematic, meaningful way. This type of support requires consultation, reviewing and updating existing sexual violence policy and procedures, training for upper management and senior staff on how to respond to disclosures, support survivors, and prevent further instances of sexual violence, subsequent training for all other staff, and assisting in the creation of education and awareness campaigns. Our work with the Canadian Armed Forces, Status of Women Alberta, and post-secondary schools throughout Edmonton are prime examples of how this type of ongoing education-based support, and our relationships with these institutions can lead to major successes in addressing sexual violence within our community. This development led to the creation of a new "Major Initiatives and Strategic Partnerships" position for 2017.

Our educators also spent time in 2016 creating an online course, titled "Recognizing and Responding to Sexual Violence in Canada". This course will be launched in early 2017 and available for public access through the Alberta Society for the Promotion of Sexual Health.

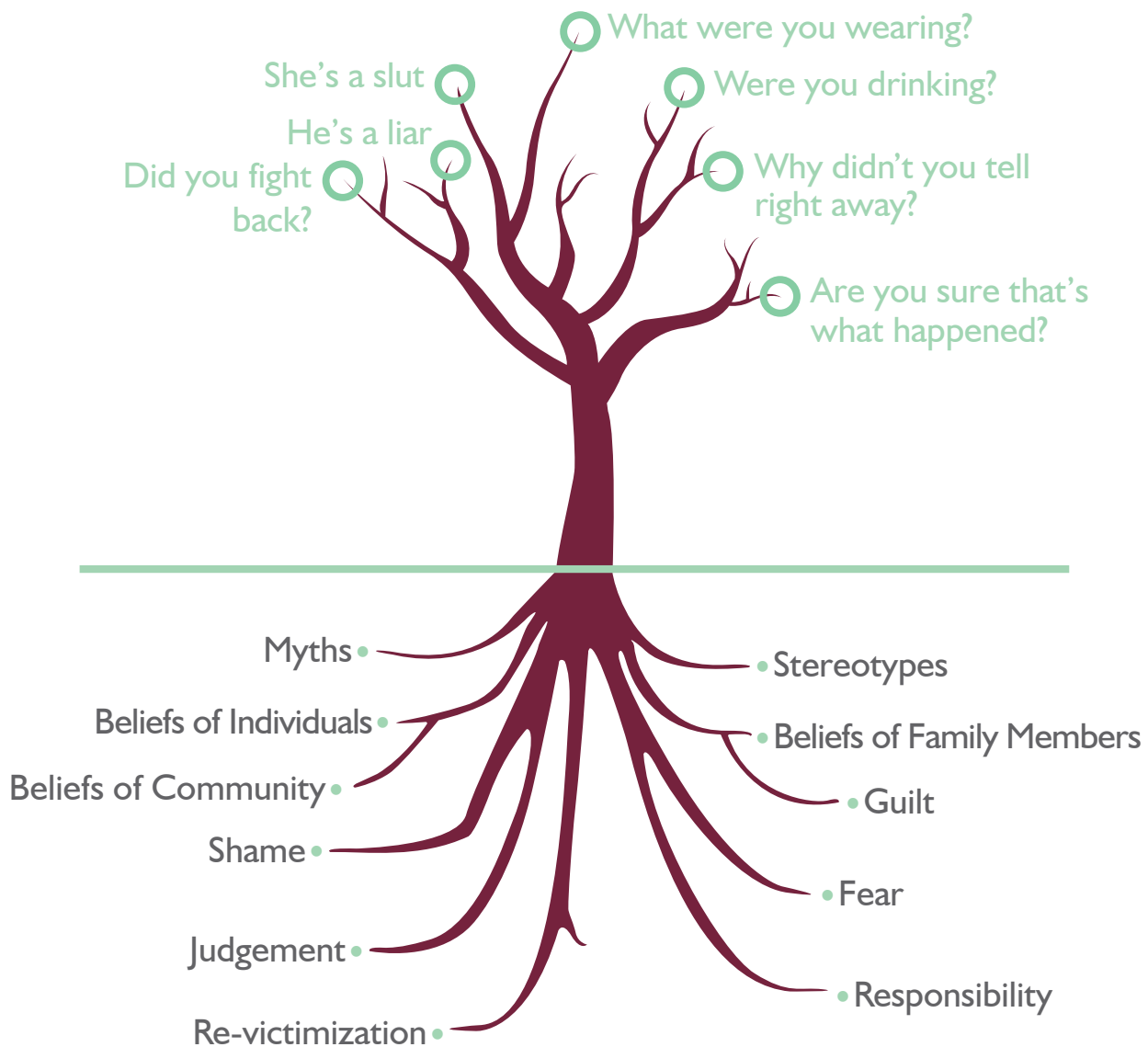
In addition to providing educational programming, we also participated in a number of community events including Queer Prom, Pride Edmonton, Take Back the Night, and the Comic and Entertainment Expo. We also played a significant role in the YWCA Week Without Violence campaign, and worked with AASAS to coordinate the second year of the I Believe You campaign. Throughout the fall we represented I Believe You at NAIT, Concordia University, MacEwan University, Kings University, and the Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta.

Nikki Bernier

Director of Community Engagement

The Language of Sexual Assault

and its impact on how we view this crime...



We Believe in valuing diversity & respecting all people.

Diversity Outreach Program • Community Engagement

SACE Diversity Outreach Program (DOP) aims to build and maintain relationships with diverse individuals and communities in Edmonton, as well as exploring barriers that might prevent people from accessing SACE services. This line of work is engaging, dynamic and an ongoing involvement that is happening simultaneously inside and outside of SACE. In 2016 our mandate was achieved through four types of activities: Trainings, Community Events, Committees and Partnerships.

Trainings

Education is not only an opportunity to learn about current social developments and available programs, but also to network and explore future partnerships. During 2016, DOP took part in great learning events such as: Diversity, Inclusion and Intercultural Training Session provided by Norquest College Center for Intercultural Education; Restorative Justice Conference: A Cultural Shift organized by Alberta Restorative Justice Association (ARJA); Indigenous Awareness Training at Blue Quills University, organized by Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General Victim Services; Building Empathy, Conquering Apathy Symposium organized by Canadians for a Civil Society; Acting on Stereotypes Against Newcomers and Indigenous Peoples organized by John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

Community Events

Community events are a great place to meet community leaders as well as other social service providers, and share the ongoing work that is happening at SACE. In 2016 we were honoured to participate in the following community events: ASSIST Community Services Centre Health Fair; Downtown Community Services Resource Fair; Celebrating Survival with CSAA (Child Sexual Abuse Awareness); Better Halves, Better Lives Symposium organized by the Immigrant Women's Integration Network (I-WIN) Program.

Committees & Working Groups

Representing SACE in committees continued to be a significant part of the Diversity Outreach Program through 2016. Committee work entails organizing conferences, community events, research, education sessions and awareness campaigns about issues such as family violence in ethno-cultural communities, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, cultural diversity and cultural competency.

Partnerships

The success of DOP program can be measured with the partnerships it cultivates within the community. In 2016, together with REACH Edmonton and Newcomers TV, we helped to create two short videos explaining the Canadian Consent Laws to new Canadian. The movies were filmed in Edmonton with newcomer actors and voiceovers. We also collaborated with Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers to develop a presentation about the Canadian Consent Laws for newcomers; during the fall of 2016, we presented it to ten classes of adult English learners.

Our ongoing partnerships with Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton continued during 2016, and we provide our “Sexual Assault, Self-Care & Meditation” sessions to incarcerated women at Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre. We also started facilitating these Sessions at the Edmonton Institution for Women.

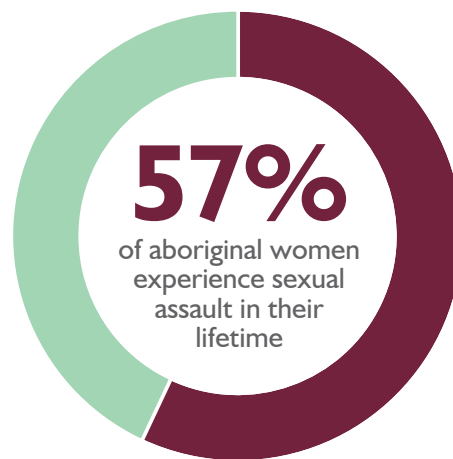
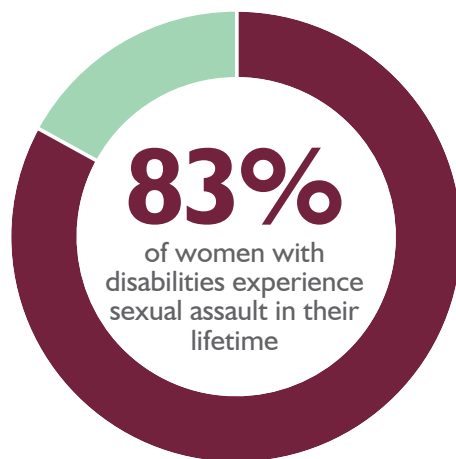
Meital Siva-Jain

Diversity Outreach Coordinator



sace works to
**explore
the barriers**
experienced by 5 groups:

- Indigenous
- Ethnocultural
- Seniors
- LGBTQ+
- Persons with disabilities



We Believe volunteers are crucial to our agency.

Volunteer Services • Community Engagement

2016 was a year of transition for the volunteer program. I started in my position as Volunteer Manager in May of 2016, and naturally, that change resulted in some changes to the volunteer program. That said, the one thing that never seems to change is the unwavering passion and dedication of our incredible volunteers. SACE began as a volunteer phone line in 1975, and volunteerism continues to be at the core of who SACE is as an organization. In 2016, SACE was fortunate enough to be supported by over 110 volunteers, who as a collective, donated over 12,640 hours of their time. The generosity of this group makes the work that SACE does possible by helping raise funds, sitting on our Board of Directors, acting as ambassadors for SACE at community events such as Queer Prom, YEG;, Pride and the Edmonton Expo, helping our office run smoothly from behind the scenes, and answering calls on our 24-Hour Support and Information Line.

One of the changes the volunteer program underwent in 2016 was a reduction in the number of volunteer training sessions SACE offers each year. Moving forward, we will no longer offer a winter training session, and will only be offering two training sessions, one in Spring and the other in Fall. It is my hope that this change will increase the sustainability of the volunteer program and allow staff to focus even more of our attention and efforts on supporting the current volunteers.

Another inevitable transition is the constant ebb and flow of volunteers. Although it is always difficult to see a volunteer go, I always am so encouraged to think of the amazing work that our past volunteers continue to do in the community after they leave SACE. In 2016, we were also very fortunate to have over 35 new volunteers successfully complete the training required to take calls on the 24 Hour Support and Information line, and over 10 new fundraising, marketing and administrative volunteers. Early in 2016, the previous Volunteer Manager also made the decision to reduce the number of hours we ask our volunteers to commit to the 24 Hour Line each month. SACE volunteers consistently dedicate so much more of their time and energy than we could ever expect. By reducing the expected commitment from 24 hours a month, to between 12 and 18 hours, the previous Volunteer Manager hoped to better accommodate the size of our ever growing volunteer pool, as well as the need for our volunteers to take care of themselves and also focus energy on other aspects of their lives.

Two volunteer programs that came through 2016 largely unchanged are the fundraising and office volunteer programs. SACE is extremely grateful for the dedicated group of fundraising volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes, taking time out of their Sundays to help at bingos, as well as the 12 administrative volunteers who, throughout 2016, helped with numerous tasks that allow our office to run smoothly, such as data entry, shredding, and file organization.

It has been a pleasure and a humbling experience to be able to learn alongside the volunteers, both existing and new, over the past year. Thank you to our volunteers for their work in 2016. I cannot wait to see what exciting things are in store for the volunteer program in 2017!

Kelly Bennett

Volunteer Manager

A word from our volunteers:

“SACE offers a volunteer program that is more than just answering phone calls and pointing a person in the right direction. I won't lie, taking a phone call on the crisis line can be emotionally draining and searching for the words that will help the person on the other line can be overwhelming. It is challenging work. But the staff at SACE did such an amazing job making sure we were equipped with the knowledge and resources to support anyone who calls in. Each and every staff member and volunteer that I have met puts their heart and soul into the work and the organization. I am so thankful to be surrounded by a supportive team and know that there are people out there who put nearly every thing they have into advocating for survivors of sexual assault. I couldn't ask for a more wonderful team to be a part of.

- Katelynn C.

“I have been so impressed with every single person I have met from the moment I first walked through the door at SACE. Everyone is so caring, compassionate, strong and smart, and I consider myself lucky to be contributing to this group in any way. I was impressed by (and greatly appreciated!) the amount of effort that went into training volunteers for the crisis line and the way that volunteers are made to feel confident and empowered to handle the most difficult of situations.

Volunteering on the crisis line can be incredibly difficult, and it is also incredibly rewarding. Knowing that I am affecting change, instilling hope, or even just helping someone stand to get through their day is why I volunteer for SACE.

I strongly believe in the work SACE does in the community and I am proud to be a part of it.

- Robyn W.

“Being a part of the SACE family has been such a positive experience for me, I do not know if I will ever leave! Volunteering on the crisis line has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, as I get the privilege of hearing these stories, and speaking with some of the most courageous people around. The callers bring me hope, inspiration and have taught me more about myself than I ever expected. Lastly, the entire staff and fellow volunteers are such a respectful group of people, I truly feel valued at SACE.

- Kallie B.

We Believe: A benefit for SACE

Communications & Development • Community Engagement

In 2016, SACE held its 3rd annual gala under a new name, *We Believe: A benefit for SACE*. The event once again was a sell-out success, with over 400 guests in attendance. The evening included a reception with live pianist vocal performance, plated dinner, and silent and live auctions. Speakers included Minister of Community and Social Services Irfan Sabir, and Mayor Don Iveson. Our inaugural Community Hero award was given to guest speaker Elizabeth Halpin, who shared her story of strength. We were also very proud to have Sheldon Kennedy as our keynote speaker. Sheldon, a former NHL player, philanthropist, and author of *Why I Didn't Say Anything: The Sheldon Kennedy Story*, shared his own story and message, centered on the impact and power of the three simple words: I BELIEVE YOU.

Sara Cameron

Director of Communications

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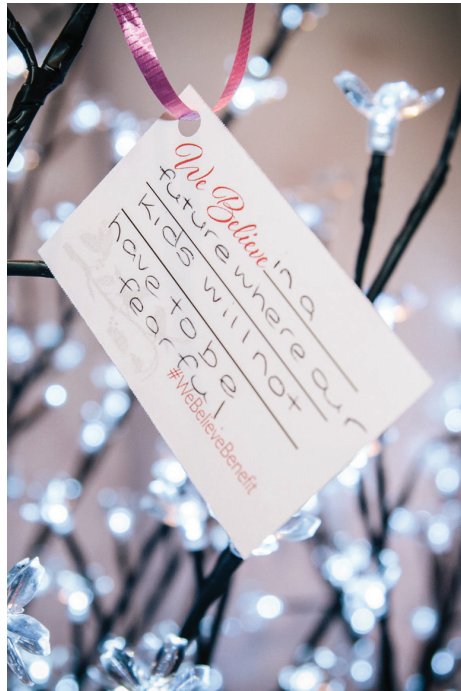
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