



Living in Community

**JANUARY 2025
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

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Learn how to use our Advocacy Toolkit!

Did you hear? We have a new Advocacy Toolkit on how those in every sector can be part of taking action for sex workers' rights.

[Read the toolkit on our website now](#), and [check out this short video](#) to learn more about it!

Plus, sign up now for one of our free webinars on how you can put the toolkit into action!

- Tuesday, February 11th, 1-2:30 pm PT: [register here!](#)
- Tuesday, February 18th, 10-11:30 am PT: [register here!](#)

Join LIC staff to go through our new advocacy toolkit, created out of the recommendations & directions from our provincial conference, and learn how you can use the toolkit in your work. We'll cover:

- LIC's approach to advocacy
- What each level of government can do when it comes to impacting sex workers, and what we can advocate for at each level
- What our strategy will be with the new BC provincial government
- How to implement the toolkit recommendations in different sectors (such as health care, housing, unions, the legal sector, and more).

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Happy New Year from LIC!

On behalf of Living in Community, we hope you all enjoyed a restful break over the holiday season.

We are excited to continue our work educating, advocating, and convening folks from across BC and beyond in this important work in 2025.

BC Bad Date and Aggressor Reporting Project Update

from Andrea Cupelli, Project Coordinator:

Tech development for the BC BDAR system is making significant and rapid progress.

We've partnered with [OpenPrivacy Research Society](#), a BC-based tech nonprofit that builds privacy-focused, consent-based technology. They are a perfect fit for our project as they have values that mirror our own, experts in online security and digital safety, and have worked with sex work support organizations in BC before. They began work on our system back in September and have been making great progress!

We've also been working closely together with our Peer, Working & Regional Advisory groups to assess our needs and determine the design of the initial release of our system, while developing our screening procedures, safety requirements, community guidelines, resource/staffing needs, and legal policies.

We're hoping to start testing the new tech in March, with a beta release coming shortly after that. We will be reaching out to community when we get to these project milestones.

In other exciting news, back in December BC BDAR made our way to Bangkok, Thailand for the [AWID International Forum](#) where our Research Lead Courtney presented on a panel called Sex Work, Violence and Reporting; Digital and Community-based Tools and Ways Forward with panelists from [NUMUK](#), [Project Jasmin](#), the Sex Work Association of Jamaica, and the [European Sex Workers Rights Alliance](#).

It was an amazing opportunity to connect with sex workers and sex work support organizations from around the globe and to share our knowledge and to talk about the ways tech can improve the safety of sex workers. We learned so much from everyone. We are not alone in our fight for sex workers rights and we left the forum feeling inspired and re-energized.



Pictured: Courtney speaking at the AWID panel. Photo courtesy of BC BDAR.

What we've heard from you about our online training:

"This changed the way I think about labour and sex. Vital learning!"
- Community organizer

"Comprehensive and interesting, stuff everyone in the helping sector should know."
- Healthcare worker

"I thought I knew pretty much everything I needed to know about sex work, but the training really set me up to be a better ally."
- Independent business owner

Our four self-directed online modules cover the facts, myths, and laws about sex work – and what human trafficking really is (hint: it's not sex work). Check it out at livingincommunity.ca.

BC Sex Work Support Service Network Member Feature: Boundary Women's Coalition, Grand Forks

From Victoria Runge, Stopping the Violence program:

The Boundary Women's Coalition has been operating since 1986 from a grass roots operation. Since then, the agency has grown and evolved with 18 staff members and 6 programs all serving women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

Our Transition House opened its door in 1992 and in our current building we have 6 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. We can have pets in our program which decreases barriers for women accessing as they often do not want to leave without their pets. Our staff at the Transition House are trained to provide crisis support, on-going support, as well support women with referrals and a variety of applications for services and housing. We provide non-judgmental service and strive to meet the woman where she is at in her life.

Our Second Stage housing program provides 1 year with the possibility of an extension of housing and supports for women with or without children, who have left an abusive relationship, and/or are at risk of violence. We offer support with transitioning into independent living. This may include long-term housing, safety-planning, referrals to community support's, budgeting, job stability and emotional support. We offer groups that are tailored to the needs of our Second Stage residents and their children. Second Stage support staff are on the premises 32 hours a week, and residents have access to the support staff at the Transition house at all other times. We have 10 units, and all are fully furnished with basic kitchen supplies, and come equipped with a washer and dryer.

The Outreach Program offers a multitude of supportive services, access to information and resources, and referrals to partner agencies for further help and assistance. Some of the area's our Outreach Worker can support with are Advocacy, Protection orders, Housing crisis,



BOUNDARY
WOMEN'S
COALITION

Safety and safety-planning for women, referrals, individual support, Connections to legal support, Assistance with forms, and transportation and accompaniment to appointments.

The Stopping the Violence Counselling (STV) program provides confidential, trauma-informed individual and group counselling to women 19 years of age and above who have had life experiences of abuse, violence, sexual assault, or childhood trauma.

Our Drop-in Women's Resource Centre is located at a convenient location downtown and is open to all women in the Boundary area over the age of 19. Staff provide a friendly, welcoming environment for women to access support services, resources, and referrals. We offer light refreshments, free drop-in support services, computer and internet access, fax and photocopying, workshops, peer support, and arts and crafts.

Our Homeless Prevention Program offers women's fleeing domestic violence rental subsidy towards their current rental. This supports women to stay in their home and have some financial support while working towards full financial independence. The program is offered for 12 months per client with the expectation of meeting quarterly to work on goals and financial planning after the 12 months is over.

To get in touch with BWC, visit <https://www.bwcbc.ca/> or contact Victoria at 250-443-1934 (phone), 236-352-0028 (fax), or counselling@bwcbc.ca.

Have you checked out our social media recently?

On our social media accounts (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and X) we share updates about our work, upcoming events, useful resources, advocacy opportunities, and more.

Be sure to follow us to stay in the loop!

