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REGINA TRANSITION WOMEN'S SOCIETY is a non-profit organization registered in Saskatchewan and a registered Canadian charity. The Society operates Regina Transition House, an emergency shelter for women and their dependent children.

Since opening its doors on January 12, 1976, Regina Transition House has been providing services and short term emergency housing to women and children fleeing violence. The shelter operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day providing safe housing, support counselling, information and education, advocacy and referral services for women and children, outreach and children's programming, transportation, as well as, providing for basic needs. The shelter is licensed under the Residential Services Act by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General.

Through the recent addition and renovations to the shelter, Regina Transition House has been able to expand its capacity to provide short term residential services by 50%. Our licensed maximum has increased from 18 to 27 people. The number of family rooms has increased from 6 to 8, including accessible space for individuals with mobility limitations. Over the past 38 years, Regina Transition House has offered refuge and services to over 14,000 women and children.

Operating funds are received from the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, United Way Regina, City of Regina, and Saskatchewan Housing. Project grants and donations from individuals, groups, and businesses provide additional operating funds each year.

The "***Expanding the House with Heart***" capital fundraising campaign launched in November 2010 is now complete. We were successful in raising over \$1,500,000 due to the generosity and support of the community.

OUR VISION is Living Violence Free.

THE MISSION of Regina Transition Women's Society is to provide safe shelter and support services for women and children fleeing any form of violence or abuse.

OUR VALUES: We believe that the mission of Regina Transition House cannot be met without adherence to the shared values listed below. Underlying these values is compassion and a heart-felt commitment to working towards safety for all women and children.

Honest, open, non-judgmental and empathetic communication

Empowerment of women and children

Absolute right to self-determination and safety

Respect for diversity and dignity of all individuals

Teamwork and consensus decision-making

2013/2014 OPERATIONAL FUNDING:

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General -Government of Saskatchewan	72.4%	(67.2% last year)
Donations, Fundraising, Investments	17.0%	(20.5% last year)
United Way Regina	7.5%	(9.3% last year)
City of Regina	2.0%	(2.0% last year)
Project Grants	.6%	(0.5% last year)
Saskatchewan Housing	.5%	(0.5% last year)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013/2014

Louise Mohr, President	Kristy Shaw, Member at large
Karen Rowan, Past President	Irene Davies, Member at large
Tracy Kuhtz, Vice President	Les Krentz, Member at large
Steve Compton, Treasurer	Molly McCreary, Member at large
Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Member at large	Anne Penniston Gray, Member at large
Kelly Canham, Member at large	Devin Wallin, Member at large

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is open to the public. Members are invited to the Annual General Meeting, eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting and eligible to stand for election to the Board of Directors. Members receive semi-annual newsletters and are invited to fundraising events. Annual membership fee is \$15.00.

EDUCATION/PUBLIC AWARENESS:

Regina Transition Women's Society is committed to:

- ♥ Taking an active role in informing and educating the public about the abuse of women and children;
- ♥ Encouraging and supporting policies which ensure the safety and well-being of women and children;
- ♥ Working with other community organizations to ensure that women and children receive the support they need.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Agenda for the 2013/2014 Annual General Meeting

June 26, 2014

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled to begin at 12:00 noon, 26 June 2014 at the Double Tree by Hilton.

Agenda:

1. President's Opening Remarks
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2012/2013 Annual General Meeting
4. President's Report
5. Financial Report
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Approval of Audited Financial Statements
 - c. Appointment of Auditors for 2014/2015
6. Report to the Community
7. Program Information
8. Election Of Board of Members
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

Meeting to be followed by guest speaker:

Corporal Regan Riddell,

Family Services – Domestic Violence, Regina Police Services

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting,

June 18, 2013

In attendance:

- Members:** Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Eunice Cameron, Kelly Canham, Steve Compton, Les Krentz, Tracy Kuhtz, Molly McCreary, Louise Mohr, Karen Mondor, Ron Okumura, Anne Penniston Gray, Karen Rowan, Kristy Shaw, Devin Wallin
- Staff:** Carla Beck, Jenna Blahay, Norma Rae Chapman, Stephannie Dunn, Katherine Hamilton, Maria Hendrika, Anna-Marie Kowalsky, Stephanie McKenzie, Coralee Peterson
- Guests:** Nicole Bedford, Robert Gaudry, Glenn Geber, Becki Schultz
- Guest Speakers:** Michelle Barnes, Palwashah Humayun

1. Opening Remarks

Louise Mohr, President of the Board of Directors, greeted members and guests and called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Louise asked all guests to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Les Krentz/Kelly Canham

That the agenda be approved as circulated. Approved

3. Approval of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.

Motion: Eunice Cameron/Anne Penniston Gray

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of June 21, 2012 be approved as circulated.

Approved

4. President's Report

Louise Mohr highlighted items from her written report. The “*Expanding the House with Heart*” Capital Campaign is nearing completion and Louise thanked everyone who supported our campaign.

Motion: Louise Mohr/Karen Rowan

That the president's report be accepted as circulated. Approved

5. Financial Report

a. Approval of Audited Financial Statements

Tracy Kuhtz presented the audited financial statements.

Motion: Tracy Kuhtz/Karen Mondor

That the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending 31 March, 2013 be accepted as circulated. Approved

b. Appointment of Auditors for 2013/2014

Motion: Tracy Kuhtz/Kelly Canham

That the services of Mintz & Wallace are retained for the upcoming 2013/2014 fiscal year. Approved.

Motion: Tracy Kuhtz/Becki Schultz

That the treasurer's report be accepted as circulated. Approved

6. Executive Director's Report

Maria Hendrika highlighted items from her written report.

Motion: Louise Mohr/Karen Rowan

That the Executive Director's report be accepted as circulated. Approved.

7. Program Reports

Carla Beck presented the program reports.

8. Board of Directors Election

Karen Rowan presented the following slate of nominees to the Board of Directors:

The following individuals are entering the second year of their two year term:

Kelly Canham	Irene Davies	Anne Penniston Gray	Les Krentz
Tracy Kuhtz	Molly McCreary	Devin Wallin	

The following individuals are up for re-election:

Louise Mohr
Karen Rowan

The following nominated individuals have agreed to let their names come forward to this election:

Tina Beaudry-Mellor Steve Compton Kristy Shaw

There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion: *Kelly Canham/Les Krentz* that nominations cease.

Karen Rowan asked members for approval of the slate of nominees.

Motion: *Karen Rowan/Anne Penniston Gray*

That the individuals listed on the nomination list (above) shall constitute the Board of Directors for the year 2013/2014. Approved.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment:

Louise Mohr adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

The guest speakers followed the AGM



President's Report

The Board's main focus in this past year was participating in the Imagine Canada Accreditation Program and Board governance work. The Imagine Canada Program provides a Canada-wide set of shared standards for charities and non-profits designed to strengthen practice in five fundamental areas: board governance; financial accountability and transparency; fund-raising; staff management; and volunteer involvement. The accreditation process is very rigorous and was a significant undertaking for the Board and staff. Kudos goes to Karen Rowan who took the leadership role on behalf of the Board of Directors.

A major focus of the Board of Directors over the past year was 'governance'. The Board created a 'Governance Committee' which is meant to assist the President and Executive in monitoring governance items. In addition to the work on accreditation, other governance work included reviewing and creating policy for the Board's consideration and taking a lead role in preparing for Strategic Planning.

Thank you to all of the current board members for your hard work, dedication and participation on the Board. In September, the Board welcomed three new members: Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Steve Compton and Kristy Shaw. This year's Executive included Tracy Kuhtz as Vice-President, Steve Compton as Treasurer and Karen Rowan as Past-President. Special recognition goes to our outgoing board member: Kelly Canham - your contribution has been very much appreciated and we will miss you on the Board!

The Board is fortunate to continue to have excellent staff support. The Board wishes to recognize the ongoing support of Stephanie Dunn, Office Manager and Carla Beck, Assistant Executive Director. Our thanks are extended to Maria Hendrika, Executive Director, for providing outstanding leadership to the Regina Transition House. The continued success of the Regina Transition House is a collaboration of staff, management and the Board and I am pleased to say that we are all working together to make the Regina Transition House a successful organization. Keep up the good work!

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Louise Mohr, President



Treasurer's Report

After another year of service to the community Regina Transition House finished the 2013/2014 fiscal year in a sound financial position. Our ability to serve women and children through safety and support services was made possible through our funding partners, donors and volunteers in their commitment to a community living violence free.

We would like to thank and acknowledge our funding partners: the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, United Way Regina, City of Regina, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and the many organizations, individual donors and volunteers who make our work possible.

This year's financial statements represent the maintenance and growth of income, the careful management of expenses and the maintenance of adequate financial reserves to ensure we can meet any challenge with confidence and continuity of service to those who reach out for our support.

The Board of Directors would like to thank the staff and volunteers at the House for their significant efforts throughout the audit and throughout the year in being stewards of your generous community support. In particular we want to thank the staff for the hard work and focus in preparing the submission for accreditation to Imagine Canada.

I would also like to offer thanks for the many thoughtful and generous donors in our community and in particular the Leader Post Christmas Cheer Fund, Scotiabank Charity Golf Tournament, as well as all the organizers of the Diva's Night Out. Special thanks are extended to Friends of Transition House who organized the 21st Annual Soiree and to Dr. Vianne Timmons and Mr. Stuart Mason for opening their home for this annual event. Thank you to all for your incredible support.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Compton



[Report to the Community]

Every woman that walks through our doors comes with despair, trauma and various needs. They bring their children who have been removed from familiar surroundings and who have often seen far too much.

From emergency shelter to outreach support, Regina Transition House programs and services meet a wide variety of needs. Today I would like to thank you for helping us in our work as we support women and provide hope for a better life that is free from violence and abuse.

We could not provide consistent and high quality services in our community were it not for the support of our loyal friends, donors and funders. This year marked the close of our successful ***Expanding the House with Heart*** Capital Campaign. In recognition of our completed building addition and renovations and our expanded service capacity, we have received additional program and salary funding from the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. This funding has allowed us to provide additional coverage for women and children and pilot a new House Mother position in the shelter.

Regina Transition House has also benefited from numerous training opportunities through United Way Regina which have enabled us to increase capacity in areas such as program evaluation and leadership development.

Preparing our submission to the Imagine Canada Accreditation Program was a major focus over the past year. The application process has required us to review, update or create policies for our organization in the areas of governance, fundraising, finances, human resources and volunteer involvement. Meeting the requirements of the Imagine Canada program will ensure our compliance, not only with legislation, but with identified best practices within the charitable sector.

Over the past year Regina Transition House has been working towards meeting the Service Standards developed by PATHS, the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services in Saskatchewan.

The PATHS Service Standards focus on shelter operations and service delivery. These, in conjunction with the Imagine Canada Standards, provide our organization with a comprehensive operating framework and will assist us in ongoing goal identification and attainment.

We recognize the importance of transparency and accountability in all of our endeavors. As we end the year, plans are in place for a major strategic planning session and a comprehensive review of our organizational outcomes.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our outgoing President, Louise Mohr. It has been a pleasure to work closely with Louise over the past two years. In addition to presidential duties, Louise volunteered many additional hours negotiating our collective agreement.

In closing, my most sincere appreciation is extended to our dedicated staff and board members, donors and funders, volunteers, students and community supporters without whom Regina Transition House could not carry out program activities and special events throughout the year. I wish to thank you for supporting the important work that is done at Regina Transition House and thank you for ensuring that we are a “social profit” organization that is making our community a better place for everyone.

Maria Hendrika,
Executive Director

PROGRAM INFORMATION

During the 2013/2014 year, Regina Transition House continued to provide shelter and services to women and children fleeing abuse. Our shelter has provided service and has worked towards the elimination of violence since 1976, over 38 years. This past year was the first full-year of operation since our major capital expansion increased bed-space and accessibility in the shelter.

This past year, we provided residential service to:

- 209 People (186 last year)
- 98 Women (93 last year)
- 111 Children (93 last year)

In addition, 33 women and 69 children have been active in our Outreach program over the past year. The average length of stay in shelter was 26.66 days, up from 21 days last year.

Regina Transition House is licenced by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General to accommodate up to 27 people. We have 8 family rooms, each of which can accommodate between 2 and 6 people. We have one fully accessible family room that is located beside a fully accessible bathroom on the main floor of the shelter. We are now also equipped with a lift that ensures access to all floors of the shelter addition, including program rooms and staff offices.

In 2013/2014 Regina Transition House provided 6140 bed nights to women and children in need of shelter. That translates into a room occupancy rate of 89.49% last year.

Slightly over half (51%) of our clients self-refer to the shelter. The next most common source of referral was Mobile Crisis or the Domestic Violence Outreach program at Family Service Regina (16%). Other sources of referral were; family and friends (7%), other shelters (6%), Victim's Services (5%) and other community social service agencies (6%). The remaining 9% of contacts came through sources such as the Ministry of Social Services, Band offices on reservations, and the hospitals.

This past year, 91% of women cited abuse as their reason for entering shelter. This is the same percentage as last year.

A total of 452 (513) women, who had a total of 556 (600) children in their care, called requesting entry to our shelter during the past year.

Of those women seeking entry, 321 were placed on our waitlist after further assessment. Others were not placed on the waitlist due to factors such as needing immediate space (85) or because they were not suitable for entry due to our entry criteria.

Of those on the waitlist, 49 (46) women were able to enter the shelter later the same day that they called. Another 61 women were able to come into shelter after being on the waitlist for periods of time ranging from 1 to 25 days.

The majority of the remaining women on our waitlist either found accommodation elsewhere (85) or we were not able to contact them (85) to follow up.

An Overview of Women Utilizing our Services

- 69% of women had never been in Regina Transition House before (70% last year)
- 13.5% of women had been in our shelter once before (16%)
- 17.5% of women had been in our shelter two or more times (14%)
- 80% of women reported being of Aboriginal (First Nations, Metis or Inuit) ancestry (78%)
- 12% of women came to shelter directly from a First Nation Reservations (13%)
- 7% of women were not born in Canada (12%)
- 64% of women reported experiencing some form of abuse as children
- 60 % of all children entering our shelter had witnessed the abuse of their mother (52%)
- 82% of all children were under 10 years of age when they entered our shelter (71%)
- 11% of women were unsure of their plans for future residence when they left our shelter (20%)
- 34 % were unsure about future plans for relationship with their abuser (43%)

Client Feedback

We value the input of the women that stay at the shelter and utilize our service. Prior to departure, women are provided with an evaluation form soliciting feedback on their experience. This year we had a 58.2% response rate, up from 43% last year.

As reported earlier, the vast majority (91%) of women who enter our shelter do so because they have experienced domestic violence. This is also reflected in the evaluation responses. However, the single most common response women gave when we requested that they tell us why they chose to come into shelter was “*I want to change my life*” (55%).

Other highlights:

Women who stated that they felt safe while at Transition House

95% of women responded in the affirmative (Strongly Agree- 46 and Agree-8)

Women who left the shelter with a safety plan

80% of respondents responded that they had a safety plan upon departure

Women who left the shelter with increased knowledge about the effects of violence

85% of respondents responded in the affirmative

Women who felt supported by staff at the shelter

93% of respondents answered in the affirmative

Referrals made to community resources

Last year we made a total of 346 referrals to community resources

We know that we are on the right track when we hear comments like these...

About the shelter itself:

"Safe and comfortable" "The rooms were nice" "It was nice to be part of a household"

About feeling safe at the shelter:

"Nothing to fear hear" "I knew my abuser couldn't come here" "Felt safe for me and my son" "I could bring up anything" "We will always feel like part of a safety team!"

About staff and programming at the shelter:

"Nice and compassionate staff" "Encouraging and informing" "They (Staff) were the BESTEST most HELPFUL and AMAZING women EVER!!!" "Staff was very good and I am very thankful for all staff who have helped me and my kids get to where we are now" "Thank you very much for being there for the women" "Thanks for everything—thanks for people like you" "Life changing" "Everyone made me feel at home" "This is the safest I have felt in a long time, I know I am not alone" "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the best experience possible in the worst scenario of my life. I appreciate you all and will never forget you ALL!" "I am grateful for Transition House. It has been a part of my healing journey and would recommend it for women who might be afraid to call for help" "I'm very thankful for the support I was given. My life feels like it is back on track again." "Good food!"

"(By attending sharing circle) I was able to see my relationship from a different view" "I had no idea that there were so many resources available in Regina"

"(The Children's Program) Helped getting my child into a special school program." "Great information on child development." "Good--helped me out in so many ways!" "Gave kids confidence--someone to talk to" "Great with kids with special needs"

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDING PARTNERS AND DONORS OVER THIS PAST YEAR

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