Pearl Space

Cultivating hope through inclusive, supportive services & communities

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026

PearlSpace acknowledges that we are privileged to operate our programs and provide services on the traditional, unceded and ancestral territories of the Skwxwú7mesh, Lil'wat and Stl'átl'imx Nations. As an organization, we respect the history of these lands and its Nations who have nurtured and cared for this area since time immemorial.

VISION

PearlSpace envisions a day when Women, Two Spirit, gender-diverse, non-binary, trans people, and children/youth are valued equally and can lead healthy lives – supported, connected to community, and free from violence.

MISSION

PearlSpace promotes equality and empowerment of women, Two Spirit, gender-diverse, non-binary, trans people, and children/youth. We work from an intersectional* feminist framework. By responding to and working for change, we honour the diversity of lives impacted by gender-based violence and help to meet the evolving needs of communities throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor and Stl'atl'imx regions.

*Intersectionality is the interconnectedness of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

CORE VALUES

Feminism
Empowerment
Belonging
Circle of Safety
Resiliency
Transparency

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sonya Waitman Chair
Robin Arthurs, Secretary
Tony Horn, Treasurer
Amy Morris, Director
Rebecca Heard, Director
Antje Cavanagh, Director
Tim Torres, Director
Caitlin Chalmers, Director
Slisia Chish Chish Nace (Lisa Andrew), Director

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

SONYA WAITMAN, CHAIR

As I reflect on the past year, I am once again inspired by the incredible impact PearlSpace continues to make through its programs, services, and advocacy efforts. Every day, the organization plays a vital role in supporting survivors of gender-based violence while fostering awareness, education, and prevention throughout the Sea to Sky corridor and beyond.

As a governance board, our role is to establish policy, provide strategic oversight, and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the organization. This year marked an exciting chapter for the Board as we took time to reflect on how we can most effectively support PearlSpace's existing five-year strategic plan, which is grounded in three key pillars: Transformative Change; Internal Capacity & Health; and Sustainability & Longevity.

Through a strategic planning session facilitated by Tilia Consulting, we emerged as an energized and focused Board with a renewed sense of purpose and clarity around the ways we can best contribute to PearlSpace's future success. Three priorities emerged to guide our work:

Long-Term Financial Viability - Strengthening financial sustainability through fundraising initiatives, donor engagement, and the development of a five-year capital plan that helps direct investments toward PearlSpace's future growth and impact.

One PearlSpace - Deepening our connection with staff, volunteers, partners, and the broader community while fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and shared purpose.

Board Effectiveness - Enhancing governance through clear policies, transparent communication, and restructuring the Board committees to align with our strategic priorities.

While Ashley and her remarkable team continue to focus on delivering exceptional service to our community, the Board is committed to advancing these priorities in support of PearlSpace's mission.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow Board members for their dedication, insight, and generosity of time throughout the year. It is a privilege to work alongside such a passionate and compassionate group of leaders who care deeply about the wellbeing and safety of our community.

The Board is equally grateful for the engagement, resilience, and commitment of the entire PearlSpace team. We are proud of all that has been accomplished this year and optimistic about the opportunities ahead. Together, we look forward to continuing to strengthen our impact and support those who rely on PearlSpace for hope, healing, and change.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ASHLEY OAKES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fiscal year 2026 was marked by change, resilience, and continued growth. This past year PearlSpace said farewell to several long-time staff who moved on to exciting new chapters in their lives including overseas moves, stepping into private counselling practices, and returning to graduate studies. It's always sad to say goodbye but we are so grateful for the passion they brought to PearlSpace and so excited to see what the future holds for them.

At PearlSpace, we continue to uphold our vision of a world where all people are supported to heal, grow, and thrive—free from violence and rooted in dignity. In 2026, this vision guided every drop-in centre visit, emergency housing support, crisis intervention, healing circle, and community event provided by our frontline teams. It shaped our partnerships with Indigenous communities, strengthened our commitments to cultural safety, and deepened our understanding of what it means to show up in good relationship.

This year we continued our decolonizing work through the establishment of a decolonization community of practice, the launch of a weekly Elders in Residence initiative supporting knowledge exchange with Squamish Nation leaders, and the weaving of Indigenous teachings into our program design. PearlSpace is deeply grateful to the Squamish Nation Elders participating in this program for their time, care, and teachings. These are not boxes to check—they are intentional and ongoing acts of accountability.

Our dedicated staff, volunteers, and board members have shown extraordinary commitment throughout a year marked by complexity and change. Together, we completed capital improvements to Pearl's Value & Vintage, navigated increasing funding constraints, and the faced the rising needs and the ongoing social and emotional toll of vicarious trauma.

To our funders, donors, and community allies—thank you. Your support allows us to show up with integrity and flexibility, tailoring our services to the unique needs and strengths of each survivor, each family, each community.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to walking gently but firmly toward justice, healing, and liberation. PearlSpace is not just a support service—it is a place of possibility. A place where people are met with respect, choice, and unwavering belief in their worth.

VOLUNTEERS - UPDATE

Drop-in Volunteers

Andrea Sentesy
Andrea Vilchin-Jaime
Arshdeep Benipal
Ava Davin
Carlose Antonio Martinez Jimenez
Carmen Cornell
Cherkez Hamut
Fatima Suleiman
Heather Chapman
Hie Jin Lau
Jojo Fleming
Judith Vetch
Lise Hamilton
Maddi Russel-Cowie
Maithali Sawant
Mauricia Cantilana
Nyrie Waddell
Patrick Macnamara
Regina Lopez
Sarah Manwaring
Shadi Mirabbhasi
Thanh Tran
Victoria Sandoval
Wakeela Hamidi
Yulin Lin
Zuleika Gedeon

Special Thanks to:

Pride Squamish
Sea to Sky Allies
Yoga Studio

Pearl's Value & Vintage Volunteers

Alicia Vennos
Andre Wardzinski
Anne Bracey
Beth Fleming
Carol Dale
Cheryl Morisseau
Christina Musselwhite
Colton Belley
Darleen Merz
Diana King
Dora Wint
Ginny Dick
Giovanna Arseneault
Heather Parker
Helen Ekelund
Karen Bint
Kent Halverson
Krista Larson
Kristine Stenner
Krystle Young
Mary-Jo Kennedy Mageau
Mimi Bajurny
Nikola Weissova
Nyrin Woelfle
Patsy Stewart
Pearl White
Sandra Wood
Allecia Verheire
Laura Johnson

OUR TEAM

Leadership

Ashley Oakes, Executive Director
Diane Jackson, Finance Manager
Eliza McCullough, Community Program Manager - Whistler
Jennifer Portelli, Pearl's Value & Vintage Store Manager
Kate Harvey, Pearl's Value & Vintage Store Manager
Shana Murray, Community Program Director
Suzie Soman, Community Program Manager - Squamish
Tess Egan, Transition House Program Manager

Administration

Akseeta Elliot, Finance Assistant
Camela Matheson, Administrative Assistant
Christina Walsh, Human Resource Coordinator
Vanessa Kerr, Human Resource Assistant
Sylvie Slaninova, Executive Administrator & Social Media Coordinator
Mollie Holm, Communications Coordinator
Zuzana Minarovicova, Finance Assistant

Children, Youth & Family Programs

Alexis McKinlay, PEACE Counsellor
Allison Hunter, PEACE Counsellor
Andrea Sentesy, PEACE Counsellor
Dan Parry, PEACE Counsellor
Jennifer Lister, PEACE Counsellor

Front Line Support Workers

Afton Keys, Support Worker
Aidee Velasco-Arenas, Support Worker
Bree Smith, Specialized Resource Worker & Youth Facilitator
Bronwen Thorburn, Drop-in Coordinator & Support Worker
Carolyn Green, Support Worker
Chloe Sharpe, Specialized Resource Worker
Christie Spracklin, Support Worker
Danielle Smith, Support Worker
Dara Lebanger, Support Worker
Deanna Enders-Byers, Gender, Diversity, and Inclusion Outreach
Ella Afors-Graham, Support Worker
Fran Posselt, Specialized Resource Worker
Gagan Chagger, Support Worker
Heidi Nielson, Drop-In Coordinator & Full Circle Facilitator
Jaqueline Middleton, Support Worker
Julia Hart, Support Worker
Jazz Lewis-Jones, Drop-In Coordinator Jennifer Lister, Support Worker, PEACE Counsellor & HPP Outreach Worker
Jojo Fleming, Homeless Prevention Program Outreach Worker
Kath Brown, Support Worker
Kelani Shuster, Specialized Resource Worker & Youth Facilitator
Kelsey Chalklin-Watson, Support Worker
Kesley Gray, Support Worker
Lucy Higginson, Support Worker

Front Line Support Workers

Maddy Arens, Support Worker
Madyson O'Sullivan, Support Worker
Maria Berno, Support Worker
Marie McKinney, Support Worker
Mariela Bautista, Support Worker
Mona Sidhu, Multicultural Outreach Support
Naina, Support Worker
Olena Horodyska, Transition House Coordinator
Olivia Merer, Support Worker
Pascal Bockelmann, Support Worker
Rachel Willman, Support Worker
Raquel Chaves Lucas, Support Worker
Rebecca Prior, Support Worker
Rhonda Lochbaum, Support Worker
Shannon Cooley, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
Smitha Sandra, Support Worker
Stephanie Pintar, Perinatal Substance Use Outreach Worker

Pearl's Value & Vintage

Abbey Doucet, Receiver/Sorter
Angela Van Maris, Receiver/Sorter
Anik Watson, Receiver/Sorter
Anna Barker, Receiver/Sorter
Beatriz Arevalo, Receiver/Sorter
Chelsea Crisby, Receiver/Sorter
Christine Becker, Receiver/Sorter
Ciarra Douglas, Receiver/Sorter
Connie Norman, Receiver/Sorter
Doreen Boyle, Cashier
Eva McLennan, Receiver/Sorter
Helene Roy, Receiver/Sorter
Jeannie Boscariol, Receiver/Sorter
Kate Featherstonehaugh, Receiver/Sorter
Kayla Raimondo, Receiver/Sorter
Kayley Stetler, Receiver/Sorter
Kelly Wayward, Receiver/Sorter
Laura Doyle, Receiver/Sorter
Lila Carter, Receiver/Sorter
Makenzy Harris, Volunteer Coordinator
Morr Levin, Receiver/Sorter
Naomi Allard, Receiver/Sorter
Nicole Kerr, Receiver/Sorter
Petal Peach, Receiver/Sorter
Samantha Speer, Receiver/Sorter
Tracy Ferguson, Receiver/Sorter
Valerie Nagy, Operations Coordinator
Verre Morshed, Receiver/Sorter
Yin Xzi Ho, Receiver/Sorter

2025-2026 STATS AT A GLANCE

96
Individuals helped through Sexual Assault Services

15,646
Persons reached through programs and services

597 Volunteer hours

278 Adults & children served through the Homeless Prevention Program

THE PEACE COUNSELLORS

32
Children & youth suported through one to one counselling

93
Children & youth supported through groups

1,096
Children & youth counselling hours

169
Parent support hours

SQUAMISH & WHISTLER DROP IN CENTRES

5,954
Drop-in visits - adults & children

1,049
Support calls

2,380
Drop-in 1:1 emotional support

1,134
Students who received violence prevention presentations in Grades 5-11 in Squamish, Whistler & Pemberton

945
Pearl's Value & Vintage vouchers issued

50
Bags with essential items via Fill-A-Bag program

24
Sexual Assault Services adult education presentation attendees

SAFE HOMES AND TRANSITION HOUSE

3,119
Bed nights adults & children

567
24-hour crisis line support calls

78 Holiday Hampers

MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH SQUAMISH

184
Adults helped

381
Individual support

947
Multicultural program attendance

364
Whistler / Pemberton / Northern Community Outreach clients served

PEARL'S PLACE TRANSITION HOUSE

In 2025, Pearl's Place Transition House continued to build on the growth and changes from the previous year. With the expanded space fully in use, we were able to support more participants and better understand what our community needs from us.

For much of the year, the house remained full or close to capacity. This showed us not only how needed these services are, but also how important it is to keep finding ways to reduce barriers and make our space as accessible as possible. Even when we didn't have a room available, our team made sure that anyone reaching out was still supported through our crisis/support line—with referrals, safety planning, or just for someone to talk to.

Our crisis line continued to be a strong connection point, with people reaching out from both within our community and from other areas. Not every call is a crisis. Some people just need someone to listen, to help them think through their next steps, or to feel less alone in the moment. No matter the reason for the call, our staff meet people where they're at and support them in whatever way they need.

Over the past year, we made some updates within the house to better support participants. We adjusted how essential items and harm reduction supplies are offered, making them easier to access when needed and without added barriers. We also continue to recognize how important it is for people to be able to bring their pets, and we do our best to make that possible whenever we can. We also made several upgrades to the physical space. This included increased security measures, a new privacy fence, and clearer evacuation procedures. These changes were important in helping both participants and staff feel safer in the space. We refreshed shared areas as well, including spaces for children and staff, to make the house feel more comfortable and welcoming.

A big part of our work this year has been strengthening how we support participants with more complex needs. Mental health and substance use continue to come up, and we have been working on ways to respond through trauma-informed and harm reduction approaches. At the same time, gaps in community supports remain a challenge, especially when it comes to accessing timely supports in the community.

Life in the house continues to be shaped by the people in it. Shared meals, conversations, cultural connections, and activities like our Sharing Circle created space for participants and their children to connect. This year, we were honoured to support a pregnant mother who gave birth while in our program and to welcome her newborn into the house, as well as a multi-generational family. These moments remind us how important it is to be able to keep families together in a safe space.

At the same time, we continue to see some of the ongoing barriers participants face. Access to childcare is still a major challenge and can make it difficult for people to attend appointments, look for work, or take steps forward in their goals. These are things we continue to advocate for alongside our direct support work.

Pearl's Place Transition House continues to be a space where people can come in, take a breath, and begin to figure out what comes next. We try to ease some of the immediate stress by providing food, essential items, and a safe place to land, so participants can focus on themselves, their children, and their next steps.

As we look back on the year, we see both the progress we've made and the ongoing need in our community. We remain committed to this work and to reducing barriers wherever possible.

PEARL'S SAFE HOME AND MARIE'S SAFE HOME

Pearl's Safe Home in Pemberton provides a secure and supportive environment for individuals fleeing violence. The program is staffed by Safe Home Support Workers who deliver trauma-informed and culturally responsive care seven days per week, ensuring participants receive compassionate and individualized support during times of crisis.

The program offers emergency housing, or as we often say, "a soft place to land" with an initial stay of up to 14 days, with some extensions available based on individual circumstances and needs for each family. Throughout 2025, demand for safe housing remained high, and Pearl's Safe Home continued to be well utilized. We saw a significant increase in requests for support from seniors and members of the local St'át'imc Lil'wat Nation seeking safe and stable housing options.

Marie's Safe Home in Whistler continues to be an invaluable addition to PearlSpace's housing resources for families. This two-bedroom, two-bathroom, pet-friendly safe home provides a welcoming and secure space for individuals actively fleeing violence. Since opening, the home has consistently operated at a high level of occupancy, reflecting the ongoing need for safe and accessible housing throughout the region. Over the past year, Marie's Safe Home has provided a vital refuge for women, trans women, and non-binary individuals seeking safety and stability. Participants have benefited from the dedication of PearlSpace staff, who provide practical supports including groceries, toiletries, clothing, advocacy, and ongoing care that extends beyond a participant's stay in the program.

The ongoing shortage of affordable housing across the Sea to Sky region continues to create significant challenges for program participants. Many individuals leaving situations of violence face limited housing options, and we supported numerous women who transitioned to living in their vehicles when affordable housing could not be secured. During participants' stays, and through continued support following program exit, PearlSpace Support Workers in both Whistler and Pemberton work diligently to connect individuals with housing resources, financial assistance, health services, counselling referrals, legal supports, and other community-based services. PearlSpace is proud to offer pet-friendly accommodations, recognizing that concerns about the safety and care of pets can be a significant barrier for individuals seeking emergency housing while fleeing gender-based violence.

Collaboration remains central to the success of the program. PearlSpace maintains strong partnerships with Sea to Sky Community Services, Whistler Community Services Society, and St'át'imc Lil'wat Nation Transition House. Together, these organizations provide coordinated referrals, cross-agency support, and ongoing wrap around support with resources to ensure participants receive the assistance they need for as long as they choose to remain engaged.

HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM - UPDATE

The Homeless Prevention Program continued to be a vital source of support for participants across many of our programs. Through funding from BC Housing, we provided short-term financial assistance to help individuals and families maintain stable housing during times of financial stress.

Support included rental assistance, damage deposits, utility payments, moving expenses and storage costs. These resources helped bridge the gap for those navigating the challenges of maintaining housing in a region with high housing costs.

The most commonly accessed support was rental assistance for families leaving violence, helping parents and children with financial support to maintain rents through rising costs. For many participants, the program made the difference between remaining housed and facing housing instability and needing to move out of their community.

Many participants accessing the Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) also received support through other PearlSpace programs including the Drop-in Centres, Safe Homes, Transition Home as well as outreach programs. This continuity of care allowed individuals and families to build trusted relationships with staff while accessing coordinated services that supported their housing, safety planning and well-being.

Demand for the Homeless Prevention Program continued to exceed available resources throughout the year, reflecting the ongoing housing affordability challenges in the communities we serve. The program was fully utilized, proving both the need for this support and its role in supporting our participants remain housed.

THE PEACE PROGRAM

The PEACE Team is comprised of four counsellors and one counselling practicum student who are dedicated to working with children, youth, and families in Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton. Each counsellor comes with their own unique story, education, and wealth of experience.

The PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment) Program offers individual, family, and group counselling for children and youth ages 3—18 and their families who have experienced violence, abuse, and/or conflict in the home, including families that are going through a difficult separation or divorce.

We know that children who are exposed to violence in the home suffer from emotional trauma, have poor educational outcomes, and are at risk of using violence to solve problems. Helping children and youth deal with traumatic life events, developing coping skills, and better understand the context of healthy relationships can help end the intergenerational cycle of violence for those children.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

We have continued to partner with the Secondary and Elementary Schools in Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton/Mount Currie, so that we can see more children in the school setting. By working with school staff (teachers, counsellors, EA's and district psychologists) our counsellors have been able to offer more groups, individual sessions, and presentations to children and youth that may otherwise not access services.

The **Individual Counselling Program** applies a psycho-educational approach that utilizes a variety of counselling techniques and strategies such as art, play, nature-inspired activities, mindfulness, regulation techniques, and discussion. This creates an opportunity for children to deal with the traumatic events in their lives in a safe, confidential, and nurturing environment. Individual counselling sessions happened in a variety of settings, including the Whistler Drop- In Centre, Squamish Drop-in Centre, within the school setting and outdoor spaces within the wilderness environment of the Sea to Sky Corridor. Sessions are set up to support children, youth, and their families feel comfortable and safe. We often involve activities like art, games, baking, chatting, having fun, and going for nature walks.

The **Group Counselling Program** offers many types of groups, responding to the need of each community. Many groups focus on building friendships, empowerment, self-esteem, self expression, changing family dynamics, hard to handle feelings, healthy ways of coping, community, and sharing stories and experiences.

SUMMER CAMPS

Summer Camps offer children in Squamish, Whistler, and Pemberton an opportunity to build connection through friendships, foster confidence, inspire curiosity, have fun, and explore nature as a group.

According to statistics, 50% of all girls wish they were someone else, and self-confidence in girls decreases from 36% in grade 6 to 14% in grade 10.

Squamish 2025 Summer Camps

The Squamish PEACE Team supported 16 children/youth during the summer camps. Jenny, Rebecca and Jojo facilitated a camp for girls ages 9-12. The camp was built around mindfulness, self-esteem, connection, and belonging. The group culminated with a trip up the gondola where the girls enjoyed nature, games and exploration.

Dan, with the support of our volunteer, Maddi, held four summer camps for youth ages 5-14. Here, they focused on drumming, drum making, guided outdoor experiences, journalling, and art activities. This supported youth's curiosity in the outdoors, teamwork, creativity, and resilience through learning new skills together.

The **Whistler PEACE Team** partnered with Flourish Education and Mentorship Society and hosted a camp for girls and gender diverse youth ages 11-13. Activities included education around mental health, changing bodies, gender identity, nature, and friendships. This was explored through art activities, games, chats outside, journalling, and daily rituals. The group culminated with caregivers joining in the last half of the day for activities with their child, ending with a group ritual and closing ceremony.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PEACE PROGRAM

- The PEACE Team is being supported monthly by Clinical Supervisor, Tracy Myers. She supports an environment where the team holds one another with care, offering support though the more challenging moments of this work.
- Congratulations to Gaia Pinsonnault on completing her practicum at PearlSpace, we thank her for her dedication and support to the youth who she worked with.
- Shana Murray (Peace Program Manager) and Andrea Sentesy (former Peace Counsellor) facilitated "When Love Hurts" groups for women.
- Dan has partnered with Heidi for a new group called "Women in Rhythm" who meet bi-weekly and is centred around peer support, connection and skill building through drumming.
- Dan began a "Jam with Dan" group at Foundry's Youth hub. This supports leadership through music for youth. Dan facilitates peer to peer projects, collaboration, jamming and musical games.
- The Peace team continues to attend both the BCSTH conference in Vancouver in the fall, and the provincial PEACE conference in the Spring. Here, they connect with organizations across the province and return with fresh ideas, inspiration, resources and new connections. We thank BCSTH for this valuable experience.

YOUTH EDUCATION

The **Youth Education Program** is a school-based educational presentation that encourages discussions with children and youth on healthy relationships, boundaries, consent, sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexting, cyberbullying, how to keep safe, and where to go for help. This year, the Violence is Preventable (VIP) presentations were delivered to 1,134 students in grades 5-10. PearlSpace believes that continuing to focus on prevention work is essential and will make a positive impact on the reduction of violence, abuse and conflict that a child or youth may experience.

This year, we have expanded content to include specific guidance on keeping safe online, addressing the growing and ever-changing role that digital spaces have on youth's safety.

Did you know?

- 11-year old's are the most targeted group by predators online in Canada.
- Young Canadians are more likely to experience sexual assault. The rate of sexual assault for Canadians aged 15 to 24 is 18 times higher than that of Canadians 55 and older.
- 82% of all victims of sexual assault under the age of 18 are female.
- Hyper-masculinity – the notion that masculinity is determined by strength and power – is damaging for men, women, and everyone in between. It promotes violence and entitlement and devalues feelings and emotions.

Stats provided by Canadian Women's Foundation - https://canadianwomen.org/the-facts/

PEARL'S VALUE & VINTAGE

We are pleased to report that we closed the fiscal year with total revenue of $1,490,600, representing an increase of $11,896 over the previous year. This growth reflects our community's ongoing support and the dedication of our staff and volunteers.

Over the past year, we proudly served more than 100,000 customers, offering rare vintage household treasures, essential everyday items, quality thrifted clothing for all, and everything in between. Beyond retail, our store has continued to serve as a community support hub, providing a welcoming, safe, and positive space for those seeking connection, comfort, and assistance.

This year also brought significant changes to our team. We said farewell to Kate as she retired and returned to her home in Australia, and we were excited to welcome Jenn as our new Store Manager in late November. Jenn has brought fresh energy and a collaborative leadership style, with a strong focus on relationship building, operational efficiency, resource optimization, volunteer and staff engagement, and strengthening our connection with the community.

We also created a new Volunteer Coordinator position, with Makenzy taking on this important role. She is now the primary contact for our 29 volunteers, overseeing scheduling, recruitment, communication, and volunteer support.

Throughout the year, we worked diligently to improve our retail space by organizing inventory, creating additional shopping areas, and enhancing our departments, display cases, and accessory walls. These improvements have allowed us to better merchandise our products, increase selling space, and create a more enjoyable shopping experience. The positive feedback we've received from both customers and staff has been incredibly encouraging.

We also made important improvements to health and safety, reinforcing our commitment to providing a safer environment for everyone who visits and works in our store. It was especially meaningful to have our store blessed by our Elders, a moment we deeply appreciated and are grateful to have shared. Our staff and volunteers have continued to showcase exceptional creativity through our monthly window displays, which have become a highlight for both customers and the community.

From our vibrant Pride display, to collaborating with teachers and students from Don Ross School to feature student artwork, to rock-and-roll themes and vintage-inspired displays, these eye-catching windows have generated excitement, drawn new visitors, and contributed to increased auction and retail sales.

As we continue to grow, we are proud to be an integral part of our community. We extend our sincere gratitude to our donors, customers, staff, volunteers, and community partners. Your generosity, commitment, and support have made this successful year possible, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

THE SQUAMISH DROP-IN CENTRE

The **Squamish Drop-in Centre** is dedicated to creating a safe, non-judgmental, caring, and healthy community for people and their children to seek support and resources. The Squamish Drop-in Centre is open Monday through Thursday, 10 am – 4 pm. Drop-in services include crisis support, information, resources such as clothing vouchers, toiletries, and food, referrals, assisted access with government and non-government forms, systems, and processes, and computer and fax machine use.

Something people may not know about the Drop-in Centre is that it's a space for all people, youth, children, and families. It is a space to come to for support when there seems like there is nowhere else to turn to, but also a place to come have a coffee out of the rain, use the computer, connect with others, share a meal or a cup of tea; it's a place where everyone is met with a friendly smile, a knowledgeable and non-judgmental support worker, a place where we believe in an individual's right to autonomy and to be heard; a place where you are met with not only friendly faces but many four-legged furry friends ready to give cuddles and kisses.

Thank you to all the wonderful Volunteers, who gave their time to support the programs and services of the Drop-in Centre; we could not have done it without you.

Highlights for the Year:

- The Drop-in was selected to participate in the BC Farmers Market Project, which allowed us to support 48 women with children as well as Seniors by providing a $27 subsidy for the Squamish Farmers Market each week from June-October.
- Fill a Bag Project at Christmas saw PearlSpace provide 50 bags and stockings filled with necessities as well as chocolate, mittens, socks and much more to program participants.
- Christmas Hamper Project connecting community donors with applicants in need of support at Christmas and provided 78 families with hampers.
- Full Circle Support Group runs the third Friday of the month and offers snacks, refreshments and inspiring art activities, sharing circle and grounding practice.
- Women's Yoga by Donation Program runs every Monday from 9:30-10:30 for 10 months of the year (July/August off). The program raised over $800 in donations to help cover the cost to rent the Yoga Studio at a discounted rate.
- Women in Rhythm Drum Circle runs the 2nd Friday of the month.
- Counselling Subsidy Program that launched in June 2021 continues to support children, youth, and adults accessing private counselling services and provided free or subsidized counselling sessions for clients. In 2025-2026 the program supported 103 people.

Events hosted at the Drop-In Centre

- Harvest Halloween party where we distributed a variety of root vegetables, served soup and pie and celebrated the abundance of the harvest.
- The annual December 6th Vigil on the National Day of Remembrance and Action to honour and remember the 14 women who were killed in the Montreal Massacre at l'École Polytechnique on December 6, 1989.
- Drop-in Holiday Open House in December for over 40 program participants and the community with lots of treats and a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause. Parents and kids made holiday decorations to take home.
- In addition, monthly multicultural events are held at the Squamish Drop-In Centre through the Multicultural Outreach Program

THE WHISTLER DROP-IN CENTRE

The **Whistler Drop-In Centre** operates Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our inclusive space is open to the community, with a focus on supporting women, non-binary folx, trans, and gender-diverse individuals, as well as children and youth. We provide trauma-informed care through a culturally responsible approach.

The Drop-In Centre continues to be a welcoming and peaceful space where participants can connect, access support, and receive referrals to PearlSpace programs and community resources. Donated clothing remains a significant draw for participants, and we are continually grateful for the generosity of community members who support the program through donations. Clothing that is not distributed locally to safe home participants as well as other programs, is transported to Squamish and sold through Pearl's Value Vintage, with proceeds supporting PearlSpace programming.
The Drop-In Centre offers a warm, supportive environment with a sharing-circle style seating, reading areas, craft supplies, a newly refreshed PEACE room, and comfortable office space for support staff and counselling practicum students. These spaces encourage connection, creativity, learning, and access to support services.

Throughout the year, we hosted community engagement and wellness workshops in partnership with the Whistler Public Library and generous community volunteers.

Community outreach also expanded over the past year. Drop-In staff participated with other PearlSpace programs in a variety of community events, including the Whistler Ski and Snowboard Festival (WSSF) and several Vail Resorts staff welcome events as well as at many of the local hotels. These outreach opportunities increased awareness of PearlSpace services, connected us with community members who may not otherwise access support, and strengthened relationships with local social service partners like the Seniors Roundtable as well as Housing Heroes monthly meet up's in Whistler.

We look forward to expanding our outreach efforts even further in the coming year.

As community needs continue to evolve, the Whistler Drop-In Centre remains committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and low-barrier space where individuals can find connection, support, and a sense of belonging. Through community partnerships, participant-centred services, and compassionate care, the Drop-In Centre continues to play an important role in educating our communities, supporting and advocating for those fleeing gender-based violence as well as facing housing insecurity.

Community Engagement Activities in 2025-2026:

- Baby Massage
- Mama Bay Connection
- BC Framer's Market
- Yoga Series
- Vail Mountain day passes
- Pemberton Clothing swap
- Christmas Hampers
- Christmas Party
- Library Outreach at Pemberton & Whistler
- Outreach at Whistler Food Bank
- Engaging at local roundtables

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

The sexual assault services program experienced a year of significant growth, community engagement, and regional collaboration as we continued to support survivors of sexual violence across the Sea to Sky Corridor. Through outreach, prevention education, systems advocacy, and strengthened partnerships, the program expanded its reach while maintaining survivor-centred services and leadership within the region.

Expanding Outreach and Community Presence

SARP increased its visibility and accessibility through sustained outreach efforts across Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton, Mount Currie, and neighbouring Indigenous communities.

Regular outreach was established at public libraries, while new initiatives included information tables at the Pemberton Youth Centre, the Whistler Community Services Society Food Bank, local schools, community markets, and public events.

The program continued to build strong relationships with local employers, providing presentations and training to leadership teams and new employees at major hospitality employers. These sessions focused on responding to disclosures of sexual assault, workplace prevention strategies, and pathways to support.

Strengthening Indigenous Relationships and Northern Outreach

A major focus throughout the year was expanding services and relationship-building with Indigenous communities and partners throughout the northern region.

Staff collaborated with Xetolacw Community School, Lil'wat Nation Health and Wellness, Southern Stl'atl'imx Health Society, the First Nations Health Authority, and other Indigenous service providers. Presentations were delivered to students, outreach opportunities were expanded, and planning began to improve service accessibility within more remote communities including N'Quatqua, Samahquam, and Skatin Nations.

Dedicated outreach in Pemberton and communities north of Pemberton, further strengthened the program's commitment to equitable access and culturally responsive service delivery.

Prevention Education and Youth Engagement

Consent education presentations were developed and delivered by Bree Smith and Kelani Shuster to students throughout the Sea to Sky region. By the end of December, nearly 300 students had participated in presentations, with plans underway to expand programming across additional grade levels and schools. The SAS team also engaged students through bracelet-making outreach activities, wellness events, career-life education classes, and youth conferences.

Collaboration with School District 48 advanced discussions regarding age-appropriate consent education for students in Grades 7 through 11, reflecting growing community interest in preventative education and healthy relationship programming.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The year began with a highly successful Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign in April 2025 under the theme "Together We Act, United We Change." Through a broad range of community initiatives, the program raised awareness of sexual violence, promoted survivor support services, and strengthened public understanding of consent and prevention.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

System Coordination and Community Partnerships

The Sea to Sky Sexual Assault Response Committee (SARC) continued to serve as a critical mechanism for collaboration and systems improvement. Participation remained strong throughout the year, bringing together representatives from healthcare, law enforcement, education, victim services, Indigenous organizations, local government, and community agencies.

The SARC also strengthened relationships with key partners including Vancouver Coastal Health, forensic nursing teams, RCMP detachments throughout the region, Victim Services, Capilano University, Transition House programs, Foundry, Community Coordination for Survivor's Safety, and the Ending Violence Association of BC.

Human Trafficking Committee

SARP continued to play an active role in regional anti-trafficking initiatives. Staff participated in the Human Trafficking Sub-Committee, collaborated with Justice for Girls and healthcare professionals specializing in trafficking response, and contributed to ongoing community dialogue.
The program also participated in research initiatives exploring trafficking and survivor experiences, while identifying specialized training opportunities for service providers across the region.

Professional Development and Capacity Building

The SARP program invested significantly in staff development throughout the year. Team members participated in training related to:

- Third Party Reporting (TPR)
- Human trafficking response
- Strangulation awareness and intervention
- Trauma-informed practice
- Psychological First Aid
- Supporting individuals experiencing suicidality
- Rights and supports for sex workers

Advocacy and Systems Change

Throughout the year, SARP continued to advocate for systemic improvements to sexual assault response services. This included ongoing dialogue with RCMP leadership, participation in provincial communities of practice, and review of provincial referral directives emphasizing mandatory referral pathways between police, victim services, and Sexual Assault Services Programs.

Staff also explored opportunities to strengthen access to specialized services for children and youth who have experienced sexual abuse, including potential collaboration with the Treehouse Child and Youth Advocacy Centre and local child-serving agencies.

Looking Forward

As the program enters a new year, priorities include expanding northern and Indigenous outreach, strengthening youth prevention programming, enhancing collaboration with educational institutions and employers, increasing awareness of Third-Party Reporting options, and continuing to build a coordinated, trauma-informed response system for survivors throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor.

The accomplishments of the past year reflect the dedication of SARP staff, partners, and survivors whose courage and leadership continue to guide this work. Together, we are creating a safer, more informed, and more supportive community for all.

THE MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM (MOS)

Over the past year, PearlSpace's **Multicultural Outreach Services (MOS)** delivered consistent programming, strengthened community connections, and expanded cultural engagement across Squamish. Weekly literacy and arts programs, monthly nature walks, extensive outreach, and a rich calendar of multicultural celebrations contributed to a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive environment for clients. MOS also provided critical one on one support, including immigration assistance, crisis intervention, and advocacy.

Cultural and Community Events

PearlSpace successfully secured the 2025 Community Literacy Grant, enabling MOS to integrate cultural celebrations into literacy building initiatives. By using storytelling, traditions, and shared cultural knowledge, MOS fostered a more literate, connected, and empowered community.

Cultural celebrations remained central to MOS's work, fostering belonging, cultural pride, and cross cultural learning. Events were consistently well attended and included:

- Vaisakhi (April, 2025)
- Asian Heritage Month (May, 2025)
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day (June, 2025)
- Latin Heritage & Women's History Month (Oct, 2025)
- Diwali (Oct, 2025)
- Multicultural Gathering (Feb, 2026)
- Chinese New Year (Feb, 2026)
- International Women's Day (March, 2026)
- Nowruz / Persian New Year (March, 2026)

Regular MOS Programming

The EAL Book Club continued every Wednesday, offering a welcoming space for language learning, reading, and social connection. Activities included regular reading sessions, a special Sea to Sky Gondola picnic, and exploration of Agatha Christie short stories.

The Art Circle also ran weekly, providing a creative outlet for clients to express themselves, build confidence, and form community bonds.

Regular Soup & Social and Chai Time gatherings brought clients together to cook, share meals, and learn about different cultures. Dishes included Tamales, Mee Goreng, Vietnamese beef noodle soup, Syrian lentil soup, and more. These events consistently strengthened community connection and cultural exchange.

MOS and Drop In Centre staff organized monthly nature Walks throughout spring and summer. Walks took place at the Estuary Trail, Squamish Golf Course Trail, Feather Park, Oceanfront Trail, and Wonderland Loop, each drawing approximately eight participants. These walks supported mental wellness, physical activity, and peer connection.

Outreach at the Squamish Public Library allowed MOS and SAS coordinators to engage community members through bracelet making and conversations about PearlSpace programs, sexual assault services, and community supports. Outreach occurred consistently throughout the year, strengthening visibility and trust.

Client Support

MOS provided extensive individualized, culturally informed, and trauma aware support including Temporary Resident Permit and Humanitarian & Compassionate PR applications and crisis support related to housing instability, legal issues, and safety planning.

THE GENDER DIVERSITY INCLUSION PROGRAM

Throughout the year, the **Gender Diversity and Inclusion Program** advanced inclusion, visibility, and education through awareness campaigns, community events, and resource sharing. Activities recognized key dates including Transgender Day of Visibility, Autism Awareness Month, Mental Health Awareness Week, FASD Awareness Day, LGBTQ History Month, Coming Out Day, International Pronouns Day, Transgender Week of Awareness, Neurodiversity Celebration Week, and Transgender Day of Remembrance.

The program strengthened partnerships with Pride Squamish, Sea to Sky Allies, Squamish Community Foundation, and other local service providers through collaborative initiatives such as film screenings, awareness events, and participation in the Squamish Pride Parade.

A major focus was increasing peer connection. GDI hosted its first annual Friendsgiving event for LGBTQIA+ community members and allies and launched monthly social gatherings for transgender and gender-diverse individuals in early 2026.

GDI also launched Holding Space, a bi-weekly peer support group for parents and caregivers of individuals with cognitive, developmental, and neurodivergent life challenges, creating a supportive space to connect, share experiences, and build community.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT PHONE OR IN PERSON

73

GDI INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH EVENTS AND OUTREACH

142

Highlights and Initiatives of the Gender Diverse Inclusion Program in 2023/2024

- Recognized key awareness days and campaigns related to gender diversity, mental health, neurodiversity, and inclusion.
- Strengthened community partnerships through Pride events, film screenings, educational displays, and resource sharing.
- Hosted the first annual Friendsgiving event for LGBTQIA+ community members and allies.
- Launched monthly GDI social gatherings and the Holding Space caregiver support group.

COUNSELLING PROGRAM

Counselling Practicum Students

Demand for no-cost counselling continued to grow, underscoring the need for accessible mental health support across the Sea to Sky region. In spring 2025, PearlSpace recruited additional practicum counsellors to increase capacity and maintained its partnership with Moving Forward Family Services for clinical supervision.

Outreach to local agencies and residents increased awareness of the program and led to a steady rise in referrals. Although waitlists were temporarily reduced, demand continued to outpace capacity at times, with waits reaching approximately four to six weeks by the fall.

The program expanded into Whistler and Pemberton through additional practicum placements, improving access to in-person counselling in the northern corridor. New practicum students added in January 2026 further increased capacity and helped reduce wait times.

Squamish-based practicum students provided 625 hours and Whistler-based practicum students serving Whistler and Pemberton, provided 106 hours. As a result, 103 people received a total of 731 hours of free of charge counselling services from April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.

Counselling Subsidy Program

The Counselling Subsidy Program reduces financial barriers to mental health care by providing either full or partial subsidies for 6 to 24 counselling sessions. The sliding scale ranges from $20 (partial) to $165 (fully covered).

Full subsidy: Covers the entire cost of the counselling sessions.

Partial subsidy: Requires the client to contribute a small portion of the session cost.

Through this initiative, PearlSpace has been able to provide fast, accessible mental health support to residents of the Sea to Sky Corridor, advancing our mission to foster a community where individuals feel supported, connected, and free from violence.

COUNSELLING PROGRAM

PRACTICUM STUDENTS	COUNSELLING SUBSIDY
NUMBER OF CLIENTS **103**	NUMBER OF CLIENTS **42**
COUNSELLING HOURS **731**	COUNSELLING HOURS **588**

PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE SUPPORT PROGRAM

From April 2025 to March 2026, the **Perinatal Substance Use Program** continued to provide relational, practical, and trauma-informed support to pregnant and parenting participants across the Sea to Sky corridor. The program focused on reducing barriers to care, strengthening community connections, supporting safer pregnancies and postpartum transitions, and helping families access the resources they need during complex and often vulnerable periods.

Key Areas of Support

- Provided accompaniment and transportation to medical appointments, including ultrasounds, lab work, maternity appointments, BC Children's Hospital, corrections, hospital tours and detox in Vancouver.
- Supported birth preparation through birth planning, doula-related support, baby items, and connection to public health nursing and other care providers.
- Offered postpartum support in homes, including emotional support, light household tasks, walks, attending groups, and help with home organizing, packing, and clearing.
- Provided childminding during appointments, helping single parents and participants attend essential medical and social-service appointments.
- Connected participants to food support, housing-related resources, counselling, safety planning, baby supplies, and community programs.

Program Highlights

- Ran two five week Infant Massage groups as well as supported the Mama and Baby prenatal groups in Whistler.
- The program celebrated meaningful milestones with participants, including a one-year celebration with a family.
- The PSU webpage and program materials were updated, including changes to poster imagery and messaging based on participant feedback.
- Participants reflected much appreciation for the support and care during their perinatal journey.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

The program continued to build strong relationships with community partners and referral sources, including Public Health Nursing, Mental Health and Substance Use, Under One Roof, Whistler Community Services Society, Lil'wat Health and Healing, es zúmin Primary Care Centre, SSHS HPOP, community birth circles, and the OPS. Referrals from Public Health Nursing and Mental Health and Substance Use demonstrated growing awareness of the program and its role in supporting perinatal participants.

Program outreach included sharing information at a Harm Reduction Pop-Up in Pemberton, the SSCS Family and Children networking event, and team meetings of MCFD and Public Health. These opportunities helped strengthen referral pathways, clarify the program's role, and increase community understanding of perinatal substance use support.

Impact and Emerging Theme

Throughout the year, the program demonstrated the importance of flexible, participant-centred support. Many participants required help navigating overlapping needs, including pregnancy care, postpartum adjustment, food security, transportation, housing, legal and child welfare systems, safety planning, counselling, and social isolation. The program's ability to meet participants where they are—both emotionally and practically—helped reduce barriers and supported safer, more connected experiences during pregnancy and early parenting.

FUNDRAISING & ADVOCACY EVENTS

Thanks to the continued generosity and commitment of our donors, funders, and community partners, PearlSpace is able to sustain and grow life-changing services across the Sea to Sky Corridor. Throughout the year, your generous contributions have directly enabled us to offer emergency shelter, advocacy support, crisis intervention, and education programs that break the cycle of violence. Grounded in an intersectional feminist framework, our work ensures that women, Two Spirit, gender-diverse, non-binary, trans people, as well as children and youth can access the support they need to live safely and begin to heal.

Your support in 2025-26 enabled us to:

- Ease financial stress for families during the holidays, allowing parents to focus on healing and stability rather than worrying about gifts and essentials (The Christmas Hamper Program & Holiday Stocking Program)
- Provide individuals with dignity and comfort through thoughtfully curated packages, removing one burden during their most vulnerable moments (The Fill-A-Bag Program)
- Ensure survivors have immediate access to crisis support whenever they need it, day or night (24/7 Crisis Support Line)
- Create specialized support for gender-diverse individuals and multicultural outreach, ensuring that safety is accessible to everyone, regardless of background.(Multicultural outreach and LGBTQ2S+ inclusion programs)

Roots for Change Monthly Giving Community

Donors committed to our Roots for Change Monthly Giving Community ensure we can continue to respond immediately to urgent needs, provide consistent trauma-informed care, and remain a stable, trusted pillar in the Sea to Sky region.

Roots for Change donors:

- Provide immediate shelter and crisis support for families in need.
- Deliver PEACE programming that gives children and youth tools to recognize healthy relationships and break cycles of violence in their own lives.
- Fund 24/7 support and drop-in services providing emotional support, community connection, and access to community resources.

To join our monthly giving program or learn about other ways to support our mission, visit https://pearlspace.ca/roots-for-change/ or contact us directly at fundraising@pearlspace.ca.

Your commitment ensures we can walk alongside survivors every day by offering safety, dignity, and a path toward long-term healing.

PearlSpace
ROOTS FOR CHANGE

INDIVIDUAL DONORS & CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF THESE INDIVIDUAL DONORS!

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THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS!

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Ashtanga Yoga Squamish
Audain Art Museum
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Backyard Pub
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Pemberton Womens Institute
Quantum Vitamins
Red Door Bistro Restaurant
Rimrock Café
Rocks and Gems Canada
Scandinave Spa Whistler
Sea To Sky Gondola
Sea to Sky Officiant
Seed Studio
Shannon June Enterprises (Bespoke market)
Snowy Mountain Post-Partum Care
SORCA
Soroptimist International North and West Vancouver gaming account
Squamish Music Academy
Squamish Canyon
Squamish Forest District - Coffee Club
Squamish Valley Golf Club
SWINGS Indoor Golf
The Adventure Group
The Nest Cannabis Store
The Raven Room
The Whistler Hat Gallery Ltd
Treeline Collective
Unique Slow Rise Bakery
Valhalla Pur Outfitters Squamish
Verge Art Collaborative
Whistler Blackcomb Vail Resorts - Epic Promise
Whistler Drop-In fundraiser
Whistler Valley Quilter's Guild
Women of Whitewater (WOWW)
Woodfibre LNG Limited
Yogacara Whistler

BC HOUSING

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SQUAMISH

WHISTLER

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PEARLSPACE SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY

Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025 *(Note 14)*
REVENUE		
Grants *(Note 7)*	**$ 2,339,109**	$ 2,139,892
Pearl's Value & Vintage sales	**1,464,736**	1,466,255
Donations	**258,058**	179,653
Deferred capital contributions recognized *(Note 6)*	**88,554**	65,564
Rental revenue	**35,525**	39,199
Investment income	**16,312**	12,807
Program fees	**13,500**	10,862
Fundraising	**8,165**	10,723
Other revenue	**1,285**	5,421
	4,225,244	3,930,376
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	**3,299,641**	2,848,515
Amortization	**214,907**	165,994
Rent	**180,269**	169,853
Computer and IT	**127,862**	72,129
Supplies	**106,883**	72,775
Client rental subsidies	**105,097**	107,023
Repairs and maintenance	**98,175**	138,087
Staff training, conferences and workshops	**60,609**	19,111
Professional fees	**60,567**	45,568
Staff and client travel	**57,857**	30,272
Consultant fees	**55,592**	14,528
Telecommunications	**53,016**	48,729
Utilities	**52,942**	45,185
Office	**50,098**	41,067
Insurance	**42,278**	39,172
Advertising and promotion	**33,213**	11,567
Bank charges and interest	**24,743**	22,868
Meals and entertainment	**18,410**	26,334
Counselling	**17,733**	41,266
Subcontractors	**-**	39,013
Bad debts	**-**	361
	4,659,892	3,999,417
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	**$ (434,648)**	$ (69,041)

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women."

-Maya Angelou

P.O. BOX 2052, 38021 THIRD AVE,
SQUAMISH, BC V8B 0B4
604.892.5748

PEARLSPACE.CA