



Annual Impact *Report*



Our Vision

*Communities that are free from
intimate partner and family violence*

Our Mission

*To support and collaborate
with member agencies
and others to address, prevent and
ultimately to eliminate
intimate partner and family violence*



Who we are

We are the member association for agencies that provide emergency and second-stage shelter and counseling services to survivors of intimate partner violence in Saskatchewan.

We support our members through research, training, and providing opportunities for peer support. We strive to create safer communities by working with community agencies and government and by providing public education on the issue of intimate partner and family violence.

The year in review



Message from the Board Chair

It is an honor and a privilege to provide the annual report on behalf of the Board of Directors of PATHS. Jo-Anne and her team have done an incredible job this year. They continue to support and collaborate with PATHS members while striving towards the organizational mission; to address, prevent, and ultimately to eliminate partner and family violence.

This year PATHS was increasingly viewed as the expert on intimate partner and family violence. They participated in a number of media interviews on various topics such as; Keira's Law, Clare's Law, the outcome of changes to the Divorce Act, the end of federal funding to shelters, and the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice & Accountability Report. For the first time, PATHS also acted as an intervenor in the appeal of the Freisen vs Freisen family court judgment.

It is fantastic to see the continued growth of PATHS and its involvement in professional training for member agency staff. Over 100 member agency staff participated in the IPV professional training this year. This training is an incredible tool for new staff as well as a great review for senior staff. PATHS also offered various training to non-members as well, including training for family law professionals.

PATHS has also brought the Safe & Together Model to Saskatchewan. The model focuses on keeping children safe with the non-abusive parent, providing safety and healing from trauma, and promoting stability for the children. PATHS Project Coordinator Kathryn Boyce is now a certified instructor in the Safe and Together Model. I look forward to seeing this come to full fruition.

PATHS Expert Witness Project is dedicated to providing training for IPV professionals wishing to provide expert testimony in court. This will be instrumental in supporting the clients we serve as they navigate the court system.

Crystal continues to participate in and review the latest research on IPV. Her most recent publication is "Addressing data gaps: Implications for preventing domestic homicide" in the Journal of Family Violence. She also co-authored a chapter, "Femicide in Canada," with other members of the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) in "The Routledge International Handbook of Femicide and Feminicide."

I want to take this opportunity to thank the outstanding staff; Jo-Anne Dusel, Crystal Giesbrecht, and Kathryn Boyce. Your work ethic and passion are admirable. We, as a board, are so incredibly thankful for the work you do and the compassion you have for those most vulnerable. I'd also like to thank the Board of Directors for all the work and expertise you offer to the organization, I am grateful to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Tanya Wiggins, Board Chair

The year *in review*



Message from the Executive Director

The past year has been a time of reconnecting. As individuals, we have become more comfortable leaving the isolation of our homes, once again meeting with friends and family, and attending public events and celebrations. PATHS and our member organizations have also had a year of emerging from isolation as organizations doing the difficult work of addressing intimate partner and family violence (IPFV). We were pleased to be able to once again hold our Advisory Council meetings in person, coming together at Manitou Beach to share our challenges and successes and to reconnect as colleagues and friends.

In October 2022, PATHS' conference Regrouping and Recharging; Coming Together to Create Sustainable Change was held. Our goals were to bring together our member agencies and other stakeholders to reengage in conversations about our collective work; to share new research and promising practices, and to provide concrete tools for change, whether at the local community level or be the catalyst for systemic change.

Through our conference, advocacy, and training we introduced the Safe and Together Model to Saskatchewan. We moved to fill a gap in the legal system by exploring ways to empower professionals from our sector to provide expert testimony in court, and for the first time, acted as an intervenor in a family law judgment appeal.

We continue to support our members through the Phones for a Fresh Start Program, training programs, conducting and sharing relevant research, and offering opportunities for peer support. We provide education and training related to intimate partner and family violence to the public and seek to use our collective voice to promote positive and systemic change.

We couldn't do our work without the support of our donors and funders, the input of our member agencies, and the support of our board of directors, much gratitude to you all! Thanks also to PATHS staff; Crystal Giesbrecht, Director of Research and Communications; Kathryn Boyce, Projects Coordinator; and Donna Standingready, who was Operations and Training Coordinator during the past fiscal year.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are hopeful that our voice is being heard and that all of our efforts, no matter how small create ripples of change that spread and grow bringing us ever closer to our vision of communities free from intimate partner and family violence.

Respectfully,

Jo-Anne Dusel, Executive Director

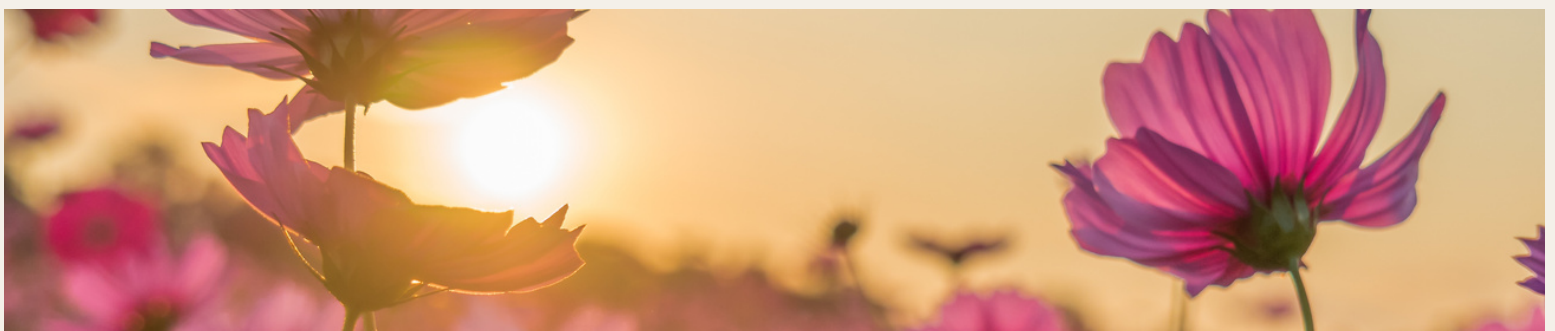
Our Work



Expert Witness Project

Thanks to funding supplied by Women and Gender Equality Canada and distributed by the Canadian Women's Foundation through the Shookproofing Communities Fund we were able to continue our work in addressing the justice system response to victims and survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). This journey began in 2018 when PATHS consulted with justice system stakeholders to examine existing barriers to access to justice and collectively work towards solutions. PATHS developed and began delivering training for family law professionals on IPV, in the fall of 2019. Since then, we have been repeatedly asked if we can recommend anyone to provide expert testimony related to IPV in court. We know that the expertise is out there. PATHS member agency staff work with victims, survivors, and perpetrators of IPV regularly and have a depth of knowledge that could help to inform the courts and dispel myths and stereotypes surrounding the behaviour of those who use and experience violence in their relationships.

In this project, we set out to develop a framework for training IPV professionals to understand the court process, know how to present themselves as qualified witnesses, write reports based on their knowledge, and feel confident in going through the court process including cross-examination by the opposing counsel. We gathered a working group consisting of lawyers, psychologists, a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE), a frontline counselor, and a Victims Services representative to look at what qualifications would be needed, who might be interested, and what they would need to know. We developed the framework for training and then went beyond the initial goal of our project to develop an agenda and content for the training. It is our intention to have a pilot of this training in September of this year.



Our Work



Introducing Safe and Together

This project was funded under the Response and Recovery Fund, supplied by Women and Gender Equality Canada, and distributed through Women's Shelters Canada. Part of our mandate is to identify promising practices from other jurisdictions and encourage their adoption in Saskatchewan. When we first became aware of the work of the Safe and Together Institute founded by David Mandel, we knew it had the potential to transform the way that service providers view and respond to IPV, especially when children are involved. Many people are now familiar with the term trauma-informed practice. The Safe and Together approach speaks of the need for domestic violence-informed practice.

This perpetrator pattern-based approach recognizes survivors' strengths while putting accountability for the abuse firmly on the person who is using violence. It emphasizes the importance of:

- Identifying the impact of domestic abuse on children and family functioning.
- Fact-based assessment of the perpetrators' behavior patterns.
- Partnering with adult survivors of domestic violence.
- Intervening with perpetrators.
- Understanding how domestic violence intersects with complicating factors like substance abuse and mental health.

As part of this project, we were able to bring on Kathryn Boyce as Project Coordinator to take the lead in facilitating the implementation of Safe and Together in Saskatchewan. Kathryn has become a certified trainer for Safe and Together and has begun to share this approach across the province. We brought David Mandel and Heidi Rankin in as keynote speakers for our conference where they were very well received. We feel this approach, initially developed for child welfare workers, which is now being adopted around the world by many sectors whose work intersects with IPV has the potential to transform not just individual outcomes but the broader systems in a way that promises to keep children safe and together with their protective parent.



Kathryn Boyce

Research



Research is a key part of PATHS mandate. We monitor new research in areas related to IPV such as concerning trends related to false accusations of parental alienation directed at victims of IPV, rates of violence and barriers to accessing services for victims in rural and remote areas and outcomes related to new legislation such as the criminalization of coercive control in other jurisdictions. PATHS Director of Research and Communications also leads original research projects and collaborates with other researchers in Saskatchewan and across Canada. We share these findings with our member agencies and other stakeholders in order to expand the current understanding of the dynamics of IPV and build evidence for promising practices to address IPV. Crystal's research has included work on the The Link between the abuse of animals and IPV, newcomer women who experience IPV, use of IPV risk assessments by law enforcement in Saskatchewan, the availability of treatment programs for those who use violence in Saskatchewan.



Crystal Giesbrecht

Crystal's recent research publications include:

Giesbrecht, C. J., Dawson, M., Verhoek-Oftedahl, W., Dumont-Smith, C., & Dugal, A. (2023). **Addressing data gaps: Implications for preventing domestic homicide.** *Journal of Family Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-023-00532-8>

Giesbrecht, C. J., Kikulwe, D., Sato, C. L., Este, D. C., Watkinson, A. M., & Falihi, A. (2023). **"I felt like I was a puppet— He's the master, and he's playing with my life": Newcomer women's experiences of intimate partner violence.** *Violence Against Women*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012231158108>

Giesbrecht, C. J., Edmonds, T. F., & Bruer, K. C. (2023). **A survey of intimate partner violence intervention programs in Saskatchewan, Canada.** *Canadian Psychology / Psychologie canadienne*, 64(2), 93–106. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cap0000348>

Giesbrecht, C. J., Kikulwe, D., Watkinson, A. M., Sato, C. L., Este, D. C., & Falihi, A. (2023). **Supporting newcomer women who experience intimate partner violence and their children: Insights from service providers.** *Affilia: Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*, 38(1), 127- 148. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08861099221099318>

Links to all of PATHS' research can be found at pathssk.org/research.

Advocacy



PATHS Intervenes in Appeal of Family Court Judgment

In 2021, The Divorce Act and the Children's Law Act were revised to require judges to take into account the impacts of IPV and family violence when making decisions about parenting time. PATHS was aware of a case that was heard which, in our opinion, did not fully take into consideration the changes to the legislation regarding considering IPV and particularly coercive control. We were fortunate to be represented on a pro-bono basis by Shelia Gibb of Epstein Cole LLP who successfully argued for PATHS to be granted intervenor status in the case. Sheila and her team worked extremely hard to meld the research evidence provided by PATHS and the relevant case law into a comprehensive argument. Though we were disappointed when we recently learned that the appeal was dismissed, the appeal ruling did acknowledge that harm can occur to children exposed to IPV, no matter how young, or if they have directly witnessed it, and that the harm can continue long after the parents have separated. We are hopeful that this ruling will open the door for a better analysis of the impacts of IPV on survivors and their children.

PATHS Advocates for Bill C-233

Bill C-233 (An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Judges Act (violence against an intimate partner) also known as Keira's Law, was introduced in the House of Commons as a private member's bill in February 2022. PATHS has advocated for Keira's law to pass, writing letters and meeting with Senators and MPs.



The Bill honours the memory of four-year-old Keira Kagan, who was found dead alongside her father after an apparent murder-suicide in Ontario in 2020. Despite his history of violence and evidence of escalating behavior, the court ordered that Keira's father be provided generous, unsupervised time with Keira. Keira's mother, Jennifer Kagan-Viater, and stepfather, Philip Viater, feel that had the judge presiding over their case been aware of the dynamics of and risks associated with IPV, Keira might still be alive today. PATHS Executive Director was asked to provide testimony in relation to the Bill to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in February of this year. When the passed its third reading the Senate on April 18, 2023, Jo-Anne's testimony was quoted by the Honourable Fabian Manning. The Bill requires informational seminars on IPV and coercive control to be available to federally appointed judges and requires them to consider the use of electronic monitoring systems in cases involving IPV.

Advocacy

NAP on the Hill Day

Advocates from across Canada, including PATHS staff and member agencies were represented in an advocacy blitz to meet with members of parliament from all parties to speak the importance of the National Action Plan (NAP) to Address Gender-Based Violence.



Shown left, Jo-Anne Dusel meets with Alberta MP, Damien Kurek. Shown right, Crystal Giesbrecht and Nola Mahingen of Yorkton Safe Haven meet with Saskatchewan MP, Cathay Wagantall, along with other advocates.



Criminalization of Coercive Control

PATHS has been advocating for the criminalization of coercive control since 2019 so we were very pleased to see this issue is once again being presented to parliament in the form of Bill C-332, a private members bill that was tabled by Victoria MP Laurel Collins.

As an association that represents frontline domestic violence service providers, we are all too well aware of scenarios in which numerous risk factors, including coercive controlling behavior are present, but no criminal offence has taken place. Presently in Canada, it is nearly impossible for a victim of coercive control to be granted an order for their protection when a criminal offence has not been committed. This is problematic, given that coercive control is widely recognized a risk factor for severe violence and intimate partner homicide. The lack of a criminal offence related to coercive control leaves police and victims effectively waiting until a violent crime has been committed before protective measures can be put into place. If their partners were charged with a Criminal Code charge of coercive control, victims would have access to no-contact conditions, Criminal Code 810 orders, restraining orders, or protection orders—measures to keep them safe, before violence occurs or escalates. Women's Shelters Canada has taken a position on behalf of it's members across the country to advocate for this legislation and PATHS will continue to do so as well.

PATHS Conference 2022

Regrouping and Recharging:

Gathering to Create Sustainable Change



Keynote speakers:

Elder Lorna Standingready
Nneka McGregor, WomenattheCentre
David Mandel and Heidi Rankin, Safe
and Together Institute
Dwayne Yasinowski, Caring Hearts

"The keynote speakers and plenaries were all VERY on point. Also, I loved the chance to connect with people and just chat. I also am grateful for the reminder that so many people are pouring themselves into this work around the province and throughout the country."

"I really enjoyed the breakout sessions on the new pet-friendly shelter in Regina and the research on the impacts of IPV in the LGBTQ2S+ community in SK."

"All of the information was extremely valuable but i am most excited for the safe and together to be implemented, what a difference this will make in the lives of so many."

Many thanks to our sponsors:



Diamond - City of Regina

Platinum - SGEU, CUPE SK Branch, Independent Financial Services

Gold - Knight Archer, Regina Police Service

Thanks also to Canadian Royal Purple and Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association



Media

Broadening public awareness and education related to intimate partner and family violence is also a key part of the PATHS mandate. One of our strategic goals is for PATHS to be seen as the “go to” experts on this issue in Saskatchewan. We are frequently consulted by the media and the past year was no exception. In the 2022 – 23 fiscal year PATHS staff were interviewed by the media 32 times and the resulting stories appeared on the web, in print, on the radio, and on TV. Our interviews were featured by media outlets including the Globe and Mail, CBC News Net, the Leader Post, CBC TV, radio, and web, Lawyer’s Daily, and The Canadian Press. Topics covered included Clare’s Law, funding for women’s shelters, and the need for pet-friendly shelters.

Through these interviews, we are able to share the scope of the issue, concerning trends, promising practices, and recommendations for sustainable change. Perhaps most importantly, this media coverage lets survivors of IPV know that they are not alone and there are resources they can turn to help. We always request that each media story ends with a link to help and support. You can find a list of selected media stories here: pathssk.org/media



Presentations

PATHS provides education and training on issues related to intimate partner violence. In the past fiscal year, we have delivered a total of 53 training sessions, conference presentations, webinars, and guest lectures, including two at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law.

We provided training to over 550 RCMP cadets attending Depot in Regina to assist them in their response to victims of IPV once they are out in the field. Since 2019, we have been delivering a 15-hour training course to family law professionals and have trained over 270 individuals to date. PATHS staff have conducted training sessions on an effective workplace response to intimate partner violence to organizations such as Knight Archer Insurance, Sherbrooke Community Centre, Indigenous Services Canada, and SaskPower.

PATHS staff have presented at provincial and national conferences including Meadow Lake Tribal Council’s Justice Conference and the national Gender-Based Violence Summit held in Ottawa. PATHS Executive Director, Jo-Anne Dusel, provided testimony to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Legislative Affairs.

Projects & Partnerships

Three Short Videos: Promoting Indigenous Approaches to Violence Prevention

Partners: RESOLVE Saskatchewan and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

In 2020, we were approached by the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) Health Center staff who were looking for video resources for their men's program that would outline the different forms that IPV can take, beyond physical violence. We partnered with RESOLVE Saskatchewan to access funding from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) and began working with PBCN Health Centre staff and Elders from three communities in the First Nation. PATHS and RESOLVE provided the background information on IPV, the PBCN community members told us what would work in their communities, and Elders and staff appeared in the resulting three short videos. The videos and accompanying dissemination guide are now available as a resource for PBCN and other Indigenous communities. The videos, which were filmed in both English and Cree, are also posted in a secure area on our website for PATHS member agencies to use. Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation maintains primary ownership of the videos.

Working Together to End Violence

Partners : Saskatchewan SPCA and STOPS to Violence

This longstanding partnership is based on what has become known as The Link between the abuse of animals and the abuse of people. Over the years, we have worked to raise awareness of this issue with both animal service providers and human service providers, such as PATHS member agencies. We have conducted a feasibility study on pet-friendly shelters and raised funds to purchase pet kits which include items such as food, leashes, litter boxes, toys, and kennels for both cats and dogs, and made them available to PATHS members at no charge. More recently, we have created a community of practice for shelters and services that want to be able to support pet owners who are experiencing IPV. We are extremely pleased to say that in recent years, two of PATHS member agencies, Regina Transition and SOFIA House have been able to house survivors of violence along with their pets. Other PATHS members have also taken in survivors with pets on a case-by-case basis. This removes a significant barrier for survivors who won't leave without their pets and increases safety for both people and their companion animals.

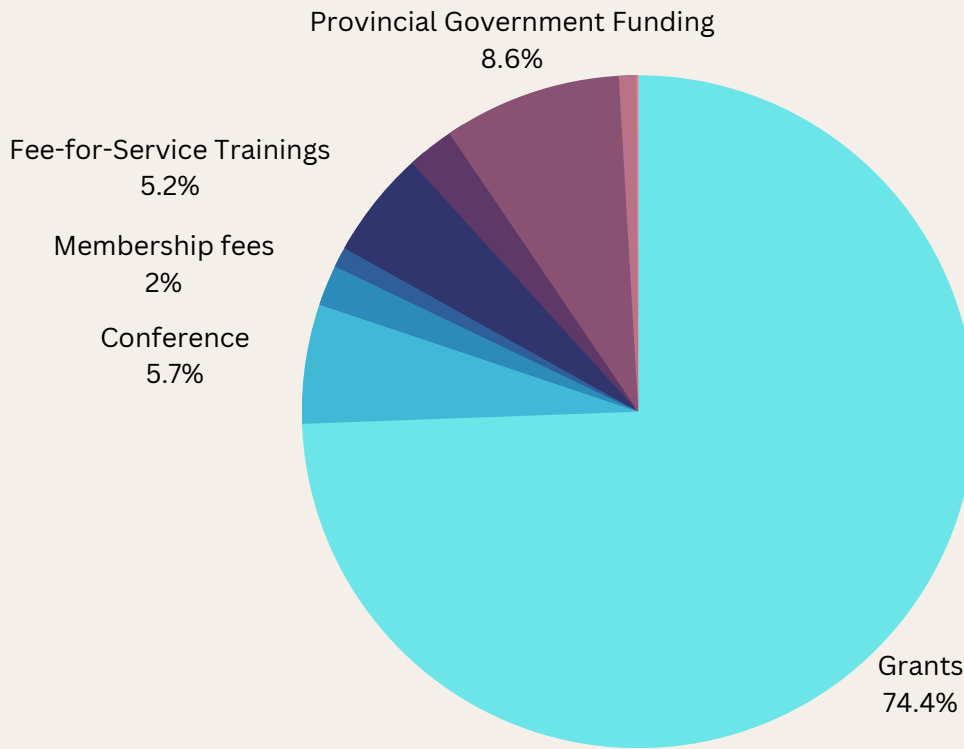
National Action Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence

Partners: Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS)

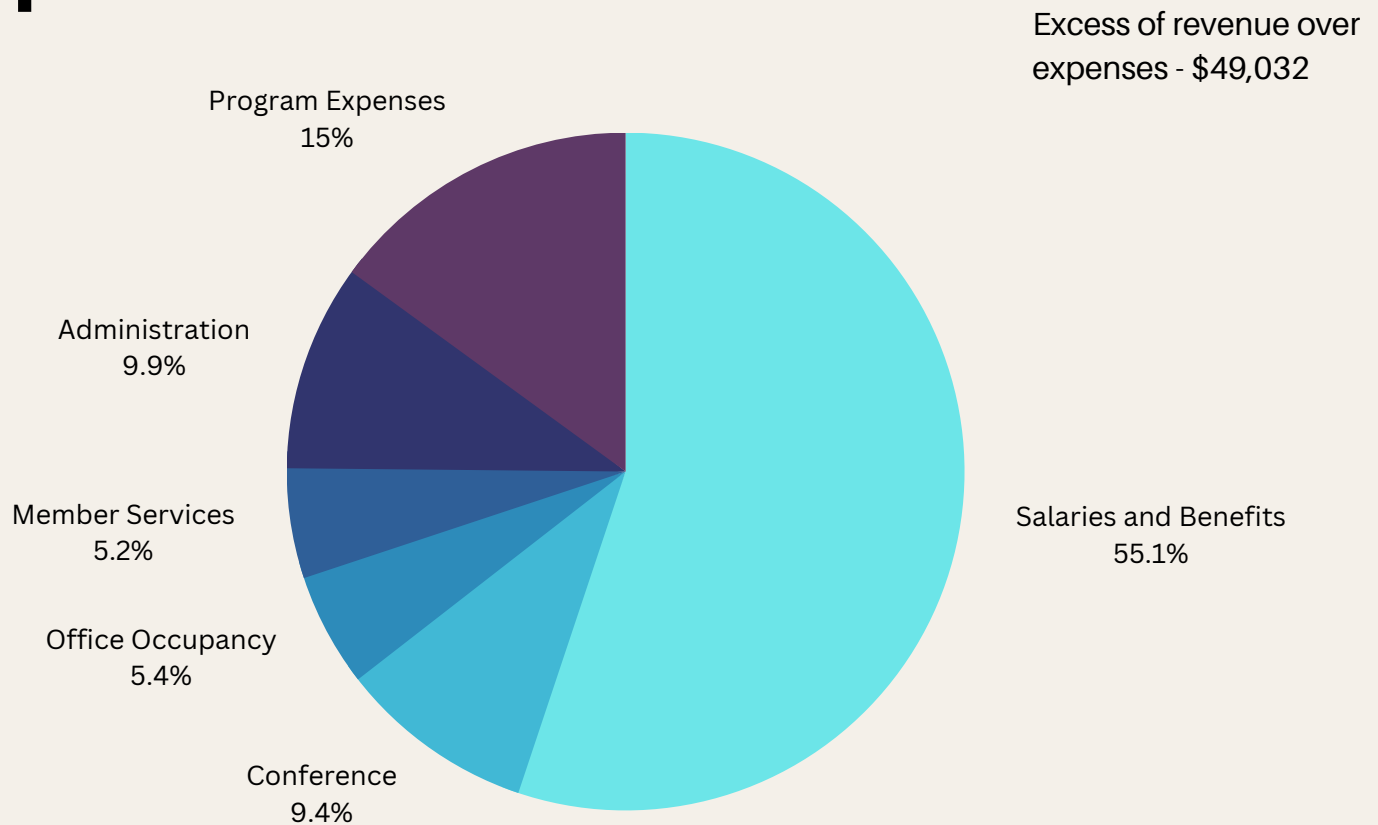
Advocates have long been calling for a national action plan to harmonize efforts to prevent and address violence against women and other gender-based violence (GBV). The Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women from the federal, provincial, and territorial governments have signed a declaration to end GBV in Canada. The federal government has made a commitment which includes funding for a National Action Plan to Address GBV (NAP). Groups like SASS and PATHS are working across Canada to ensure that the voices of those with expertise in this area, including frontline workers in the GBV sector, and victims and survivors of GBV, have a seat at the table when decisions around the implementation of NAP are taking place at the local level. PATHS and SASS have begun this work through consultations with our members, survivors, and the broader community. We are committed to working together to ensure that the NAP is as effective as it can be in supporting survivors and preventing future violence from occurring. We will continue to work together to advocate for evidence-based systemic change and monitor the short, medium, and potential long-term outcomes.

Financial Position

Revenue



Expenses



Excess of revenue over expenses - \$49,032

Short Term Investments \$ 51,147 Long Term Investments \$70,293

Funders

So much gratitude to our funders and donors
without whom we could not do our work!



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

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des genres Canada



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of
Saskatchewan



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