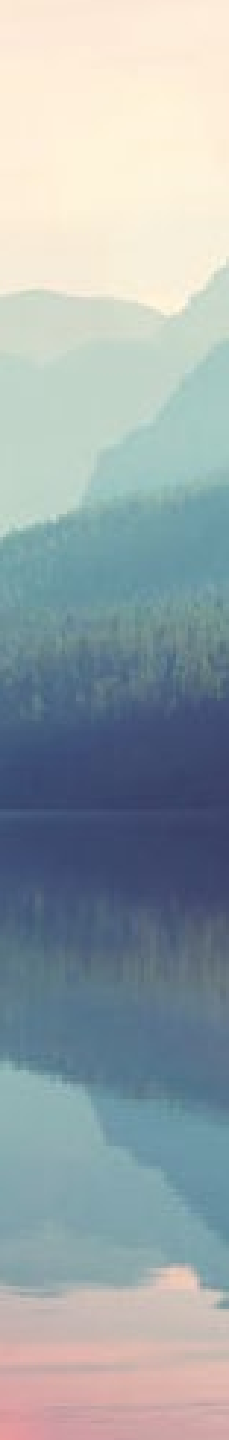
nelson community services fyi.ca

Supporting families, youth & individuals

2025 – 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Stronger Services - Stronger Communities

Since 1972, Nelson Community Services has been offering counselling & support in & around our community. With each person & family we assist, we focus on our vision of a compassionate & empowered community where families, youth & individuals receive the supports & services they need to live dignified, resilient, and hopeful lives.



A Message From Our Board Chair & Executive Director

This year has been one of both challenge and deep resilience. As gender-based violence continues to rise, the need for strong, accessible, trauma-informed services has never been greater. Our theme, “Stronger Services, Safer Communities”, reflects our commitment to meeting these needs with compassion, and collective strength.

Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBVAP) funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and BC Housing allowed us to expand Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling, strengthen STV Women’s Outreach, enhance resources at Aimee Beaulieu Transition House and increase capacity in Youth Services, including dedicated groups for young men. These enhancements have reduced waitlists, improved accessibility, and ensured timely support for those seeking safety.

This year saw long term staff retire; new staff join our teams and a reimagining of our organizational structure. Thank you to the Board of Directors, for their ongoing guidance, stability and support. Their leadership ensure that we remain positioned to respond to emerging needs with confidence. The strength of our staff, how they collaborate, adapt, and hold the work with integrity, is what makes our services strong and our communities safer.

Thank you to our Executive Director, Anna Maskerine, for her exceptional leadership, vision, and steady guidance throughout a demanding year. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the staff of Nelson Community Services, whose compassion, professionalism, and dedication help individuals, youth, and families live with dignity, hope, and resilience.

Sean Ryan, Board Chair

Anna Maskerine, Executive Director



In 2025 -2026
NCS served 1,198 clients –
local families, youth, individuals,
across all program areas

Inside This Year's Report

Stronger Services, Safer Communities is the theme of this year's report. We invite you to explore how Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBVAP) funding has strengthened capacity, expanded services, and created new opportunities for support across five NCS program areas.

- Stopping the Violence Counselling
- Sexual Assault Services
- Aimee Beaulieu Transition House
- Cicada Place
- Young Men's Program

We warmly invite you to visit our website to learn about our services, programs & more: servicesfyi.ca.

Our Facebook & Instagram pages @servicesfyi offer news & stories throughout the year.

Stopping the Violence Counselling

Expanding counselling capacity, improving access, and reducing barriers to support.

Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBVAP) funding has strengthened NCS's Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling Program, increasing capacity and creating more flexible, accessible options for women experiencing violence.

GBVAP funding enabled NCS to hire an additional counsellor for two days a week beginning in December 2025. Through these expanded hours, 16 women have received counselling support, helping address the program's ongoing waitlist. Between November 2025 and September 2026, the program received 79 referrals, demonstrating the continued demand for STV counselling. While the additional counselling hours have made a meaningful difference, a waitlist remains, highlighting the continued need for and importance of these services.

Funding has also expanded opportunities for connection and healing through virtual counselling and group programming. A virtual women's counselling group offered participants a supportive space to connect from their own homes, while Women's Wellness Groups, developed in partnership with STV Women's Outreach, provide opportunities for learning, belonging, and wellness. These groups also offer valuable support for women waiting for individual counselling or transitioning out of it.

Beyond counselling, GBVAP funding helps address practical barriers that can prevent women from accessing services. Transportation assistance, childminding stipends, and essential safety resources allow staff to respond to individual circumstances and support women in staying connected to care.



Together, these investments have strengthened counselling capacity, expanded service options, and created additional pathways to safety, connection, wellness, and healing.



Sexual Assault Services

Creating new spaces for survivors to connect, heal, and find support.

Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBVAP) funding has enabled NCS to expand Sexual Assault Services (SAS), addressing gaps in support and creating new opportunities for survivors to connect, access resources, and experience a greater sense of safety and belonging.

A new monthly support group for survivors of sexual assault, particularly those healing from historical experiences of sexual violence, combines psychoeducation and therapeutic exercises with opportunities for shared learning and connection. The group offers a supportive environment where participants can build trust, reduce isolation, and connect with others who have experienced similar harms.

Funding has also supported the development of a women's group through NCS's Street Outreach team, in response to a significant gap in support for unhoused women who have experienced sexual assault and have limited access to safe spaces. The group provides opportunities to share experiences, build community, access practical supports, and develop connections that may otherwise be difficult to establish while experiencing housing instability and vulnerability.

Both groups have been well attended, with each drawing up to eight participants per month.

GBVAP funding will also support bus advertising to raise awareness of available services and help more survivors learn where they can access support.



Local bus advertising raises awareness in community.



Aimee Beaulieu Transition House

Strengthening services and support for women and children seeking safety.

The Gender-Based Violence Action Plan funding has had a substantial and positive impact on the Aimee Beaulieu Transition House (ABTH) program and the women and dependant children the program serves. This support has strengthened our capacity to deliver critical services to women fleeing violence and abuse, and has directly contributed to improved safety, stability, and access to trauma-informed services.

Through this funding, ABTH has been able to enhance staff training, maintain consistent program delivery, provide direct support tailored to client needs, and plan more effectively for long-term advocacy and sustainability. Through this funding, we have been able to reduce barriers for women who are already navigating complex and overwhelming circumstances, ensuring they receive reliable, informed, and compassionate support during a pivotal time in their lives.

The GBVAP funding remains essential to our ability to provide responsive, high-quality services and to uphold the safety and dignity of those who turn to ABTH for support.





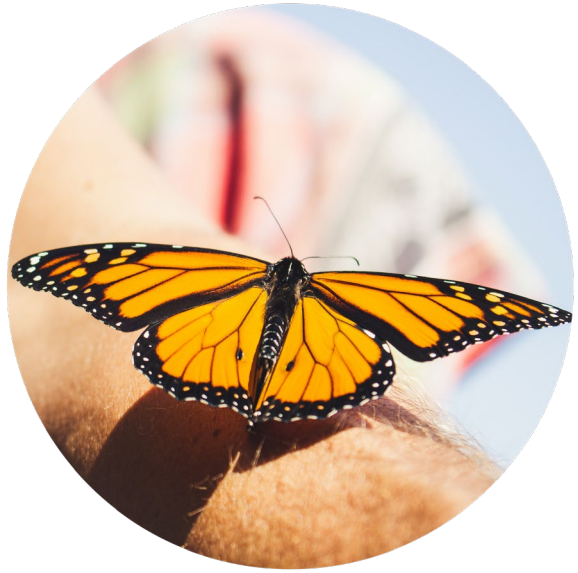
Cicada Place

Empowering young people through healthy relationship education and individualized support.

The addition of a Youth Support Worker at Cicada Place Independent Youth Housing in June has created greater opportunities for meaningful engagement through group programming and individualized support. Made possible through Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBVAP) funding, this position has expanded support focused on healthy relationships, personal safety, and gender-based violence prevention.

A key focus has been the development of a young women's group, providing a supportive space for participants to connect, share experiences, build confidence, and explore topics including healthy relationships, consent, personal boundaries, self-advocacy, and safety. Through these discussions, young women can strengthen their understanding of relationship dynamics, recognize unhealthy or harmful behaviours, and develop the skills and confidence to make informed decisions about their relationships and well-being.

The funding has also supported one-to-one work with young people navigating gender-based violence and relationship concerns. This individualized support provides a safe space to discuss sensitive experiences, explore relationship dynamics, strengthen personal boundaries, and identify strategies to support safety and well-being.



By combining group connection with individualized support, this initiative helps equip young people with the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills to recognize harmful relationship patterns, seek support, and build relationships grounded in respect, safety, and equality.

Young Men's Program

Supporting young men to build healthy relationships.

Through Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBVAP) funding, Nelson Community Services has been able to engage young men aged 15–19 in facilitated discussion groups focused on developing healthier relationships with themselves and others, strengthening emotional awareness, and preventing gender-based violence.

Growing up as a young man can involve pressure to perform, be tough, suppress emotions, and feel the need to figure everything out alone. The groups provide a space where young men can experience positive male connection, build a sense of belonging, and explore vulnerability, responsibility, and the challenges of navigating relationships. Participants are supported to question harmful expectations of masculinity and consider how these expectations can affect themselves and others.

Through grounded, facilitated conversations, participants are encouraged to reflect on leadership, respect, accountability, emotional honesty, and how masculinity and social expectations influence their relationships. The groups balance support with meaningful challenge, helping young men strengthen their emotional awareness, consider the impact of their actions, and develop healthier ways of communicating and relating to others.



GBVAP funding has enabled Nelson Community Services to invest in young men as important contributors to gender-based violence prevention. By providing opportunities for reflection, connection, and skill development at a formative stage in their lives, this initiative supports young men to build healthier relationships and contribute to safer, more respectful communities.

Financial Breakdown | 2025 – 2026

2025 – 2026 Revenue

Ministry for Children and Family Development	1,081,144
BC Housing	1,476,377
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General	551,354
Other Grants	225,750
Donations	53,032
Interest/Sundry	64,989
TOTAL	**3,452,646**

2025 – 2026 Expenses

Administration	94,313	3% of budget
Building & Maintenance Expenses	125,186	4% of budget
Program Expenses	495,745	15% of budget
Office Supplies	23,675	1% of budget
Salaries/Benefits	2,583,335	77% of budget
TOTAL	**3,322,254**	**100%**

Our Funders

BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC Housing, Interior Health Authority, Osprey Community Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, BC Society of Transition Houses, Reaching Home Funds via NCOH, Women's Shelters Canada, Civil Forfeiture Office.

Our Donors

We are thankful to all our donors this past year. Your contributions are so valued and directly support families, youth, and individuals within our local community.

Gratitude

We could not do all we do without the generous support and donations from our community. We are grateful for our community partners and stakeholders who collaborate with us in this important work.

Nelson Community Services acknowledges that the land upon which we offer our services is the traditional territory of the peoples who have lived here for thousands of years - the Ktunaxa, the Sylix, and the Sinixt. We respect and honour all our relations.

Nelson Community Services
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