

2013 - 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Francesca Marzari, President



Thanks to your support, this past year West Coast LEAF has been able to reap some important accomplishments for women in BC.

We recently wrapped up a three year project that took us around the province researching solutions for the massive shortage in BC's public legal services. We set forward our recommendations for new delivery models to provide access to family law services in a report released in February, *Putting Justice Back on the Map*. These recommendations were based on consultations with over 200 participants from 70 different service delivery agencies from Campbell River to Prince George. I'm pleased to tell you that issues flagged in the report were brought up in the BC Legislature on March 31, and again more recently on May 8. We hope this means the government is listening.

We've had some important litigation successes too. The mother-baby program at the Alouette Corrections Centre was reinstated, which means that mothers can keep their babies when it is in the child's best interest to remain with their mother. I understand that the program may have its first mother and baby soon. And in April, Executive Director Kasari Govender and I travelled to Ottawa to intervene at the Supreme Court of Canada in *Trial Lawyers Association of BC v. Attorney General BC*, a case challenging the Province's authority to charge people hearing fees to bring their civil and family disputes to court. We argued that without equal access to justice, women will be denied the benefits of our legal and family law system.

West Coast LEAF has long believed that youth public legal education is an important tool for addressing inequality. After participating in one of our peer-facilitated youth workshops last fall, a teenage girl remarked, "I'm just thinking about power in society in a whole new way now. I mean, I've always known that some people are more powerful than others, but I've never thought before about why or how that happens. This just totally changes everything for me."

Thank you for helping us to go on changing everything for this young woman, and for every woman.


Highlights 2013 - 2014

Litigation

4 cases


- VANDU v. DVBlA
- Vilardell v. Dunham
- Inglis v. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General of BC
- BCTF v. British Columbia Public School Employer's Association

Law Reform

5th Annual CEDAW Report Card
"Putting Justice Back on the Map" report
"Your right to fairness" booklet in  6 languages

13 Letters and Submissions

LSS funding shortfall
Anti choice activities in Kamloops
Residential Tenancy Act

Child support clawbacks
Proposed law school at TWU
CEDAW recommendations

Public Legal Education

234 participants in family law workshops 

32 participants in TOF workshops

1315 youth in 60 workshops

786 No Means No
287 Youth in the Workplace
242 Power Play

1597 members of the public in 30 talks, lectures, presentations

Media

79 Stories 

Mentorship

20 Youth Facilitators Trained

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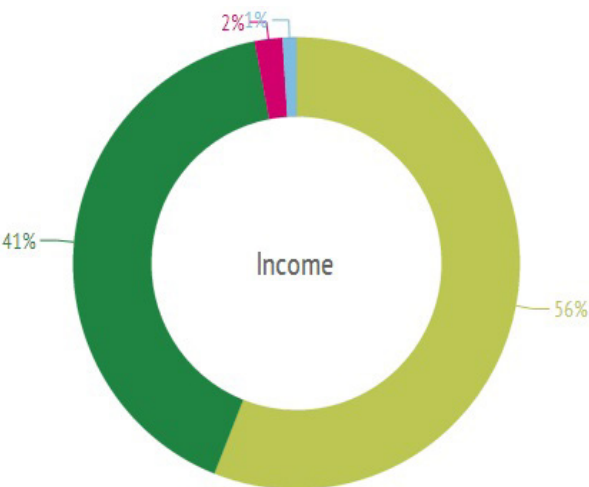
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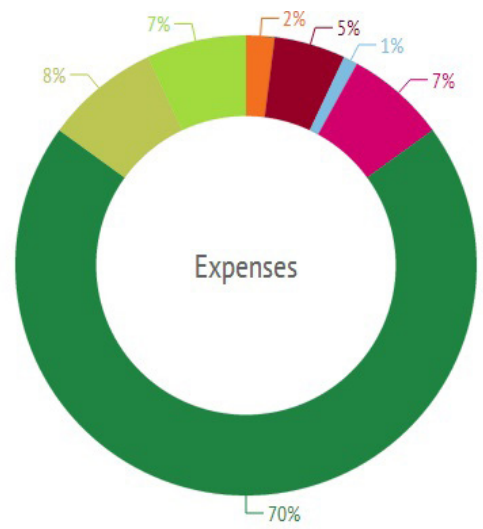
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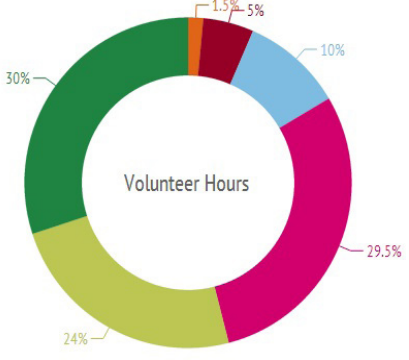
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A fond farewell to outgoing board and staff: Mahbuba Ergasheva, Nitya Iyer, Barbara Barker, and Johanne Blenkin. Thank you for all your wonderful contributions!