



2021-2022 Annual Report

About us

Twenty years ago, SWAN grew out of a pilot community health care initiative that extended HIV/AIDS outreach to local massage businesses. Through this initiative, it became evident that im/migrant sex workers in Vancouver were facing a myriad of complex and intersecting issues beyond sexual health. SWAN came into existence to address this marginalized population's lack of access to mainstream services.

SWAN now has two decades of frontline experience providing direct services to im/migrant sex workers, as well as years of research, advocacy and policy work on both sex work and anti-trafficking.

We offer low-barrier, person-centred, anti-racist, and rights-based support to im/migrant women engaged in indoor sex work through our outreach services, and provide opportunities that foster a sense of community and belonging through our Peer Program.

In our advocacy work, SWAN takes on social structures and institutions such as law enforcement, government, the anti-trafficking rescue industry, and crimmigration systems that cause harm when they are trying to help. The organization always centers the health, safety, equity, and self-determination of the women we serve.

Today, SWAN is a small but mighty registered charity with a staff of seven. We continue to offer non-stigmatizing, culturally specific services that address im/migrant sex workers' needs in areas of social issues, health, legal, immigration, and criminal justice. As we grow, we recognize that there is more need now than ever to fight for the labour and legal protections of im/migrant sex workers, and we will continue to work towards their full and meaningful inclusion in our society.

With gratitude for the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples, we acknowledge that SWAN Vancouver is situated on the stolen ancestral lands of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



Message from the Board Chair

The past year saw SWAN undergoing tremendous growth and change. We welcomed a wonderful group of new staff, said a fond goodbye to some, and even changed our leadership structure.

After nine extraordinary years as SWAN's Executive Director, Alison Clancey stepped down from that role and is now working as our Programs Director. This marks a big shift, both in the life of the organization and Alison's own life. She carried the organization from its scrappy, often controversial, grassroots beginnings to where it is now, a growing organization with a bright future. Alison was at the forefront of SWAN's formidable advocacy work for years and we thank her for her years of dedication to SWAN. We wish her the best as she prepares to transition out of her current role next spring.

The leadership structure of SWAN changed in response to its organizational growth. This year, we welcomed Heather Wong-Mitchell to the team as SWAN's Director of Operations. Heather plays a vital role in our day-to-day operations, as well as our big-picture, long-term planning and dreaming.

We've also seen changes to our board, as many of us have been stepping into new horizons in our lives and careers. I send my gratitude to outgoing vice-chair, Jane Li, and former secretary, Kim Mackenzie, for their years of commitment to SWAN and the social justice community at large. Your impact here is still felt deeply.

As SWAN prepares for its 20th anniversary celebrations this fall, we look forward with excitement while fondly looking back at everything we've accomplished. Here's to all of you who made this journey so special!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jackie Wong', enclosed within a circular flourish.

Jackie Wong
Board chair, 2020-2022

Message from the Executive Director



As I reflect back on the year, I am excited to share SWAN's achievements despite an ever-changing landscape due to COVID-19 and organizational transition. As I write this annual report - my last one - I feel a surge of emotions. All of you - staff, volunteers, our board, and most importantly, the women we serve - hold a special place in my heart. Over the last nine years, we have grown together, both stronger and bolder.

This year's annual report is a testament to that growth. It communicates the sheer volume of work everyone at SWAN contributed to during these unprecedented times. I would like to acknowledge the women we serve who were understanding and patient while SWAN adapted its services to safeguard everyone's health and safety. This report also shares inspiring insights and quotes from program participants, which are often the best part.

I would also like to thank SWAN's stellar team for their ingenuity as we sustained pre-pandemic standards of service the community expects from us. I also want to express my gratitude to our staff for being nimble and perceptive as we underwent significant expansion.

As I step back from the role of Executive Director, I would like to thank all those who supported SWAN's transition to creating a stronger foundation that's rooted in its mission. We've experienced significant growth this past year, and are very much looking forward to celebrating 20 years of making a difference in the lives of the women who access SWAN.

SWAN has made leaps and bounds of progress since it started 20 years ago. I would like to thank each volunteer, staff, and board member who contributed to make SWAN into the thriving organization it is today. I would also like to thank each funder and donor who supported our humble beginnings and made our growth possible. I extend a special thanks to all the women who trusted us to reach out for support since 2002. Please join us in celebrating SWAN's 20th anniversary!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allancey".

Alison Clancey
Executive Director

The Year in Review

2021

APR

- HR, financial, and administrative systems are overhauled and improved
- Pathways to Immigration webinar in Cantonese and Mandarin

MAY

- Steering Committee participation to organize the Anti-Asian Racism National Conversation
- Law & Society Association's panel, 'Sex Work during the COVID-19 Pandemic'

OCT

- Collaboration with the Yukon Status of Women Council in Whitehorse

NOV

- Full outreach team resumes
- First-ever peer lunches

DEC

- Staff and board retreat



Staff in Whitehorse, Yukon

2022

JAN

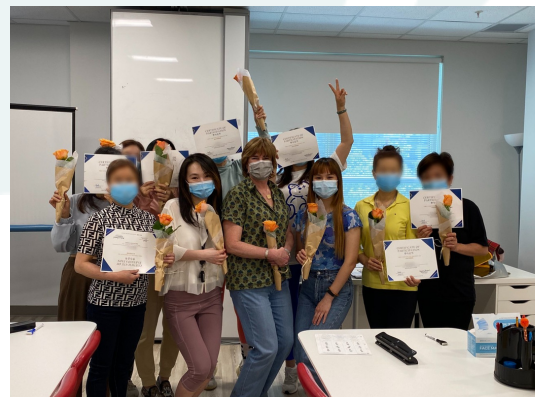
- SWAN joins a coalition of Ontario organizations to create a tool that provides a deeper understanding of the factors that contribute to exploitation

FEB

- Launch of the [BC Bad Date & Aggressor Reporting](#) project by a working group of five organizations, including SWAN
- English classes in collaboration with Pacific Immigrant Resources Society

MAR

- Canada's sex work law review hearings testimony
- Green Party of Canada's national general assembly sex work panel



English class graduation

Frontline Services

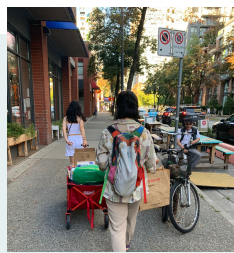
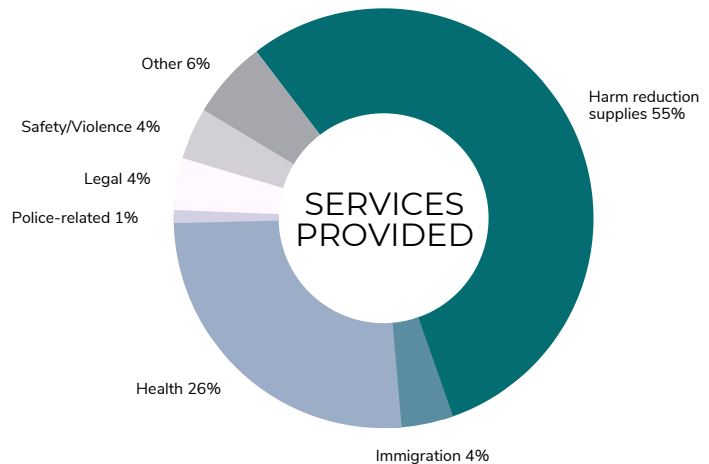
OUTREACH (IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL)

569 WOMEN SERVED

212 NEW WOMEN SUPPORTED

633,600 CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED

Requests for human trafficking support: 0



Thank you for driving all the way here to meet us. This (providing safe sex supplies) makes our work simpler.

Thank you for thinking of us today. I was about to call you and you girls showed up!

COVID-19 Response

WE DELIVERED:



AND DISTRIBUTED **\$50,000**

This year, SWAN also:

- Collaborated with WATARI to make two low-barrier vaccine clinics accessible to our clients
- Provided Cantonese and Mandarin webinars: 'Coping Strategies During Challenging Times'
- Offered clinical counselling

Thank you for sharing Personal Protective Equipment. I feel more comfortable working when I have the supplies to clean my space.



I appreciated SWAN for listening to all my grievances and accompanying me to go through the hardship.

Featured Program

PEER PROGRAM



SWAN's community Peer Program offers various activities based on the women's needs and desires. It has successfully hosted English classes, a yoga class, lunches, and outdoor activities over the past year, and it will continue to create new activities based on our community's needs.

AMANDA WANG,
PEER PROGRAM LIAISON

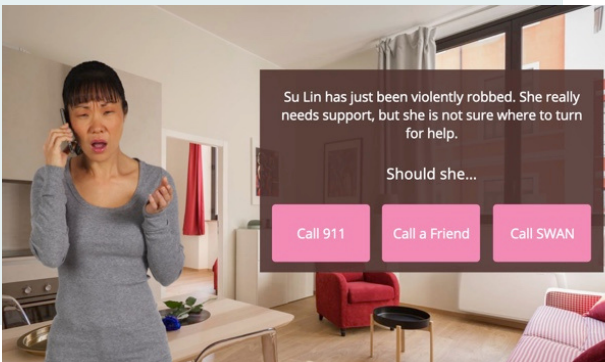
来这里和大家聚集在一起让我们海外漂泊的人有了家的感觉。

Coming here to be with everyone makes us feel at home as a wanderer overseas.



Featured Project

YOU CHOOSE



SWAN launched [YOU CHOOSE: Seek Justice as a Migrant Sex Worker](#), an interactive campaign in which you step into the shoes of a migrant sex worker. The project highlights the systemic barriers migrant sex workers face when they seek justice or support after experiencing violence.

Featured Report



SWAN participated in Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women's (GAATW) global feminist participatory action research study as its member. The study examined the challenges that migrant and trafficked women face with settling in, finding work, and building community in destination and countries of origin. SWAN spoke with 30 local Asian, Middle Eastern, and Latin American women as part of this study. Their experiences are captured in '[Of Course People Will Hire the White Person: Social and Economic Inclusion of Migrant Women in Vancouver, Canada](#)'. SWAN Advisory Board Member, Menaka Raguparan, presented the findings on an international panel hosted by GAATW.

Equal pay for equal work, that's what I see in my experience. But I think the thing that is not fair is that women like me may not have the opportunity in the very beginning.

Media Project

This year, SWAN embarked on a three-year project to shift representations of im/migrant sex workers in the mainstream media in order to reduce stigma. This project is in consultation with the women we serve and will directly engage with journalists. The project will challenge irresponsible media coverage and encourage evidence-based reporting on the realities of im/migrant sex work, while taking into consideration the harms that come from conflating it with human trafficking. The intended outcome is the adoption of responsible, accurate, and ethical journalism in regard to both sex work and trafficking.

Why do they keep mentioning human trafficking? It's so strange. There's nothing like that at all.



Media project focus group

They're using a very crude word again - "prostitution". I'm not sure why journalists use these disgusting words to describe women working in this industry.

Media Coverage

Advocacy is a critical part of SWAN's work and the organization is regularly cited in the media for discussions of, and issues related to, sex work. The media helps us raise awareness about the work we do and the issues we advocate for. This past year, SWAN appeared on podcasts, print and television interviews, and other media. View all of SWAN's media appearances [here](#).



Advocacy

SEX WORK LAW REFORM

In February, the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights began its review of Canada's sex work laws. SWAN submitted a [brief](#) and [testified](#) at the hearings. In June, the Committee presented its [recommendations](#) to Parliament.



CAMPAIGN TO END MIGRANT DETENTION IN BC JAILS

SWAN joined a coalition of organizations to call for the end of incarceration of migrants in provincial jails. In July, the province [announced](#) it will end its agreement with the Canada Border Services Agency.



SWAN staff, volunteers, & supporters at the 2022 Red Umbrella March

Atlanta: One Year Later

Soon Chung Park 박순정, age 74
Hyun Jung Grant 현정 그랜트, age 51
Sun Cha Kim 김순자, age 69
Yong Ae Yue 유영애, age 63

Delaina Ashley Yaun, age 33
Paul Andre Michels, age 54
Xiaojie Tan 谭小洁, age 49
Daoyou Feng 冯道友, age 44

SWAN released a [statement](#) on March 16th, 2022 to mark the first anniversary of the Atlanta shootings.

We continue to honour the outpouring of support we received in the aftermath of the tragedy. SWAN is building on the truly incredible solidarity we shared with everyone despite such a devastating event. We continue to combat anti-Asian racism and sex work stigma to help prevent such unspeakable racist violence in the future.

Community members told us they want to hear directly from the women who work in massage businesses, as a means to increasing awareness.

Given the multi-layered stigma, racism, and criminalization the women face, the artistic means of 'Photovoice' is a safe platform to speak their truths. This past year, SWAN digitized 2018's 'Photovoice' art exhibition to make it accessible to a wider audience. Access 'Chocolate or Chicken Bones' in [English](#) or [Chinese](#).



The SWAN Team



SWAN's work would not be possible without our Board of Directors. We would like to express appreciation to our 2021-22 board members:

Jackie Wong, Chair
Jane Li, Vice-Chair
Mindy Abramowitz, Treasurer
Kim Mackenzie, Secretary
Jenny Zhang, Member-at-large

Our staff and volunteers' tireless dedication enables SWAN to achieve its mission.

The Year Ahead

THIS YEAR, SWAN WILL:

- Rebrand, including launching a new website and logo
- Implement a new communications strategy
- Offer our third English class and other activities for social connection through the Peer Program
- Provide opportunities for im/migrant sex workers to participate in community consultations that will inform the provincial bad date reporting system, as well as SWAN's law reform efforts
- Host practicum students from UBC's Pharmacy program
- Provide new opportunities for im/migrant sex workers to be involved in all levels of our organization
- Address misrepresentations of im/migrant sex workers through its media project
- Collaborate with inter-provincial community partners to increase access for im/migrant sex workers in Western Canada
- Continue to build infrastructure in the areas of human resources, fundraising, and community engagement to ensure we can carry out our mandate

Our Donors

Community donations ensure support is available to women when emergencies occur and enrich community connection

for all the women SWAN serves. Thank you for believing in SWAN's mission. Your contributions are essential.

Funder Spotlight

THE MILNE FAMILY

The pandemic left SWAN with only one volunteer in its outreach program while there was much rebuilding to do. With generous funding from the Milne family, SWAN revitalized its Outreach Program. Outreach remains the backbone of SWAN's frontline service. It is the reason

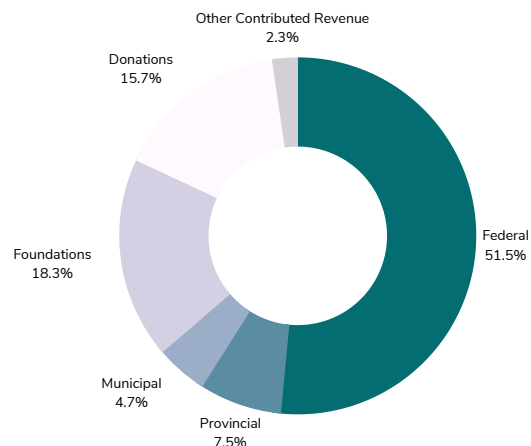
SWAN is able to remain responsive to the im/migrant women we serve, and meet their needs in the ways they need us to. SWAN extends heartfelt thanks to the Milne family for supporting our core work.

Financials

APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022

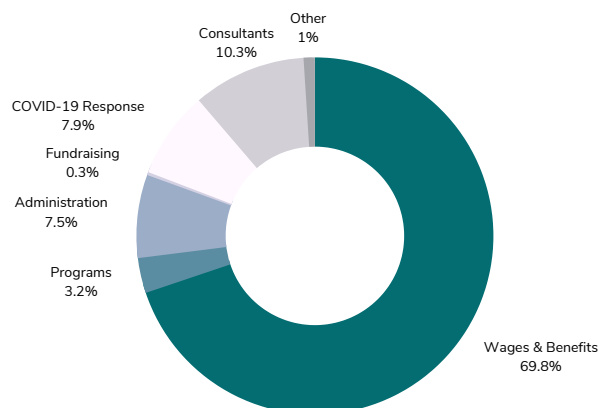
REVENUE

Government Revenue	
Federal	328,715
Provincial	47,760
Municipal	30,000
Total Government Revenue	\$406,475
Other Revenue	
Foundations	116,609
Donations	100,365
Other Contributed Revenue	14,846
Total Other Revenue	\$231,820
Total Revenue	\$638,295



EXPENSES

Wages & Benefits	371,824
Programs	16,940
Administration	40,121
Fundraising	1,468
COVID-19 Response	42,114
Consultants	54,602
Other	5,427
Total Expenses	\$532,496



Funders

SWAN acknowledges the invaluable support of our funders:

Financial contribution from



United Way
Lower Mainland



CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION



SWAN
VANCOUVER

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853176295RR0001

