



2024-2025

Annual Report



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We acknowledge that SWAN Vancouver is situated on the stolen ancestral lands of the $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{o} y \acute{o} m$ (Musqueam), $S k \omega x \acute{w} \acute{u} \acute{z} m e \acute{s} h$ (Squamish), and $s \acute{a} l i l \acute{w} \acute{o} t a \acute{t}$ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We're also honoured to work in the territories of the QayQayt First Nation, Kwantlen, $\acute{q} \acute{i} \acute{c} \acute{o} \acute{y}$ (Katzie), Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen First Nations, $k^w i k^w \acute{o} \acute{\lambda} \acute{o} m$ (Kwikwetlem) and Stó:lō Nation.



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MISSION

SWAN Vancouver promotes the rights, health, and safety of im/migrant women engaged in indoor sex work through frontline service and systemic advocacy.

VISION

Safety, rights, and freedoms for im/migrant women engaged in sex work.

VALUES

Integrity, intersectional feminism, anti-racism, equity, safety, self-determination, and rights-based practice.

“My friend said she’d bring me to SWAN and I went to learn English. The atmosphere felt really different, it felt safe. It took some time, but as I interacted with the staff, I knew I could really trust SWAN.” - Josie



BOARD CHAIR'S *Message*

As Board Chair, I am grateful to reflect on what we have accomplished together and the steps we have taken to overcome the uncertainties and structural barriers that threaten SWAN's anti-racist and rights-based approach to serving im/migrant sex workers.

Ensuring the organization can thrive long-term is never far from our minds, and in 2025 we continued to diversify and broaden our funding base so we can persevere without interruption. Securing new grants this year helped us expand our reach and confirmed the unique role our organization plays in the community. These partnerships strengthen our programs and give us the flexibility to respond to emerging needs.

Along with expanding our reach to offer frontline services to more women, this year also marked the pilot of our Advisory Group, which brings together women with lived experience to guide SWAN's operational priorities. Their insight has kept us grounded in our values and accountable to the community, and shaped our programs and advocacy.

We have also worked to build our internal capacity, investing in staff and infrastructure, and making sure the whole organization has the tools and support it needs. Renewing our Living Wage Employer certification is one of the important ways we showed commitment and care for our team.

The challenges we face are not going away anytime soon, but we are as strong and resilient as we can be, and we are heading into the year ahead with clarity and confidence. On behalf of the Board, thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors and partners for your trust and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mindy Abramowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mindy Abramowitz
Board Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Message*

We are proud of SWAN Vancouver's ability to sustain essential programs to support our community through economic challenges and political uncertainty, which continue to create instability for non-profits, including sex work organizations worldwide.

Our focus is not simply to continue existing services, but also to be responsive to evolving needs, connect with more women and increase access to safer sex supplies, healthcare, and other supports. One of the ways we accomplished this was through an ongoing project to reach women working outside of the Lower Mainland.

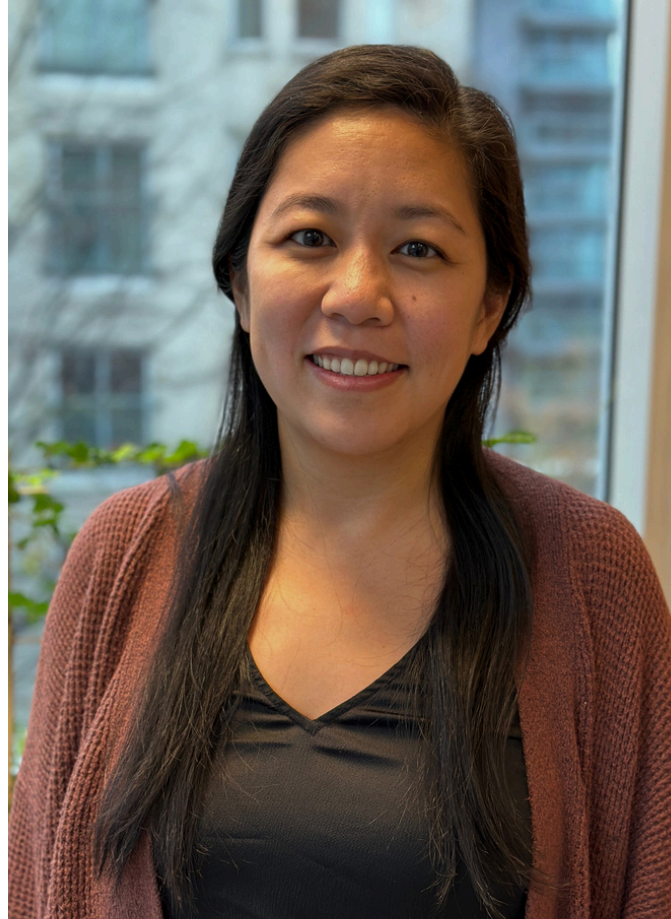
Our recent visit to the Okanagan was just one of several trips where SWAN staff trained organizations to support im/migrant women through the unique challenges they face while ensuring their safety. We are now facilitating supply pick-ups in more cities across Canada as part of our regular outreach.

As services shift and gaps widen across the region, we continue to adapt. This year, we will launch our mobile sexually transmitted and blood-borne infection (STBBI) testing pilot project, which offers low-barrier and culturally safe sexual health services. This program reflects our commitment to advancing healthcare equity. We've also welcomed more volunteers and supporters—people with shared values who give generously to our programs, are eager to learn about the women we support and help shift harmful narratives about these workers.

As you read this report, we hope you gain a deeper understanding of our community, the barriers women face, and the frontline services and advocacy that can lead to safer workplaces, equitable access to healthcare and a stronger recognition of the rights of im/migrant women engaged in sex work.



Angela Wu
Executive Director



THE YEAR IN *Review*

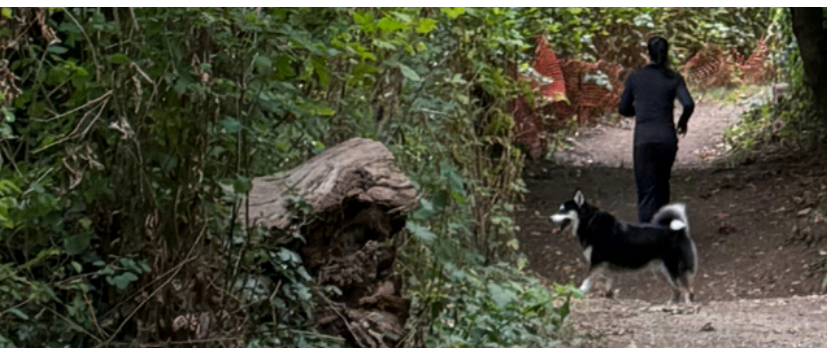


Photo: Community Program participants walk the trails at University of British Columbia (UBC) Pacific Spirit Park.

April

- Vessi donates
- Spring English Class starts
- Community Program art class
- Volunteer Appreciation event

May

- Lunch & Learn workshops launched
- Victims Week: immigration pathways workshop + resource
- First accessibility co-learning session with consultant

June

- Officially offering Japanese services
- Community program dance class

July

- Peer Program dance class
- English Class graduation
- Trafficking Harms

August

- Started community consultations about health and legal concerns
- Community program beading workshop



September

- City of Richmond consultation and focus group
- Fall semester of English Class
- Release of Racial Justice Report
- Annual General Meeting
- UBC Pharmacy practicum student
- Migrant Rights Rally Sept 14

October

- Launch of Media Literacy workshops
- LUSH donates to Programs
- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) conference in Thailand
- Community Program hosts Halloween event
- Simon Fraser University (SFU) Condom Packing Party

November

- Interview on Stripped by Sia podcast
- BC Bad Date and Aggressor Reporting (BC BDAR) in-person meeting
- SWAN Advisory Group begins work

December

- GivingTuesday
- Community program Christmas tree event
- Op-ed published on Drug Data Decoded

January

- Tyee article on upcoming STBBI testing expansion
- UBC Pharmacy practicum student

February

- Outreach trip to Okanagan, workshop and training with The Bridge Kelowna

March

- Pacific Immigrant Resources Society training
- SFU Condom Packing Party



FRONTLINE *Services*

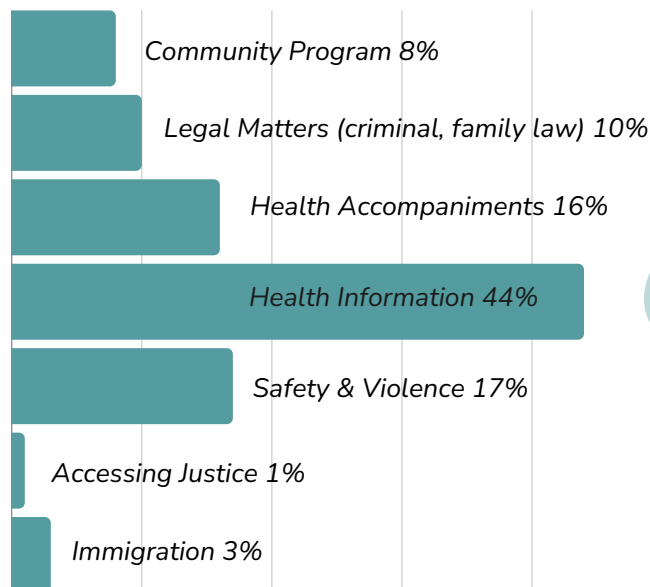
Outreach

Our team provides in-person support to women working in massage businesses and other indoor locations in 13 municipalities across the Lower Mainland. We also support women remotely in regions including Vancouver Island, the Okanagan and Calgary, by facilitating supply pick-ups with safe organizations that have been trained by SWAN staff.

Netreach

Staff provide virtual outreach to im/migrant sex workers via text message, email, telephone, apps and other internet and communication technologies.

NETREACH CALLS



Requests for human trafficking support: 0
Abuser Alerts sent: 25

698

WOMEN SERVED

499

ACCESSED SWAN FOR
THE FIRST TIME

992,880

CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED



36,150
Masks



942
Boxes of Gloves



857
Hand Sanitizer Bottles

“I feel better after chatting.
There are some things you
cannot share even with
people you are closest
with.” - Janice

COMMUNITY *Program*



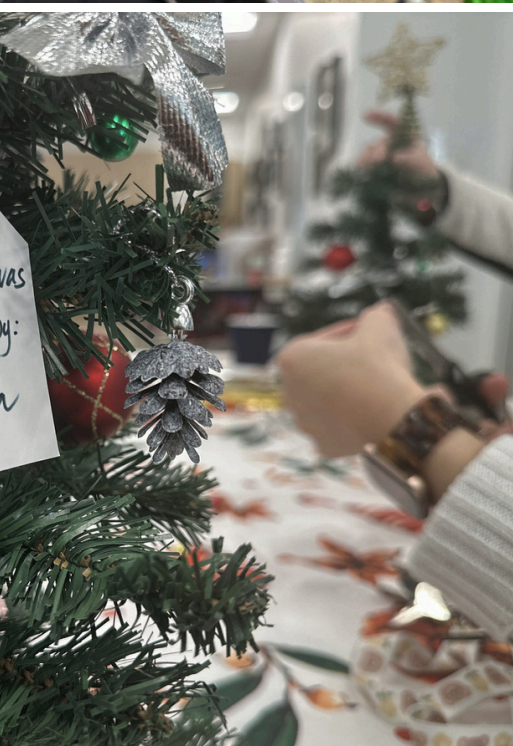
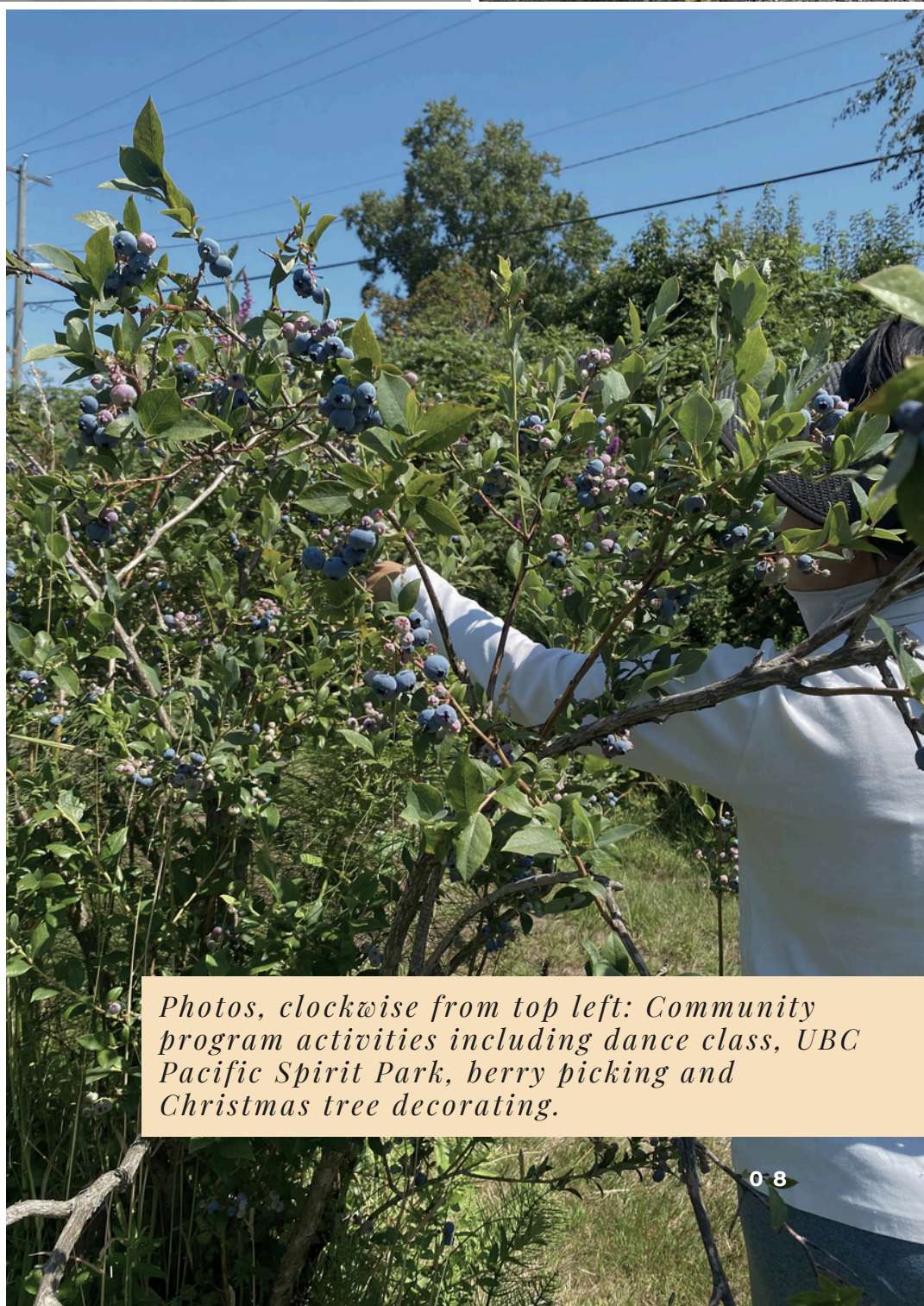
"I find the Advisory Group very helpful, also great way for us to relax and chat, at the same time, it has been very beneficial for me to learn about the laws and what they can do if bad things happen." - Mei, Advisory Group Member

Community Program

This program provides opportunities for social connection, education and advocacy. Our most popular activity is English Class, which runs four semesters a year and summer classes. We also launched an Advisory Group pilot project, where women provide insight and guide our services and advocacy.



"Because we usually meet on these days, I cleared my schedule so I can participate for all these days!" -Sarah, Community Program participant



Photos, clockwise from top left: Community program activities including dance class, UBC Pacific Spirit Park, berry picking and Christmas tree decorating.

PROJECT *Highlights*

Systemic Change Through Healthcare Advocacy

SWAN is working with clinics, pharmacies, and healthcare providers within several healthcare authorities to reduce barriers for im/migrant sex workers. We conducted an environmental scan of health providers, consulted with Advisory Group members, and met with healthcare workers and decision-makers to advocate for the needs of the community. This project addresses misconceptions and biases, promoting safer, more private, and accessible care.

Legal Education

Women learned about pathways to citizenship from Heron Law Offices, which led a workshop that focused on visa and permit renewals/extensions, spousal sponsorships, regularizing status, as well as common pitfalls and best practices in immigration applications.

Anti-Racism Workshops

Members of the public and various organizations learned about myths, misconceptions and how racist stereotypes play a role in common narratives about im/migrant sex workers. SWAN ran a series of workshops covering news reports, barriers to healthcare access and the upcoming FIFA games in Vancouver, in order to dispel myths and show the impact they have on the women we support.

Expanding Access to Community Services

SWAN offers training to sex work organizations, settlement agencies, harm reduction service providers and other frontline programs across Canada to increase supports for im/migrant sex workers who live outside of SWAN's service area. As part of a 5-year project funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada, staff held workshops for the Yukon Status of Women Council, Peers Victoria, Shift Calgary, and other organizations, traveled to and conducted outreach in cities across Western Canada, and connected women to trained organizations in their local communities. We have integrated this model into our existing programs and continue to facilitate im/migrant workers' safe access to their local services in communities across Canada.

Victim's Week

SWAN invited the Migrant Workers Centre to hold a virtual workshop to address common misconceptions about immigration, and the scams that target migrants. Some consultants provide incorrect information, while others go as far as committing immigration fraud. Our community learned how to spot the scams during 2024 Victims and Survivors of Crime Week (May 12-18).

SWAN VANCOUVER'S *Team*



One of our strengths is our dedicated and values-aligned team. SWAN Vancouver's staff have language skills and frontline expertise that help them build trust with women, protect privacy, and deliver person-centred support. Beyond direct services, staff also drive policy, projects, and advocacy work that reaches far beyond our local community.

This year, we're preparing to expand with new frontline services to aid in healthcare access. This upcoming program will allow us to reach more women in more ways, and with them, our staff team will continue to grow to meet the demand.

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their guidance this year.

Mindy Abramowitz, Chair
Bronwyn McBride, Secretary
Kelly Yang, Treasurer
Steph Sia, Director
Melody Wise, Director
Kristina Corpin-Moser, Director

We encourage people who share our values to apply to [join our board](#). Experience on boards or expertise in law, human resources or migrant rights are all assets.

THE YEAR *Ahead*

Launch of mobile STBBI testing pilot project to provide low-barrier, sexual health services at women's workplaces.

Build a kitchen at the SWAN office where we will be developing a community recipe book with women, to encourage a better understanding of the community through food, culture and connection.

Expand the Advisory Group beyond the pilot stage, ensuring women's voices continue to guide SWAN's priorities.

Publish animated videos and legal rights resources in different languages, making information more accessible.

Release a new Strategic Plan to guide SWAN's priorities in the coming years.

Participate in a BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) study on reducing healthcare barriers for marginalized communities.

Grow our frontline team, hiring two new staff for outreach and individual support.

Hire a new teacher who will run four semesters of English class, continuing our most popular Community Program activity.

Explore alternatives for general reproductive care, including pap tests and other essential health services not easily accessible to women.

Shift the mainstream narrative and address misconceptions by authoring three book chapters—one in collaboration with GAATW about the harms of Canada's anti-trafficking initiatives, the second, on the false perception that im/migrant sex workers are trafficking victims and a third, exploring media representations of human trafficking.



THE MILNE *Family*

Once again, the Milne family has shown their steadfast commitment to advancing the rights, health, and safety of im/migrant women in sex work through their generous support of our Outreach Team. As SWAN's core program, Outreach is at the heart of how we connect with women at their workplaces, building trust and ensuring access to support. We are deeply grateful to the Milne family for continuing to contribute to this essential work for another year.

FUNDERS *Thank you for your generous support*



GIFTS *In Kind*

Thank you to LUSH Cosmetics and Vessi for your generous support of SWAN Vancouver. Over the past year, these companies have donated products that our Outreach Team delivered during the holiday season. English Class graduates and Advisory Group members also received merchandise. These items are more than gifts—they also help us build trust with women in massage parlours that we visit for the first time, and open the door to introducing SWAN's staff and services.





DONATE FOR RIGHTS *Not Rescue*

Due to multi-layered criminalization and stigma, im/migrant sex workers face daunting barriers to accessing healthcare, legal support and justice. In contrast to the many “rescue” initiatives that push women to exit the industry, SWAN Vancouver respects a woman’s right to self-determination and focuses on their rights, health and safety. We provide frontline programs when mainstream services have failed to offer safe and inclusive support to im/migrant sex workers.

When you give to SWAN, your generous contribution will help fund:

- Frontline work including delivering safer sex supplies, booking and accompanying women to healthcare appointments and connecting them with our staff and programs.
- Community Program activities including four semesters of English Class, one of the many learning and social activities developed following requests from the women.
- Advocacy and policy work such as working with municipal, provincial and federal governments to push for equitable laws, bylaws and practices impacting the women we support.

DONATE HERE to contribute to rights, not rescue.

What are the benefits of monthly gifts?

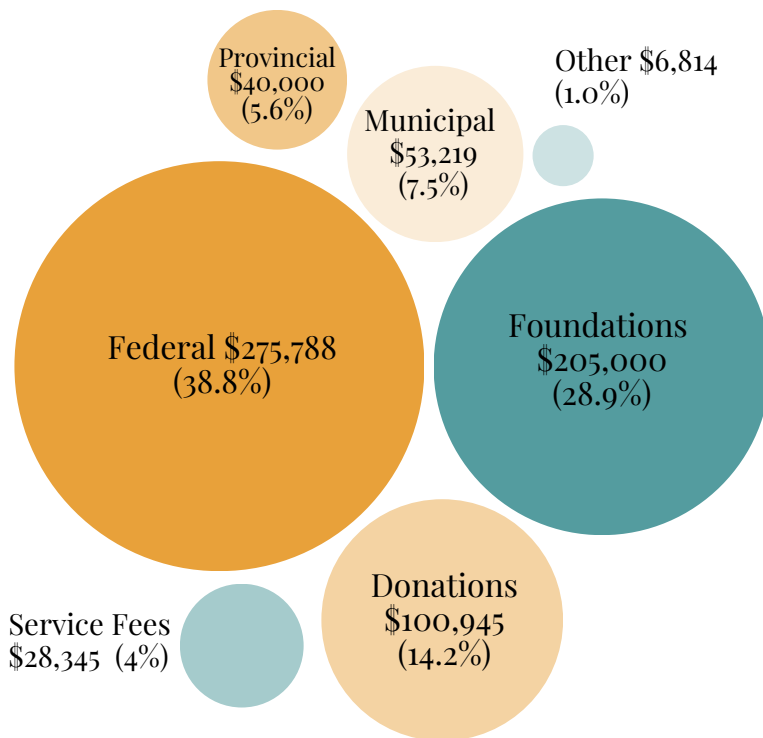
- They provide consistent and reliable funding for year-round programs.
- Your gift makes a bigger impact! Fees decrease for monthly donors, that means more of your money goes to the programs you care about.
- It can be easier on your budget when you break up your donations into monthly payments.
- You’ll be surprised how much of an impact you can make; even a small monthly gift grows into significant support over time.
- It’s easy, secure and convenient to support a cause that is important to you! Set the amount, cancel anytime and receive a tax receipt at the end of the year.



FINANCIALS

April 2024 - March 2025

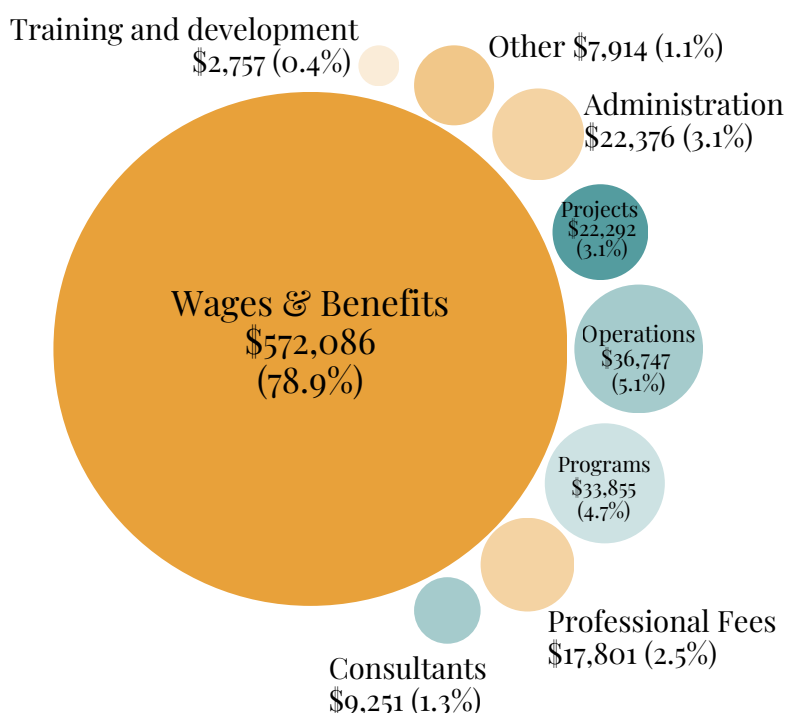
REVENUE: \$710,111



For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, SWAN Vancouver maintained a stable financial position. Total revenue for the year was \$710,111, which remained consistent with the prior year with all sources combined, with fluctuations largely due to the timing of grant recognition. In particular, \$61,800 in grant revenue was deferred to the next fiscal year.

Total expense amounted to \$725,079, resulting in an operating deficit of \$14,968, which is significantly smaller than the previous year's deficit of \$78,420. Our total revenue decreased by 3% whereas our total expense decreased by 10%. This improvement highlights SWAN's efforts to control costs while sustaining essential programs and services.

EXPENSES: \$725,079



At year-end, we held net assets of \$133,545, primarily in internally restricted funds designated for contingency and emergency response. Unrestricted funds were fully allocated during the year to strengthen reserves. In particular, \$34,839 was newly designated in this fiscal year to strengthen the contingency fund for risk management purposes. SWAN is committed to prudent financial management, ensuring that we can respond to both immediate community needs and long-term sustainability.

