

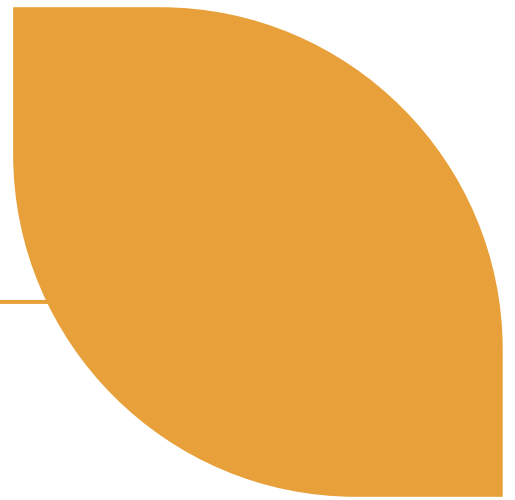
ANNUAL Report





We acknowledge that SWAN Vancouver is situated on the stolen ancestral lands of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We're also honoured to work in the territories of the QayQayt First Nation, Kwantlen, qíćə́y (Katzie), Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen First Nations, kʷikʷə́ləm (Kwíkwetlem) and Stó:lō Nation.

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ABOUT *SWAN Vancouver*

More than two decades ago, volunteers in a healthcare pilot project entered massage parlours across Metro Vancouver to conduct HIV/AIDS outreach. They quickly learned that immigrant and migrant women and gender-diverse people engaged in indoor sex work faced barriers that extended far beyond healthcare. Workers raised concerns about immigration, employment, safety, access to services, and basic human rights.

Those conversations led to the creation of SWAN Vancouver, a person-centred, low-barrier, anti-racist, and rights-based organization whose frontline programs and advocacy are shaped by the needs, priorities, and calls for change of the community. For more than two decades, im/migrant workers have not only guided our services, but have also increasingly shared their perspectives and experiences to inform our advocacy and public education work.

As SWAN approaches its 25th anniversary, we remain grounded in those same values. This report highlights how we have expanded our services, strengthened our advocacy, and responded to emerging challenges while remaining a grassroots, community-driven organization committed to evolving alongside the people we support.

→ ***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.



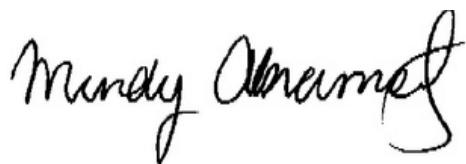
BOARD CHAIR'S *Message*

As SWAN Vancouver approaches its 25th anniversary, I'm reflecting on what an honour it has been to serve on the board for the past six years, including the last four as Chair. In that time, SWAN has grown, adapted, and deepened its impact in remarkable ways.

We have seen significant changes, from a careful transition in SWAN's leadership to an extraordinary expansion in our funding, reach, and visibility. Our evolution arises from the strength of our work and the reality that our services, advocacy, and outreach are needed more than ever. SWAN continues to address systemic barriers and stigma while creating spaces of connection, trust, and resilience. We are fortunate to be in a position of financial stability that allows us to plan proactively and strategically, ensuring that SWAN remains strong, durable, and responsive—not only for today, but for those who will come after us.

None of this happens without the tremendous support of others. I want to offer heartfelt thanks to our outgoing board members, Stephanie Sia and Michelle Takeuchi, whose warmth, insight, and thoughtfulness have meant so much. I am also deeply grateful to our donors, volunteers, staff, board members, funders, and community partners. Your contributions make it possible for a grassroots organization of our size to accomplish far more than we could ever imagine to do on our own.

As we look ahead to this milestone year, I feel proud of where SWAN has been, grateful for everyone who has helped bring us here, and hopeful about the work still to come.



Mindy Abramowitz
Board Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Message*



In a year marked by both achievements and challenges, I want to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to our community members, partners, supporters, volunteers, and donors. Your trust, encouragement, and generosity make our work possible, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who continues to stand alongside us.

This has been a landmark year for SWAN Vancouver with the launch of our innovative Mobile STBBI Testing program. This low-barrier, anonymous service fills a critical gap in healthcare access by bringing testing directly to service-users' workplaces, homes, and other preferred locations. Our frontline staff are certified in dried blood spot testing through the National Laboratory for HIV Reference Services, allowing them to provide services usually only delivered by healthcare professionals in institutionalized settings. Our outreach team is connecting with a record number of women and gender-diverse people, while participation has increased across English classes, cooking programs in our new kitchen, and our Advisory Group, whose insights continue to inform our frontline work, community programs, and advocacy.

We've also adjusted to a rapidly changing landscape, marked by a series of government policies and police practices that threaten to harm our community as Vancouver and B.C. shift away from more progressive approaches to sex work. SWAN will continue to work alongside sex worker support and advocacy organizations to challenge these harmful changes.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding our services to respond to workers' needs, while leveraging community-driven projects to challenge misconceptions and amplify im/migrant voices and experiences. We're also just months away from marking SWAN's 25th anniversary year, a time to reflect on how far we've come as an organization, and the systemic change that is still needed to ensure the rights, health, and safety of our community.

Angela Wu
Executive Director

“

“When we are together, we can share our safety concerns and talk about our lives. It makes me feel like I have a supportive community around me.”

– Rachel, SWAN service user

THE YEAR *In Review*



April

- Immigration pathways workshop - Heron Law
- SWAN joins FIFA Community Response Coalition

May

- Victims Week: collaboration with Salal
- Training Peers Victoria on conducting outreach to im/migrant sex workers
- Community Program: Field trip

June

- Strategic Planning session
- SWAN staff trained in DBS collection
- SWAN trains Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre (VIDC) staff

July

- Community Program: Berry picking

August

- Vancouver Dyke March
- Cookbook project starts
- Pilot launch of mobile STBBI testing project
- Community Program: UBC Pacific Spirit Park
- Launch of our animated video on Canada's sex work and immigration laws

September

- Two Frontline Support Workers hired
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) Instructor hired
- Migrant Rights Network Draw the Line rally
- Kitchen upgrade completed
- Community Program dance classes begin

October

- GAATW Canada National Gathering in Winnipeg
- UBC-CDC OPTIMISE Project Launch
- Community Program: Making mooncakes
- Community Program: Pumpkin carving

November

- Care Not Cops Convergence
- Another Frontline Support Worker hired
- Vancouver Coastal Health-funded *Improving Health Outcomes for Im/migrant Sex Workers* brief published

December

- Staff & Board holiday gathering
- International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers joint statement
- Community Program: Christmas tree decorating
- Healthcare Without Fear fundraising campaign

January

- UBC Office of Regional & International Community Engagement (ORICE) practicum students
- Moral panic op-ed, anti-trafficking education series

February

- Advisory Group interview with De Facto Media
- *Hookers on Davie* screening with Vancouver Sex Work Community Alliance
- FIFA Community Townhall with Coalition
- Community Program: Making dumplings

March

- GAATW Canada National Alliance Gathering in Vancouver
- BC Migrant Rights Network United Against Racism Forum
- UBC Women's Health Research Conference
- Mobile STBBI testing pilot ends, becomes permanent service



“

“The staff made me feel very at ease. Before the STBBI test, they gave a detailed and clear explanation of the procedure and patiently answered my questions, ensuring I understood the entire process. They were gentle and meticulous, especially with the finger-prick blood sampling. It helped minimize the discomfort and demonstrated their professionalism and care.”

- Monica, SWAN service user



FRONTLINE *Services*

783

PEOPLE SERVED

406

FIRST TIME
SERVICE USERS

1,169,280

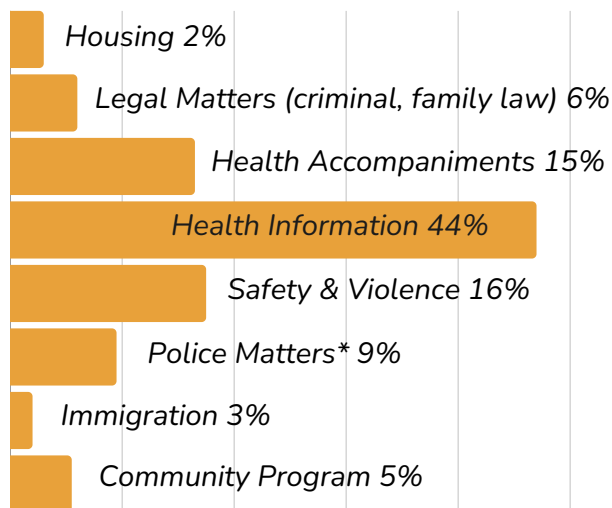
CONDOMS
DISTRIBUTED

177

STBBI TESTS

214

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT



Requests for human trafficking support: 2**
Abuser Alerts sent: 18

*The new Police Matters category includes inquiries about contacting police, where individuals ultimately chose not to report, questions about two separate law enforcement operations targeting sex workers and clients, and communications with two victims of a violent robbery who were taken to a police station for questioning.

**Both trafficking support requests came from outside of our immediate community (including one labour trafficking case), but SWAN provides support wherever it's possible.

Program Highlights

This year marked the launch of mobile STBBI testing in partnership with the Vancouver Infectious Diseases Centre (VIDC). The service provides low-barrier, anonymous and language-accessible testing. Staff facilitate dried blood spot tests and collect other samples before transporting them to a lab for testing, allowing community members to access the service privately. SWAN and VIDC inform service users of their test results and provide ongoing support for accessing medication and treatment.

Our mobile testing uses a task-shifting model that brings healthcare into the community rather than requiring people to navigate clinical settings. This approach helps address barriers related to privacy, safety, stigma, and access, filling a critical gap in healthcare. The pilot ran from August 2025 to March 2026, after which mobile testing became a permanent service.

Across our frontline programs, we also reached more community members and provided more supports. With additional frontline staff, we increased our capacity to conduct outreach, distribute safer sex supplies, provide mobile STBBI testing, and offer direct support to community members across the Lower Mainland.

COMMUNITY *Program*



This year was marked by significant growth for our Community Program, with increased participation and a wider range of activities. Our new English and dance teachers played an important role in building trust and creating welcoming, supportive spaces where community members could learn, connect, and build solidarity.

Our programs were anchored by three core activities: English Class, Advisory Group, and dance class. English Class continued to offer weekly beginner and intermediate lessons, while we started developing a virtual English module to make learning more accessible. The Advisory Group met monthly, giving community members opportunities to share feedback, shape SWAN's programs and services, and identify issues and activities that matter to them. After community members expressed interest in fitness and health, dance classes became a popular space for movement, exercise, and socializing.

We also organized a hike, legal workshops, and seasonal activities including berry picking, mooncake making, pumpkin carving, and

holiday celebrations. As the Community Program grows more popular, SWAN will continue to create opportunities for service users to shape, and participate in, our programming.

“

“Advisory Group has helped me understand that violence is a violation of my human rights. I now know that if I am in a harmful or unsafe situation, it is not my fault, and I have the right to seek help.”

- *Monica, SWAN service user*

“

“I just love coming to SWAN, it feels like I'm meeting my family.”

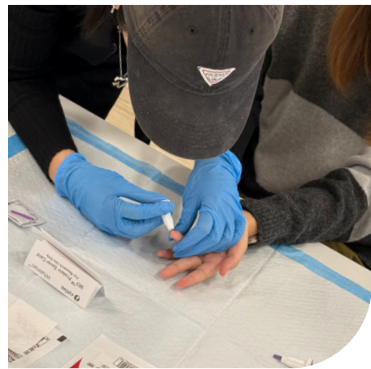
- *Olivia, SWAN service user*

PROJECT *Highlights*



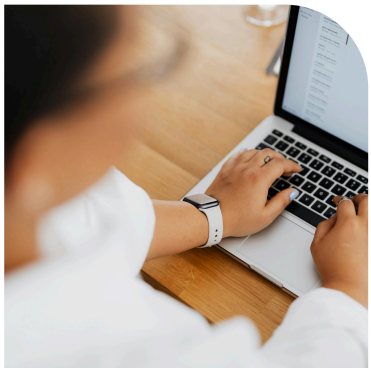
Mobile STBBI testing

This pilot project provides low-barrier, anonymous and language-accessible service as an alternative to in-person clinic visits. Our staff travel to workplaces to facilitate dried blood spot (DBS) tests and collect other samples that are transported to a lab for testing. The project launched in August 2025, in partnership with the Vancouver Infectious Diseases Clinic, which works with SWAN to deliver test results and arrange follow-up treatments. The pilot stage was completed in March 2026, with 177 tests done with 94 community members. Following the pilot stage, mobile testing was integrated into SWAN's frontline services.



Online resource hubs

SWAN is working with a web developer to create an online hub with resources and information relevant to our community, available in English, simplified Chinese, and Japanese. The hub will broaden SWAN's reach and provide factual information at a time when misinformation and AI-generated content make it harder to find accurate information about laws, health access and other issues. We specifically heard that Japanese community members have found SWAN's services through online searches, rather than connecting through word-of-mouth or in-person when an outreach worker visits their workplace. This shift shows the importance of reliable, accurate and language-accessible online resources, and how they can connect workers with support services.



Cookbook project

The Community Program launched a cookbook project as a creative way for community members to come together and share their recipes. By documenting ingredients, cooking techniques, preparation, and the stories behind each dish, we are compiling recipes and experiences into a cookbook that will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, and Japanese for the people we support. The project was also an opportunity to build relationships, helping to shape a collective project that reflects diversity and experiences of SWAN community. This project was inspired by participants who shared their food with us and encouraged us to install a stove and full kitchen in our space. We plan to expand



PROJECT *Highlights*



the project for a future public release to combat stigma, challenge stereotypes and highlight the voices and experiences of our community. Ultimately, the cookbook reflects the broader direction of the Community Program, which is to create spaces where people can participate as leaders and creators.

Health Advocacy

We are halfway through SWAN's 3-year systemic change project (funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada), which seeks to reduce barriers for im/migrant sex workers to access healthcare. So far, we have conducted a community consultation, trained healthcare professionals and decisionmakers, and advocated for changes within healthcare institutions to ensure that our community can have more equitable access to healthcare. This year, we have moved beyond basic training on how to best support im/migrant sex workers, recognizing that systemic change begins with deeper self-reflection and critical thinking about power-centered care vs person-centered care, the medical industrial complex, and the concept of trust.



Vancouver Coastal Health Policy Brief

With funding from Vancouver Coastal Health for this Health Promotion Project, SWAN developed the policy brief [Improving health outcomes for im/migrant sex workers: Insights and recommendations from SWAN Vancouver's Advisory Group](#). We aimed to “go upstream” and focus on the broader social determinants of health that affect our community while calling for systemic change, across healthcare and other systems that shape the social, economic, environmental, and political conditions impacting this group.



Legal Education

Our animated video on Canada's Sex Work and Immigration Laws launched publicly, alongside language-accessible legal resources for im/migrant women and gender-diverse people engaged in sex work. We also conducted a community consultation to learn more about specific legal questions they have, to inform the development of a Know Your Rights workshop and complementary resources.



ADVOCACY, MEDIA AND *Education*

Our work reflects a changing environment, where government funding for sex worker safety initiatives is shrinking, and law enforcement and NGOs increasingly promote ineffective, carceral approaches to anti-trafficking that undermine sex workers' rights. Through our advocacy, we challenged harmful initiatives, countered dominant public narratives, and advanced evidence-informed, community-based approaches to sex worker rights, health, and safety.

Advocacy:

Ahead of Human Trafficking Awareness Day, we published [Moral Panic and the Sex Trafficking Media Frenzy](#), critiquing some of Canada's most harmful anti-trafficking organizations and calling for more critical reporting on the issue. Other pieces examined the changing [anti-trafficking strategies](#) and highlighted findings from SWAN's [journalist focus group](#) on ethical reporting about sex work and human trafficking. The year also brought significant advocacy challenges, including the City of Vancouver's elimination of a sex work safety Social Planner position, the B.C. RCMP Counter Human Trafficking Unit's undercover operation targeting sex work, and policing, surveillance, and misinformation campaigns surrounding the FIFA World Cup.

Media

Three years after setting this goal in our Strategic Plan, SWAN has established itself as an expert media source on im/migrant sex work, and an emerging critical voice on anti-trafficking policy.

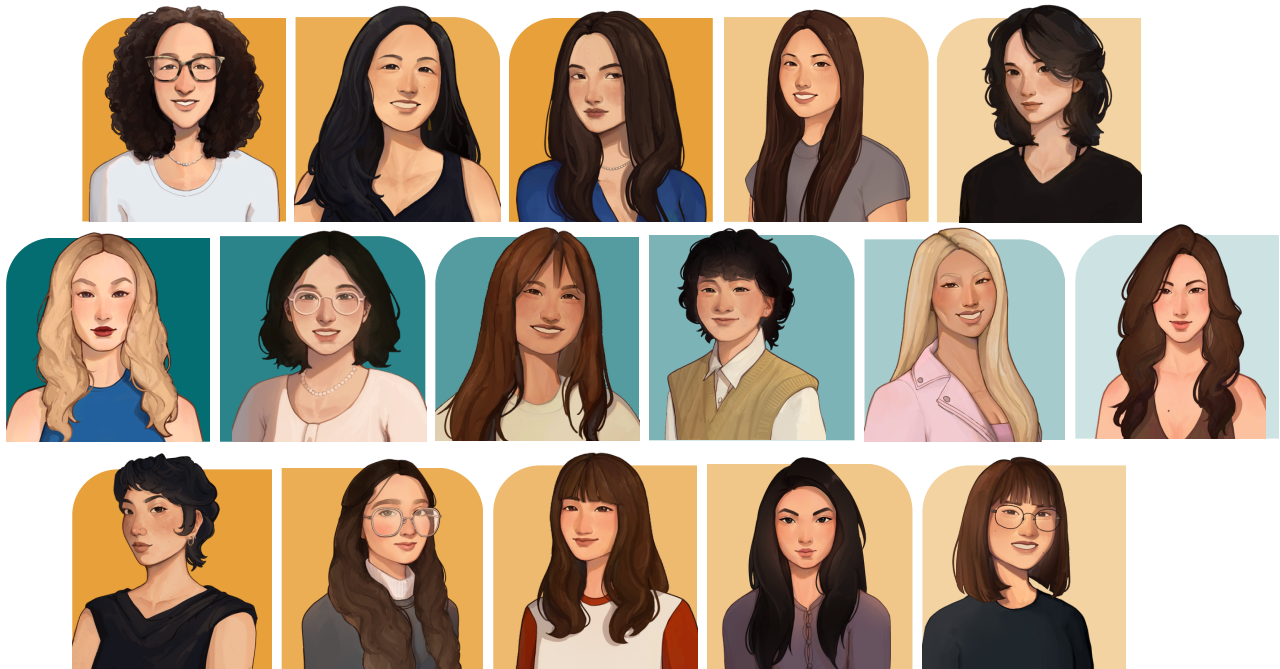
Visit our website for more stories like this:

- [Meta's Ray-Ban Glasses Users Film and Harass Massage Parlor Workers](#)
- [B.C. RCMP target sex work clients in undercover operation, advocates question anti-trafficking claims](#)
- ['It's devastating': Sex workers say Vancouver is losing vital safety supports before global World Cup spotlight](#)
- [Vancouver cops are calling border enforcement more than ever. Community members fear that puts them in danger](#)
- [Experts Critique New RCMP Human Trafficking Campaign](#)

Community Engagement

Amid growing challenges and in recognition of our shared struggles, SWAN has continued to strengthen relationships with partners working in sex workers' rights, healthcare access, migrant justice, evidence-based anti-trafficking, harm reduction, and efforts to end police violence. This year, we worked alongside the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), rejoined the Vancouver Sex Work Community Alliance, participated in a forum and actions with the Migrant Rights Network, and continued local advocacy with Vancouver sex worker support organizations. Ahead of the FIFA World Cup, we also joined a coalition of Downtown Eastside and Chinatown organizations resisting displacement and other community harms associated with the event.

SWAN VANCOUVER'S *Team*



Staff have spent another year adapting to new challenges while taking on remarkable work, including launching a mobile STBBI testing program, preparing a frontline response to the FIFA World Cup, training new staff and volunteers to expand services, educating the public and community partners, and advocating for changes to the systems and policies that create barriers for the community we support.

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

- Mindy, Chair
- Melody, Vice-Chair
- Bronwyn, Secretary
- Kelly, Treasurer
- Steph, Director
- Michelle, Director

At SWAN Vancouver, no one is required to disclose their current or former involvement in sex work or their immigration status--not the im/migrant community members we support, nor our staff, volunteers, collaborators, or visitors. Because being “out” can carry significant risks, removing the expectation of disclosure ensures that people can engage with SWAN without compromising their safety or privacy. We’ve also recently taken extra steps to protect the identity of team members, which can support their ability to carry out frontline work safely and effectively.

THE YEAR *Ahead*

- Expand outreach and community response efforts during the FIFA World Cup to ensure im/migrant sex workers can continue accessing support and services.
- Pursue sustainable, long-term funding for SWAN's mobile STBBI testing program.
- Advance advocacy efforts alongside sex worker support organizations following the City of Vancouver's elimination of the Sex Work Safety Planner position.
- Launch translated website content for service users, including accessible legal information, educational resources, and service navigation tools.
- Complete and publish our community cookbook, featuring recipes and stories from home and abroad. It will be available to the community before a public launch.
- Provide training to post-secondary nursing students through the Vancouver Sex Work Community Alliance.
- Begin marking SWAN's 25th Anniversary year in 2027, leading up to a community celebration.
- Expand community program in response to community interests and needs.
- Launch virtual English class to increase accessibility and reach.
- Continue strengthening community participation and leadership through Advisory Group and program activities.



THE MILNE *Family*

We extend our sincere thanks to the Milne Family for its longstanding commitment to supporting SWAN Vancouver's Outreach Team. Their generous support is essential to sustaining this core program, allowing us to connect with community members where they work, build trusting relationships, and bridge people to additional services. We are deeply grateful for the Milne Family's continued investment in this frontline work.

FUNDERS



GIFTS-IN-KIND

Thank you to LUSH Cosmetics and Jake's Thai Food for supporting SWAN's outreach work and community programs. Each year, LUSH Cosmetics plays an important role in our frontline work during the holiday season. Their generous donations of bath, haircare, and cosmetic products are packed into gift bags and distributed during outreach and at special events, including our English Class graduations. Jake's Thai Food also generously supported our Lunar New Year celebration by providing discounted catering, helping us bring our community together to celebrate.

If you'd like to support our community through an in-kind donation, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us at give@swanvancouver.ca.

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 sex workers 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.

DONATE HERE

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

- Frontline work including delivering safer sex supplies, booking and accompanying im/migrant workers 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 community.
- Advocacy and policy work such as working with municipal, provincial and federal governments to push for equitable laws, bylaws and practices impacting the community we support.

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“There is no judgment here, and we truly feel accepted and supported.”

- Ellen, SWAN service user



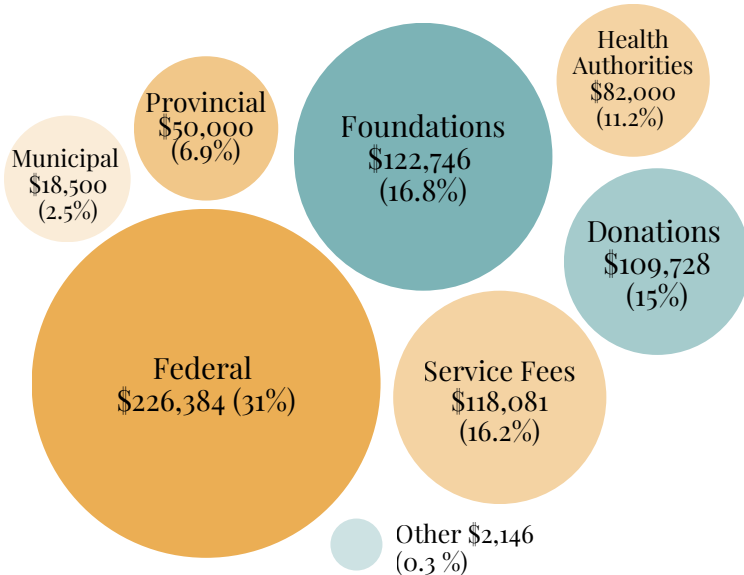
What are the benefits of monthly gifts?

- 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 2025–March 2026

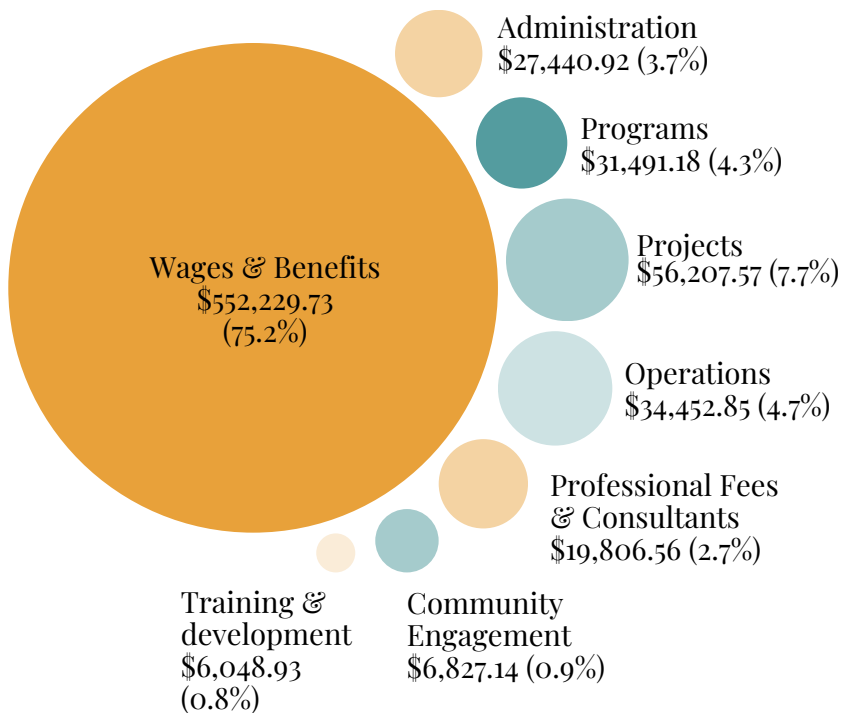
REVENUE: \$729,585



During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2026, SWAN Vancouver generated total revenue of \$729,585, approximately 3% higher than the prior year. Notable increases included service fee revenue, which grew to more than four times the prior-year amount, and donations, which increased by 8.7%.

At March 31, 2026, \$220,954 of grant funding remained deferred for programs and activities to be delivered in future periods, reflecting the advance receipt of grant funding and the timing of related program expenditures and revenue recognition.

EXPENSES: \$734,504.88



Total expenses were \$734,503, an increase of approximately 1% from the prior year. This resulted in an operating deficit of \$4,918, substantially lower than the prior year's deficit of \$14,968. Total expenses included \$5,973 in non-cash amortization; excluding amortization, SWAN generated a modest operating surplus of \$1,055. The reduced deficit reflects revenue growth that outpaced the increase in expenses, and SWAN's continued efforts to manage costs while sustaining essential programs and services.

At year-end, SWAN held net assets of \$106,627, consisting of \$96,444 in internally restricted contingency funds and \$10,183 invested in capital assets. SWAN remains committed to prudent financial management and maintaining sufficient reserves to respond to unexpected needs and support long-term sustainability.