



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021-2022**



## Who we are

Inform'Elles is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote access to information, awareness and support services for Francophone women and girls experiencing violence in British Columbia.



## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

*The years go by and not much changes sometimes... our efforts to set up a helpline service for abused French-speaking women have been unsuccessful. But today, the year **2021-2022 brings us hope!***

*Last year came to an end with two successful grant applications and we were eager to find out whether our three-year project with **Women and Gender Equality Canada** would be funded. And it did! And in October 2021, **Marina van Wittenberghe**, our new **management coordinator**, joined our **communications officer Mélinna Trochu** in a new role, as **Tessy Vanderhaeghe's** contract had ended in August. Add to this another great success, this time with the support of **Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique**, which submitted a successful application to the **British Columbia Francophone Affairs Program**. This multifaceted request includes the **hiring of a French-speaking advocate** to work with the violence prevention team at **MOSAIC**.*

***Cécile Bruyninckx** joined the team in January 2022 and the province's direct helpline service became operational on March 22, 2022. Inform'Elles' role is to make the service sustainable to ensure continuity once the funding for the pilot project ends. I would like to thank Tessy, Mélinna, Marina and Cécile for their work and commitment to ensuring that Francophone women in the province who are experiencing violence have access to the support and referral services they need.*

*As for the board team, the three directors **Nicole LeMire**, **Jeanne Landry** and myself were joined by **Camille Schoebel** at the beginning of 2022. We warmly welcome her as we continue to recruit new board members.*

*We are wrapping up a year that gives hope for the future of French language services for Francophone women experiencing violence. Our work in developing and maintaining partnerships and lobbying influencers in the provincial government, our online presence through social networks, our newsletter and podcast, and the integration of our support worker into a violence prevention program gives us reason to be hopeful.*

*I would like to thank all the members for their continued support, and I thank the whole team of workers and volunteers for their commitment and determination.*

*I hope that we can announce a brighter future for Inform'Elles at our next General Meeting.*

Best regards,

**Marie Dussault**

President of the Board of Directors

TEAM **INFORM'ELLES****Marina van Wittenberghe**

Coordinator-Manager

The Inform'Elles team is delighted that Marina joined the organization in this role in October 2021. Her orientation took place in the first few weeks after she joined the organization. She took over the role of Tessy.

Contract workers

**Tessy Vanderhaege**

Coordinator

Tessy stepped down as coordinator at the beginning of September 2021 after two years of service, including a pivotal year. The board members are very grateful for her service.

**Mélinda Trochu**

Communication Officer

Mélinda manages social networks. She manages media monitoring, the newsletter, awareness campaigns concerning violence against women and is the producer of the Inform'Elles podcast.

**Cécile Bruyninckx**

Advocate against violence against women

Cécile joined the Inform'Elles team in January 2022. As an advocate against violence against women, Cécile provides a sympathetic and non-judgmental ear to French-speaking women in situations of violence since March 2022, and also provides them with guidance. She focuses on ensuring the safety of women and their children, and provides support based on their social, cultural, linguistic and economic values.

**Marie Dussault**

President

Marie is a social worker by training, and she has a master's degree in public policy. She is a feminist involved with women's groups for over 30 years.

Board of Directors

**Nicole Lemire**

Advisor

Nicole graduated with a master's degree in Economics and has more than 20 years of experience in consulting and management, especially in the community sector.

**Jeanne Landry**

Treasurer-Secretary

Jeanne became involved in the movement by becoming a member of Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique in the late 1990s and helped found and manage Inform'Elles.

**Camille Schoebel**

Advisor

Camille joined Inform'Elles at the beginning of 2022, strongly believing in the need to end discrimination and violence against women by initiating legal, political and social change.

# DONORS MEMBERS AND FUNDERS

The very existence of Inform'Elles depends on our funders. Many thanks to our funders, donors, and members of 2021-2022.

## *We thank you for your support!*

Our members, those who support us financially through donations, our funders, the Board of Directors and the contracting team, members of the Francophone community and our community partners in the official language majority communities.



Canada

## MOVING **FORWARD TOGETHER II**

With Women and Gender Equality Canada

### ***Gender-based violence: strengthening service pathways in French***

On August 6, 2021, Inform'Elles learned that the grant application for **Phase II** of the **Moving Forward Together** project had been successful, and that the organization would receive **\$294,221** over three years as part of the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund call for proposals.

Marina van Wittenberghe has been leading the project, Gender-based Violence: Strengthening Service Paths in French, also known as **Moving Forward Together II**, since October 2021. The development and sustainability of a support service for women remains the focus of the initiative. Her orientation took place in the first weeks after she joined the organization. She took over the role of Tessy Vanderhaeghe. As part of **Moving Forward Together II**, a survey (ongoing at the end of the 2021-2022 activity period) was conducted among community and anti-violence organizations. As part of the same project, a survey was carried out at the first meeting of the anti-violence committee.



Femmes et Égalité  
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 [www.informelles.ca/avancer-ensemble/](http://www.informelles.ca/avancer-ensemble/)

## REPRESENTATION **AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Inform'Elles met with the team of the B.C. Francophone Affairs Program.

This meeting officially launched a discussion on the sustainability of its services.

Inform'Elles will ensure that it continues to work towards the implementation and sustainability of the services provided by Inform'Elles through the development of partnerships and recurrent funding; this will require meetings at community and government level.



The Fondation des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique provided funding in 2022. In March, they granted \$9,295 to Inform'Elles.

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR A VIOLENCE-FREE COMMUNITY

The committee's mandate is to identify the types of services or resources that exist and are lacking to allow clients to be served entirely in French.

A new **partnership** with **Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique (RFCB)** is taking shape thanks to funding from the **British Columbia Francophone Affairs Program**. The pilot project began in October with the hiring of an advocate who joined the **Violence Prevention Program** team at **MOSAIC**, with whom we have negotiated an agreement. RFCB and Inform'Elles set up an anti-violence committee and recruited community guides.

**Cécile Bruyninckx** was involved in the creation of a provincial anti-violence committee consisting of French-speaking associative members. On 1 March, the first in a series of round table meetings of the anti-violence committee took place. Nine participants identified the gaps and what works in terms of services for Francophone survivors, including :





The **Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique** with Aïna Rafamantanantsoa, the **Community Response Network British Columbia** with Marie Dussault, **La Boussole** with Lou-Anne Brocard and Marion Roig, the **Réseau en immigration francophone de la Colombie-Britannique** with Zaskya Mousseau, **Réseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique** with Sandrine Rousseau and Maryse Beaujeau Weppenaar, and **Inform'Elles**, with Cécile Bruyninckx and Marina van Wittenberghe.

## SAFER + STRONGER

Funding from the **Fondation Canadienne des Femmes** for the **Safer + Stronger** initiative has been renewed and will allow for the continuation of the work of the Francophone worker within the **Violence Prevention Program** team at **MOSAIC**. This grant will mainly extend the role until March 2023.



## GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 
 Fondation des francophones de la Colombie Britannique.  
 Submitted in November. Successful.
- 
 Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention  
 Submitted in November. Rejected.

## INTERVIEWS IN THE MEDIA

Members of the Inform'Elles team were interviewed by Radio-Canada British Columbia and Radio Victoria at women's events.



**Cécile Bruynickx**

On International Women's Rights Day, Cécile was invited to speak on **Radio Victoria's *Nouvelles de l'île*** to discuss the status of francophone women in British Columbia and to promote the newly established support line.



**Tessy Vanderhaege**

Former Inform'Elles coordinator Tessy **announced** the **grant** for phase II of the ***Moving Forward Together*** project on **Radio Victoria** during a live news broadcast.



**Marina Van Wittenberghe**

The coordinator and manager of Inform'Elles provided details on the funding of the **Francophone Affairs Program** during an interview on Radio-Canada's ***Panorama*** program.



# PODCAST DISCUSSIONS INFORM'ELLES

In the fall of 2021, Inform'Elles began broadcasting its podcast on **Radio Victoria**. Known as **Discussions Inform'Elles**, it is moderated by Tessy Vanderhaeghe, former coordinator at Inform'Elles, and produced by Mélinda Trochu, communications officer. The podcast features **12 episodes**, each of which introduces a new guest who shares their expertise graciously.

➤ All episodes are available online on Radio-Victoria:  
[www.radiovictoria.ca/programmation/balados/discussions-informelles](http://www.radiovictoria.ca/programmation/balados/discussions-informelles)

➤ Now available on our website:  
[www.informelles.ca/nos-projets/discussions-balado/](http://www.informelles.ca/nos-projets/discussions-balado/)

# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign** is an annual international event held from **25 November to 10 December**.

Inform'Elles published on Instagram a series of 16 thumbnails telling the **story of Simone and her colleague Maya**.

In addition, a free documentary has been made available online: **La parfaite victime**, directed by **Monic Néron and Émilie Perreault**, was released in the summer of 2021 in Canada. The film was viewed from **26 different IP addresses**.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY

Inform'Elles was involved in the **#ECHO8MARS** campaign organized by the **Alliance des femmes de la francophonie canadienne**.

In addition, a ten-question quiz on violence against women was included on the Inform'Elles website. Relevant resources are linked to each answer.

The **Radio-Victoria** program **Nouvelles de l'île** was devoted to this day and **Cécile Bruyninckx** got involved.

# WEBSITE

**Carelle B. Dunn** of **North Van Media** has been working as a web administrator for Inform'Elles since November 2021. She provides technical support with creativity. Her duties mainly include work related to website programming and some graphic design.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 12, 2022

## Financial Statements and Budget Forecasts

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SOURCES OF INCOME	Financial Statements Actual 2020-2021	Financial Statements Actual 2021-2022	Budget Forecasts 2022-2023	Budget Forecasts 2023-2024
WOMAN AND GENDER EQUALITY CANADA (WAG)	—	\$54,716	\$121,482	\$124,000
CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION	\$61,665	\$2,100	\$41,930	\$20,000
FONDATION DES FRANCOPHONES DE LA C.-B. <sup>2</sup>	—	—	\$9,295	\$9,295
BANK INTEREST AND DONATIONS	\$145	\$790	\$500	\$500
R�SEAU-FEMMES COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE. <sup>1</sup>	—	—	\$15,664	—
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY & SOLICITOR GENERAL	—	—	—	\$30,000
DEFERRED AMOUNT	\$55,012	\$43,270	\$4,310	—
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$116,822 \$</b>	<b>\$ 100,876</b>	<b>\$193,181</b>	<b>\$183,795</b>

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY	Financial Statements Actual 2020-2021	Financial Statements Actual 2021-2022	Budget Forecasts 2022-2023
SALARIES AND FEES	\$72,195	\$87 360	\$149,680
BUSINESS EXPENSES (ACCOUNTING)	—	\$500	\$4,913
MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS	—	\$2,780	\$11,749
INSURANCE	—	\$775	\$775
PREMISES	—	—	\$2,017
SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT/SOFTWARE	\$875	\$3,700	\$1,203
TRANSPORT	—	\$1,075	\$5,873
ADMINISTRATION	\$180	—	\$7,206
BANK CHARGES	\$1	\$75	\$80
OTHER	\$300	\$300	\$390
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$73,551</b>	<b>\$96,565</b>	<b>\$183,886</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$43,271</b>	<b>\$4,311</b>	<b>\$9,295</b>

<sup>1</sup> Funding from the British Columbia Francophone Affairs Program (FAP).

<sup>2</sup> Funds used to cover fees for the helpline from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023.



## GET IN TOUCH

 [info@informelles.ca](mailto:info@informelles.ca)

 [www.informelles.ca](http://www.informelles.ca)



**HELPLINE – 1 (604) 653-8213**

**Monday to Friday 10am - 6pm**

