



1492 St. Paul Street
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 2E6
Canada

Kelowna Women's Resource Centre

May 3, 2011

Dear Mayor & Council of Kelowna,

As you are all aware, the Kelowna Women's Resource Centre has recently been forced to close due to a lack of ongoing, dependable funding. The story has been in the media over the last few weeks and we have received overwhelming support from the community, which really emphasizes the importance of the Women's Centre and how much it will be missed. We would like to thank all of you for your support throughout the years.

Prior to Campbell's cuts of 2004, Women's Centres across BC received operational funding of approximately \$55,000 per year. This funding allowed Women's Centres to pay basic bills and have services available to the community. While the dollar amount did not provide all the necessary income for the Centre, it allowed us to garner more dollars through other funding sources for various programs and projects. When this funding was cut, it not only cut back those dollars, it made it more difficult for us to receive other funding as well. Since 2004, Women's Centres, including the one in Kelowna, have struggled to keep the doors open and offer vital services to the community.

Many Women's Centres in BC have shut down over the last seven years, including three within the last few months, in Cranbrook, Campbell River, and Kelowna. This is certainly a provincial issue impacting various municipalities throughout BC. We would greatly appreciate if Kelowna's council would bring forward a resolution at the Union of BC Municipalities meeting, advocating for reinstatement of operational funding to all Women's Centres in BC. Not only would this assist our community, it would make a difference in many other places as well. If you need any further information to help you move forward with this idea, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you very much for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

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