



2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



March 20, 2024

*Submitted by:
Shelley Gilbert, Interim Executive Director*

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Interim Executive Director's Report **Shelley Gilbert**



Over the past year LAW has provided support, legal representation and advice to low income people experiencing difficulties and barriers in so many areas of their lives. Constantly challenged to develop innovative programming and services as well as reflect on, evaluate and change our program delivery, staff have utilized best practice approaches to provide supports to our community.

Our housing programs ensure an unprecedented number of people have supportive advice and representation and are able to make the best decisions and plans for their families when being threatened with eviction or living in inadequate housing.

Our work related to social benefits has assisted people to ensure they have the resources needed to meet their basic needs and support their families when unable to work. With so many individuals recovering from hardship, re-establishing financial stability is crucial. Systemic advocacy, community awareness and direct supports are all strategies employed in the Indigenous Justice Program. This program reinforces our commitment and reminds us of our obligations to the community and to Truth and Reconciliation.

Complex and changing immigration policies and programs require our immigration team to consider various needs and experiences of newcomers, ensure they are able to understand their options and can move forward with their hopes and dreams in Canada.

As the complexity of psychosocial and advocacy needs grow, our social work staff use a trauma informed approach in the provision of information, advocacy, crisis intervention and supports to people in need.

We have seen both overwhelming support from our community as well as overwhelming need from those experiencing intimate partner/sexual violence and human trafficking. The intimate partner/sexual violence program provides crisis intervention, case management, legal information, advise and advocacy to people experiencing physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. Working alongside their clients, they provide a risk assessment to aid in the development of a safety plan, which often includes community partners and informs legal advice. The anti-trafficking project WECEN continues to be called on by partners across the country and supports over 100 individuals trafficked/exploited in various industries. The provision of ongoing supportive case management assists people to re-establish a sense of confidence and competence in their abilities and supports them in achieving their goals.

Windsor Essex County relies on the work of 8000- 10000 migrant workers in our agricultural sector. Through two grants, we continue to provide individual support, public

education, legal advice and representation to the migrant worker community and to individuals who have found themselves undocumented, often resulting from exploitation and manipulation. This work uses a trauma informed community capacity building approach recognizing the incredible gifts and intersectionalities of the migrant worker communities. The enhancement of social capital of migrant workers and their generosity to LAW and to each other has made being part of the migrant worker groups an incredible privilege.

Direct service has seen a 23% increase over the last year. This impact is felt in all areas of the clinic and without the organizational and administrative support of reception, intake and the service coordinator, we would not be able to successfully meet, triage or facilitate the support of our clients. The direct service LAW provides is crucial to the individuals and families we help, but this work also informs the systemic advocacy, policy development and protocols we develop as well as the public education we provide.

I was pleased to meet with the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery with my partners at the Canadian Council for Refugees and discuss the impact closed work permits have on the well-being of migrant workers.

In collaboration with our community partners, a policy brief related to the trafficking of women, girls and gender diverse people was submitted to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women and a brief on Canada's Temporary and Migrant Labour Force was submitted to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

As the housing crisis across the country continues and we see and hear from so many individuals impacted, we have been able to convey these experiences in recommendations to the Ministry of Finance during the Ontario 2024 budget submissions. With a specific emphasis on gender based violence, our submission highlighted recommendations related to access, affordability and the ability to maintain housing.

This community and our clinic will continue to experience challenges related to the volume of people requiring support, the structure of tribunals and the complexities of needs. However, the staff and students in our clinic continue to think, create and implement supports in innovative ways that consider the combined strengths of our professions and experience.

The provision of supervision and mentorship to law and social work students over 50 years has allowed us the opportunity to better meet the volume of needs of our community, but also support the enhancement of critical thinking and practice as it relates to social justice. We are privileged to work with dedicated students and facilitate their professional learning related to the substantive areas of practice, but importantly, also related to the development of a trauma informed, anti-oppressive, anti-racism and anti-colonizing approaches to law and social work practice.

Staff Changes

Hajar Tohme has joined LAW as our social benefits lawyer. She has brought a new perspective and innovative thoughts to the process. We are so pleased she has joined us.

David Pitawanakwat is the Indigenous Justice Worker during Kristen Jeavon's maternity leave. He has done a wonderful job supporting the community, raising issues and showcasing the beauty and strength of culture.

Evelyne Dubois has joined us as a part time immigration lawyer. Her passion for the work and empathy for the people we work with has energized us all.

Board Changes

Thank you to Dan Stronks for his expertise and support to the board over the last 3 years. His support is appreciated and we wish him well in Victoria, BC.

I would like to thank the board for their support through this management transition. I have appreciated their insight and questions over the past few months and look forward to working with them this year. Of course, a special thank you to our board Chair, Rielly McLaren, who has helped us to think through our trauma informed organizational work, provided leadership to the board and has supported us at LAW over the last several years.

Interim Director of Legal Services

David Cote

I was appointed to the position of Interim Director of Legal Services (DLS) in September 2023 in anticipation of the retirement of our previous Executive Director.



The DLS position is intended to provide supervision and technical support to LAW's legal programs, including social benefits, housing, immigration, indigenous justice and the intimate partner violence program. I also maintain a direct client practice by supervising the intakes for immigration and refugee cases as they come into the office and work closely with our clinic students to provide summary advice in appropriate cases.

One of the major events of the past year has been the evolving nature of representation before the various tribunals. The number of hearings has dramatically increased in all tribunals which has led to a need to adapt our procedures and ability to represent clients. We are looking at ways of providing further support to our clinic lawyers so that they can maintain high-quality legal services within the context of a busy hearing schedule before the tribunals.

Another important role for the DLS is ensuring that law and social work students are receiving a fulfilling experience in their placements within the clinic. The new management structure has allowed us to revisit orientation as well as case conference meetings for students. During these meetings, we encourage students to share their experiences in clinic work and offer guidance and ongoing training in clinic practice.

As with all programs, direct client service is coupled with advocacy and public legal education within the community and on behalf of our clients. We had an opportunity to present on migrant worker issues with local politicians, including the Mayor of Leamington, and to provide rights training and education for migrant worker groups. We have also engaged with other government stakeholders such as the local Consulate of Mexico.

Importantly, the past year has seen expanded advocacy on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees who are housed in local hotels as part of the Government of Canada's response to increased number of asylum seekers claiming refugee status within Canada. We have worked closely with local settlement agencies, the IRCC as well as the City of Windsor to ensure that this group is receiving assistance while they navigate the complex refugee determination process. We have provided training on behalf of Legal Aid Ontario so that asylum claimants understand their rights under the system and know how to apply for legal representation.

While the DLS position is new within LAW's management structure, it builds on existing work and support within the organization and the community. I look forward to exploring how the role can assist our staff in their work and continue to provide high quality legal services to our clients and the community at large.

LAW Staff 2023-2024

<i>Interim Executive Director</i>	Shelley Gilbert
<i>Director of Legal Services</i>	David Cote
<i>Coordinator of Social Work Services</i>	Robyn Hodge
<i>Staff Social Worker</i>	Jennifer Cline (to Oct 2023) Danika Bastien
<i>Immigration Staff Lawyer</i>	David Cote Evelyne Dubois
<i>Social Benefits Staff Lawyer</i>	Laura Stairs (to Jan 2024) Hajar Tohmé
<i>Housing Staff Lawyer</i>	Tori-Lee Jenkins
<i>Indigenous Justice Coordinator</i>	Kristen Jeavons (to Sept 2023) David Pitawanakwat
<i>Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator</i>	Bianca Colaluca
<i>Youth in Transition Worker</i>	Gillian Golden
<i>Housing Support Worker</i>	Yannin Mezo Ramirez
<i>Migrant Worker Outreach Worker</i>	Claudia Membreno
<i>Migrant Worker Outreach Worker</i>	Amanda Panambi Morales Vidales
<i>Migrant Worker Specialist</i>	Robyn Hodge
<i>Gender-Based Violence & Sexual Assault Lawyer</i>	Claire Allsop
<i>Gender-Based Violence & Sexual Assault Social Worker</i>	Amanda Pierce
<i>Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Lawyer</i>	Taneeta Doma
<i>Articling Student</i>	Rima Asfour
<i>Service Coordinator</i>	Jade Wallace
<i>Intake Worker</i>	Sarah Whalen
<i>Support Staff</i>	Kelly Demers

LAW Board 2023-2024

<i>President</i>	Rielly McLaren
<i>Vice President</i>	Reem Bahdi
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dan Stronks
<i>Secretary</i>	Shelley Gilbert (<i>Ex officio</i>)
<i>Directors</i>	Emilia Coto Adrian Guta Joan Simpson Adam Wydrzynski Zakieh Zarabi Daniel Bilodeau Jillian Rogin (<i>Ex officio</i>)

Interim Coordinator of Social Work Services

Robyn Hodge



This year has seen some shifting within the Coordinator of Social Work services, with Shelley and Robyn working collaborative to meet the needs of the community and supporting the LAW clinic and staff. We continue to provide direct advocacy and support to individuals experiencing trauma, including crisis supports and intervention, advocacy, system navigation, and psychosocial supports. We work collaboratively to support and supervise staff in various programs including the Windsor Essex Counter Exploitation Network (WECEN, the anti-human trafficking program), Migrant Worker Groups, Gender Based Violence and Sexual Assault Project, and the staff social worker position.

Systemic advocacy remains a high priority as Shelley continues to be co-chair of the Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee (VAWCC) which strives for seamless service delivery and policy protections for women experiencing violence in Windsor/Essex. Locally this last year we suffered another loss of life marking the fifth femicide since October 2021. We remain dedicated to raising community awareness, speaking to the need for greater resources for this community and the creation of a community-wide “femicide workshop” to mobilise the community in establishing collaboration, policy and protocols in highlighting high risk indicators.

In addition to advocating with our local VAWCC, Shelley sits on the national committee and regional committees of the Alliance for Gender Justice in Migration and the Canadian Council for Refugees. These committees stagger various levels of local, provincial and federal governments all focused on the protection of women and gender diverse peoples. The scope of this systemic advocacy is to influence legislation, policy, and programs to better support those experiencing exploitation within our communities and across the province.

We continue to provide direct support to survivors of exploitation and human trafficking. Our attention this past year has been in highlighting the systemic and legal barriers to protection and prevention of trafficking. Shelley continues to partner with provincial and national partners, including co-chairing the Canadian Council for Refugees Anti-Trafficking Committee (CCR ATC) advocating for systemic change and/or policy and legislative reforms to address these issues.

Attention given towards the Open Work Permit Campaign (openworknow.ca) has continued over this past year as we strive for the abolishment of closed work permits. In collaboration with the Canadian Council for Refugees, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and FCJ, we successful at having this tabled at the House of Commons.

Robyn has prioritized supervision of student learning at the clinic, as we offer student placements to both BSW and MSW students from the University of Windsor. Student learning within the clinic seeks to provide supports to at risk and vulnerable members of the community who seek help and advocacy from LAW. Community development and partnerships are also at the forefront of our student learning model. There is a weekly satellite clinic offer at the Homeless Hub, through which students are LAW offer information and referrals to areas of practice within our clinic.

Staff Social Worker

Danika Bastien



This year has continued to challenge us to adapt our social work practice to the ever-evolving needs of our clients, community, and students. Social work intakes have continued to increase via word of mouth and community referrals. My work continues to be all-encompassing: advocating for and supporting individuals with mental health, addiction, physical health, and housing challenges and income insecurity to name a few.

A need for safe, affordable housing continues to be a high-priority need of many clients and community members. I am an active member on the By-Names List facilitated through the City of Windsor which focuses on matching people experiencing homelessness with agencies providing support.

I am also an active member at the Situation Table offering support and assistance to agencies working with high-risk individuals and families as needed. I continue to work with the Treatment and Recovery Working Group and Elder Abuse Prevention Network, and have developed a close relationship with community partners to coordinate services as necessary and to minimize gaps and delays in service provision.

Over the last year I have become active in Legal Aid Ontario committee work. I am currently one of the South-West OPICCO representatives on the executive committee. I am currently the chair of the Social Work Community of Practice through the clinic system working to strengthen our role and provide a place for clinic social workers to network. I am also on the Community Health Justice Committee which focuses on bridging the gap between legal and health care within the community.

An exciting project I am working on is developing webinars in partnership with the three legal clinics in our community to host monthly webinars to community partners about how to break down individual legal issues and advocate for clients.

We continue to have BSW and MSW social work students supporting the work and learning about their profession under our supervision. Our students provide supportive counselling, assistance with completing applications, and advocacy to support residential tenancies and minimize income insecurity. They have also completed the By-Name List training and trauma informed-practice training, and attend other relevant training as available. I also provide consultation and supervision to law students as needed regarding barriers clients may be experiencing in accessing supports and legal remedies.

Immigration Staff Lawyer **Evelyne Dubois**

I took over as a part-time Immigration Lawyer at LAW in September 2023. I am responsible for new and existing immigration file work, supervising law students and providing staff with advice on their immigration related questions.

We have been collaborating with other community service providers such as the YMCA, FCJ, Matthew House Refugee Centre and College Boreal. For example, we held two basis of claim workshops in order to guide refugee claimants on how to complete the form. There is a lack of refugee lawyers in the Windsor area and there is a short deadline in order to submit the form. The workshop gave refugee claimants tips on how to complete the forms correctly and efficiently. In order to assist with the current need of refugee lawyers, we had an increase in the refugee claimants and pre-removal risk assessment applicants that we are representing.

Through vigorous advocacy we have been assisting victims of international human trafficking in ensuring that their immigration status is maintained and approved under reasonable conditions. We continued to provide many public legal education sessions to the migrant worker community and the refugee claimants at the hotels.

This year we will continue to educate vulnerable groups in the community and collaborate with community service providers.



Social Benefits Staff Lawyer

Hajar Tohmé

I have been in the role of LAW's Social Benefits Law staff lawyer since February 2024. Previously, I worked in a legal clinic that dealt with a variety of client matter, including social benefits, immigration, and family law. I have also practiced briefly in corporate, business, and real estate law. I greatly enjoy my time at Legal Assistance of Windsor and look forward to continuing my work on social benefits case files, and advocacy and policy reform projects.



We represent clients with appeals to the Social Benefits Tribunal (SBT) including Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) denials, cancellations, suspensions, and overpayments.

We continue to experience the backlog of cases that arose due to administrative and technical issues at the Social Benefits Tribunal over the past few years. The Social Benefits Tribunal continues to offer Zoom and telephone hearings. We provided our clients with additional support to access the resources needed to successfully participate in their virtual hearings, including having them come into our office and attend the virtual hearings with us present.

There are still some cases in the backlog facing long wait times for hearings, but for new appeals, hearings are being held within 7-9 months of the appeal being filed.

The provincial government has undertaken some changes to social assistance programs this year, including raising ODSP rates by 6.5% in order to keep up with the rising inflation. Eligible ODSP recipients saw an increase of assistance rise from \$1138 to \$1308.

We continue to advocate for a raise to the OW rates, which have not been raised since 2018. OW incomes remain stagnant and well below the official poverty line for every family type.

Housing Staff Lawyer

Tori-Lee Jenkins



I have been in the role of LAW's Housing Law staff lawyer since August 2021. Previously, I worked as a sole practitioner with a focus on criminal defence. I also worked in two of the largest criminal defence firms in Canada. I greatly enjoy my time at Legal Assistance of Windsor and look forward to continuing my work on housing case files, and advocacy and policy reform projects.

Housing files and the landscape of housing law continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) continues to hold all of their hearings by video and/or telephone, creating significant barriers for our community. There is a rising concern with the number of tenants not attending their hearings, which is presumed to be due to lack of reliable internet and phone access, coupled with the inability to find a quiet and safe space to use.

The backlogs in file resolution at the Board continues to be an issue. Scheduling several massive hearing blocks without any regional scheduling. Tribunals Watch Ontario and the Ontario Ombudsman's office continue to unveil further failings at the Board and unfortunately we are still awaiting a response to those concerns by the Province. We continue to work with the Advocacy Centre for Tenant's Ontario ("ACTO") along with other community legal clinics to push for positive changes that reflect the current landscape that our clients are facing.

In addition to the direct client work, the housing department at LAW is also dedicated to capacity building in the community and outreach to further address the compounding and harmful social injustices our community is facing. We are currently living through one of the direst housing crises of our lifetimes. The Housing Team conducts Public Legal Education sessions in partnership with the Multicultural Council of Windsor, the Migrant Worker Team at LAW, and other local community groups. Our goal is to ensure that while we may not be able to personally assist every case, that our community is armed with knowledge and are aware of their rights.

We continue to work towards increasing access to legal protections for our clients and the broader Windsor-Essex community. In the midst of the housing crisis, it is the spirit and resilience of our clients and the support from our colleagues that continue to propel us forward.

Interim Indigenous Justice Coordinator

David Pitawanakwat



Our agency is a provider of Indigenous Justice support, serving Indigenous clients and the community within the Windsor-Essex region. The Indigenous Justice Coordinator (IJC) leads this effort, specializing in Indigenous-related matters. The IJC handles applications for Secure Certificates of Indian Status, Métis Citizenship, Jordan's Principle, and advocates for Native housing issues. We coordinate services, recommendations, referrals in a culturally appropriate and meaningful way, ensuring that clients receive comprehensive community support from trusted intermediaries. Additionally, our team provides assistance and advocacy to Indigenous clients who are facing various legal and systemic challenges across different areas practiced at LAW. The IJC also extends supportive services and referrals in areas not covered by LAW, including family and criminal matters.

This past year, our IJC Kristen Jeavons, went on maternity leave and has since welcomed twins into her family (Congratulations, Kristen!). During her leave, the IJC role has continued under the guidance of David Pitawanakwat, our former articling student. Kristen is expected to return in September 2024 and will resume her duties as our full-time IJC.

Since assuming the role, David, in addition to engaging with client files, has been working to expand the capacity of Indigenous service providers in the area through community organizing and event planning. Over the past six months, LAW has collaborated to bring a wide variety of programming to the community, which is fostering closer ties between service providers.

These collaborative events include:

- Orange Shirt Day ceremonies and march held at Art Windsor Essex In September 2023. Also known as National day of Truth and Reconciliation Day, this event recognizes the tragic history of residential schools and honours its survivors.
- The Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil at Dieppe Gardens in downtown Windsor in October 2023. This event commemorates the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals (MMIWG2S+).
- Certified Professional Development training in collaboration with CLA in November 2023. This event took place at the Ontario Court of Justice and focused on exploring Indigenous Supports in the Criminal Justice System.
- The Third Annual First Nations/Metis/Inuit Community Skate Day at Lanspeary Park in February 2024. This community event brought virtually all Indigenous service providers in the city of Windsor together for a resource fair and family ice skating.
- The Third Annual Student and Alumni Pow Wow. This event is a collaboration between the University of Windsor and St Clair College. LAW is represented on the Pow Wow committee through the IJC. This event will take place on **May 9-11, 2024** at the St Clair College Sportsplex.

In addition to community organizing supports, we are providing ongoing support to the Indigenous Justice Workers Committee, which is large working group of professionals advocating for the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples court under *Gladue* principles in Windsor. The IJC's many community initiatives aim to alleviate violent and othering forms of marginalization for our Indigenous community and clients.

Anti-Human Trafficking Team

Bianca Colaluca (Anti-Human Trafficking Project Coordinator), **Gillian Golden** (Youth In Transition Worker), **Yannin Ramirez** (Housing Support Worker)

WECEN (Windsor Essex Counter Exploitation Network) provides direct services to survivors of domestic and international exploitation. This includes labour exploitation, sex trafficking, and forced marriage. Direct services include: assistance with forms/applications, translation and interpretation, support when dealing with law enforcement or judicial systems, referral to appropriate counsel including immigration lawyers, orientation to local social services, skills development, and counselling to support individuals facing challenges due to trauma

Outreach & Advocacy

Operating like a project, our work requires people with a strong vision and belief in our community's ability to work together to take action to eliminate the exploitation of people. This work is only made possible through our strong collaborative partnerships with community and national organizations, as well as chairing the WECEN Steering Committee.

LAW/WECEN has supported over 10 clients with housing through our rent subsidy program supported by the city of Windsor until March 2024. We have had several clients receive housing offers to transition from the program to rent geared to income options. WECEN also supported many other LAW/WECEN clients with housing through the central housing registry and private market housing.

WECEN facilitates a peer support group for survivors of exploitation. Peer support provides non-clinical emotional support to survivors experiencing emotional distress with the goal of being able to improve their mental health, and restore healthy social connections. Peer support can help people develop problem-solving skills, decision making skills, and improve level of resiliency to stressful situations.

February 22 is National Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness day and in February 2023 WECEN co-hosted a full day symposium presented to more than 200 front line workers and beyond. Participants received a full day of training and networking opportunities. In February 2024, WECEN co-hosted a webinar along with members of the WECEN Peer Support Group. Expert panelists, consisting of survivors of human trafficking/exploitation, talked about their experiences with social services and answering questions submitted by attendees from across Canada.

WECEN staff have provided outreach and education to more than 30 different service providers and thousands of people across not only Windsor/Essex but the country in the last year. We have provided intensive case management and direct service to more than 150 people identified as a victim or survivor of human trafficking in our community and continue to see these numbers rise on an annual basis.

Migrant Worker Team

Amanda Panambi Morales Vidales and **Claudia Membreno** (Migrant Worker Outreach Workers) and **Robyn Hodge** (Migrant Worker Specialist)



LAW proudly continues to offer enhanced migrant worker-specific supports, through the Migrant Worker Project. In partnership with TeamWork Windsor-Essex, this project focuses on providing direct service and support to migrant workers and undocumented people within the rural communities of Windsor and Essex. Through trauma-informed practice framework the program strives to build the capacity of migrant workers through leadership opportunities within different migrant worker communities.

Through a collaborative service provision style of legal and social work services, individuals receive assistance in several areas including but not limited to: immigration pathways and legal consultations, basic and emergency needs assistance, and assistance navigating systemic barriers in housing and health and other areas as necessary.

We provide informational sessions facilitated by lawyers and prominent community members covering a wide range of topics relevant to the specific challenges faced by migrant workers. Lawyers have been providing legal education, information, and representation on matters such as Temporary Residence Permits and Open Work Permits for vulnerable workers leading to a number of workers obtaining and/or maintaining their status in Canada. We have also facilitated information sessions on Intimate partner violence, Anti-Human trafficking and labour exploration, Human Rights in Canada, and Access to healthcare alongside community partners.

The provision of social work services has ensured a number of individuals and families have received emergency and crisis support and ongoing supportive counseling addressing trauma, anxiety, and fear. We also help facilitate referrals to LAW's general practice, Legal Aid Ontario, and provide advocacy to local schools helping to ensure education of migrant worker children.

This program continues to seek the direction of both migrant workers and undocumented people from various communities to help guide the educational events and workshops held in the community. It is through encouraging their voice and identifying what information and areas of concern they deem important that we seek to build the capacity of this community. We also facilitate a weekly group called Monarch Migrants.

Monarch Migrants group focuses on three key objectives: Providing essential information, community development, and empowering every migrant to ensure a dignified existence in Canada. Together we have woven a strong and supportive social network, becoming a reliable support source of information for migrants, where mutual aid is the cornerstone of our mission. Activities are carefully designed to address the multifaceted needs of migrants. But our offering goes beyond the mere transmission of information, we offer a variety of educational activities, including English classes, cultural and sports workshops, initiatives for the prevention of mental health issues, and craft workshops. These activities not only promote the integration and well-being of migrants but also contribute to their personal and professional development and try to ensure they do not lose their cultural essence.

Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Assault Team

Amanda Pierce (GBVSA Social Worker) and **Clairice Allsop** (GBVSA Lawyer)



The Supporting Survivors of Gender Based Violence and Sexual Assault Project continues to expand their reach in the Windsor-Essex Community.

Direct service by the project lawyer (Claire) and social worker (Amanda) has been provided to over 100 survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. This service has ranged from the provision of summary legal advice to ongoing legal advice and direct representation as complainant counsel in criminal cases. The team continues to engage clients in risk assessments, which are reassessed throughout the life of each case, and used to inform legal advice, safety planning, and advocacy strategies. The team has been working with community partners to share the results of risk assessments, and ensure all involved providers have an accurate and updated appreciation of the risk facing the survivor.

An active member of the Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee of Windsor Essex, Amanda was a part of the advocacy team who led City and County Council to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic in our community. Also in this role, Amanda assisted in the planning and hosting of the annual Take Back the Night rally held at Charles Clark Square in September. As part of our commitment to increasing our community's capacity to support survivors, we hosted two large events. We hosted Pamela Cross of Luke's Place for a webinar on providing trauma informed family law services for survivors of intimate partner violence. This event provided continuing professional development credits for lawyers who attended. We also hosted Lydia Fiorini and Carol Branget of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Windsor-Essex County, alongside Allison Preyde of ANOVA, for a discussion around the complexities of consent and sexual harm for local service providers. We continue to provide public legal education to service providers and the broader community on issues surrounding intimate partner violence and sexual assault. We are thrilled to partner with WECEN and the House of Sophrosyne to offer an in-service to each group of women at House of Sophrosyne's residential treatment program, as we recognize the intersectionality between addiction and the experience of intimate partner violence.

We look forward to another busy year, as we continue to explore new ways to build upon our partnerships and provide direct service to survivors in our community.