

GAINING MOMENTUM

Sagesse 2021 Annual Report

As the shadow pandemic of domestic and sexual abuse entered its second year, increased needs and complexity for clients yielded unrealistic waiting lists and strained formal and informal supporters across the sector.

Sagesse continued to adapt to this dynamic external reality while accelerating our efforts to empower organizations, communities and individuals to disrupt structures of abuse.

Facing this complex external reality, we questioned and examined how we can work faster, while building the processes and culture we need to underpin a growing and purposely disruptive organization. Internally, we clarified how our intervention and prevention teams support and enhance each other, and unleashed emboldened and resourced innovation and reputation and resources teams.

We intervened to support people impacted by abuse through a mix of online and in-person offerings that improved self-efficacy, personal empowerment and overall wellness. Provincial supports and cooperation were expanded through the Clare's Law Social Service Support Network. Clare's Law has acted as a safe and accessible entry point for hundreds of Albertans to learn more about domestic abuse, many of whom have never connected with the social service sector previously.

On the prevention side, Sagesse engaged in a massive effort to bring partners and stakeholders to the table to discuss how we can go upstream of violence to stop it before it starts. We built capacity throughout the sector to engage in primary prevention through IMPACT, the provincial collective, including training and consultation for the development of a Primary Prevention Framework for Alberta.

We also levelled up our advocacy efforts, supporting a domestic and sexual abuse strategy that includes prevention, prosecution, and protection. We crystallized how we think about coercive control as a framework to understand all types of abuse and testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, pushing for the addition of coercive control to the criminal code.

In letters and conversations, we spoke up for a more inclusive abuse prevention strategy that recognizes diverse experiences of abuse, addresses sexual exploitation and ensures funding and support is aligned with how people seek help.

Through all of this, we flexed our innovation muscles to build resilient and effective programs and strategies.

With this momentum, we move into 2022 focused on doing what we do best: disruption.

Rebecca Stephen
President, Board of Directors

Andrea Silverstone
Chief Executive Officer

4,234
Clients
Served

275
Volunteers

377
Collective Impact
Partners in
Alberta

1,988
Informal Supporters
Attended REAL Talk
Workshops


sagesse.
Heal. Learn. Grow.

Measuring Success



SAGESSE EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

OUTCOMES	GOALS	INDICATORS
A movement-building approach to address domestic and sexual abuse is established across Alberta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders working to end abuse engage in collective impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective impact members work to ensure the conditions of collective impact are being met.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders working to end abuse indicate methods are enriched as result of collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders working to end abuse demonstrate leadership in their communities. Stakeholders working to end abuse are actively participating in a coordinated plan to address domestic and sexual abuse.
Organizations and communities approach domestic abuse in effective and innovative ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations and communities implement new practices or activities as a result of working with Sagesse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations and communities working to end abuse enrich their practice by using relevant and innovative strategies. Stakeholders working to end abuse have the tools to address domestic abuse in innovative ways.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders working to end abuse develop new narratives to approaching domestic abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders impacted by abuse seek out and apply relevant and innovative research. Stakeholders working to end abuse have increased awareness of personal attitudes and beliefs.
People impacted by domestic abuse and sexual exploitation have improved self-efficacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People impacted by domestic abuse/sexual exploitation have increased resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People impacted by domestic abuse/sexual exploitation experience increased overall well-being. People impacted by domestic abuse/sexual exploitation report increased self awareness.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People impacted by domestic abuse/sexual exploitation have increased personal empowerment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People impacted by domestic abuse/sexual exploitation are comfortable accessing social and community supports. People impacted by domestic abuse/sexual exploitation have increased internal capacity.
Inspire innovation to tackle complex and pervasive social issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paradigm shifts occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders challenge preconceptions and change world-views.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders who seek to influence change are inspired to disrupt the status quo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders are inspired to create and undertake new methods of practice. Stakeholders are confident that they can execute things in new, different ways.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders pilot adaptive, rehabilitative solutions to address complex problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders analyze and challenge prevailing methods, systems and societal norms. Stakeholders allow for the possibility of new ideas and adaptive thought experiments. Sagesse supports others in creating lasting solutions.

Highlights

Intervention

When COVID-19 lockdowns started in 2020, Sagesse moved to online programming in a few short weeks. In 2021, the team proved their success wasn't a fluke, responding with innovation and agility to changing restrictions.

This meant stepping into vulnerability, to gauge how clients and volunteers – and Sagesse staff—were feeling, how they were coping, and to hold space for hard conversations.

To better meet clients where they were at, the team launched a plan to align Sagesse's chat, text and phone

support lines with the peer support model. Beginning in 2022, Sagesse-trained and supervised volunteers will be at the frontlines supporting clients across the province.

The team further expanded the organization's provincial scope through the Clare's Law Social Service Support Network. Beyond recruiting organizations, Sagesse staff trained more than 2,000 sector staff on the new law, and their role in supporting it. Since Clare's Law launched last year, Sagesse has completed 295 social service referrals.

I approached Sagesse for support based on the recommendation of my family lawyer. I joined the Growth Circle and Finding our Voices peer support programs, which was a wonderfully healing and supportive experience. The focus on self-worth and on awareness of how we describe ourselves and our actions taught me to let go of self-defeating thought patterns and expressive language of an abuse victim.

The Sagesse staff and volunteers were tremendously compassionate and empathetic, and supremely competent in guiding us out of emotional upheaval and into learning about our strengths and how to identify abuse. They maintained an atmosphere of gratitude and positivity and made us feel safe, heard and validated. I can now identify abuse, deal with it and the emotions it triggers, and know what behaviours indicate a problematic relationship. I know what constitutes a healthy relationship with myself, with a partner, and with family and friends.

I am grateful to Sagesse for having fostered such a warm and safe environment for me to speak freely when I didn't know who to turn to and felt alone and unheard.

- Peer Support Group Participant

People Supported in 2021

- 549** Peer support clients (individual and group)
- 1,220** Participants in community development presentations and training
- 1,988** Real Talk participants
- 160** Conference presentation attendees
- 305** Collective impact presentation participants

Volunteers

- 275** Sagesse volunteers
- 7,421** Volunteer hours



Highlights

Prevention

As the social sector worked through vicarious trauma and fatigue, a new surge of commitment to systemic and large-scale social change took hold.

In Calgary, the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective fostered social connection through a successful Bridging Communities virtual conference, with more than 100 attendees.

Provincially, the 300-member IMPACT collective expanded, with new chapters in Central Alberta and Medicine Hat. A two-day virtual summit brought together 250 experts to talk primary prevention, resiliency and more. Later in the

year, Sagesse, alongside SHIFT: The Project to End Domestic Violence, hosted 19 community consultations to gauge the readiness for and priorities of primary prevention. Building off this input, the Architecture for Growth program kicked off, through which Sagesse is providing coaching, training and capacity building to 11 networks to equip them to better engage in primary prevention and collective impact.

To support all Albertans to recognize and respond to domestic abuse, REAL Talk expanded again, reaching nearly 2,000 participants through 115 virtual presentations.

I attended a REAL Talk workshop with other new Canadians. I was grateful to have the opportunity to learn about domestic violence, as it is not something we talk about in my culture, even though it occurs quite frequently. REAL Talk created a safe space to share our experiences and ask questions about how we could support other members of our communities. It inspired me to talk more openly about domestic violence in my community and to encourage my peers to do the same.
- REAL Talk Participant

Our Donors

Sagesse's work wouldn't be possible without our generous sponsors, donors and funders. Thank you for your support and for the real difference you're making in helping others lead safe and healthy lives.

- Agnew Insurance
- Aligned Business
- All Rush Copies and Print
- Anatase Energy Healing
- Apex Massage
- Banff Springs Fairmont
- Brahm Silverstone
- Calgary Folk Fest
- Calgary Foundation and the Taylor Toller Memorial Fund
- Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Christian & Missionary Alliance
- Cindy Graham
- City of Calgary
- Creating Balance/ Elemental Dragon
- David & Emily Marriot
- Deb Craven
- Decca Designs
- Dee Adekugbe
- Direct Energy
- Discovery Wildlife Park
- Dragon Fly Wellness
- Erin Lynch
- Eric Pianarosa
- FCSS Association of Alberta
- Fernie RV Park
- Follow your Heart Life Coaching
- Government of Alberta
- Government of Canada
- Hadash Jewerries
- Heritage Inn - Pincher Creek
- Izzy
- Jefferson Kaine
- Jeff and Russ Albert
- Judy Curry
- Julie's Spiritual Healer
- Kananaskis Outfitter
- Kanovsky Family Foundation
- Karen Jackson
- Kelly Murry - Skate The Lake
- Laurie M Anderson, Catherine Fox Q.C., Debbie D Johnson of Calgary Family Law Associates
- Max Bell Foundation
- McLeod Law LLP
- NAVA Aromascience
- Office Gourmet Catering
- Pomeroy Kananaskis Lodge
- R Scullen Photography
- Righteous Culture
- Sandman Signature Hotels
- Silver Gummy Foundation
- Spruce Meadows Leg Up Foundation
- Thanksgiving Ranch
- Telus Friendly Future Foundation
- The Hangar Flight Museum
- Toole & Peet
- Unifor Social Justice Fund
- United Way of Calgary & Area
- Vintage Soul Wellness
- Wayne Barkauskas
- Wendy Ellen Inc.

