# BARBRA SCHLIFER COMMEMORATIVE CLINIC annual report 2014 - 2015

# DELIVERING CHANGE





"At this time last year, I thought I was going to die, or wished I would, so that the torment would be over. Thanks to the Schlifer Clinic, I want to live again. I know I am worth something, and I have a full life to live".

Lena\* was confined to a tiny room by her ex-boyfriend and repeatedly raped and tortured over a long period of time. She survived this terrifying ordeal in large part due to her courage and resolve. But she also needed our expert help and support. She needed to not be alone with the memories and fears. We helped Lena in the immediate aftermath by providing her with individual counselling. Later we supported her through the criminal justice system, blunting the impact of the adversarial process on her resolve and well-being. In one heart-stopping session with us, Lena said: "At this time last year, I thought I was going to die, or wished I would, so that the torment would be over. Thanks to the Schlifer Clinic, I want to live again. I know I am worth something, and I have a full life to live".

# 1,616

Women experienced expanded agency in personal relationships because of our **counselling program** 





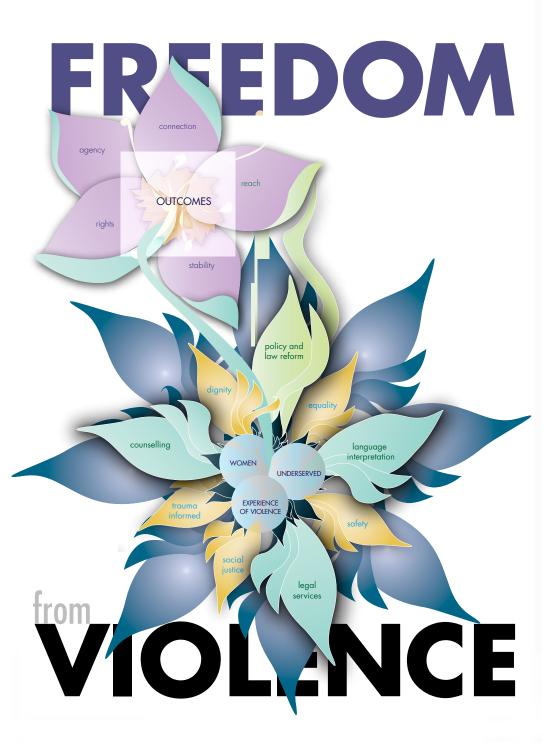
"I gained justice, security and hope for the future, for me and my child, thanks to the Barbra Schlifer Clinic"

"I finally broke free from the cycle of abuse two years ago," Amira\* says. "The help from the Schlifer Clinic was the most important help I got because you supported me when I was denied legal aid. Being new to legal battles and suffering from intense emotional/psychological strain, I could not deal with legal technicalities. You were my saving grace. You empowered me by making sure I understood everything about my case and could direct the process. I had complete confidence that my Barbra Schlifer Clinic lawyer was competent and on top of all the dates and facts. She represented me as if she was me, and her compassion knew no bounds. We won our case yesterday, and that was only because of your hard work, knowledge and passion for your work. I counted on the Barbra Schlifer Clinic when even my friends and family couldn't do anything for me. I gained justice, security and hope for the future, for me and my child, thanks to the Barbra Schlifer Clinic."

I,360

Women had improved knowledge of and access to legal rights and remedies because of our **legal services** 

As a result of our services 4,334 WOMEN experienced less isolation, more stability and expanded personal agency within relationships. They also experienced improved knowledge of and access to legal rights and remedies.





"Thanks so much for funding people who want to change their lives and be contributors to Canadian Society".

Marcelina\* shares her story: "Before my participation in the Interpretation course I was extremely depressed and I was even thinking about leaving Canada. I had finished my university degree in Social Work but I was not able to find a job for almost a year and had to rely on welfare. When I got into the Barbra Schlifer Interpreter Training, I took it as a life saver. After I finished the course, I got a job interview at the UHN-Toronto Western hospital as a Community Housing Support for the Mental Health department. One of the requirements in the job description was to do interpretation for the community housing group that I support. In June 2014, I started to do interpretations for the Schlifer Clinic once or twice a week at night. I am really happy and my life has completely changed. Thanks so much for funding people who want to change their lives and be contributors to Canadian Society."

I,358

Women experienced less isolation and more stability because of our **interpretations services** 

### POLICY AND LAW REFORM WORK,

As a result of our **policy and law reform work**, key decision-makers are aware of the impact of their decisions on the women we serve, and have access to progressive policy options.

Barbra Schlifer Clinic staff helped steer the national reckoning that ensued after the Jian Ghomeshi sexual assault allegations. We spoke up over 25 times in **major media**.

Barbra Schlifer Clinic staff were named as Co-chair and member of the **Premier's Permanent Roundtable on Violence Against Women**, and consultants to the **Minister's Roundtable on the Sexual Abuse of Patients**.

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic gave evidence in a Federal Court challenge to the **Designated Countries of Origin** (DCO) provisions of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. The challenge, which was brought by three affected refugee claimants and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL), argued that the changes are discriminatory. The DCO fails to consider that some groups with intersecting vulnerabilities face harm in many countries, even those that are otherwise thought of as "safe." This includes women who experience violence, gay, lesbian and trans people, and others. The Federal Court struck down the Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) bar for DCO claimants on the basis that it discriminates on the ground of national origin. The Court declined to suspend its judgment, so effective immediately, **claimants are entitled to appeal**.

In **Kanthasamy v. Canada**, the Barbra Schlifer Clinic intervened at the Supreme Court to test the scope of harms considered by the Humanitarian and Compassionate immigration provision. This is used by women who experience violence to stay their deportations when their experience of violence has not been properly heard. We await the Court's decision.

<sup>\*</sup>names changed to protect women's privacy.

#### **FUNDING PARTNERS**



ArtReach Toronto through Tides Canada Initiatives Society
Canadian Women's Foundation
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The Law Foundation of Ontario
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Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
The Ontario Trillium Foundation
Ontario Women's Directorate
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Women Gaining Ground And many individuals

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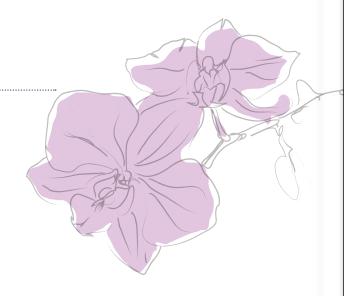
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Assaulted Women's Helpline

Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada

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**Canadian Hearing Society** Centennial College

Childhood Sexual Abuse Network and Working Group

Children's Aid Society

Community and Legal Aid Services Programme (CLASP)

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

Council of Agencies Serving South Asians Domestic Violence Court – College Park Advisory Committee

Domestic Violence Court - Old City Hall Advisory Committee

Elizabeth Fry Toronto

Ethnoracial Disabilities Coalition of Ontario

**Family Services Toronto** 

FCJ Refugee Centre

Gardiner Museum

Health Interpreters Network (HIN)

Human Traffickina Network

Immigrant Women Services Ottawa

Integrated Domestic Violence Court Community Advisory Committee

Learnina Enrichment Foundation

Legal Aid Ontario Luke's Place

New Mennonite Centre

Mount Sinai Hospital

**Dasis Centre Des Femmes** 

Ontario Association of the Deaf

Ontario Coalition of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)

Ontario Network of Language Interpreter Services (ONLIS)

Osaoode Hall Law School Parkdale Community Legal Services

Peel Children's Aid Society

Pomearanate Tree Group

Pro Bono Students Canada

Redwood Shelter

Refugee Law Office (LAO)

Refugee Lawyers Association

Regent Park Community Health Centre

Ryerson University

Ryerson Student Union

Sanctuary

Sandgate Women's Shelter

Sick Kids Hospital Silent Voice

Sisterina

Social Enterprise Toronto

Social Planning Council Toronto

South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario – Forced Marriage Project

SpeakSudan

Springtide Resources

TAPE Educational Services

Tahirih Justice Center

Toronto District School Board

Toronto Refugee Affairs Council

Toronto Transition to Work Program

Truth & Dare Project

University of Ottawa Law School

University of Toronto Law School

University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus

Victim Witness Assistance Program (MAG)

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Women's College Hospital

**Working for Change** 

YWCA Toronto

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Elizabeth Seo Vasuda Sinha Karen Weraer Sarah Whitmore

Left during the year

Sheila Gibb

Joined during the year

Sharon Tse



## FINANCES

This statement of operations is an excerpt extracted from the audited financial statement

## Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic - Statement of Operations - Year Ended March 31

	2015	2014		
Revenue (Schedule A)	\$ 3,580,417	\$ 3,733,077		
xpenses				
Salaries and benefits	2,062,793	2,090,601		
Interpreters fees and training	508,317	545,357		
Building occupancy	236,140	227,664		
Purchased services	131,749	133,264		
Insurance	30,167	33,480		
Special events	42,868	47,884		
Client disbursements	29,423	39,049		
Promotion and publicity	12,314	25,297		
Printing, postage, delivery	20,193	33,223		
Telecommunications	51,401	55,768		
Equipment, furniture, software	22,712	17,577		
Travel	30,124	36,155		
Volunteer expenses	7,430	14,370		
Office and general	23,358	31,576		
Program expenses	344,173	190,165		
Renovations	-	154,383		
Professional development	11,005	38,062		
Membership fees - legal and other	15,488	18,950		
<u> </u>	3,579,655	3,732,825		
xcess of revenue over expenses for the year	evenue over expenses for the year \$ 762 \$			

Rev	enues - Year Ended March 31		Schedule A				
			2015		2014		
Revenues							
	Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration	\$	729,166	\$	930,975		
	Ministry of Community and Social Services		518,190		503,776		
	Ministry of the Attorney General		577,500		577,500		
	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care		358,248		488,248		
7	United Way of Greater Toronto		206,272		211,663		
	Ontario Women's Directorate		86,773		53,223		
	Donations - foundations, corporations and gifts-in-kind		557,219		407,835		
	Special events		174,617		147,502		
	Donations - individuals		93,024		188,810		
	Social Enterprise Fund		82,207		58,743		
	City of Toronto		64,546		68,961		
	Investment income		7,804		5,125		
	Other income		124,851		90,716		
Tota	tal revenue \$ 3,580,417 \$ 3,733,077			3,733,077			