

John Howard Society  
Of British Columbia

# Annual Report

2021-22

JohnHoward  
SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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# Message From Our Chair

This past year was challenging. The pandemic along with organizational changes impacted our network of affiliates and our clients. In the face of change, we sustained a resilient and confident approach in our work of advocacy for people involved with the criminal justice system and those living with addiction, developmental disabilities, mental health issues, and homelessness.

Our affiliates continued their response to criminal justice issues and reforms to address root causes of crime and the barriers that keep individuals from thriving in their communities. JHSBC remained inspired and dedicated to serve our affiliate network who continued to deliver their planning and outreach, supportive housing, employment and other key factors which enable clients to participate meaningfully

and to the utmost capacity in their communities. We are thankful for the growth and the stability we found in the midst of significant changes.

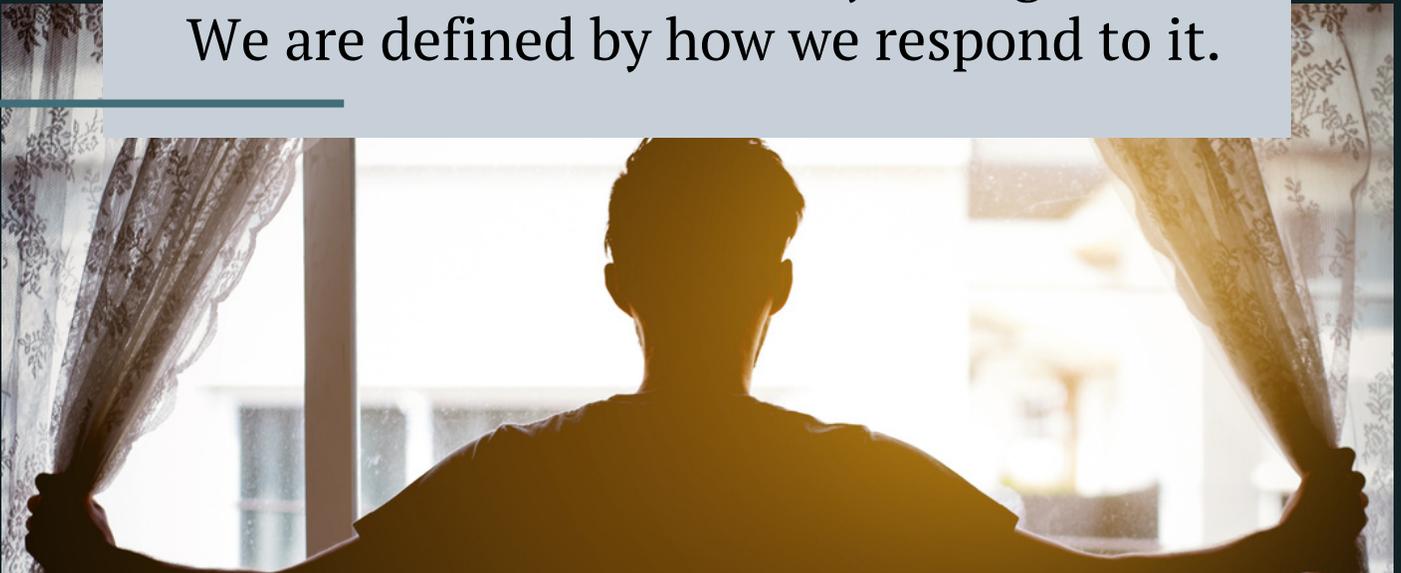
Across the Province this past year we celebrated 20-years of the Restorative Justice Program in Nanaimo, COVID resiliency in our CRF facility in Victoria and for the Foundry Centre in Comox Valley which will see expanded services to our youth and family programmes.

We look forward to another year of living and fulfilling our mission, growing our capacity to support vulnerable people and being the trusted voice of justice in British Columbia.



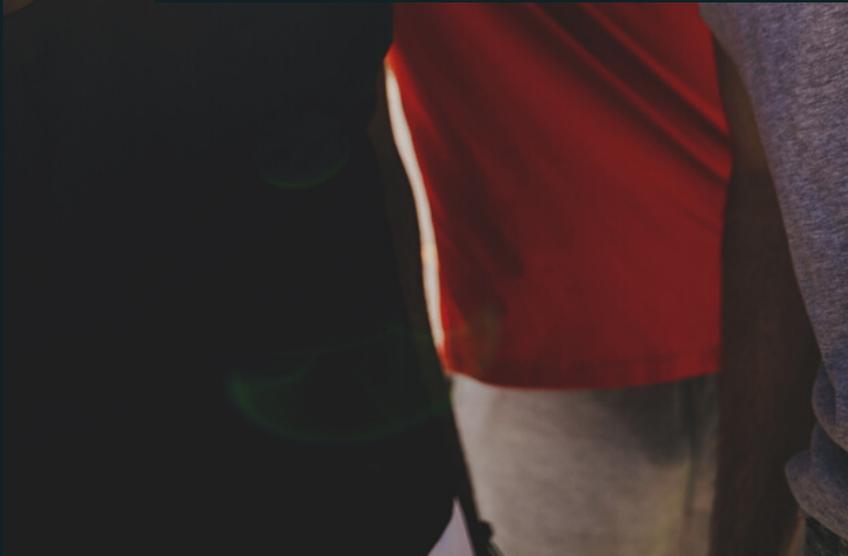
JHSBC Board Chair

We are not defined by change.  
We are defined by how we respond to it.





# Our Society



# About Our Society

The John Howard Society of British Columbia (JHSBC) is a non-profit charitable organization with over 80 years of history delivering programs and services province-wide. JHSBC supports the regional John Howard Societies across the province of BC, all of whom have a strong history of program delivery and supporting individuals and families facing barriers. Collectively, we are a dynamic group of regionally based non-profit Societies with extensive experience assisting people who have come into contact with the law, or those who are at risk for criminal justice involvement by providing prevention and intervention services, advocacy, and public education. Through our many years of service delivery, we developed expertise in supporting people with complex needs facing multiple barriers, including those experiencing homelessness, substance misuse, barriers to housing or employment, and other complex needs.





## Our Vision

To create safe, healthy and inclusive communities in British Columbia.

## Our Mission

To be the trusted voice on social and criminal justice issues in British Columbia.



We continue our journey of renewal in 2021-22, moving forward to re-grow our provincial scope, re-assert our community driven values and re-establish collaborative, mutually supportive and mutually beneficial relationships with regional affiliates and other partners across the province.



# Our Board

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**WE ARE PROUD TO SHOWCASE OUR BOARD MEMBERS WHO CONTINUED TO SUPPORT AND GUIDE US THIS PAST YEAR.**

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## OFFICERS

### **HANK MATHIAS, BOARD CHAIR**

Former BC Provincial Government Executive with broad leadership experience spanning the criminal justice system and community service sectors.

### **JUDITH HAYES, VICE CHAIR**

Clinical social worker, working with youth and adults who have mental health, addictions, criminal justice and other health and social challenges.

### **MARTHA OKOT THOMAS, TREASURER**

Experience as a Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Accountant, and Certified Internal Auditor.

## MEMBERS

### **GEOFF BARROW**

Former BC Supreme Court Judge and former Crown Prosecutor.

### **CATHERINE BRUCE**

Former BC Supreme Court Judge.

### **SUSAN CLIFT**

Former Director, Engineering and Public Works for the City of Nanaimo.

### **HENRI CULLINAN**

Affordable housing specialist with integrated community planning, strategic planning and developing social purpose for the inclusion of at-risk and vulnerable populations.

### **COLIN GABELMANN**

Former Member of the Legislative Assembly, former BC Solicitor General and former Attorney General.

### **DARLENE KAVKA**

Practicing lawyer, social and criminal justice advocate, and an affiliate of the Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada.

### **KYLE KRAWCHUK**

Public relations and communications consultant.

### **PETER ALLIK-PETERSENN**

Practicing lawyer and former Board member.

# Collective Impact

We could not be more proud of the way our affiliates continued to provide collective care and support for the most vulnerable in British Columbia. This past year, three former affiliates left the umbrella of the John Howard of BC. With their leave, contracts had to be rewritten, services had to be readjusted and the whole of JHSBC picked up the pieces left behind. Those affiliates who stayed continued to make clients the priority, finding resilience despite the chaos left behind and once again proving the mission and vision of our collective Society.

Our housing services across the province enhanced greatly with the cost of living and rent increasing among lower-income individuals. Our employment programs saw significant individualized service supports for a variety of communities. We are thankful for our restorative justice programs, volunteer programs and the continuing evolution of programs which respond to the greater needs that surface in each of our regions.

Change is never easy. But we championed through, creating and evolving to be even better, each and every day.

JHSBC genuinely appreciates the support of the John Howard Society Family, provincially, inter-provincially and nationally. We know that without you, we could not celebrate all that we've done this past year.



# Our Impact At a Glance



125

UNITS PROVIDING  
SHELTER AND HOUSING

PEOPLE SERVED

4,713



165

EMPLOYEES

HOURS CONTRIBUTED

???





# Our Affiliates





We are thankful for the success of this past year for maintaining 60% occupancy to local residents and those formerly incarcerated in our housing facility. We operated a homeless prevention program and our STOP Program, which helps those who struggle with violence as a means to settle personal disputes. Our thanks to BC Gaming, PGNAETA, CSC and BC Housing for funding our life-changing work to our communities.

## Northern John Howard Society

On the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

This past year found us extremely thankful for our ability to provide alternative justice programs for our clients. We were able to collaborate with local court systems and provide individualized support for those facing barriers to sustainable living. We connected over 300 inmates to basic identification documents and support services. We launched a new employment program called PEERS at Cornerstone Shelter. Our year had challenges, but we adapted, learned and rose to all occasions. We are proud of our team.



## John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay

On the land of the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx People of the Okanagan Nation.



This past year was a year of growth, expanding our strategic plan to provide more wholistic and sustainable supports for the vulnerable in BC. We expanded our restorative justice and housing programs while providing our first employment programs for the LGBTQIA+ Community. We are thankful for our 2,000 hours worth of volunteer work, which demonstrates the community's belief in our collective work. Our staff, our clients and service providers are all to thank for an incredible year of growth.

## John Howard Society of **Victoria**

On the traditional Xwepsum Territory of the lək̓ʷəŋən (Lekwungen) People of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

This year, we are proud to say, that our new Foundry Comox Valley Centre officially opened in June of 2022. We are able to provide more wrap-around services to the vulnerable in our communities with individualized and group support programs. We were able to open up a new youth program, stabilize and strengthen our existing programs, as well as welcome new staff to serve our community. While there have been challenges, our staff and community partners have been the strength of our work.



## John Howard Society of **North Island**

On the unceded territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Laich-kwil-tach, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Coast Salish Peoples.



# Our Reflections



# Where Resilience Made — Us Limitless

This past year held many changes, challenges and opportunities. Former Executive Director of John Howard Society of BC, Phil Peachy, demonstrated untiring work to make our vision and mission possible. We welcomed Mark Medgeysi as our new Executive Director, who will take on the legacy work Phil began and continue to propel us forward in new, uncharted places. With the ongoing litigation, our Board of Directors is reshaping the organization's mandate, governance policy, bylaws and strategic plans. Affiliates need ongoing support as they navigate severed contracts and staff changes.

JHSBC wants to continue in the effort of being the most trusted voice of justice. IN doing so, we are seeking collaboration with Provincial and Federal institutions and organizations, so that justice is equitable, fair and just. In addition, we recognize the need to respond to the most vulnerable even before laws are broken. Preemptive programs aimed to support a person facing barriers to employment and housing are essential in preventing future criminal acts.

We have felt the sting of change. But we also felt the strength of champions - champions like our affiliates, our staff, our clients - who continue to persevere and make their lives limitless. We can all cheer each other on and know that the future will be bright because we are together.

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A J O U R N E Y O F R E N E W A L M E A N S :

**Regrow** our Provincial Scope;  
**Reassert** our Community Based Values;  
**Reestablish** our Support Relationships with  
Affiliates & Partners.



# Our Thanks

To be the trusted voice of justice in British Columbia takes the collective support and care of many organizations, people and communities. We are only as strong as those who are around us.

The investment of our funders and our community partners has a generational impact in the work that we do.

We know that we are making our communities stronger and better because of all that are a part of our collective work. So we thank you. We thank you for believing in the dignity and wellness of the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for being a stable source of support through so much change. And thank you for continuing with us on our journey of renewal.



# John Howard

SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

