

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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A Message From Our Chair

We are proud of our work and the impact we continue to make in British Columbia by supporting vulnerable individuals and expanding our reach as an independent provincial organization. Support from JHS Canada, the Federal departments, the grassroots development of new programs, and the dedication from new staff made all the difference in maintaining our organization as a trusted voice on social and criminal justice issues in BC.

We are inspired and dedicated to serve our affiliate network who continue to deliver on-the-ground outreach, housing, supports, employment and other services in their communities. Together, we are living and fulfilling our mission, growing our capacity to support vulnerable people and being the trusted voice of justice in British Columbia.

The efforts of our work prove that we are ready to build safer, healthier and more inclusive communities for all in BC.



Hank Mathias
JHSBC Board Chair



About the John Howard Society of BC

The John Howard Society of British Columbia (JHSBC) is a non-profit charitable organization with over 90 years of history delivering programs and services province-wide and advocating for those most vulnerable in our communities. 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 have the expertise to support people with complex needs facing multiple barriers, including those experiencing homelessness, mental health, substance misuse, barriers to housing or employment, and other individualized needs.

MISSION

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



VISION

To create safe, healthy and inclusive communities in British Columbia

Meet Our Team

MARK MEDGYESI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark joined JHSBC in 2022 after 28 years with BC's provincial government, where he led cross-sector social justice initiatives supporting government - non-profit capacity building, combating homelessness and establishing a 10-year provincial vision and strategy to improve the lives of people with developmentally different abilities. He is thankful for the opportunity to work within the John Howard Society family, and looks forward to continued growth and making a positive difference alongside his JHSBC team mates.

MOHAMMAD AL-HATTAB

MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATION

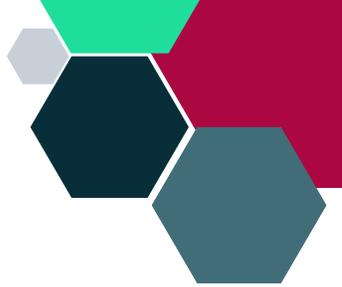
Mohammad Al-Hattab, our Manager of Administration, is a purpose-driven MBA holder with over a decade of international experience in the nonprofit sector. He is the co-founder and former CEO of NAMA, an award-winning nonprofit organization based in Jordan that, over ten years, supported a quarter million clients through various economic empowerment initiatives.

SANIYA KHAN-KASSAM

MANAGER OF PROGRAMS LOWER MAINLAND

Saniya holds a Bachelors Degree in Nursing from the University of Calgary. She was drawn to nursing to support vulnerable individuals and to build equitable communities. Saniya brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in working with Indigenous communities and marginalized groups. She joined the John Howard team in December 2022 and looks forward to the ongoing development of programs to support BC's most vulnerable.





Meet Our Board

We are proud to showcase our board members who continued to support and guide us this past year.

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.

GEOFF BARROW, SECRETARY

Former BC supreme court judge and former crown prosecutor.

MEMBERS

PAUL BARNETT

Former President of BC's Community Justice Federation, former Director of JHS North Island and experience with community justice

CATHERINE BRUCE

Former BC Supreme Court Judge.

HENRI CULLINAN

Affordable housing specialist with integrated community and strategic planning, 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.

BILL PAVICH

Executive Director of Prince George Urban Aboriginal Justice society and over 25 years with Corrections Service Canada.

WENDY TOWNSEND

Program Manager with Federal Corrections and public engagement with First Nations and Indigenous Communities in BC.

Our Collective Impact

BEDS OWNED
AND MANAGED

379



PEOPLE SERVED

8,461



HOURS
CONTRIBUTED

12,444



EMPLOYEES

279





New Programs: Serving Our Community

JHSBC started this year by establishing a new office location in Vancouver along with two new full-time management positions to provide strong financial, administrative and program development capacity. Considerable effort has also gone into the implementation of two new programs in BC's Lower Mainland and Northern Region. We're grateful for the strong partnerships with the John Howard Society of Victoria and the Northern John Howard Society in the delivery and support of these programs. Much was done from scratch to reflect needs in BC, and we also thank the many individual John Howard societies across Canada who were so generous with their time, experience and materials in support of this work.

Record Suspension Program (RSP)

On May 1, 2023, with funding from Public Safety Canada, JHSBC went live with a Record Suspension Program (RSP) supporting residents of BC's Lower Mainland and Northern regions who wish to apply to the Parole Board of Canada for the suspension of their criminal record. We have a Senior Case Manager in each region who provides a mix of face-to-face and virtual services from intake, to case planning, navigation, support with fees if needed, and submission of the final application. We thank the Northern John Howard Society of BC for their program partnership in the North.

RSP highlights include presentations made with over 30 organizations reaching dozens of potential clients and service provider staff whose clients might benefit from the program. Presentations also aim to address potential myths and misconceptions about record suspensions. A June 2023 press release resulted in RSP coverage being picked up by Black Press in community newspapers across BC, and major network radio coverage in the Lower Mainland.

“[The] John Howard societies across BC and Canada were so generous with their time, experience and materials in support of this work.”

Community Case Management Services (CCMS)

On April 1, 2023, JHSBC and the John Howard Society of Victoria took on the regional management of Community Case Management Services (CCMS) for individuals and families in the Lower Mainland waiting resolution of their immigration status in Canada. With funding from the Canada Border Services Agency via the John Howard Society of Canada (JHSC), the program runs with four staff members and their manager providing case planning and connecting clients with services they need to live successfully in the community instead of detention. On September 1, 2023, we opened a four-bed residential facility to provide short-term transitional housing for low to medium risk CCMS clients. We thank Catherine and Rhea with JHSC for their unerring support and practical help getting CCMS up and running.

One of the CCMS program highlights, and also a key element of the RSP, is the development of the interagency partnerships that are so crucial to the success of each program. This helps at the program level to ensure mutual clients' needs are met, and it also provides a platform to continue growing the JHS presence in BC.



“Interagency partnerships are so crucial to the success of each program.”

JHSBC Regional Affiliates

Northern John Howard Society

On the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.



We are thankful for the success of this past year for continued operation of our transitional housing programs and our domestic violence program. The Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) is supported by BC Housing and assists those at immediate risk of homelessness. Our Stop Taking it Out on your Partner (STOP) Program, which helps those who struggle with violence as a means to settle personal disputes. Our transitional housing program continues to provide sober, transition housing for men. Our thanks to BC Gaming, PGNAETA, CSC and BC Housing for funding our life-changing work to our communities.

John Howard Society of Okanagan & Kootenay

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

With the development of our new strategic plan, we saw the growth of new programs and the support of continued programming through new technologies and systems. We launched our Culture Deck which articulates our vision, how we work together and how to approach the future. Our Community Housing Programs, including our residential programs and our Cornerstone Shelter continued to see an increase of beds and clients. We are thankful for our ongoing provision of our justice service programs which this year alone serviced 870 clients. We anticipate a positive 2024.



John Howard Society of **Victoria**

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



Our spectrum of programming continues to grow and provide multi-faceted supports in employment training, housing access, mentorship, community outreach, life skills programs, along with in reach support at our transitional housing and provincial institutions. We see the depth of impact daily. Our devoted staff and volunteers work tirelessly, and this year we served 720 people and saw upwards of 2,300 volunteer hours. In the spirit of reconciliation, we continue to work with our Indigenous partners, funders, and community organizations to ensure our services are accessible and inclusive.

John Howard Society of **North Island**

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

Over the past year, we have seen a steady increase in access to our services. Both our Campbell River and Comox Valley Foundry centres have responded to community needs, offering a variety of supportive services for youth ages 12-24 and their families. Our other youth and adult programs have also been in demand, including KidStart mentoring, Barnett House and The Station youth housing facilities, youth justice programs, Housing Assistance Program in Campbell River, and The Junction Adult Supportive Housing in Courtenay. In September 2022 we published a history book called *Building Safer and Healthier Communities: The Story of The John Howard Society of North Island*.





Building Programs. Building Communities.

This past year was one of JHSBC moving forward to support and enhance the work of building safe, healthy and inclusive communities in British Columbia. The John Howard societies in BC are the trusted voices in their communities. Our work is growing and gaining momentum among individuals seeking additional support.

JHSBC continues to participate in the dialogue on key policy and program issues. We have been an active member of the community sector advisory group developing a provincial Employment Strategy for Youth with Disability. JHSBC is also a member of BC's Community Social Service Sector Round Table Advisory Group. In that role we contributed our voice on projects to reform provincial government procurement and funding practices, as well as a social service sector training strategy to help better focus post-secondary offerings in BC and prepare graduates to meet the real and practical needs of service delivery agencies and their clients.

Looking forward to the coming year, JHSBC's Board is in the first stages of developing a new strategic plan, feeding into the 2023-24 budget cycle and guiding priorities over the coming three years.

As always, JHSBC appreciates the opportunity to share this report with the broader John Howard Society family, with generous donors, provincial funders and with the many communities of British Columbia. We are thankful for our relationships made, collaborative partnerships and client trust which humbles us to work hard and rise above challenges. We are truly better together.



A Word of Thanks

The work we do would not be possible without the support of our funders.



Public Safety
Canada

Sécurité publique
Canada

Dr. JD Hobdon with funds administered with the Vancouver Foundation.



Many individuals and families contribute generously to JHSBC.





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