

WOMEN'S INITIATIVES FOR SAFER ENVIRONMENTS:

2015-2016 ABRIDGED ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Chair

Dear Partners and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to present WISE's abridged annual report for 2015. This year marks a great cornerstone of progress and accomplishments thus far for the organization: WISE is constantly working together with our sister organizations, community members and funders in order to contribute to the ongoing vision of keeping communities safer for everyone. We are striving to undertake at least 3 fundraising initiatives before the year end – most notably WISE's first time participation in the Ottawa Race Weekend in May. We are also looking into developing a strategic plan that would direct WISE in making appropriate and relevant decisions, and assist the organization on allocating its resources to pursue the defined strategy.

I would like to personally thank the staff, board members and volunteers who have given their time and energy in making WISE an invaluable asset to the community. I have enjoyed working with all of you and look forward to achieving more accomplishments in the coming year!

For a full detailed report, please contact WISE.

Sincerely,
Marleen Redhead
Chair

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Mission Statement

- Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (WISE) is a community based bilingual organization established in 1992.
- We work directly with individuals, diverse communities, local government and agencies to create safer physical and social environments in our neighbourhoods, parks, workplaces, recreational pathways, and schools.
- We believe that if we make the community safer for women and other vulnerable groups, it will be safer for everyone.

Mandate

- To act as a catalyst to foster the creation and sustainability of safe social and physical environments.
- To organize and conduct public safety audits from a feminist perspective, including the perspective of the full diversity of women and other vulnerable people in society.
- A safety audit includes attending a site; assessing safety issues; creating an action plan to address deficiencies and then follow up with stakeholders to monitor and encourage implementation of recommendations.
- We work to accomplish this mission by working with local government, communities, agencies and those seeking to create safer environments.

Board of Directors

WISE has been fortunate this year to have a wonderful board. Without their effort, fund raising and policy initiatives would be impossible. Thank you all for your dedication and efforts

Redhead, Marleen,	<i>Chair</i>	Jeddore, Danielle	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Clarke, Deborah	<i>Past Chair</i>	O'Malley, Jennifer	<i>Director</i>
Kotani, Yumi	<i>Director</i>	Skinner, Jill	<i>Treasurer</i>
Cox, Gwen	<i>Director</i>	Taylor, Alison	<i>Director</i>
Della-Picca, Roberta	<i>Director</i>	Wardle, Margery	<i>Director</i>
Dubé, Kim	<i>Director</i>	Noury, Anna	<i>Director</i>
Kassamali, Arwa	<i>Director</i>	Drover, Marnie	<i>Director</i>
Pacelli, Maria-Hélène	<i>Director</i>		

Students & Volunteers

WISE worked with a number of students from both Carleton and Ottawa Universities this year as well as a number of great volunteers who helped us with our work from audits to office work.

8 WAYS TO SUPPORT WISE

- Join our Board of Directors
- Sign up for a Community Safety Audit in your neighbourhood
- Sign up for a Personal Safety Workshop
- Sign up to participate in the Graffiti Removal Program
- Perform administrative tasks
- Represent WISE at community meetings, fairs, displays, and public events
- Make a personal financial contribution
- Donate to WISE through the United Way plan as your recipient of choice or on our website through Canada Helps

Fill out a [volunteer application](#) from our website or call us to arrange YOUR opportunity!

Collaborative Initiatives

WISE collaborate with a number of groups throughout the year:

1. 2015 Working Safety Group & Campaign Launch OC Transpo:
For the launch of the online reporting form which encouraged people to report even if they wished to remain anonymous. Next step is to train frontline security staff with OC.
2. Women's Events Network (WEN):
To organize public education events such as: International Women's Day, Take Back the Night, ClothesLine Project and December 6 Vigil.
3. WISE is a member of the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women as a member of the Public Engagement Committee/Advocacy.
4. WISE was once again part of the In Love and In Danger event this year with high school students learning about violence and healthy relationships.
5. WISE is also working with the Frontline Committee of OCTEVAW to do Safety Audits of emergency Family shelters in Ottawa.



6. Crime Prevention Wise has been party to a number of conferences and presentations throughout the year with Crime Prevention Ottawa at the various



Public Speaker Series, with the Conference on Impact of Family Violence in South Asian Communities, Collaboration and Prevention of Violence Against Women, Presentation on the New York Urban Revolution – how New York transformed their streets to more pedestrian-friendly areas.

7. We met with a number of groups and City officials during the year about WISE work and collaboration efforts: the Violence Against Women Management Committee, Mayor Jim Watson, Councillor Catherine McKinney, councillor Stephen Blais and Councillor Riely Brockington on safety audit work. WISE hosted a fabulous group of students from McMaster University out of Hamilton. The 8 students and leader spent the morning learning about Community Safety Audits and Personal safety Workshops.

Programming: Community Safety Audits

One of our marquis programs at WISE for over 20 years is our Community Safety Audits. We have worked with numerous groups from neighbourhoods all across the city and in the rural areas, addressing safety concerns identified as we go through the walkabout, the primary piece of the Safety Audit process.



Our audits have been conducted in various kinds of environments from large neighbourhood sectors, to small alleys, to apartment building interiors and exteriors, to

underground garages or recreational pathways. We've audited the bus stops on local streets and major stations along the transit way and the O-Train stations. Find the results from these audits in a series of reports on women's safety at transit stations. Call our office to secure copies.

If you're wondering where we do these Safety Audits and how you go about getting one done, it's pretty easy! Anywhere someone may be feeling unsafe in a public area is fair game. Simply call us and we'll work with you and any other residents or stakeholders to make the space feel safer to use. The following are some of the audits that WISE worked on over the past year. For detailed information on these audits, contact the office for a more detailed annual report:

- 1450 Heron Community Safety Audit
- 2080 Russell Gardens
- Pineview Part 1
- Pineview Part 2
- Carleton Campus Tunnel System
- 1475 Caldwell
- Bronson Centre
- Hurdman Rideau Canal Pathway

If anyone in your neighbourhood or in your workplace requires a safety audit please contact the WISE office.

Programming: Personal Safety Workshops:

WISE offers an interactive workshop on personal safety that is tailored to the specific group accessing our service. In the workshop you will learn about Safety Awareness, Assertiveness, Strategies about safety at home, on the street and while using public transit. We offer workshops to groups of all ages from youth to seniors.

WISE has conducted the following list of Personal Safety Workshops (PSWs) over the past year:

- 4-part Series .Carty House – a shelter for refugee women
- Personal Safety workshop for Canadian Association of Students Association (CASA)
- Workshops at Chrysalis House – a shelter for women fleeing abuse
- Four workshops for Girl Guide troops in the west end of Ottawa
- Nepean Non-Profit Housing received 4 workshops from WISE.
- 7 Workshops at St. Jo's Women's Drop-In Centre
- Personal Safety workshop for Youth at The Door
- PSW for residents at 1475 Caldwell



- 4-part series Hunt Club Ottawa Housing Corporation Community House
- 4-part series for residents at 1365 Bank St. OCH
- Personal Safety Workshop for Professional Institute of the Public Service Union
- 4-part series Personal Safety Workshop for Russell Gardens
- Workshops for Interval House - shelter for women fleeing abuse

To book a Personal Safety Workshop please call us (613) 230-6700 or check our website: www.wiseottawa.ca. Our workshops are comprehensive and adaptable in delivery. We would be pleased to work with you and your group.

Thank You to Funders

WISE is fortunate to have some core funding from the City of Ottawa. We are very pleased to work with all councillors and the Mayor to assist with anyone in the city who is feeling unsafe in public areas. We count on Councillors to spread the word that WISE is here and ready to assist.

The Ottawa Community Foundation funding has been invaluable allowing us to offer the home renovation workshops to many women in the city. At our celebration to end the "Building Women Up Project", Anita James, Director, Strategic Initiatives of CFO provided strong support.

Thank you to Partners

WISE is fortunate to work with many partners in the community. Partners range from interested individuals, to the following institutions:

