

THE COUNCIL OF  
ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES OF ONTARIO



ANNUAL REPORT

2002 - 2003

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# THE COUNCIL OF ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES OF ONTARIO

## *MISSION STATEMENT*

The Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario is the regional voice in Ontario for women who are or have been in conflict with the law, or are at risk of conflict with the law. The Council promotes the following principles:

- There must be fair and equitable treatment of women who are or have been in conflict with the law, or are at risk of conflict with the law;
- The community has a responsibility to be active in the criminal justice system;
- The role of voluntary and non-governmental organizations is vital to the effective realization of this mission.

Council acts on matters concerning women who are or have been in conflict with the law, or are at risk of conflict with the law, and provides member agency support.

## *ORIGINS AND STRUCTURE*

Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845) was an English Quaker devoted to publicising and improving the inhuman conditions in which women and their children were held in the prisons of 19th-century Europe. Today, concerned citizens come together in her name with, and for, women in conflict with the law.

Elizabeth Fry Societies began in Canada in Vancouver in 1939 and in Ontario in Kingston in 1949. The Ontario Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies, established in 1952, was formally registered as a non-profit corporation in 1985. On the volunteer Board of Directors sit one representative from each agency and five community representatives.

The nine Ontario member societies are located in Hamilton, Kingston, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa, Peterborough, Brampton (Peel and Halton), Barrie (Simcoe County), Sudbury and Toronto. A society is developing in Thunder Bay.



## THE COUNCIL OF ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES OF ONTARIO

is a not-for-profit organization first organized in 1952 and today comprised of nine autonomous Elizabeth Fry Societies, a voluntary board, and compassionate donors. We are committed to raise public awareness, work with governments to recommend law and policy reforms that reflect the needs of women, and promote gender-specific and effective services on behalf of adult women and adolescents involved with the justice system as offenders and as victims of abuse and crime. We facilitate effective communication among Ontario societies to identify issues for concerted action.

Together, our voice is louder, our credibility greater, our representativeness more diverse, and our efforts more effective.

### WE BELIEVE...

- ... women are criminalized by poverty, racism, social inequality, and abuse
- ... there must be fair, equitable and compassionate treatment of women who are, have been, or may be at risk of coming into conflict with the law
- ... preventative and corrective interventions are most effective when delivered in the community and permit women to retain ties with family and social networks
- ... women have needs different from men that demand a holistic response to address addictions, health, safe and affordable housing, access to education and vocational training, healing from abuse and trauma, and parenting
- ... each woman is unique and has the right to dignity, respect, confidentiality, and high-quality service delivered with compassion
- ... the non-profit and voluntary sectors have the responsibility and expertise to assist governments with responding to women in conflict with the law
- ... women found guilty by criminal courts should be subject to the least restrictive penalty that is appropriate given the nature of the offence and the need for accountability
- ... the community has a responsibility to be active in the criminal justice system and the work of volunteers is vital

Look on Council's web site for a copy of our submission to the Task Force on the Reform of Correctional Services in Ontario



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

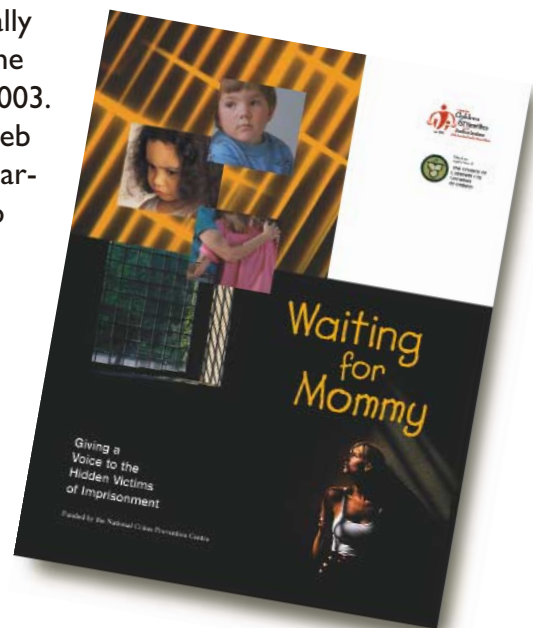
by Alison Cunningham

My first year as President has been challenging on many fronts but I, as do we all, stay energized by the depth of need, the excitement of reform possibilities, the dedication of front-line service providers, the commitment of our Board, and the faith and trust of our donors to "do the right thing" for women in Ontario. An ambitious strategic planning process has poised us to move toward better public educational capacity, more research and resource development, and greater coordination to understand the changing needs of the women to whom we provide service. The Trillium Foundation of Ontario generously supported this process.

Fortunately for me, Bonnie Rush agreed to remain on the Executive Committee as Past-president so I continue to benefit from her sound counsel and experience. The Board initiated painful but needed economies in operation, which will be reflected in next year's budget. An operating reserve has spared us from a deficit this year so we must work hard to actualize our many ideas for new revenue-generating projects. Our great thanks go to the Peel-Halton agency for housing the Council office at no cost and to Joan Winchell and Kari Simpson in particular for keeping things running smoothly. Joan, along with Trish Crawford from Kingston and Leslie Kelman from Toronto, have continued to represent Council with distinction on key committees, during prison visits, and as the representative of Ontario issues to the national body. These three women are held in high regard and they certainly have my respect and gratitude. I extend our thanks to them on behalf of the entire Board for another year of exemplary work.

Our research study on the children of provincially sentenced women, funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre, will be released in the fall of 2003. Download copies from our (newly re-vamped) web site. I hope this is the first of many projects that harness the collective effort of Council members to highlight issues of concern and make constructive recommendations.

Finally, the generosity of our donors is overwhelming. Through them, we feel connected to a wider society of compassion and know there are others who share our vision. As Ghandi said, "you must be the change you wish to see in the world."



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

by Trish Crawford, Joan Winchell, Leslie Kelman

Staff from the nine Elizabeth Fry Societies in Ontario visit and support women in two federal prisons and a number of provincial facilities across the province, assisting in preparations for release and, more importantly, looking at barriers to release.

*In the past year, over 400 visits and 3,800 interviews were conducted at Grand Valley Institution and Isabel McNeill House. At the provincial level, there were 650 visits during which 3,000 interviews were conducted.*

We continue to assist women and advocate through our networks within the prisons at an intense level, maintaining a profile with inmate committees, Native Sisterhood, and BIFA. We also represent Council at institutional and community and reintegration committees, strategic planning committees, and also participated in a study on the effectiveness of halfway houses. Our agencies collectively provide more than 12,000 bed-days to 100 federally sentenced women.

As Ontario readies for another provincial election, the conservative "common sense" revolution marches on – right over the backs of marginalized groups such as offenders, the poor, the elderly, and the disabled. The "infrastructure renewal" agenda of the provincial corrections ministry was ground to a halt by lack of funding, and plans for the closure of small antiquated jails in Ontario are on hold because of high remand counts. The new Vanier Centre, located in Milton, opened to women beginning in February of 2003, the beginning of a relocation process that will eventually see 350 women, including 40 of the most severely mentally ill women in the province, being housed there. Young offender females are currently housed at the "Vanier" Brampton site with plans to develop a 306-bed Greater Toronto Youth Assessment Centre at that location.

The struggle continues on behalf of isolated women in small northern jails. Regular visits to the new Vanier site and the women's unit at Central North Correctional Centre are on going by both Council and the local agencies. Central East Correctional Centre is "ramping up" with women scheduled to be on site in July of 2003.

We are of course expecting a "tough on crime" platform for the provincial election from all parties and will continue to educate the general public on the realities of the lives of the women we serve.

The Ontario Council continues to meet three times a year and is working to implement its strategic planning process, which includes a review of mission and mandate. In the interim, the three of us continue to share jointly the role of Executive Director of Council.

## OUR DONORS

We acknowledge, with heartfelt thanks, the generosity of our loyal donors.

### **TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS, ESTATES**

Ontario Trillium Foundation  
EJLB Foundation  
Wesley and Mary Nicol Charitable Foundation  
Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust  
Santa Barbara Family Foundation  
Estate of Donald Williams  
Derick Brenninkmeyer Charitable Foundation

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### **CORPORATIONS AND UNIONS**

CAW Local 1285  
CAWTCA Local 1524  
Pall (Canada) Limited  
JVC Canada Inc.

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### **RELIGIOUS ORDERS & INSTITUTIONS**

Congregation de Notre Dame (Ottawa), Sisters of Charity of Ottawa,  
Eastminster United Church, United Church Women Corunna,  
Soeurs de l'Institute Jean d'Arc, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Hamilton,  
Morrow Park, and Sault Ste. Marie, Ursuline Religious of the Diocese of London,  
St. Andrews United Church Women, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

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### **INDIVIDUALS**

We are especially grateful to individual donors who support the work of Council. Space limitations preclude an exhaustive list but these people represent the many others to whom we extend our thanks:

Rhonda Almack, Elizabeth Cockburn, Norman Cowan, John Elgi, Charles Henderson, Elseph Hogg, Marjorie & Bill Nelson, Daniel Newton, Lenore Sawatzky, David Scott, Ruth Stedman, Alice Taggart, Hilary Wright

Several donations came anonymously and some donors have asked that their names not be listed publicly.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Balance Sheet For Year Ended March 31, 2003 With Comparative Figures for 2002

	2002	2003
<b>Assets</b>		
Current	\$ 111,010	\$ 49,060
Fixed	5,451	3,039
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 116,461</b>	<b>\$ 52,099</b>
<b>Liabilities and Funds</b>		
Current	9,511	9,414
Long-term	1,064	-
Restricted funds	36,652	21,847
Operating funds	69,234	20,838
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 116,461</b>	<b>\$ 52,099</b>

### Statement of Operating Fund Revenues and Expenditures For Year Ended March 31, 2003 With Comparative Figures for 2002

	2002	2003
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations and bequests	\$ 48,260	\$ 51,253
CAEFS	18,000	12,250
Members' contributions	19,980	19,980
Other income	445	1,105
Break open tickets	24,592	16,327
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>111,277</b>	<b>100,915</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Services	45,002	45,002
Administration	70,719	90,279
Community education	217	217
Fundraising	3,378	13,813
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>119,316</b>	<b>149,311</b>
<b>Excess/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (8,039)</b>	<b>\$ (48,396)</b>

*BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2002-2003*

**OFFICERS**

*President* – Alison Cunningham, Community Representative

*Past-President* – Bonnie Rush, Community Representative

*Secretary* – Leslie Maunder, Community Representative

*Treasurer* – Jan Mills, Community Representative

**DIRECTORS**

Jo-Ann Connelly, Kingston Representative

Joy Anderson, Peel Representative

Lynne Lalancette, Ottawa Representative

Donna Cuffe, Peterborough Representative

Patricia Peterson, Simcoe Representative

Zeina Faddoul, Hamilton Representative

Martha Andrews, Sudbury Representative

Monica Himmelman, Waterloo Representative

Breese Davies, Toronto Representative

Debbie Ball, Community Representative

*ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES IN ONTARIO*

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Hamilton**

627 Main Street East

Hamilton, Ontario L8M 1J5

(905) 527-3097

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough**

483 George Street South

Peterborough, Ontario K9J 3E6

(705) 749-6809

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston**

127 Charles Street

Kingston, Ontario K7K 1V8

(613) 544-1744

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County**

102 Maple Avenue

Barrie, Ontario L4N 1S4

(705) 725-0613

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa**

311 - 211 Bronson Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario K1R 4P8

(613) 237-7427

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Sudbury**

204 Elm Street West

Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1V3

(705) 673-1364

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel & Halton**

401 - 134 Queen Street East

Brampton, Ontario L6V 1B2

(905) 459-1315

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto**

215 Wellesley Street East

Toronto, Ontario M4X 1G1

(416) 924-3708

**Elizabeth Fry Society of Waterloo**

67 King Street East

Kitchener, Ontario N2G 2K4

(519) 579-6732