

**COUNCIL *of* ELIZABETH FRY
SOCIETIES
of ONTARIO**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2001-2002**

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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.

The purpose of the Council is to act on matters concerning women who are or have been in conflict with the law, or are at risk of conflict with the law, and to provide member agency support.

ORIGINS AND STRUCTURE

Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845) was an English Quaker who devoted most of her life to publicising and improving the inhuman conditions in which women and their children were held in the prisons of nineteenth century Europe. Since that time, concerned citizens have 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 Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies was established in 1952 and formally registered as a non-profit corporation in 1985. The volunteer Board of Directors consists of one representative from each member agency, and up to five representatives from the community at large.

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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Balance Sheet
For Year Ended March 31, 2002
With Comparative Figures for 2001

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Assets		
Current	\$111,010	\$119,085
Fixed	5,451	8,784
Total Assets	<u>\$116,461</u>	<u>\$127,869</u>
Liabilities and Funds		
Current	\$9,511	\$16,902
Long-term	1,064	2,981
Restricted funds	36,652	30,713
Operating funds	69,234	77,273
Total Liabilities	<u>\$116,461</u>	<u>\$127,869</u>

Statement of Operating Fund Revenues and Expenditures
For The Year Ended March 31, 2002
With Comparative Figures for 2001

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Revenue		
Donations and bequests	\$48,260	\$80,469
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies	18,000	26,000
Members' contributions	19,980	18,870
Other income	445	916
Break open tickets (net)	24,592	31,914
Total Revenue	<u>111,277</u>	<u>158,169</u>
Expenditures		
Services	45,002	40,119
Administration	70,719	91,011
Community education	217	2,478
Fundraising	3,378	3,898
Total Expenditures	<u>119,316</u>	<u>137,506</u>
Excess (Deficit)	<u>-\$8,039</u>	<u>\$20,663</u>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bonnie Rush

As I write this, the media is focused yet again on a young woman who died in Ontario. It seems that the Inquest into the death of Kimberly Rogers will highlight for many all that is wrong with regressive, ineffective social policies. As the many "stakeholders" gather their respective arguments and witnesses, I wonder what Ms. Rogers would have thought of our response to her tragic death. What would it have been like to have been in her shoes, struggling to right a wrong, and empower herself to make a good life for her and her unborn child?

I believe that it is this question, and the interest in addressing those issues that affect women who are in conflict with the law, that sets the staff and volunteers who work for Elizabeth Fry Societies in Ontario apart. As President, I have met women who are passionately committed to giving of themselves on a daily basis to somehow understand what it is like to be in Kimberly Roger's shoes. That commitment has required staff and volunteers to continue to provide services with fewer resources, and remind our political, business and social communities that crime affects us all, that there are effective, and ineffective ways to deal with crime, and the specific, gendered issues that give rise to women committing criminal acts.

To the nine member agencies that make up the Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario, I say keep on and thank you for teaching us all what it means to give back and be compassionate "sisters". To Joan Winchell, Leslie Kelman and Trish Crawford, the words "thank you" seem inadequate to express the gratitude of the Executive Committee for all your hard work on behalf of Council, *in addition* to the leadership that you provide as Executive Directors to your local agencies. To Valerie Smith, Executive Assistant *extraordinaire* who keeps the doors open and runs the daily business of Council so efficiently that we take you for granted, we couldn't function half as well without you. To all the board members who so unselfishly volunteer their time and talents on behalf of Council, I say a particular thanks for making my job easy.

And finally, to all of you who have so generously given of your money so that we can continue the work of Council, I challenge you to continue to be generous. Without you, more women like Kimberly Rogers will die needlessly in Ontario.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

by Trish Crawford, Joan Winchell, Leslie Kelman

This past year has seen a continuance of the struggle of provincially sentenced women in Ontario under a punitive political agenda that emphasizes a "Getting tough on Crime" motto in rhetoric and policy setting.

The privatization of Ontario prisons continues, and Penetang Institution is up and running. A new 1,200 bed institution is scheduled to open in the Fall which will, for comparative purposes, be owned and operated by the Ministry. The opening of the women's unit at Maplehurst looms on the horizon. The Youth Criminal Justice Act comes into effect in Ontario in April 2003; the province was the last signatory to the document so little preparation work has been done. The responsibility for all Ontario young offenders will be transferred to the correctional portfolio.

Premier Ernie Eaves appointed a new minister, Robert Runciman, to oversee the renamed Ministry of Public Safety and Security. Hope is that the new name will soften the current agenda, but with the most punitive welfare system in Canada, mandatory drug testing, lack of affordable housing, crumbling health and education systems and the constant threat of funding cuts to community agencies, belief is difficult to manufacture.

At the federal level, operations continue to work fairly effectively at Isobel McNeil House, however the future of IMH remains uncertain. Construction of a 15-bed maximum security unit at Grand Valley Institution continues and concerns regarding the increase and overemphasis of security remain paramount. Additionally, loss of available space, programs, and services, which were already insufficient to meet the needs of the current population, persist. There have been no work releases in the past year, and effective long-term employment opportunities are still non-existent. A challenge of regional advocacy has been to establish the most effective way to address direct service issues and the need for advocacy and assistance on an individual basis.

At the community level, 60% of federally sentenced women are on some form of conditional release and under supervision (currently 170). In our halfway houses, beds continue to be under-utilized, and although a new funding approach for federal residential contracts has been approved by the Correctional Service of Canada, we continue to be under-funded for some essential services and non-funded for some specialized programming. Community Reintegration Committee and Community Strategic Planning Committee both continue to explore alternative releasing options, including transitional homes and private home placements. The need for unique and specialized services for women, particularly in rural and northern regions of Ontario continues to be the challenge.

In closing, we would like to thank the Board and our network for not losing sight of the details, in particular those that relate to their due diligence. Provincial Council continues to play an important role in fostering a spirit of public understanding of women's issues and accountability for the criminal justice system.

OUR DONORS

We acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the generosity of our many donors.

TRUSTS, FOUNDATIONS, ESTATES

EJLB Foundation
Wesley and Mary Nicol Charitable Foundation
Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust
Estate of Gerd Schroeter

CORPORATIONS AND UNIONS

CAW Local 1285
Terry Good Property Management
Pall (Canada) Limited

RELIGIOUS ORDERS & INSTITUTIONS

Congregation de Notre Dame (Ottawa)
Eastminster United Church
Soeurs de l'Institute Jean d'Arc
St. Andrews United Church Women

ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, which receives annually \$100 million in government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

INDIVIDUALS

We are especially grateful to individual donors who contribute significantly every year and are integral to Council's existence.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2001-2002

President
Vice-President
Secretary

OFFICERS
Bonnie Rush, Hamilton Representative
Alison Cunningham, Community Representative
Leslie Maunder, Community Representative

DIRECTORS
Judy Prang, Kingston Representative
Joy Anderson, Peel Representative
Nathalie Quann, Ottawa Representative
Connie Swinton, Peterborough Representative
Patricia Peterson, Simcoe Representative
Kim Goggins, Simcoe Representative
Sherri Redden, Sudbury Representative
Nichole Brault, Sudbury Representative
Shoshana Pollack, Toronto Representative
Debbie Ball, Community Representative
Leslie Maunder, Community Representative
Jan Mills, Community Representative
Josie Roberts, Community Representative
Elizabeth Layne, Community Representative

ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETIES IN ONTARIO

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Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County
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127 Charles Street
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Elizabeth Fry Society of Sudbury
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Sudbury, Ontario P3C 1V3
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Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
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Ottawa, Ontario K1R 4P8
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Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto
215 Wellesley Street East
Toronto, Ontario M4X 1G1
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Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel & Halton
401 - 134 Queen Street East
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Elizabeth Fry Society of Waterloo
67 King Street East
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 2K4
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