Islanders Working Against Violence

External Newsletter

Spring 2026

Safe • Free Confidential

Message from the Director

Yes, violence exists here in our community—and so does support. Thankfully, since 1992, IWAV has been here to help, with professional, confidential, and free services for people experiencing violence and abuse.

In 2025:

- IWAV's 24/7 crisis line took 457 calls
- 50 women & children stayed at IWAV's Emergency Transition House
- 13 women and 10 children stayed in IWAV's second stage housing called The Cedars, participating in a program of recovery for up to 18 months.
- More than 100 individuals accessed IWAV's counselling, sexual assault services, and support with legal, financial, and housing needs, as well as programs for children and youth of all genders.



Alicia speaking at the Norton Road Donor Event

In 2015, recognizing that lack of affordable housing is a root cause of intimate partner violence, IWAV became the owner and operator of Croftonbrook – becoming one of the largest providers of affordable housing on Salt Spring. We have now purchased a property at 210 Norton Road, where we plan to develop more housing.

I joined the Board of IWAV in 2015 and became the Executive Director in February of 2023. I'm proud of our legacy supporting those affected by violence and those needing safe, affordable housing. However, we cannot do this work alone. We need community to work together to prevent violence and abuse and help people move forward with their lives.

Sincerely, Alicia Herbert, Executive Director

Need a safe place to go?

Experiencing abuse and need someone to talk to?

24-HOUR CRISIS & INTAKE LINE

TOLL-FREE: **1-877-435-7544**

LOCAL: **250-537-0735**

EMAIL: **ssitransitionhouse@iwav.org**

Donate Now

Your gift helps people who need it, every day.

MONTHLY GIVING

Set up monthly donations through Keela or CanadaHelps.

ONE-TIME DONATION OR E-TRANSFER

Through Keela or CanadaHelps.

E-transfer anytime to: **admin@iwav.org**

MAIL A CHEQUE

Mail cheques to: IWAV 20–132 Corbett Rd., SSI, BC, V8K 1Z8

STOCKS & SECURITIES

Donate stocks or securities through CanadaHelps.

Scan to donate or visit iwav.org/donate

IWAV Services are accessible, inclusive, and gender-affirming.

IWAV respectfully recognizes that we re located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Hul'qumi'num- and SENĆOŦEN-speaking Peoples.

Seedy Saturday
Growing Connection in Community

In February, IWAV was proud to again be part of this year's Seedy Saturday at the Farmers' Institute, an annual event rooted in community, sustainability, and shared knowledge.

We spent the day connecting with people, sharing information about services, and noticed a growing awareness of IWAV's work. It was especially encouraging to have people seeking out our table for our seed packages!

The day was also about connection. From conversations about volunteering to deeper discussions about people's experiences, these moments matter.

At one point, someone quietly reached out for support, reminding us that simply being present can make it easier to take a first step of reaching out for help. Presence builds trust—and trust opens the door to safety, support, and change.



IWAV Spring Appeal: Building Consistent Support





This spring, we're focusing on something essential - building a stronger foundation of monthly support for IWAV's services with our Donor Circle.

Every day, IWAV provides counselling, advocacy, crisis response, and prevention programs across the Southern Gulf Islands. This work is ongoing—and it depends on having reliable, predictable funding. Monthly giving helps create that stability.

It allows us to plan ahead, respond when someone reaches out, and ensure that help is consistently available across our community. Small monthly gifts add up!

As we connect with more people this Spring—including through our first Canada Post outreach—we're inviting our community to work together to eliminate violence and abuse.

Join our Monthly Donor Circle. Your gift helps ensure that support is here—every day, for those who need it.

Norton Road: A Community Milestone

On March 5, IWAV and the Salt Spring Island Foundation welcomed community supporters to ArtSpring to celebrate the purchase of 210 Norton Road —securing another property for affordable housing. The evening offered a moment to acknowledge what has been achieved together, with approximately 60 supporters gathering to connect and reflect on the collective effort that made this possible.

What's Next

With the property now secured, IWAV is beginning the next phase of work. We have formed a new Affordable Housing Development Committee, which met with our Development Consultant, Janis Gauthier, on April 23rd to review some of the challenges and opportunities of the Norton property. Over the next few months, we will be engaging with community partners, organizations and neighbours to understand current housing needs and concerns.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring us to this point, and to those who are part of what comes next!









Community Raffle
Supporting Day-to-Day Services



Over the past few months, much of our community's generosity has been directed toward the Norton Road housing project. We are deeply grateful for that support. At the same time, it has created a gap in funding for IWAV's day-to-day operations—counselling, advocacy, crisis response, & prevention services that Islanders rely on.

In response, we launched our first-ever Community Raffle—and once again, the community showed up.

Together, we sold 142 tickets, raising $1,420 in support of our programs. Tickets were purchased at Transitions Thrift Store, at our Norton Donor Event, and by friends, neighbours, and community members who reached out to participate—we are so thankful to everyone who took part.

The draw took place at the Transitions Thrift Store on March 31, with Retail Manager Gregory and staff member Jane pulling the winning tickets, joined by a few customers to add to the fun.



We are especially grateful to the local businesses and community members who generously donated prizes, and to every person who bought a ticket in support of this work.

Your support helps ensure that essential services remain available when they are needed most.