



COSA CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21

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CHAIR PERSON'S REMARKS

Without a doubt, this year has been one filled with challenges and transition while at the same time marked with opportunities to celebrate the incredible work that is being carried out across the country by staff and volunteers committed to the work of Circles of Support and Accountability.

Over the past fiscal year which ended in March of 2021, Kathryn Bliss, Lisa Joly, along with Nikki McCarthy and Sandie Lessard, have worked diligently to support CoSA sites across the country while working to meet the reporting requirements of our Public Safety funding and being responsive to the needs of their local communities and core members in the midst of a national pandemic. There has been an immense amount of courage, resiliency and creativity on the part of everyone to ensure that we are continuing to live out our vision of “no more victims” and “no one is disposable”. Technology, outdoor meetings, phone calls, virtual coffee times and the list could go on have all been used as a way to build and maintain connections and have both supportive and challenging conversations even in the midst of limitations and restrictions.

On a CoSA Canada board level, we have much to celebrate and be grateful for. In the late fall of 2020, Hugh Kirkegaard needed to step away from his role as board chair and I took over those responsibilities. I am grateful for the foundation that Hugh and David Byrne before him put in place. I'm also grateful for the presence of Bo Gadja filling the position of past chair and Randy Klassen taking on the role of board treasurer. We welcomed Wendy Leaver and Dwight Cuff as board members along with Joy Steem who along with Maureen Donnegan and Susan Love represent CoSA sites at the board table. Each board member has brought their skills to the board as well their own commitment to the work of CoSA across the country. I am both humbled and grateful for the privilege of working alongside them.

We have been fortunate on the national level to have engaged Neil Hannem to work with the national office and CoSA sites across the country in building resources for local fundraising initiatives. Participation in NAACJ and sustaining grant funding through Public Safety have been key in allowing our CoSA Canada staff to engage with other national organizations in areas of advocacy, policy development and sustainability. The development and acceptance of a CoSA Canada logo have added to the accomplishments of the past year.

Although there has been a lot to celebrate over this past time period, there are two key events that I want to take the time to highlight. In December of 2020, we acknowledged and celebrated the work of Pat Love as our recipient of the CoSA Canada award of distinction. Pat pioneered the work of Ottawa CoSA and her dedication laid the foundation for the strong work that continues through the diligence of her daughter Susan and committed volunteers. The zoom recognition event was truly a celebration of an incredible woman and her contribution to the CoSA community across the country. And second, in late March of 2021 our application to the CRA for charitable status for CoSA Canada was accepted, enabling us to receive donations and offer tax receipts. This ability brings the opportunity to invite donations that will be used to support the CoSA network across the country both through support to local sites and the national office.

It is a privilege to serve as chair of the board of CoSA Canada and work alongside all who are committed to this work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Henderson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Eileen Henderson
Board Chair, CoSA Canada

WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To say that the past year has been challenging does not begin to capture the reality of the struggles and successes that CoSA has faced while navigating a global pandemic. I would like to first and foremost thank all of the CoSA staff and volunteers for everything they have done to continue supporting Core Members throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue leading and supporting the work of CoSA across the country. As we all know this past year has shown the world the importance of human connection. When faced with isolation and fear, communities are held up by the supportive relationships and work of organizations like CoSA.

Our collective challenge this year has been to ensure that we were able to make the necessary adaptations needed in response to the pandemic, while ensuring integrity to the core values of the CoSA model. This meant finding new ways to build and maintain relationships relying heavily on new forms of technology. The CoSA community has shown true innovation and dedication in doing this and we have so much to be proud of. The use of technology has also opened new opportunities and options within the work, from recruiting and retaining volunteers to serving CoSA participants living in remote areas. We will continue to learn from these challenging times and bring these lessons into our work as we look forward to returning to in person circles!

It has been a meaningful year for the CoSA network as we also have a lot to celebrate with the completion of the Good Practice work. This will mark an important step for CoSA sites in Canada as we continue to grow and learn together as a collective. Above all we are so grateful to all the site staff and community partners who have worked in collaboration with us to develop a robust set of guiding Good Practices. It remains our hope that as we complete this work, it serves as a foundation on which to move forward in our collective growth as a CoSA community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Bliss". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kathryn Bliss

Executive Director, CoSA Canada

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020 - 21

Board membership effective April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

Eileen Henderson	<i>Chair</i>
Bogumil Gajda	<i>Past-Chair</i>
Randy Klassen	<i>Treasurer</i>
Maureen Donegan	<i>Director</i>
Susan Love	<i>Director</i>
Verona Singer	<i>Director</i>
Florence Driedger	<i>Director</i>
Wendy Leaver	<i>Director</i>
Dwight Cuff	<i>Director</i>
Joy Steem	<i>Director</i>

OUR PARTNER SITES

- **Catholic Justice Services Society**
Vancouver/Fraser Valley, BC
- **Mennonite Central Committee Alberta**
Calgary, AB
- **Parkland Restorative Justice**
Prince Albert, SK
- **The Micah Mission**
Saskatoon, SK
- **CoSA South Saskatchewan**
Regina, SK
- **Initiatives for Just Communities**
Winnipeg, MB
- **Mennonite Central Committee Ontario**
Toronto/GTA, ON
- **One Cite Peterborough**
Peterborough, ON
- **CoSA Ottawa**
Ottawa, ON
- **Mouvement Communitas**
Montreal, QC
- **Cercles de Soutien et de Responsabilité du Québec**
Montréal, QC
- **Moncton Community Chaplaincy**
Moncton, NB
- **Halifax Community Chaplaincy Society**
Halifax, NS

COSA CANADA AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This CoSA Canada Award of Distinction was created in honour of long time CoSA volunteers, Les Horne and Malcom Savage, to celebrate those who have made significant contributions to the work of CoSA in Canada and a way of acknowledging those who grew the vision for this work into the national and international network that it is today. CoSA Canada was honoured to present the first award to Harry Nigh in 2019, who was central in establishing the first circle in 1994 and continues today to represent the strong values, passion and commitment that underlie the work of CoSA in Canada.

The 2020 Award recipient, Patricia Love, is being recognized for her work in the founding CoSA Ottawa, which operates Circles of Support and Accountability in the Ottawa area. Patricia had a career as a Probation officer in Peterborough before returning to Ottawa in the late 1980s. Through her association with St. John the Evangelist Church in downtown Ottawa, she learned of the CoSA model and the work of Harry Nigh, as the church looked to support an individual within their congregation. Drawing on her experience and through collaboration with other CoSA sites emerging around the country, the Ottawa project swiftly developed.

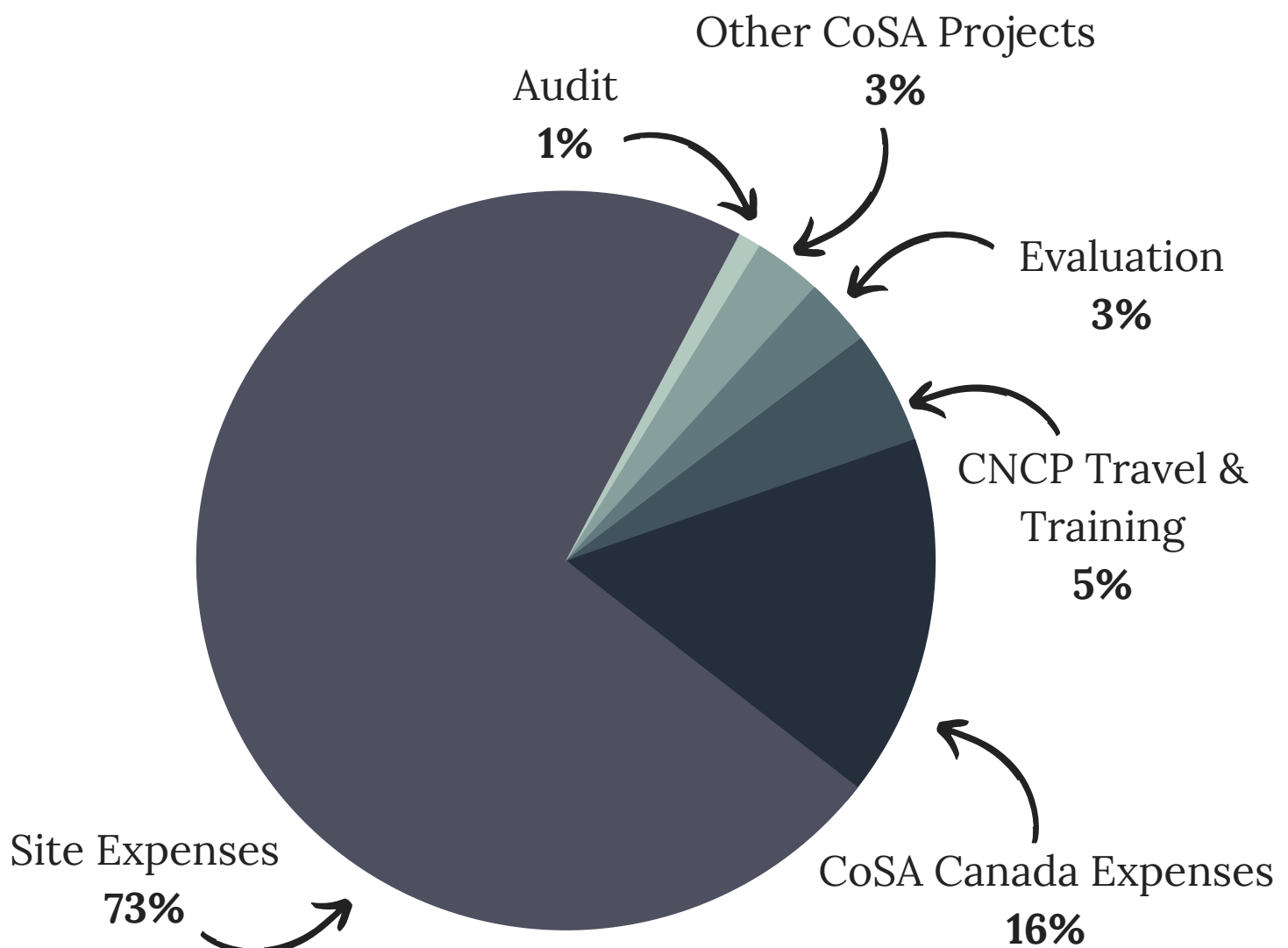
COSA CANADA AWARD OF DISTINCTION

In 2001 funding was received to hire the first part-time coordinator, and in 2013 CoSA Ottawa became a registered charity. Since its inception, of the 70+ clients who have been involved in CoSA in Ottawa, only one has been convicted of a subsequent sexual offence. It was through the strong, compassionate early leadership of Patricia that the organization has continued to persevere during many challenging times. Throughout the past twenty years, CoSA Ottawa has developed a strong reputation not only locally but internationally and has been recognized for the significant contribution it provides in keeping its community safe.



Congratulations Pat!

FINANCES: NATIONAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN



FINANCES: AUDITED STATEMENTS

COSA CANADA INC

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

	2021	2020
REVENUE		
Government grants	\$ 1,518,375	\$ 1,497,166
In-kind contributions (Schedule A)	198,886	173,238
Donation	72	-
	1,717,333	1,670,404
EXPENDITURE		
Administrative expenses	21,265	16,638
Audit and evaluation	41,400	47,875
Computer and library services	4,506	1,971
Consultants and experts	36,282	9,015
In-kind expenses (Schedule A)	198,886	173,335
Insurance - building	3,069	2,642
Insurance - liability	5,812	5,279
Office	12,212	9,899
Rent	87,329	70,777
Salaries and wages	1,177,919	1,160,445
Supplies	8,576	6,817
Technical and specialized services	50,199	30,943
Training and project development	50,337	77,361
Travel and living expenses	19,541	57,505
	1,717,333	1,670,502
NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	\$ -	\$ (98)

We would like to acknowledge the financial support received from Public Safety Canada through the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

A special thank you to all of those who have supported CoSA over the years and to those who continue to share our commitment to making a difference in communities across Canada.

We are so grateful.

*Thank
you!*



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