



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

# A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERS

## Building Bridges Between Leadership to Inform Our Future

### Abi Ajibolade, OAITH President

#### In your time as President over the last year what are you most proud of?

I am most proud of being given the opportunity to walk alongside the Executive Director to bring alive OAITH's vision as we work relentlessly with sister organizations across Ontario while advocating with all levels of government to end GBV. Also, the phenomenal yet heart-wrenching work of gathering data on femicide. As much as shedding light on these facts is distressing, the day we become comfortable about these numbers is the day we're deepest in trouble.

#### As you look towards the future for OAITH, what key factors bring a sense of hope?

What brings me hope as I look towards the future of OAITH is knowing that we've reached a pinnacle time to mobilize real action with all levels of government, the community, agencies, corporate partners and other allies. Societally, there is greater consensus than ever before that no longer can we be complacent about GBV. We don't have time for the performative action of empty condolences. Instead, we must get creative and break the mold in fighting against GBV.

#### What are you looking forward to in your role as President?

What I am most looking forward to in my role as President is that the National Action Plan to End GBV will be implemented, and all levels of government will execute the many recommendations from [OAITH](#). Also, organizations and agencies set strong and achievable strategic priorities and that equity, diversity and inclusion can be done with generosity of spirit. Lastly, I look forward to a more cohesive association of GBV advocates and co-fighters with survivors, as survivors' courage alone is not enough.

### Sue Weir, OAITH Vice President

#### In your time as Vice President at OAITH, what are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the continued growth and strengthening of OAITH as a body that is relied on for both information and education. The expansion of the [training hub](#) into something that so many people are using to better equip staff and to educate themselves on the critical skills required to assist women impacted by GBV has been something that will continue to improve care and capacity to respond to women and children in need of support.

#### As you look towards the future for VAW shelters, what are 3 key strengths we need to leverage?

We need to continue to cultivate staff who are committed to the issue and the work, to help them understand both the past and the way forward. We need to continue to build bridges to the other service sectors that clients need easier access to in order to not always be doing the work of other sectors and filling in voids that they are responsible to fill. And finally, we need to continue to grow in our capacity to support each other both in the development of best practices but also in our capacity to assist each other in moments of crisis. It is this cohesion that is paramount to continue to maintain our sector and move it forward.

#### What has been your most memorable moment in your role as Vice President?

I would say selling Wrapped in Courage scarves at the Ontario Nurses Association Bi-Ennial Conference and talking to all the women in an allied profession about the issue of GBV and seeing them really understand the complexity of the issue and what their role could be and how they could better serve women by asking good questions and finding ways to quietly assist them in their journey.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

## A Year in Review: Strengthening Connections and Cultivating Relationships in 2022 - 2023

Forging new relationships and fostering existing ones have been central to strengthening the foundation of OAITH as we work to fulfill our mission of [working towards ending all forms of gender-based violence and oppression through advocacy, education, research and training!](#) Our 2022 - 2023 Annual Report will highlight the many accomplishments and steady focus we've put towards achieving our mission, but we know there is more work ahead of us.

Over the last year, OAITH has educated the community on the devastating realities of femicide through the [We Count Femicide Because Campaign](#). These monthly and annual reports are serving an important purpose to achieving the mission of OAITH and they have proven to be more than reports. They are educating the community about femicide, improving awareness about how often femicides occur in Ontario, supporting data-informed actions and identify truths about the disproportionate rates of Indigenous, Black and Racialized femicide victims. OAITH's data on femicide has been noted and used by media, provincial and municipal elected officials, through Violence Against Women Coordinating Committees and most importantly by our member organizations providing critical leadership on the ground in your communities.

MulberryFinder is at the beginning of the journey aiming to connect survivors, workers, families, friends, coworkers and community members to all of the provincial crisis lines and gender-based violence services and supports across Ontario. We know that connections made with community-based gender-based violence services and supports will create lasting and positive outcomes for survivors and their families. We know that safety starts here.

As we conclude another year, we are grateful to the leadership and support provided by Sue Weir, outgoing Vice President who served for 6 years as a Regional Representative, Vice-President and Interim President and to Sandy Watson-Moyles who served 5 years as East Regional Representative. On behalf of OAITH we wish you both all the very best!

As our team looks forward to 2023-2024 we are currently engaged in the development of a 5 Year Strategic Planning Process to build upon our successes and seek out new opportunities for OAITH to leverage.

We look forward to cultivating lasting connections and relationships with you as we continue to achieve our mission to end all forms of gender-based violence in Ontario.

As femicides rates in Ontario began to rise, we knew there had to be more that we could do. And so we began to explore the complicated web of gender-based violence services, how people find information, where it's showing up and most importantly, how we could help to simplify, yet amplify, the awareness of services and support to end all forms of gender-based violence. Through this vision, and with the expert knowledge from survivors, barriers to finding information brought forth by workers and thought leadership provided by various provincial associations, [MulberryFinder](#) was launched in 2022.



Many Thanks,  
Marlene Ham, Executive Director

# 2022 - 2023 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

## Bringing Your Voice to the Table!

**OAITH has been invited to many tables where we bring your voice for both provincial and national projects.**

### Some of these include:

- Stop Gender-Based Violence (GBV) 55+ Project - National
- Awareness, Collaboration, Tools (ACT) Project for Women with Animals Experiencing Gender-Based Violence - National
- South Asian Women's Centre (SAWC) GBV Advisory - Provincial
- Feminist Brain Drain Advisory - National
- GBV In The Media - Aura Freedom - National
- Women's Shelters Canada Board of Directors - National
- Women's Shelters Canada Advisory Council - National
- Learning Network Advisory - Provincial
- Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children (CREVAC) Expert Working Group - National



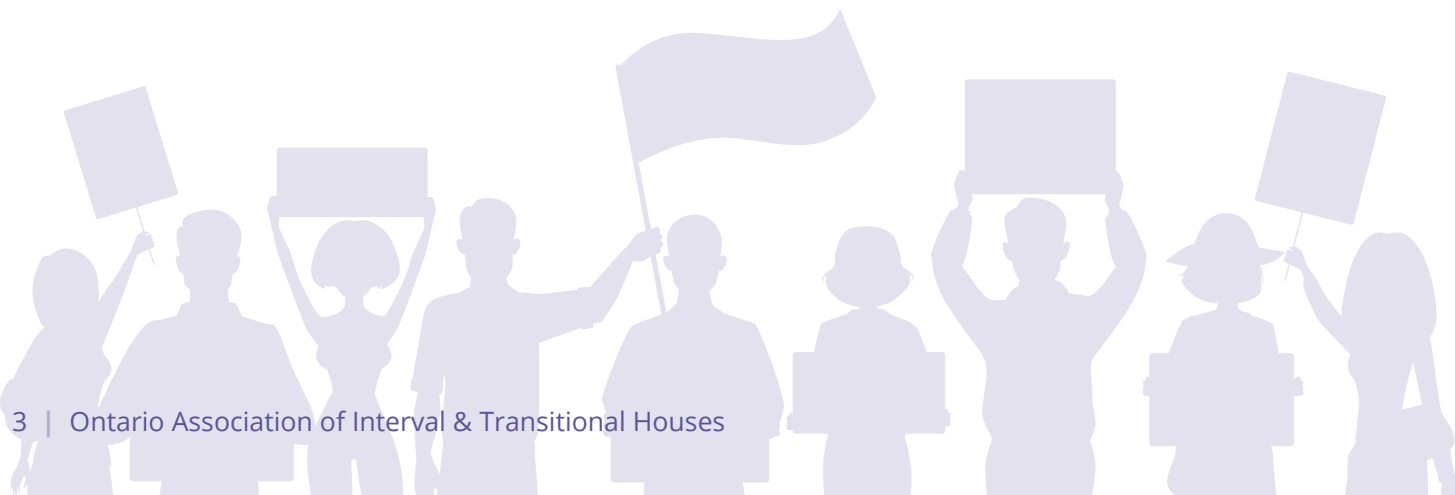
## Advocacy

Throughout 2022 - 2023, OAITH has been engaged to provide advice, attend consultations and make written submissions on a broad range of legislation, policy and program areas across all three levels of government:

**a. Legislation:** Clare's Law, Keira's Law, Coercive Control, Children, Youth and Family Services Act

**b. Written Submissions:** Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Skills Development (Portable Benefits), Ontario Human Rights Commission (Poverty, Housing, Mental Health & Addictions), Associate Ministry of Housing & Municipal Affairs (Transitional & Supportive Housing, Special Priority Policy Information Guide), Associate Ministry of Women's Social and Economic Development (OAITH Priorities on the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence), Standing Committee on the Status of Women (Coercive Control), Ministry of Finance (Provincial Budget Submission)

**c. Consultations and Presentations:** Ontario Priorities on the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, Addressing the Hatred of Women and Girls, Supportive Housing Roundtable, Supportive Housing Strategy, Special Priority Policy Guide, Public Safety Canada (Sequestering of Records), Statistics Canada (Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces), Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam Inquest, Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, and the Mass Casualty Commission.



# 2022 - 2023 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

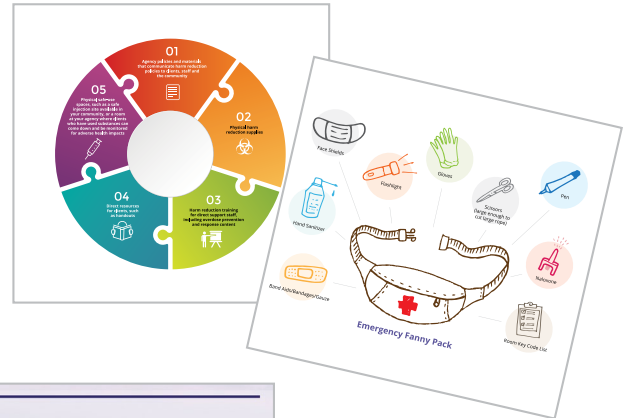


## Education

Throughout 2022 - 2023 and with support from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, OAITH has continued to deliver a range of training and capacity-building initiatives. Surveys, focus groups, evaluation data, literature reviews and environmental scanning were all used to inform, create and publish a broad range of resources and tools for the sector.

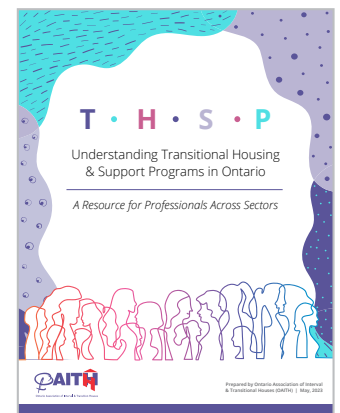
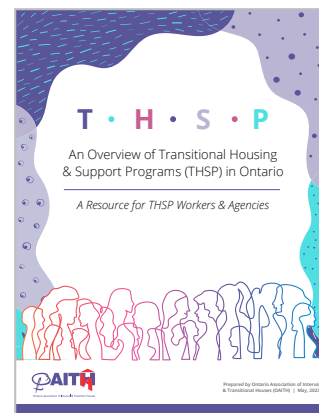
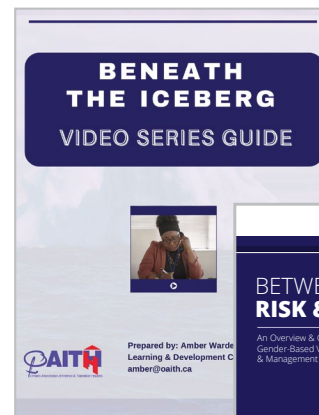
### Key highlights include:

- 131 employees certified to administer the Danger Assessment; 53 total organizations registered
- 112 employees received Risk Management Training; 55 total unique organizations registered.
- 1,022 English and 6 French certificates of completion and evaluations across 28 online courses issued through the Training Hub
- 901 new registered learners in the Training Hub



### 2022 - 2023 Tools & Resources

- ✓ [Understanding & Applying Harm Reduction Approaches Within Gender-Based Violence Work](#)
- ✓ [Beneath the Iceberg Crisis Support Video Training Series \(and Video Series Guide\)](#)
- ✓ [Between Risk & Safety: An Overview & Critical Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Risk Assessment & Management in Ontario](#)
- ✓ [An Overview of Transitional Housing & Support Programs \(THSP\) in Ontario - A Resource for THSP Workers & Agencies](#)
- ✓ [Understanding Transitional Housing & Support Programs \(THSP\) in Ontario - A Resource for Professionals Across Sectors](#)



# 2022 - 2023 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS:



## Research

OAITH has fostered existing and new research partnerships across Ontario that inform and enhance our work internally and externally. We have continued to work with Lakehead University, Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children and University of Guelph. In 2022-2023 we've begun working with University of Ottawa on smaller projects and we look forward to continuing this work with them.

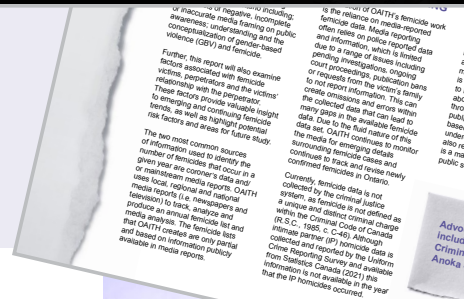
### OAITH's Research Initiatives include:

- Monthly and annual reports on femicide in Ontario
- Presentations and reports to government about femicide data and tracking mechanisms
- Development of Inquest Recommendation Tracking Tool
- Provincial surveys disseminated to members about Transitional Housing Support Program, Risk Assessment and Safety Planning Practices, Human Resources, Funding Priorities. Additional consultative surveys sent to OAITH members to inform various OAITH submissions to government



## 2022 -2023 Tools and Resources

- ✓ [Monthly Femicide Reports](#)
- ✓ [Annual Femicide Lists](#)
- ✓ [Media Analysis](#)
- ✓ [Inquest Recommendation Tracking Tool](#)
- ✓ [More Than A Number: 52 Femicides in 52 Weeks in One Province](#)
- ✓ [Plus Qu'Un Chiffre: 52 féminicides en 52 semaines dans une province](#)



# 2022 - 2023 HIGHLIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS:



## Public Awareness

OAITH has continued to grow public awareness about the issue of gender-based violence, femicide prevention and the support services available for survivors through a variety of initiatives and campaigns.

### a. MulberryFinder

In December 2022 OAITH launched [MulberryFinder](#) to respond to the growing need to ensure 24 hour crisis lines and all gender-based violence services in Ontario can be made available in one centralized location. We are grateful for the funds provided by the Rogers Family Foundation and Women Shelters Canada to allow for the development, implementation and delivery over the last 3 years.

With the development of a marketing plan launched in Spring 2023 we are starting to see MulberryFinder experience user growth:

**117** gender-based violence organizations

**1000+** users from June to August 2023

- Mulberry presentations provided at seven events (2 in-person conferences, 5 virtual presentations in 2023)



### b. Wrapped in Courage Campaign

November 2022 marked the 10th Anniversary of the Wrapped in Courage Campaign! Shelters from across the province participated through the purchase and sale of scarves in their communities, through social media, hosting flag raising events with local municipalities and by attending our signature event at Queen's Park to engage with MPP's on ending gender-based violence.

Hamro Village, the producer of 2023 Wrapped in Courage scarves, is a Canadian company that is passionate about Fair Trade and human rights. Hamro Village is dedicated to supporting marginalized artisans and empowering women through the ethical manufacturing of Handcrafted products.



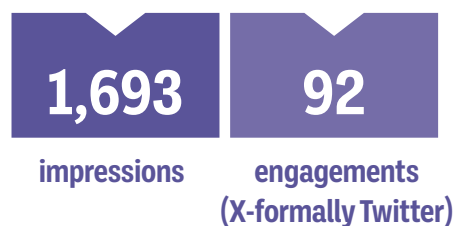
### White Ribbon Day After Day PSA

On May 10th 2022, OAITH hosted an information session for Ontario VAW shelters focused on unpacking White Ribbon's "Day After Day" PSA focused on engaging men who may need support for unhealthy behaviours in relationships. The session allowed an opportunity for feedback, while outlining video goals, access points, target audiences, social media marketing tips and custom graphics. The video depicts gender-based violence during the pandemic, focusing on the experiences of one family.

# UNDERSTANDING OUR REACH

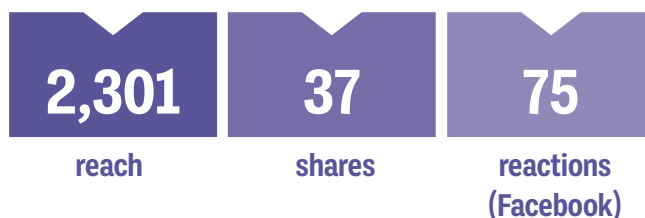
## Media Coverage - Top Performing

**City News interview with Marlene Ham** focused on the National Action Plan and current femicide rates, October 7th, 2022.



## Wrapped in Courage - Top Performing

**First post to launch 2022 Wrapped in Courage campaign**, highlighting recent femicide data; “Last year in Ontario, on average, every 8 days a woman or child was killed by a man known to them”, November 1st, 2022.



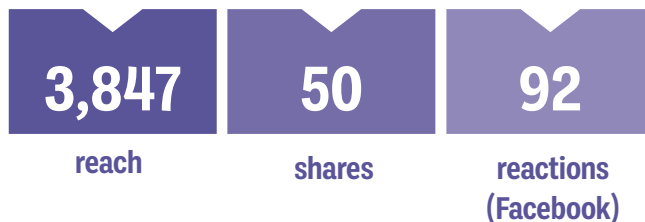
## Resource Related - Top Performing

**Announcement of Gender-Based Violence, Technology and Safety course**, August 5th, 2022.



## Femicide - Top Performing

**Post which acknowledges the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**, the victims of the 1989 l'École Polytechnique shooting, while making a connection with current femicide prevention resources provided by OAITH, December 6th, 2022.



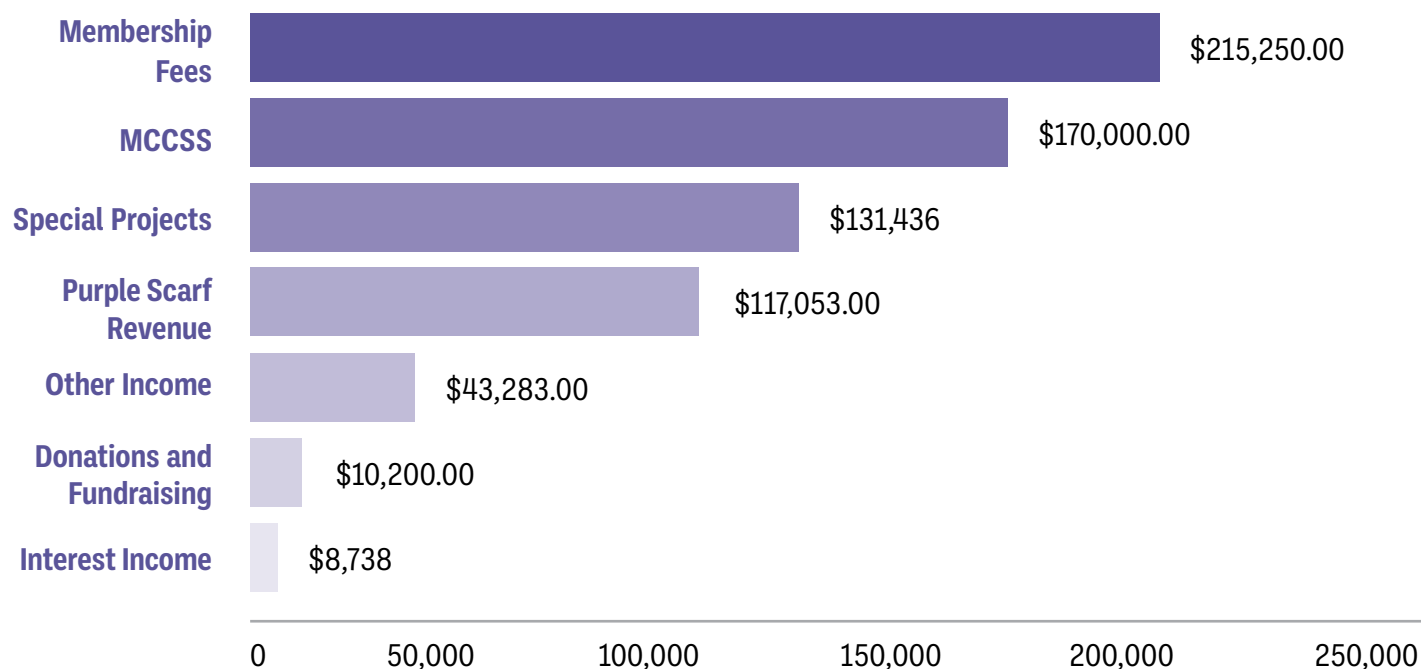
**Post sharing the 2022 press release “52 Femicides in 52 Weeks in One Province, IS NOT JUST”**, November 25th, 2022.



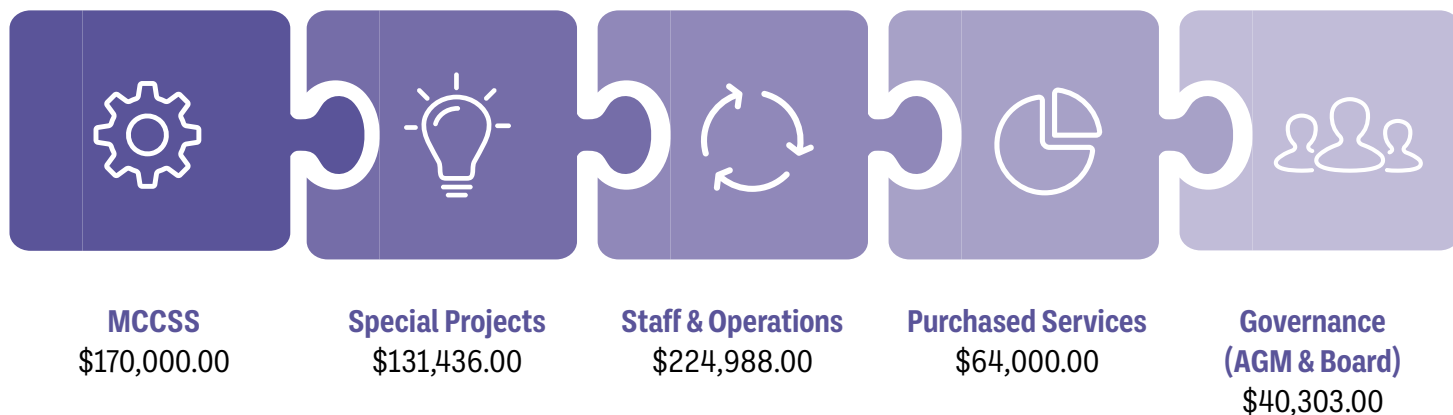


# FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

## OAITH 2022 - 2023 Revenues



## OAITH 2022 - 2023 Expenses



**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
\$559,724.00



**TOTAL REVENUE**  
\$647,162.00



**EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURE**  
\$65,233.00

## MulberryFinder

The development and creation of MulberryFinder would not have been possible without the contributions, support and advice from:

- Womenatthecentre
- Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario
- Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes
- Ontario Coalition of Sexual of Sexual Assault Centre
- Ontario Network of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Network
- Family Service Ontario
- Ontario Network of Victim Service Providers
- Talk4Healing
- Assaulted Women's Helpline
- Technicalities Plus Inc
- Play Advertising
- OAITH COVID-19 Working Group

## Donations

With Tremendous Appreciation to  
**AMAPCEO**  
in 2022 - 2023 for their donation of  
10,000.00 to OAITH

## 2022 - 2023 Funder Profile



**Response and Recovery Funds  
Rogers Family Foundation**

**Ontario** 

Ministry of Children,  
Community and  
Social Services

## 2022 - 2023 Partnerships & Collaborations

**Action ontarienne contre  
la violence faite aux femmes**

**Building A Bigger Wave**

**Centre for Research on Violence Against  
Women and Children**

**Lakehead University**

**University of Guelph**

**University of Ottawa**

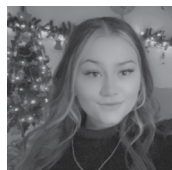
**White Ribbon**

# ACKNOWLEDGING THE OAITH TEAM AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OAITH Team



**Executive Director**  
Marlene Ham



**Policy & Research Coordinator**  
Lauren Hancock



**Learning & Development Coordinator**  
Amber Wardell



**Digital Office Support**  
Sherece Taffe

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## 2022 - 2023 OAITH Board Members



**President**  
Abi Ajibolade  
*The Redwood*



**Vice-President**  
Sue Weir  
*Napanee Interval House*



**Treasurer**  
Melanie Ducharme  
*Pavilion Women's Centre*



**Secretary/  
Chair of Membership**  
Jessie Rodger  
*Anova*



**Designated Director**  
Jeanine George  
*Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario*



**General Director**  
Christy Savage  
*Nelson House*



**North**  
Jennifer Camberlin  
*New Starts for Women*



**East**  
Sandy Watson-Moyles  
*Three Oaks*



**Toronto**  
Jyoti Singh  
*Nellies*



**West**  
Tessa McFadzean  
*The Good Shepherd Centre Hamilton*



**Central**  
Sly Castaldi  
*Guelph - Wellington Women in Crisis*



Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses

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**Sherece Taffe**

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