

# WOMEN'S INITIATIVES FOR SAFER ENVIRONMENTS: 2016-2017 ABRIDGED ANNUAL REPORT

## Message from the Chair

Dear Partners and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to present WISE's annual report for 2016. This year marks a great cornerstone of progress and accomplishments thus far for the organization: WISE is constantly working together with our sister organizations, community members and funders in order to contribute to the ongoing vision of keeping communities safer for everyone. We are growing as an organization with all the new programs (i.e. Heroes for Tomorrow, Auto Mechanics for Women) and fundraising initiatives (i.e. Safe-TEA fundraiser) that we have undertaken over the past year. I am also happy to announce that WISE will be partaking once again in the Ottawa Race Weekend in May, and we have developed a strategic plan with an aim to direct WISE in making appropriate and relevant decisions, as well as assist the organization on allocating its resources to pursue the defined strategy.



I would like to personally thank the staff, board members and volunteers who have given their time and energy in making WISE an invaluable asset to the community. I have enjoyed working with all of you and look forward to seeing WISE achieve even more accomplishments in the coming year!

Sincerely,  
Marleen Redhead  
Chair

### For more information:

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## Mission Statement

- Women’s Initiatives for Safer Environments (WISE) is a community based bilingual organization established in 1992.
- We work directly with individuals, diverse communities, local government and agencies to create safer physical and social environments in our neighbourhoods, parks, workplaces, recreational pathways, and schools.
- We believe that if we make the community safer for women and other vulnerable groups, it will be safer for everyone.

## Board of Directors

WISE has been fortunate over this past year to have a wonderful board. Without their effort, fund raising and policy initiatives would be impossible. Thank you all for your dedication and energy.

Redhead, Marleen	<i>Chair</i>	Jeddore, Danielle	<i>Treasurer</i>
Quick, Rachael	<i>Director</i>	Desrosiers, Kristy-Lu	<i>Director</i>
Kassamali, Arwa	<i>Director</i>	Drover, Marnie	<i>Director</i>
Pacelli, Maria-Hélène	<i>Vice Chair</i>	Jamone, Theresa	<i>Director</i>

## Students and Volunteers

WISE worked with a number of students from both Carleton and Ottawa Universities this year. Thanks to Nicole, Amanda, Kim, Larissa and Avi. We also had a number of great volunteers who helped us with our work from audits to office work. For a complete list of volunteers, check the annual report on [wiseottawa.ca](http://wiseottawa.ca).

## 10 WAYS TO SUPPORT WISE

- Join our Board of Directors
- Sign up for a Community Safety Audit in your neighbourhood
- Sign up for a Personal Safety Workshop
- Book a Heroes for Tomorrow Workshop for boys
- Sign up to become a runner for the WISE team in the Tamarack Race Weekend
- Perform administrative tasks
- Represent WISE at community meetings, fairs, displays, and public events
- Help out with upkeep of the WISE website
- Make a personal financial contribution

- Donate to WISE through the United Way plan as your recipient of choice or on our website through Canada Helps

Fill out a [volunteer application](#) from our website or call us to arrange YOUR opportunity!

## New Programs and Initiatives

- HEROES FOR TOMORROW – an exciting new workshop to work with young boys, helping them to look at issues of masculinity and understanding violence against women while learning proactive steps to deflect and prevent violence.
- PROJECT SOUND CHECK – is a new collaborative venture with the Sexual Assault Network and OCTEVAW for WISE to conduct safety audits at festival venues in the city to enhance the safety of festival goers.
- Working with front-line workers on safety audits of emergency shelters for families.
- WISE is involved with Harmony House and survivors of violence to contribute input to a federal strategy on violence against women.



## Collaborative Initiatives

WISE collaborates with a number of groups throughout the year:

1. Public Service Alliance of Canada – forging partnerships with women’s committees.
2. Women’s Events Network (WEN): To organize public education events such as: Take Back the Night, ClothesLine Project and December 6 Vigil.
3. WISE is a member of the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women as a member of the Public Engagement Committee/Advocacy.
4. WISE was once again part of the In Love and In Danger event this year with high school students learning about violence and healthy relationships.
5. WISE has been party to a number of conferences and presentations throughout the year with Crime Prevention Ottawa at the various Public Speaker Series, with OCTEVAW for the Information session on Strangulation from the Ottawa Hospital, with SAN on the conference entitled Challenging #rapeculture in the Court and with Ottawa Community Housing for their annual partnership forum.
6. We met with a number of groups and City officials during the year about WISE work and collaboration efforts: Mayor Jim Watson, Councillor Catherine McKinney, Councillor

Stephen Blais, Councillor Jean Cloutier, and Councillor Riely Brockington on safety audit work.

## Programming: Community Safety Audits 2016-2017:

One of our marquis programs at WISE for over 20 years is our Community Safety Audits. We have worked with numerous groups from neighbourhoods all across the city and in the rural areas, addressing safety concerns identified as we go through the walkabout - the primary piece of the Safety Audit process.



Hurdman Construction site – Before audit



Changes in signage and contours – After audit

Our audits have been conducted in various kinds of environments from large neighbourhood sectors, to small alleys, to apartment building interiors and exteriors, to underground garages or recreational pathways. We've audited the bus stops on local streets and major stations along the transit way and the O-Train stations. Find the results from these audits in a series of reports on women's safety at transit stations. Call our office to secure copies.

If you're wondering where we do these Safety Audits and how you go about getting one done, it's pretty easy! Anywhere someone may be feeling unsafe in a public area is fair game. Simply call us and we'll work with you and any other residents or stakeholders to make the space feel safer to use. The following are some of the audits that WISE worked on over the past year. For detailed information on these audits, contact the office for a more detailed annual report:

- o Pineview Community Safety Audit Parts 1 and 2
- o 1475 Caldwell Community Safety Audit
- o Hurdman Pathway
- o Alexander Community
- o Axia Management/Marshes Village
- o Banff /Ledbury:
- o Better Living Co-op
- o Carillon Co-op
- o Karsh Community Safety Audit

- o Ottawa Victims Crisis Referral Audit

If anyone in your neighbourhood or in your workplace requires a safety audit please contact the WISE office.

## Programming: Personal Safety Workshops:

WISE offers an interactive workshop on personal safety that is tailored to the specific group accessing our service. In the workshop you will learn about Safety Awareness, Assertiveness, Strategies about safety at home, on the street and while using public transit. We offer workshops to groups of all ages from youth to seniors.

WISE has conducted the following list of Personal Safety Workshops (PSWs) over the past year:

- o 4-part Series Carty House – a shelter for refugee women
- o Personal Safety workshop for Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- o Workshops at Chrysalis House - a shelter for women fleeing abuse
- o Emily Murphy
- o Harmony House - 2<sup>nd</sup> stage emergency shelter for women
- o Interval House emergency shelter
- o Lead Her Initiative - Sandy Hill
- o IWSO Immigrant Women Services Ottawa
- o Carlington Community Health Centre
- o Banff Ledbury Community House
- o Severn Public School
- o 1365 Bank Street - Ottawa Housing Community
- o South East Ottawa Community Health Centre - Hunt Club Riverside location
- o Youville Centre

To book a Personal Safety Workshop please call us (613) 230-6700 or check our website: [www.wiseottawa.ca](http://www.wiseottawa.ca). Our workshops are comprehensive and adaptable in delivery. We would be pleased to work with you and your group.

## Building Women Up



We raised more money this year and arranged home renovation workshops for women with a focus on safety. We hosted sessions at Baseline, Kanata, South Keys, and Gloucester. Home Depot has been a wonderful partner and thanks to the Soup Ottawa Initiative to help us get these underway again this year.

## Thank You to Funders

WISE receives core funding from the City of Ottawa. We are very pleased to work with all councillors and the Mayor to assist with anyone in the city who is feeling unsafe in public areas. We count on Councillors to spread the word that WISE is here and ready to assist. A major donor this year was the private management firm Goss Gilroy Inc. whose support we very much appreciate and then there are our donors on Canada Helps who contributed individually and through the UNLOCK FEAR CAMPAIGN.



## Thank you to Partners

WISE is fortunate to work with many partners in the community. Partners range from interested individuals, to many institutions. Check our website for a comprehensive list of partners.

