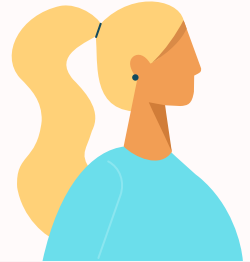




# Together We Make Change

Impacting our community by seeing our affordable housing and community support hub project to completion.



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## OUR MISSION

Fostering social equity on the Sunshine Coast by creating opportunities for people to achieve their full potential.

## OUR VISION

An engaged, healthy and thriving coast.

# About SCCSS

Sunshine Coast Community Services Society (SCCSS) has been a pillar of the Sunshine Coast community since 1974, embodying a legacy of compassion, commitment, and adaptability.

As a non-government organization overseen by a dedicated volunteer board of directors, we are sustained by a blend of public sector contracts, foundation grants, and generous contributions from the community.

With a workforce of over 85 professional staff members and the invaluable support of 175 volunteers, we administer a diverse array of more than 30 programs spanning four vital areas: Community Action and Engagement; Together Against Violence; Child and Family Counselling; and Family, Youth, and Children's Services.

Our commitment extends across various life stages and circumstances, providing crucial support to pregnant mothers, new parents, families, children, youth, adults, and seniors. Through crisis response, support programs, housing initiatives, and advocacy efforts, we strive to address the multifaceted needs of our community, promoting resilience and compassion.



# From Vision to Reality

## Needs Discovered

Our journey started in 2017 when the board of SCCSS began exploring both the financial sustainability of the organization and the changing needs of the community.

We learned that the need for affordable housing was reaching a critical level, our main building was reaching the end of its life and many of our programs were oversubscribed.

Thanks to the foresight of the staff and board who stewarded SCCSS before us, we own our land at our main location at the end of Inlet Avenue in Sechelt. Owning this land provided us with an incredible opportunity to redevelop our building and play our part in addressing the affordable rental housing crisis.



## The Vision

Working alongside community and government partners we developed a comprehensive plan that will increase our capacity to respond to community needs, and offer many of our programs under a new roof, improving access and making it easier for participants to move

from one program to another. It will also see us playing a role in providing pathways out of homelessness for women and families experiencing violence. In our community, this will mean that women leaving abusive relationships will be able to access Yew Transition House, move to Thyme Second Stage Housing, then on to long-term affordable rental housing.

To help move the plan from vision to reality, we launched our Building Together plan in 2018 — an ambitious Capital Campaign initiative that will fund the construction of a new community services hub, plus 35 affordable housing units for women and families affected by violence or at risk of experiencing violence. The housing will sit above the new community services hub with programs that are accessible to all. The hub will be a versatile gathering space designed to nurture connection and inclusivity - a welcoming environment where individuals can find support, engage in prevention programs, volunteer, work, and grow together.



## Nearing Reality

Building Together isn't just about a new building; it's about building hope, dignity, and opportunity. **We are excited to say that in 2024, after several years of work, we received Preliminary Project Approval (PPA) from BC Housing.** PPA is a significant milestone for this project, it means we have received all the approvals needed to put this project out to tender, get the final costing, and begin construction. Shovels could be in the ground as soon as August!

## Will You Join Us?

**In recognition of this milestone and in commemoration of 50 years of service, we invite you to join us in supporting our “50 Women for SCCSS” Campaign.** This initiative brings together 50 women from across the Sunshine Coast, representing a diverse array of backgrounds, from professionals to volunteers and leaders in their communities, these women have united in their commitment to supporting the health and well-being of everyone who resides on the Sunshine Coast. They are grandmothers, mothers, aunts, daughters, and sisters who deeply care about making a difference.





Lea Laberge is one of these remarkable women. With a career dedicated to supporting children and families, Lea brings a wealth of experience and passion to the initiative. From her beginnings as a special education teacher in Edmonton to her role as the Coordinator of Families and Seniors Programs at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House in Vancouver, Lea has tirelessly worked to establish programs that provide food security, language and literacy support, newcomer integration, and community connection. Since retiring and moving to Halfmoon Bay, Lea has found fulfilment in volunteering with SCCSS' Family Place program, where she continues to have a positive impact on families and children in need.

By joining forces with these remarkable women, SCCSS aims to ensure that even more Sunshine Coast residents can benefit from the numerous programs and services offered in our new purpose-built space. This initiative complements our ongoing outreach efforts across the Coast and through our six additional locations, reaffirming our dedication to serving the community and fostering a brighter future for all.

Of the estimated \$34 million needed for the project, SCCSS has already secured 90% of the funds. The '50 Women for SCCSS' campaign aims to raise an additional \$1.5M++ help address the current funding gap.

We will also be making applications to foundations, corporations, and others to gather the full amount.

It is up to us now to bridge the remaining gap. Together, we can build a brighter, more equitable future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to be 'Catherine Leach', written on a dark blue background.



**Catherine Leach**  
Executive Director

# Building Together

The need for action has never been more timely! Across the Sunshine Coast, a rising number of women, women with children, and other community members, are facing significant challenges accessing essential resources. From housing insecurity to limited support systems, the struggles are real, and the impact is profound.

That's why SCCSS is leading this critical initiative — a purpose-built, affordable housing development and community service hub in the heart of Sechelt!

## 5 Key Project Notes

**1.** The Building Together project is a 6-story development that will be built on land owned by SCCSS and located in downtown Sechelt.

**2.** The development will include **35 units of affordable housing designed to prioritize affordability, safety, and dignity for women, including single women, seniors, youth, and others who need access to resources, as well as their children who are vulnerable to or may have experienced violence.**

**3.** The development will also provide a community hub on its first two floors that will consolidate many SCCSS programs, including crisis response, housing, and advocacy initiatives such as the Food Bank, Bellies and Babies, Keeping People Housed, Better At Home, and Youth and Counselling Services.

**4.** The thoughtful design and community-focused approach of the project will play a vital role in creating a revitalized neighbourhood—one that embraces diversity, fosters safety, and radiates warmth, making it a welcoming place for all.

**5.** SCCSS has secured 90% of the funding required to build this \$34 million project. To help us achieve our goal, over 50 women from across the Sunshine Coast who have a wide variety of backgrounds and are a mix of professionals, volunteers, and leaders in their community are joining forces to raise the necessary funds through our “50 Women for SCCSS” campaign to help bridge the gap and make this project a reality. But they can't do it without you!





# Strength in Numbers

We're on the brink of turning our vision into reality, but we can't do it alone.

Without the support of compassionate and generous individuals like you, our aspirations remain just that—dreams.

Together, we can create a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging, where hope thrives, and where lives are transformed for the better. Your involvement is crucial in this life-affirming endeavour.

To join us in this vital project, please find below the ways you can do it:

## Give Online

[50women.ca](http://50women.ca)

## By Donating Securities

Consider donating securities directly, rather than selling them and donating the proceeds. The Capital Gains Tax can be eliminated on the sale of the equity or fund, providing you - the donor, with a tax advantage and more money for SCCSS.

**Download the Securities Donation Form at [sccss.ca/get-involved/donate](http://sccss.ca/get-involved/donate).**

## By Mail

Please make your cheque out to Sunshine Coast Community Services Society, with 'Fifty Women' and the name of the women you are donating under (if applicable) in the memo line.

If you prefer to keep your donation anonymous, please include the word 'Anonymous' on the memo line as well.

Mail your completed cheque to:  
**Box 1069, 5638 Inlet Avenue,  
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0**

## By E-Transfer

Make an e-transfer through your banking website. The reference email address is:  
**finance@sccss.ca.**

It will not require a secret question/answer.

In the Comments section, enter the name of the Woman you wish to donate to. Please include your email address so we can easily communicate with you.

Every contribution, whether it's a one-time donation or a monthly pledge, makes a significant impact. Your support will be gratefully acknowledged, and all individual donors will receive a tax receipt for their generosity.

Thank you for partnering with us in this essential mission.

Together, we can build a brighter future for all members of our community.

# Introducing the 50 Women for SCCSS

## The Campaign

SCCSS is celebrating its 50th year of providing critical service within our community by launching our “50 Women for SCCSS” campaign.

**These 50 women from across the Sunshine Coast have a wide variety of backgrounds and are a mix of professionals, volunteers, and leaders in their communities. They are mothers, daughters, and sisters who care deeply about supporting the health and well-being of everyone who lives on the Sunshine Coast.**

Meeting our goal will ensure that even more Sunshine Coast residents can benefit from the numerous programs and services offered in the new purpose-built space, while also complementing our continued outreach efforts across our six additional locations, ensuring accessibility to those who may not be able to visit us on-site.

## The Foundation of Our Campaign: Unity

To accomplish our ambitious campaign goal, 50 unique women from throughout our community are working together. They are collaborating and standing united, with each other—and with those who need access to the resources to live a good life.

Like you - we love our community. We care about the women and families around us. We’re committed to making health, well-being, and economic security accessible.

Finding common ground lets us stand together in unity. Together, we find strength, compassion, and resilience.

## How it Works

Each “Woman for SCCSS” has committed to help raise as much as they can for this project with donations through their connections, friends, families, and the Sunshine Coast community. Your support and encouragement will help them reach their goal.



## Board Co-Chairs Joining the 50 Women



**Nicole Arnett**

Co-Chair 50 Women for SCCSS, Realtor, RE/MAX Oceanview

“I feel that safe, accessible housing for all is a cornerstone of a healthy community. I am so happy to be a part of this wonderful campaign and invite anyone who can to support this project!”



**Sue Anne Linde**

Co-Chair, 50 Women for SCCSS

“When life deals you a difficult set of obstacles, Community Services offers a hand of support and programs to equip you with tools to surmount the challenges. I am beyond delighted to be part of the team that closes the gap in funding for the new building.”



**Sue Jackel**

Honorary Chair, 50 Women for SCCSS

“I’m passionate about ensuring housing options for all income levels, particularly for women and children. Affordable housing means more than just a roof; it’s about security and dignity. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive society where everyone thrives.”



**Catherine Leach**

Executive Director, Sunshine Coast Community Services Society

“This project is a comprehensive, well thought out and community driven response to a critical need in this community for affordable housing and barrier free community programs that respond to those in crisis, build a sense of connection and belonging and provide opportunities for community members to access the resources they need to live healthy and full lives.”



**Karen Archer**

Retired HR Manager, Community Volunteer

“I support this project because it addresses housing which is a huge need in this community as well as enhanced space for the staff of this fantastic organization.”



**Becky Black**

Realtor, Sotheby’s International Realty

“Providing support and affordable housing for single mothers is crucial for the well-being and success of both the mothers and their children. Creating communities dedicated to this cause not only ensures stable housing but also fosters a supportive environment where single mothers can access resources, build networks, and focus on nurturing their children’s development. This investment in families lays a strong foundation for future generations, promoting stability and opportunities for growth.”



**Rebecca Bollwitt**

Publisher, Miss604.com and CEO, sixty4media

“The Sunshine Coast has been a part of my life for the last four decades and I’m thrilled that I have the opportunity to give back. I’ve seen the difference the Women of Options campaign has made in my hometown of Surrey and now I’m honoured to support Sunshine Coast Community Services Society to help make an impact in this corner of the ‘604.’”



**Tess Bradshaw**

Real Estate Professional,  
RE/MAX, Oceanview Realty  
and Owner, Moorestock Mini  
Children's Boutique

"I cherish the chance to shape  
a community we can all be  
proud of."



**Cindy Buis**

Business owner, Artworks Gallery  
& Framing

"I am motivated to be one  
of the 50 Women because  
I would like to see women  
and children who are fleeing  
difficult situations find a safe  
and secure place they can call  
home."



**Christine Chandler**

SCCSS, Past Board President

"Ensuring everyone has  
a home is crucial for a  
thriving society. Let's unite  
to support those in need and  
give everyone a chance to  
succeed."



**Catherine Cooper**

Proud Mom, Business Owner,  
Child Advocate

"It can take a village to  
house a child. Collaboration  
and connection are key to  
generating change and I am  
honoured to participate in this  
campaign and be part of the  
solution in creating access  
to affordable housing in my  
community."



**Michelle  
Crandlemire**

Realtor, RE/MAX City Gibsons

"Affordable housing isn't  
just about providing shelter;  
it's about offering dignity,  
stability, and a foundation  
upon which dreams can  
thrive. Supporting the  
affordable housing initiative  
is a commitment to ensuring  
that everyone, regardless  
of circumstance, has the  
fundamental right to a safe  
place to call home."



**Sandy Cunningham**

Semi-Retired Consultant

"I have always been an  
advocate for single mothers.  
The fundamental need for  
affordable housing impacts  
a family to the core. I believe  
that if a person can focus  
on things other than finding  
suitable housing, their children  
can feel safe and secure  
and their future can look  
promising."



**Linda Curtiss**

Coordinator, Outreach Healthy  
Meal Program

"It's important that women  
are recognized for the valuable  
role they play in helping the  
community to grow and  
thrive."



**Kim Darwin**

Independent Mortgage  
Consultant

"The lack of affordable  
housing on the Coast has  
a compounding effect of  
"trapping" women living in  
dangerous living situations. I  
am supporting this endeavour  
to ensure that women and  
their children have a safe place  
to move to."





**Krista Dempster**

Realtor, RE/MAX City

“I’m thrilled to be involved in addressing the pressing need for affordable housing, collaborating closely with other women to amplify their voices and share their experiences. Together, we’re working towards making this crucial initiative a reality.”



**Vicki Dobbyn**

Community Development Consultant and Volunteer

“I am honoured to part of creating 34 affordable homes and innovative program space, building on the legacy of the Society’s founders 50 years ago, the Transition House founders over 40 years ago, and the courageous front-line staff members who have provided safety and hope for countless women and children.”



**Suzanne Doyle-Ingram**

CEO of Prominence Publishing, Inc.

“I have chosen to support the Building Together project because I believe that every person has the right to safe and affordable housing. I want to live in a community where we can reach out and ask for help when we need it - and actually get it!”



**Andrea Glew**

Realtor, RE/MAX City Realty

“I advocate for equitable access to affordable housing for all individuals, especially women, ensuring a secure and comfortable home environment where everyone can feel safe. I am looking forward to taking part in this pivotal event.”



**Tanya Hall**

Professional Painter

“The moment I learned about this project, it struck me as the very solution we’ve been seeking. Its impact on the Sunshine Coast is bound to be profound, especially with its provision of housing for women and children. We need to rise to the occasion, and this project does exactly that by addressing a crucial need for safe housing, offering hope, and paving the way for a brighter future. I urge you to delve into the details and perceive the same potential I do. Let’s come together and support this invaluable gift.”



**Poppy Hallam**

Retired RCMP Staff Sergeant

“As a police officer, I saw people on some of their darkest days. I did my best to be a bright light, a beacon they could find when they needed help. I genuinely care about people and I did my best to treat everyone with dignity and a sense of warmth and caring. You never know when your kindness, a smile or a hug, could be the difference in someone’s day. You can impact people in what could seem like the smallest way, yet it can have a life-saving outcome. There is no better life, than a life of service to others. I may have retired, but I am not done, and I am moving onto my next chapter and I see my life as continuing to give back.”



**Keely Halward**

Artist

“I am honoured to be able to continue to work with SCCSS as a volunteer to support this important and much-needed redevelopment as access to safe and affordable housing is critical as it is possibly the biggest barrier to women being able to leave an unsafe situation. Having worked at SCCSS, the rebuild of program spaces is also very needed to ensure there is ample room for programs and their development into the future, and a place for all to enter with pride and dignity.”



**Conchita Harding**

Self-employed, Volunteer

“It is a great honour to be part of this amazing group of women, we know that this project is VITAL for our communities, and I invite all of you to take part in the fundraiser. Let’s work to see the Building Together project a reality.”



### Jen Robertson-Hatanaka

Regional Vice President at Starbucks

“We all have 5 basic needs to survive and thrive as human beings – the air we breath gives life, water and food nutrition our bodies, shelter provides security and love is what is critical to thrive. When someone needs help offering that help wrapped in love is what will support that person to move just surviving to thriving.”



### Jan Holt

Retired Teacher and Administrator

“Maya Angelou: The ache for home is in all of us. The safe place we can go as we are and not be questioned.’ This project will provide homes for women and their children who urgently need the security that quality housing and on site support services can provide. It is a ‘ready to go’ project that benefits, not only the women housed, but the community as a whole.”



### Devon Kennedy

Co-owner, Carson Refrigeration

“After seeing firsthand the needs of women in our community I knew if I was ever in a position to support financially I would. We always hear about the housing crisis and its rare to have a solution offered that delivers wrap around care to address systemic issues. Carson Refrigeration is a proud supporter of affordable housing for women and we encourage anyone in a position to give to do so.”



### Bonnie Klein

Disability advocate and educator; former feminist documentary filmmaker

“I am so excited to join with others to create the much-needed hub and affordable housing for women and children in our community. I hope to contribute a disability lens so that our new building is not only affordable but also accessible for our disabled population, who have few places to live.”



### Lea Laberge

SCCSS Volunteer & Retired Child Education Specialist

“I believe the Building Together Project is a very important one for the Sunshine Coast. In an area with high housing costs and low rental inventory, the SCCSS is working hard to provide women and children with a secure and safe place to live. With the support of the community, this project, which will also include a community support hub, will be successful.”



### Holly Lehmann

SCCSS Volunteer, past SCCSS Board and Chair

“This building is an incredible asset to the people of the Sunshine Coast and I encourage everyone to support and celebrate this achievement.”



### Gloria Lifton

Retired Organizational Development Consultant Past President, SCCSS and Past Co-Chair, Seniors Planning Table Community Advocate and Volunteer

“Making safe and affordable housing a reality for women and their families who face the challenges of violence or homelessness is a cause dear to my heart. I am honoured to join with other coastal women to make this happen.”



### Rachel Manley

Realtor, Manley, York & Associates

“Behind every successful woman is a tribe of other women who have her back. Together, let’s be that tribe. Let’s invest in women and their children, because when we lift each other up, we all rise.”



**Sandy McBride**

Retired Financial Advisor

"It's a natural fit to have affordable housing and community services co-located together. Our entire community benefits when those most in need have access to safe housing, resources, and services."



**Judy McLarty**

Artist

"We need to give women and children on the Sunshine Coast a leg up to heal and thrive in safe housing complete with supportive services in the same location."



**Deb Mealia**

Retired, founding member of Yew Transition House

"I want to be part of a community that has room for everyone in it to thrive. A measure of a community is how well the least fortunate person is doing."



**Fran Miller**

Team Lead with the Good People Realty Group

"I am thrilled to be included in a project so close to my heart - providing safe and affordable housing for women, their families, and seniors. This project will directly affect many lives and will help build a stronger, more resilient community. We can't wait to get started!"



**Vickie Morris**

Retired Urban Planner and Community Developer

"Ensuring that everyone has a safe, secure, affordable home benefits everyone by unlocking all our potential. The Building Together Project will benefit everyone who lives, works, and plays on this beautiful coast."



**Valerie Nash**

Owner, Nash & Associates

"Sechelt has needed a project of this size and quantity for a long time. Permanent affordable housing, gorgeous design, and a whole range of supports and services for the women and families who live there. Love it!"



**Jennifer Oke**

Professional Photographer

"I believe that by meeting new people, connecting, and sharing stories, skills, and resources, we can help make the world a better place."



**Ruby Orchard**

SCCSS Board Member

"I joined the Board 3 years ago particularly out of interest for the Building Together project. I know that when we support women, we strengthen the whole of our communities. The time is ripe; I know we can do this... our future health depends on it!"







**Nora Prevost**

Principal Designer, Imagina Design

“Women are a strategic resource as the backbone of most families. By supporting the construction of a safe place for vulnerable women and their children I feel that I am fulfilling my societal responsibility to support those most in need.”



**Lynnette Robinson**

Director, Rotary Club of Gibsons

“Affordable housing and homelessness has been a concern for me and I appreciate the struggles and hope I can contribute in some way to help alleviate it.”



**Brenda Rowe**

Councillor, District of Sechelt

“The SCCSS Building Together project offers all of us the opportunity to support housing and programming at a very grassroots level. The legacy that this project will provide can be life changing.”



**Elise Rudland**

Elder

“SCCSS programs have been operating in the old SCRD transit station for over 40 years. Our community and staff deserve better.”



**Jaqueline Schach**

Board Chair, Sunshine Coast ElderCollege and Community Volunteer

“My work has shown me that every person has the potential to thrive if given the proper foundation and tools. Providing affordable, safe housing and access to a Community Services hub are essential to creating that opportunity for the vulnerable women in our community.”



**Kim Schachte**

Retired Business Owner and Graphic Designer

“Safe and affordable housing options are a sign of a healthy and caring community. I am excited to be a part of making that happen on the Sunshine Coast.”



**Darnelda Siegers**

Mortgage Broker / Former Mayor District of Sechelt

“This project supports and provides women raising our next generation of leaders the space and time to relax, recharge and move on so all can fulfill their long-term potential.”



**Jessica Silvey**

Coast Salish Weaver and Fibre Artist

“It’s about creating an amazing place of connection for women and children, a safe space that promotes healthy opportunities and love.”



**Angie Sita**

Personal Real Estate Advisor

“It is a privilege to support women by providing an opportunity for them to achieve their full potential. This development will inspire confidence in a safe community environment which will empower these women to be amazing mothers and facilitate their active involvement in business & employment.”



**Michele Stobie**

Nurse Educator (Retired) and Volunteer Princess

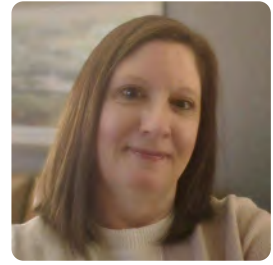
“I discovered that one of their challenges, especially for single and financially disadvantaged women, was the availability of services, finding them, travelling to various locations or searching multiple websites, while trying to find employment or childcare. Building Together will help alleviate these challenges.”



**Tracy Uchida**

Residential Realtor/Marriage Commissioner/Mom

“Sisterhood is a powerful thing. Together, we have the power to lift each other up in trying times. I look forward to shining light on the dire need for affordable housing on the Sunshine Coast for Women and their families facing violence or homelessness. I’m honoured to be a part of this project and Sisterhood.”



**Elisa Walker**

CPA & CEO, Ocean Breeze CPA

“Everyone deserves to have a place to call home where they can feel safe and secure.”



**Krista Wollen Schultz**

Realtor, RE/MAX City

“Housing for everyone is fundamental to creating a healthy, well rounded community.”



**Carmelita Weichert**

Coordinator, Project Advance, Holy Family Parish

“Participating in this initiative is more than just a charitable act—it’s about leaving behind a meaningful legacy that aligns with my values and beliefs.”



# Donate Today

## Give Online

[50women.ca](https://50women.ca)

## By Donating Securities

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## By Mail

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If you prefer to keep your donation anonymous, please include the word 'Anonymous' on the memo line as well.

Mail your completed cheque to:  
**Box 1069, 5638 Inlet Avenue,  
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0**

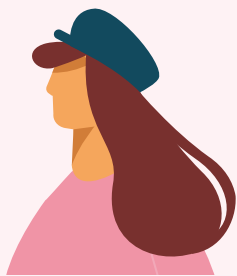
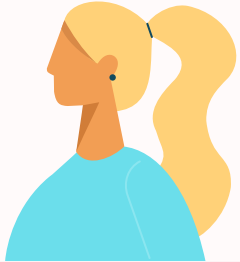
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It will not require a secret question/answer.

In the Comments section, enter the name of the Woman you wish to donate to. Please include your email address so we can easily communicate with you.





FIFTY  
**women**  
 FOR SCCSS



An initiative of:



Sunshine Coast Community  
 Services Society

**General Inquiries**

Email: [50women@sccss.ca](mailto:50women@sccss.ca)

Phone: (604) 885-5881

[sccss.ca](http://sccss.ca) | [50women.ca](http://50women.ca)