



Fifty Women Unite to Raise \$1.5 million for Sunshine Coast Single Women, and Women with Children

Sunshine Coast Community Services Society building safe and affordable homes with supportive programming hub for Coast residents.

Sechelt, BC-May 1, 2024 —As the largest community based nonprofit organization providing supportive programming and services to Sunshine Coast residents, **Sunshine Coast Community Services Society (SCCSS)** undertakes a challenging task. As the organization celebrates fifty years of delivering critical community services, fifty compassionate and determined women are stepping up to help close the funding gap for a vital 6-storey development in the heart of Sechelt, BC. This will help to create a program-rich community hub with safe and affordable housing for single women and women with children.

Of the estimated \$34 million required for this project, **SCCSS** has secured 90% of the funds. The fifty **Women for SCCSS** aim to raise an additional \$1.5 million to help with a portion of the remaining gap in funding.

SCCSS serves a dispersed population of 32,000 people living along a large geographical area comprised of 100 km of BC coastline. The median income of Coast residents is significantly lower than that for British Columbia overall, at \$60,192, compared to \$69,979. In an area of the province that visitors often consider a holiday paradise, too many of the community's residents are struggling to meet the fundamental needs of safety, food, and housing. Fifty-nine percent of the Coast's children who are living with a single parent are living below the poverty line. Significantly more children per capita live in low-income households on the Sunshine Coast than in BC overall.

To address these vital needs, **SCCSS** is building thirty-five secure and affordable homes for single women, and women with children, who have experienced, or are vulnerable to experiencing violence, creating dignified housing for all women. **SCCSS** identified a significant need in the community and developed a solution to help via much-needed housing and onsite support. The organization is grateful for the overwhelming support from the community, including the fifty **Women for SCCSS**.

In addition to housing, on the lower two floors of the building, **SCCSS** will introduce a community hub, providing food solutions and crisis response, along with support

and prevention programming. The services that *SCCSS* provides address inequalities that were laid bare by pandemic conditions. *SCCSS*'s longstanding focus on food sustainability and emergency support for those experiencing trauma, particularly women and children, will be enhanced by this critical investment into housing and support services.

The fifty women from across the Sunshine Coast, and beyond, whether mothers, daughters, sisters, or aunts, have united with a common goal of supporting the health and wellbeing of vulnerable residents on BC's *Sunshine Coast*. Comprised of women from various professions, of all ages, and each with a unique life experience, all share a vision of contributing to an engaged, healthy, and thriving Coast.

"We're committed to making health, well-being, and economic security accessible to everyone on the Coast," says *SCCSS Executive Director* Catherine Leach. "This development brings us one step closer to achieving that goal by offering pathways out of homelessness, for woman and children, and providing a safe and inclusive space to access support and prevention services."

Women for SCCSS consists of successful realtors, business owners, artists, philanthropists, generous longtime residents, and community members who care deeply about the Sunshine Coast, and who want to help create change.

"Supporting projects like this speaks to me, echoing cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead's belief that a small group of committed citizens can change the world.", says Sue Jackel, *SCCSS Co-Chair* and one of the fifty *Women for SCCSS*. "I'm passionate about securing housing for all income levels, particularly for women and children, as this is more than just housing, it's about security and dignity."

Visit [Home | 50 Women for SCCSS](#) to learn more about the program and engage online via social media handle @sc.communityservices and by using hashtag #WomenForSCCSS.

About Sunshine Coast Community Services Society

For 50 years, *Sunshine Coast Community Services Society (SCCSS)* has been a community-based non-profit organization that provides critical support for families, children, youth, adults, and seniors through crisis response, support programs, housing, and advocacy. We are a non-government organization overseen by a volunteer board of directors, funded by government contracts, foundations, and community donations. [Sunshine Coast Community Services Society \(sccss.ca\)](http://www.sccss.ca)

For more information, please contact:

Rachel Thexton
Thexton PR
604-729-1448
rachel@thextonpr.com