

WISH
Drop-In Centre Society

— 2026 Spring Newsletter —

Support Safety

WISH Drop-In Centre Society



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This Spring, support safety and protect sex workers' rights with a gift to WISH Drop-In Centre!

Your generosity helps provide needed essentials, non-judgmental support, and safe, supportive spaces for the incredible, kind, and brilliant people who rely on WISH.

Together, we centre the needs of women, trans, Two-Spirit, non-binary and gender diverse sex workers who are being pushed into the margins.

Help fund responsive services that are available when and where they are needed most.

Donate to WISH today.

wish-vancouver.net/donate

"We be Safe here"

WISH Google review



WISH is located on the unceded, stolen lands of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.

Small Steps, Big Changes

A new opportunity is available for WISH participants to improve their skills in a supportive environment, led by WISH's first Pre-Employment InReach Worker (PEIW), Ruby.

As a member of the InReach team, Ruby provides one-to-one support and advocacy for WISH participants.

As the PEIW, she also connects participants to paid work opportunities, hosts weekly pre-employment workshops, and facilitates Emotional Regulation and Effective Communication classes three times per month.



Ruby has been carefully building trusting relationships with WISH participants since hosting her first event at WISH four years ago.

Her classes are fun and informative, and even though – or maybe because – tough topics are covered, **there is a huge demand for these discussions.**

Topics range from “Communications and Emotions” to “Learning to Love Yourself!” and provide a safe, non-judgmental space to explore difficult emotions.

Discussions around anger are helping participants recognize triggers, understand the roots of their anger, and learn healthier ways to respond. Exploring empathy helps to build understanding and trust, **reducing conflict and fostering a more supportive, respectful community.**

Other classes help participants navigate specific challenges. In “Small Steps, Big Changes” Ruby focuses on making incremental, realistic, and achievable progress forward.

“By breaking larger goals into manageable steps, participants were able to build confidence, experience quick wins, and develop a sense of control over their circumstances. This combination of practical strategies and peer connection helped foster motivation, resilience, and a stronger belief in their ability to create positive change, making the overall impact both meaningful and sustainable.”

– Ruby, WISH InReach Worker

In the trusting and supportive environment Ruby creates for these workshops and classes, participants can share experiences, learn from one another, and feel less isolated.

Ruby, thank you for your incredible work!

WISH participants who want to learn more can check out the [monthly activities and events calendar](#) for information about Ruby's workshops and InReach drop-in times.

Employers who wish to provide paid employment opportunities for WISH participants can email info@wishdropincentre.org to learn more about partnering with InReach.

**REGULATING EMOTIONS
WORKSHOPS WITH RUBY**

EVERY FRIDAY IN MARCH 6:30 - 8 PM

- 6TH INTRODUCTION TO EMOTIONS & COMMUNICATION!
- 13TH LEARNING TO MANAGE HURT.
- 20TH LEARNING TO LOVE YOURSELF!
- 27TH LEARNING TO MOVE ON!

JOIN US
IN THE LEARNING CENTRE FOR DRINKS,
SNACKS & GREAT CONVERSATIONS!



The Shelter Garden

All quotes provided by WISH staff and participants.

"People thrive off nature."

Not long after the WISH Shelter opened in 2020 a massive mound of soil mysteriously appeared, providing the inspiration (and raw materials), for a small garden in the backlot. Soon participants and staff had created planters for the soil and filled them with plants and flowers.

"It brought life and color into a space that otherwise was just concrete and COVID."

WISH operates on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, where nature is in short supply. That's why this small garden has such a big impact. It offers a peaceful space for Shelter residents and other WISH participants to spend time, just enjoying the beauty.

Over the years we have discussed moving, changing, or even getting rid of the garden, but the conversation always comes back to the same thing: **how much joy it brings participants.**

"It's a place to dream."

The garden also offers a place to gather and mourn. Purple flowers were planted on International Overdose





Awareness Day and the garden has become a home for painted memorial rocks, messages, and prayers honouring loved ones whose lives have been taken.

Everyone at WISH holds a part of this garden, including those who are no longer with us.

"There's a lot of meaning in that space."

Although it is modest in size, the Shelter Garden has room for everyone who wants to contribute.

This year, one resident has planted flowers in hanging pots to attract hummingbirds, and another passionate gardener on staff has been bringing in seeds from all over: her personal collection, one of the Vancouver Public Library seed banks, and a local librarian who is a part-time farmer!

"I told them about our garden, and they wanted to help out."

The garden is symbolic of the work that happens here and the relationships that develop at WISH.

With care, over time, small contributions from many people have created something beautiful with deep meaning.

Thank you to the Shelter residents, Drop-In participants, WISH staff and volunteers who continue to care for this improbable, and wonderful, gift to the community.

"Love the garden and all the love that is going into it!"

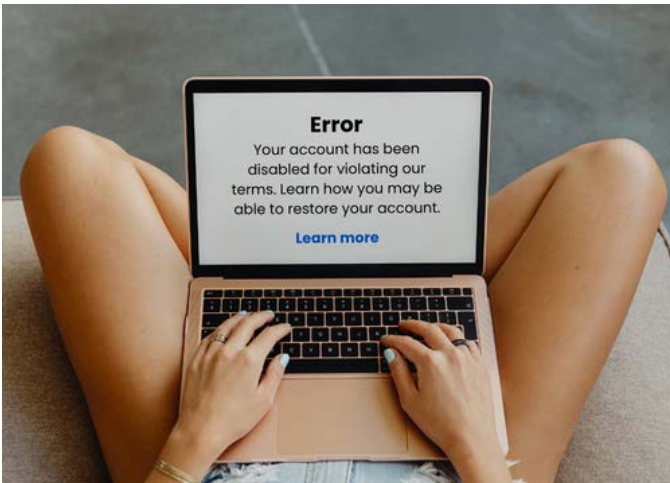


Silenced Online

Have you ever seen someone write “seggs” or “s3x” instead of sex?

People around the world are using this kind of algospeak to avoid posting anything on social media that might be identified as explicit, sensitive, or offensive.

This silly sounding strategy is a serious concern because **sex workers continue to have their accounts deleted** from major social media platforms, often with only vague reasons provided, such as “content that may not meet community guidelines.”



These decisions are notoriously hard to appeal, and this silencing is not just happening to sex workers.

Organizations promoting women’s rights, sexual health education, and queer liberation are reporting similar

experiences, despite carefully following the terms of service.

This isn’t moderation, it’s erasure.
– Maedb Joy, Sexquisite

Platform policing also includes what Meta describes as becoming “non-recommendable.”

If the content you post is judged to be problematic, even if it isn’t prohibited by site guidelines, many platforms have systems in place to reduce the visibility of that content.

Commonly known as shadowbanning, it’s the opposite of being promoted.

Instead, your content is demoted. It still appears on your page but is effectively hidden from other users.

It’s hard to be certain if this is targeted censorship, or overly cautious moderation. Either way, there are serious consequences – especially for sex workers – when a well established account is deleted, and it’s incredibly stressful knowing that you could lose access to your online community at any time.

[T]he blatant discrimination we face on social media outweighs any benefit we might get from continuing to use platforms where most of us are shadowbanned anyway.
– Oz Bigdownunder

WISH is a registered charity serving sex workers and this silencing is affecting us as well.

Recently, an online ad for WISH that said “street-based sex workers” was edited by the ad agency to read “street-based workers.” We cancelled the ad.

Their unacceptable removal of the word “sex” would be hilarious if this type of censorship wasn’t so harmful.

Staying connected to our supporters is how WISH survives.

Every year, thousands of people volunteer their time and skills, drop off new and gently used physical donations, and help raise much-needed funds in deeply impactful ways.

We need you to know how your support helps defend sex workers’ rights in our community.

To make sure you’re getting the latest updates from WISH, please sign up for our newsletter.

You can add your name to the WISH email list [here](#) or email us at info@wishdropincentre.org with “WISH News” in the subject line, and we’ll sign you up personally!

If you already receive (and appreciate) email updates from WISH, you can help us connect with more people by **sharing this invitation with someone you care about.**

Amplify & Elevate

Your support of WISH Drop-In Centre on social media also makes a big difference!

Every time you like and share something WISH has posted you increase the likelihood that other followers will see it – and you help bring messages about sex worker safety to new audiences. Thank you!

WISH is currently active on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and new to [Bluesky](#).

So far, we’ve seen positive engagement on Bluesky. The platform gives each user control over their own moderation and content filters, **helping people avoid (or discover) adult content based on their preferences.**

Let’s connect!



Gettin' Ready with Angel

Every so often someone reaches out to WISH with an incredibly creative donation. **Local artist and designer Angel Kao is the latest.**

Angel makes fun, cheeky art that connects people, like her "Poorly Drawn Portraits" and "Doodle Soup Club."

Recently, Angel generously donated a custom doodle mural to WISH.

A wall in the WISH Shelter was selected, in a high-use area where many residents do their hair and make-up.

Inspired by themes of beauty and self-care, Angel hopes the piece will bring "a sense of confidence, fun lightness,



and personality into a shared space with a little more empowering vibe."

This is wonderful gift that will add a lot of character to the room. **Thank you Angel for using your creativity and skills to uplift WISH participants!**

DESIGN

The color palette was chosen to reflect the brighter summer vibes.

This mockup is a general visual guide. The final mural may vary slightly in scale, color, and detail once installed in the space.

