

Weston King Neighbourhood Centre

Annual Report 2005



**AGM 2005 – Values**

To relieve poverty, loneliness and isolation of persons in the Weston community area of the City of Toronto that are low income earners, unemployed, immigrants, seniors, people with disabilities, drug users and street involve sex trade workers, homeless and under-housed, socially isolated and economically disadvantaged, by establishing, operating and maintaining a Centre that:

- a) Provides access to food, clothing, laundry and shower facilities, telephones, newspapers and other basic supplies for those in need; and
- b) Provides social support services including job, income and housing search programs; social agency referral, including emergency shelter referrals; and ID clinic; health promotion (flu and hepatitis vaccines and anonymous testing) and help with filling in forms, drafting resumes, and referrals for training, education and legal services; and
- c) Assists persons affected by substance abuse by providing harm reduction services, both in the Center and on the streets (HIV/ATDS prevention services including distribution of condoms, needle exchange, etc.), education and referral to medical and social support services; and
- d) Provides social integration through the establishment of a wheel-chair accessible drop-in centre where people can meet others, mixed with volunteers and staff and feel less isolated; and
- e) Establishes partnerships with other social agencies to better serve the community and works to provide advocacy for the service users and public education regarding issues of poverty, isolation and homelessness.

For the objects aforesaid, to accept grants, contributions, donations, gifts, legacies and bequests unconditionally or subject to conditions, provided that such conditions are not inconsistent with the objects of the corporation.

**AGM 2005 – Agenda**

Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Place: Central United Church Basement

- 1.0 Opening and Welcome - by Chair of Board, Lang Moffat
- 2.0 Meeting Properly Constituted
- 3.0 Approval of Agenda
- 4.0 President's Report on Activities of Corporation
- 5.0 Program Coordinator's Report
- 6.0 Review of Financial Statements
 - 6.1 Fiscal Year 2004 (April 1 2003 – Mar 31 2004)
 - 6.2 Fiscal Year 2005 (April 1 2004 – Mar 31 2005)
 - 6.3 Fiscal Year 2005b (April 1 2005 – Dec 31 2005)
 - 6.4 Appointment of Auditor for the next Fiscal Year.
- 7.0 Changes to Bylaws
 - 7.1 Change Bylaw 9.01 to read that the fiscal year of the Corporation will end on Dec 31 of each year.
 - 7.2 Append to Bylaw 8.08 – Only members who have held their membership for more than 90 days before the AGM will be able to vote in the Annual General Meeting. (Want stable, ongoing membership, committed to organization)
- 8.0 Approval of Acts of Board of Directors
- 9.0 Election of Board
 - 9.1 WKNC Members identifying as United Church Members
 - 9.1.1 Listing of members who previously indicated their desire to be Board members.
 - 9.1.2 Acceptance of names from the Floor.
 - 9.1.3 Presentation of Candidates
 - 9.1.4 Election of Board Members
 - 9.2 WKNC Members not Identifying as United Church Members
 - 9.2.1 Listing of members who previously indicated their desire to be Board members.
 - 9.2.2 Acceptance of names from the Floor.
 - 9.2.3 Presentation of Candidates
 - 9.2.4 Election of Board Members
- 10.0 Other Business
- 11.0 Call meeting for Newly Elected Board of Directors



AGM 2005 – President's Message

Tonight is a very special occasion in the life of the Weston-King Neighbourhood Centre (WKNC) – our first public Annual General Meeting. We are excited to share with you the good news of how far we have come in a few short years.

Some 13 years ago Central United Church began the Tuesday evening community dinner, which continues today with the help of volunteers from Westminster United, Weston Park Baptist and St. David's Anglican churches, and from the community itself. St. John's Anglican Church also assisted us for a time, and then began a successful Thursday evening community dinner in their location. Weston is fortunate to have excellent community dinners offered twice a week all year.

WKNC was formed to provide some of the community services most requested by those attending the dinners. When the City of York was amalgamated with the City of Toronto, our area became one of the most under-served in the entire expanded city. We started as a small community group in 2000 with services available on Tuesdays only. A successful application for funding from the then brand new Federal Government, "Supporting Community Partnership Initiative Fund" (SCPI), administered by the City of Toronto, enabled us to hire Seth Clark as our first Program Coordinator. A second SCPI grant, this time for capital funds, enabled us to renovate our space to provide much-needed facilities – two showers, two washers and dryers, a ramp to the lower auditorium for wheelchairs and scooters, and food preparation and serving equipment. We were off and running!

Subsequent funding from the City of Toronto to deliver specific service programs has allowed us to expand services and provide professional staff to deliver them. The result is that the WKNC is now open four days a week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; Thursday being a special day set aside for women only. Our staff now numbers three: Program Coordinator Linsey McPhee, Drop-In worker Daniel Rojas-Orrego and Outreach and Harm-Reduction worker Maria Moutsatsos. You can read more about each of them and their work in the summary of activities, which is part of this annual report.

The organization itself has changed and matured with the passing years. WKNC was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in January 2003 with its own membership and Board of Directors. We have now obtained formal audits for our first three years of operation as a corporation (2003-2005) and these are presented for your information and approval. Also, as noted elsewhere, we are preparing an application for recognition as a charity, which will enable us to issue charitable receipts for donations to support our work.

Since we are claiming success in our efforts to make a difference in this community, represented by all of you here with us tonight, you may well ask how we measure our success. That is a valid question. For us, the most important measure is the individual success stories of our service users who have set goals for themselves and shared their stories with us. Not all have achieved their ultimate goals as yet, but individual successes along the way are important, and each one is a step nearer to where they want to be. Many have told us that our being here has made a difference in their lives. That message is truly music to our ears and the best motivation we can possibly receive. We also value the volunteer time that many of our service users give to help in the work here at WKNC.

Recognition from our peers is another measure of our success. The number of organizations who have been willing to partner with us to deliver services in this area is remarkable for such a new and small neighbourhood centre. You will find a list of our current partners elsewhere in this annual report. The commitment of our partners' staff to their work here, and their willingness to share their knowledge and experience is invaluable. We also read it as a vote of confidence in us.



AGM 2005 – President's Message

Recognition from our funders is also very important. We are rightly held accountable by them and high quality work is expected of us. We would have it no other way. What has impressed me most, and has been a pleasant surprise, is the genuine interest they show in what we are about; their encouragement and recognition for a job well done; their constructive suggestions; their support for us by providing training opportunities for staff and volunteers; their unexpected anticipation of our future needs including funding, and a willingness to work with us to achieve common goals. We see this respect for us as a valued service provider as another vote of confidence.

Since the start of the WKNC virtually all our time, energy and resources have been devoted to the work of the centre itself. As a result, we have had a low profile even in our own community. Public recognition has not been sought or expected. That is why the selection of WKNC as the site to publicly introduce the federal SCPI funding to Toronto was so much appreciated. For a short time we were the centre of attention in Toronto as cabinet minister Colleen Bradshaw, accompanied by a number of local dignitaries did the honours. Needless to say, this event brought with it significant local media coverage. Looking back, I am convinced the reason for our selection for this honour was that we truly represent what SCPI is all about. We are the "spirit of SCPI" if you will - a local community partnering with others to improve quality of life for the most vulnerable and marginalized people in our area.

The vision for Weston, so publicly recognized at that time, has continued to be lived out in this place. The initial SCPI funding has been leveraged into increased funding to deliver expanded services to our community. The quality of life for some has improved, and when that happens the whole community benefits.

What does quality of life mean? That is a good question. A cross-Canada study done in 2002 by Canadian Policy Research Networks found that even very diverse groups of Canadians shared these core values: "A desire for community, an equal and fair opportunity for all, the respect for diversity, and the protection of basic rights in tandem with a responsibility towards others." These are the values we at WKNC share and which guide us in all we do. Please note our own prepared statement of principles, which will be found in the WKNC annual report 2005 and are part of the WKNC membership application flyer.

All this can be summed up by saying, "We aim to make a positive difference in the life of each person who comes through our doors, and in doing so to help build a better community for all who call Weston home." We ask you all to join us to build on past successes towards a better tomorrow for the Weston community.

Lang Moffat
President

**AGM 2005 – Program Co-ordinator's Report**

Good community development is an intervention that helps people to identify, organize and respond to problems and needs that they share. It recognizes individual and community strengths and assets and supports the establishment of strong communities that help improve quality of life, promote civic engagement and increase social capital for their members. While this is the first opportunity we have had to represent our work in an Annual Report, Weston King Neighbourhood Centre has been practicing good community development for four years and several more prior to our incorporation.

Our drop-in program aims to be a safe space where people can access basic needs and link to medical, legal and social services. Our harm reduction program is assisting people to identify their common need for health and health promotion services. Our volunteer program is entirely volunteer-led and forms the backbone of our daily activities. Our partnerships assist us in creating, maintaining and resourcing our community space in Weston. With this support we are able to provide needed information, supports and services particularly around housing and homelessness, health services and harm reduction supports. We are active in coordinating services in the broader service delivery system and have provided a voice from the "inner suburbs" on issues of note to our service users and community members. All of this is made possible by the generous support of our funders and local community.

My colleagues, Daniel Rojas-Orrego and Maria Moutsatsos join me in building a skilled staff-team that operates from an anti-oppression framework. Often this approach is viewed as political and I would agree. I would like to leave you with the words of Vaclav Havel who has said "Genuine politics -- even politics worthy of the name -- the only politics I am willing to devote myself to -- is simply a matter of serving those around us: serving the community and serving those who will come after us. Its deepest roots are moral because it is a responsibility expressed through action, to and for the whole."

Linsey MacPhee
Program Coordinator
March 22, 2006



AGM 2005 – Activities Report

Summary of Activities

The Board of Weston King Neighbourhood Centre (WKNC) meets monthly to handle the various responsibilities of running the program. Under the by-laws at least fifty percent of Board members should be members of the United Church of Canada. The Board is actively seeking new members to support the program and to elect Board members to carry out the work. Since there are only three staff and no executive director, the Board is a working group putting many hours a month into supporting the Centre in a wide variety of ways. Central United Church offers generous support through the free rental space, maintenance services, renovations and volunteer time, and it makes sense for members of the church to be active in its service to the community.

A positive change has been made in the provision of meals on the four days a week the Centre is open. Service users themselves sign up daily to be responsible for the tasks of preparing, serving and cleaning up, and one or two of the six “senior” people act as team leaders offering guidance and assistance where needed. This has brought forward several excellent cooks and cleaners, the chance to try new dishes, and the opportunity for the service users to find satisfaction from also contributing to the running of their Centre.

With regards to access to food and other supplies there are three major sources of support: Second Harvest which delivers once a week, the Weston Farmers’ Market which provided a free table to WKNC this last summer where the vendors and public generously donated, and Central United Church funds and trusts. With 400 cups of coffee a week prepared, an average of 150 meals to be created and the emergency bags of food to be filled, the Centre goes through quite an inventory of food in a week. Serious efforts are made to ensure the food is well-prepared, nutritious, varied and with vegetarian alternatives and no pork products. There is a green pass sign on the door proudly declaring that the food handling and preparation meets the City of Toronto standards.

Between 40 and 60 people use the services throughout the day, with it fluctuating through the month. Thursdays are set aside for women so the numbers are smaller, but this smaller group provides an opportunity for programs such as jam and pesto making, sewing and watching educational videos. The washing machines and dryers are always in use and the showers were especially popular in the hot weather. While some service users have been coming regularly for many years, each day brings people new to the area. The size of the space self-regulates numbers so that Tuesday suppers rarely exceed 80 and similarly on weekdays if it’s too crowded people spread outside or leave after doing what they came for.

Two new staff were hired through the year to support the Program Coordinator, Linsey MacPhee. There were more than 40 applications for the Drop-in Worker position that Daniel Rojas-Orrego was offered. He is responsible for the day to day running of the drop-in, developing program activities and ensuring the safety of the space by reinforcing the basic expectations of staff volunteers and service users. He provides support to service users in accessing medical, legal and social services, advocating for those facing barriers. Daniel also brings fluency in Spanish and Patois and a connection with the Latin American, Caribbean and African communities.

The new Harm Reduction Worker, Maria Moutsatsos, brought strong counselling skills with eight years of practical experience, and continued education in areas of mental health, trauma, substance use and anti-oppression. She is responsible for twice weekly street outreach providing harm reduction materials to people using drugs, sex workers and other street involved groups. Maria recruits, trains and supports peer workers – people from within the community whose knowledge is invaluable in reaching people who do not come to the Centre. She is present at the Centre when it is open, participating in partnership development, community events and

**AGM 2005 – Activities Report**

workshops while meeting with service users for HIV/AIDS prevention and other harm reduction services. All staff represent WKNC at meetings throughout the City and WKNC also participated in a series of workshops throughout the year in all aspects of organizational development as part of the West Toronto Developmental Organizations Network.

While partners (see below) provide value through staffing and product, it is essential to acquire substantial funding for the salaries for the WKNC staff and program supplies. Funding is obtained as a result of well-reasoned and written proposals demonstrating how important WKNC is to the Weston community. These are sent by the Program Coordinator to the various funders, such as the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and various levels of government. Some times these are successful, some times there is insufficient money to respond to all the applications and WKNC is not on the list. Community recognition of the positive results and the ongoing growth of the program assist WKNC in obtaining funding.

Funders

In the last year OTF provided \$49,800 to improve sustainability. The Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) funding that earlier paid for the major renovations and the program coordinator's salary ended and in its place the Toronto Homeless Initiative Fund supported the program with \$42,184. HIV/AIDS and Drug Prevention programs provide \$38,254. This year an audit of the funds has been completed and WKNC applied for and was selected to participate in a pilot project of the City and the John McInnich Law Foundation to support developing organizations in obtaining charitable status. Gaining charitable status for WKNC will allow tax returns for the donors. WKNC was successful in its application to the City of Toronto for funds to support development of policies and procedures and to conduct a strategic planning process in 2006. Both these initiatives form part of the OTF funded workplan.

Space does not permit an accounting of all our successes, some big and some a gentle nudge towards change. In 2006 look for the completed video made with our partners Syme Woolner Neighbourhood Family Centre and York Community Services that documents our joint work around housing help and eviction prevention services. Many of WKNC's service users speak about the importance of WKNC to their lives. A WKNC web site is being developed to publish more information. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact any of the staff or these involved people:

*** 2005 Board Members:**

Lang Moffat, President
Robert Nobel, Treasurer
Barbara Bisgrove, Secretary
Sylvia Hampton, Equity and Membership
Joyce Osborne
Lynn Lowes, Fund Raising ^
Stephen White, Vice-President^

^ retired during year

**** 2005 Team Leaders**

Ann Maclean ^
Ann Watson
Barbara Bisgrove
Elizabeth Rodgerson ^
Patricia Scott
Ken Bunton
Lynn Lowes
Peter Lynch^
Sylvia Hampton

**AGM 2005 – Activities Report**WKNC Current Partners:

a. Central United Church: provides rent-free space, janitorial services and renovations to the space. Church donations pay for the Tuesday evening community supper delivered in partnership with several local faith communities. The church membership with In-Kind Canada has accessed furniture, clothing, cosmetics and toiletries for use by WKNC. A separate address for the WKNC door (2017 Weston Road) was negotiated with the City and Postal Office, and with a donation from the Weston Lions Club a bulletin board was placed on the wall to help inform the community of WKNC's services.

b. City of Toronto – Family Residence: a new partnership this year, Family Res partners with WKNC to provide orientation, information and referral and follow-up support to people housed in Weston through Family Res, Streets to Homes, and several recent hostel closures. A staff person meets regularly with people and it is proving to be a model to be copied elsewhere.

c. Harm Reduction in York and North York: WKNC was instrumental in the formation of Harm Reduction in York which has recently joined with a similar coalition in North York to identify areas of common concern. Deliverables of Harm Reduction in York have included a harmonized peer rate, coordination of outreach routes, identification of the need for overdose prevention training (a project that has been picked up by The Works involving agencies from across the city). The new coalition worked on developing a Wen Do workshop for sex workers which was held at WKNC On a twice weekly basis WKNC harm reduction staff with peer workers tours the streets, bars and crack houses delivering sandwiches made for the program by the West Park Healthcare Centre Sandwich Samaritans, harm reduction supplies and weather related items such as mitts and hats in the winter.

d. Partners for Access and Identification (P.A.I.D.): provides twice monthly replacement identification clinics for people who are homeless or under-housed. This service is used by many people from the community and anyone who has lost documentation will verify how helpful it is to be led through the bureaucratic maze.

e. Resources Exist for Training and Support (RENT): WKNC participates in workshops and activities mounted by RENT to support housing workers in the provision of housing help and eviction prevention services.

f. Safer Crack Use Coalition (SCUC): WKNC participates in this coalition of community members, service providers and people who use drugs that coordinates the development and distribution of safer crack kits as well as identifies gaps in the service delivery system for people using crack cocaine. SCUC had an important victory this year with City Council passing a recommendation of the newly adopted Toronto Drug Strategy to distribute safer crack use kits as a harm reduction measure by a margin of one vote.

g. Second Harvest: Weston King's food programs are supported by donations of food from Second Harvest. A truck comes every Tuesday morning bringing surplus items from supermarkets, hotels and other donors. It is a challenge to then use the donations in the menu. As well, volunteers and Board Members have participated in training opportunities offered by Second Harvest.

h. Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre (SWNFC): provides a homeless outreach worker two days per week for housing help including eviction prevention, finding subsidized housing, getting people into or out of shelters, advocacy with landlords, and housing searches.

**AGM 2005 – Activities Report**

SWNFC and WKNC have also partnered on a number of funding proposals in an effort to support coordination of services in York.

i. Toronto Drop-in Network: WKNC participates in this network of agencies providing drop-in services to identify areas of common concern, provide training support and opportunities for network development in the drop-in sector.

j. Toronto Public Health - West Office: provides a sexual health educator one day per week who provides direct service and supports the Harm Reduction Program.

k. Toronto Public Health, The Works: provides monthly immunization clinic (flu shots, hepatitis vaccinations and anonymous HIV testing), needle exchange and supplies, condoms, and training support.

l. York Community Services: York Community Services acts as trustee of funds allocated to Weston King Neighbourhood Centre by the City of Toronto. WKNC and YCS have also partnered on a number of funding proposals in an effort to support coordination of services in York.

m. Youth Employment Toronto: provides a worker one day per week to target issues of housing, health and employment with youth.

Plans – Audits and Annual General Meeting

WKNC has used some of its unencumbered funds received over the years to pay for an auditor to review the books for the previous 3 fiscal years. The auditor is Bill Emond C.A. In general, the books received a glowing review and hence we will be presenting the results at our first Annual General Meeting.

Plans - Charitable Status

WKNC received approval and participated in a program led by the John McNich Foundation. This program helps not-for-profit organizations achieve charitable status. We anticipate submitting an application for Charitable Status in Spring 2006.



AGM 2005 – Financial Report

Financial Year 2005 (April 1 2005 - December 31 2005)

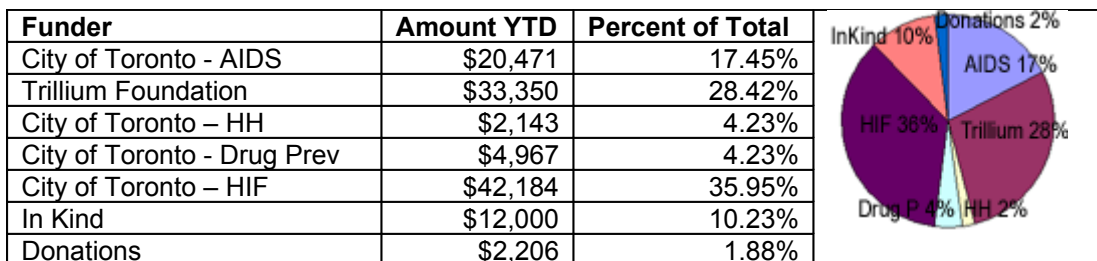
Changes

WKNC received a vote of confidence from one of it's major funders when our SCPI funding was transferred to Homeless Initiative Fund (HIF) for longer term funding. This funding allowed us to hire a resource dedicated to the Drop-In Centre. We also received new City of Toronto Drug Prevention Grant.

We also received 2 year funding from the Trillium Foundation. This extra funding allowed us to continue to have a Program Co-ordinator. As our funding situation changes, it seems to make sense to migrate to a calendar year end (City, United Way, and Charitable). Thus, this year will contain only 9 months.

Income

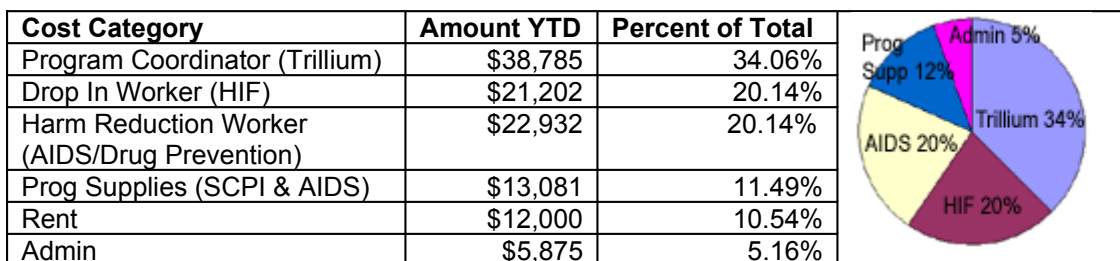
Below is a graph showing the distribution of income from various sources.



Expenses

The primary program delivered is the Drop-In Centre. To do this requires the staff, hence the cost of staff (Salary, Benefits, Taxes) is the cost of program delivery. Rent is also part of Program Delivery, since the Drop-In is a physical space allocated for the use of Users.

The Admin portion includes Utilities, Phone, Internet, etc. A portion (<10%) of the Program Supplies category is spent on Admin overhead of Office Supplies.



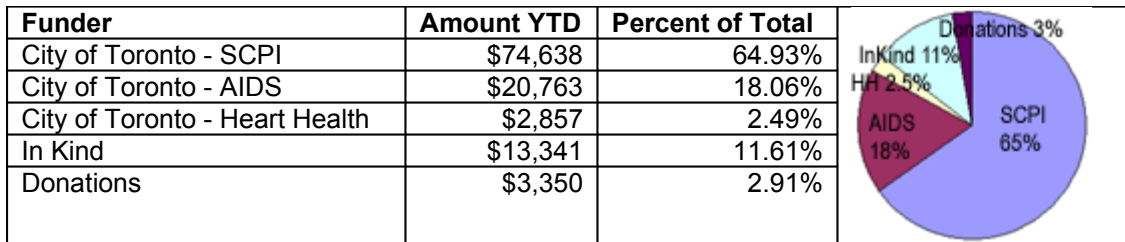


AGM 2005 – Financial Report

Financial Year 2005 (April 1 2004 - March 31 2005)

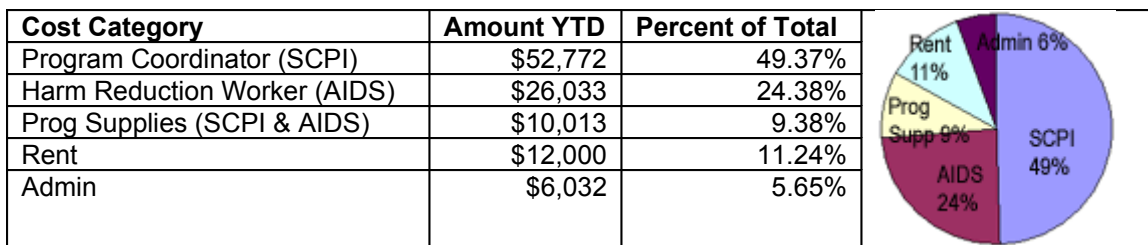
Income

WKNC receives most of it's income in grants from various branches of government. Below is a graph showing the distribution of income from various sources.



Expenses

The primary program delivered is the Drop-In Centre. To do this requires the staff, hence the cost of staff (Salary, Benefits, Taxes) is the cost of program delivery. Rent is also part of Program Delivery, since the Drop-In is a physical space allocated for the use of Users. The Admin portion includes Utilities, Phone, Internet, etc. A portion (<10%) of the Program Supplies category is spent on Admin overhead of Office Supplies.



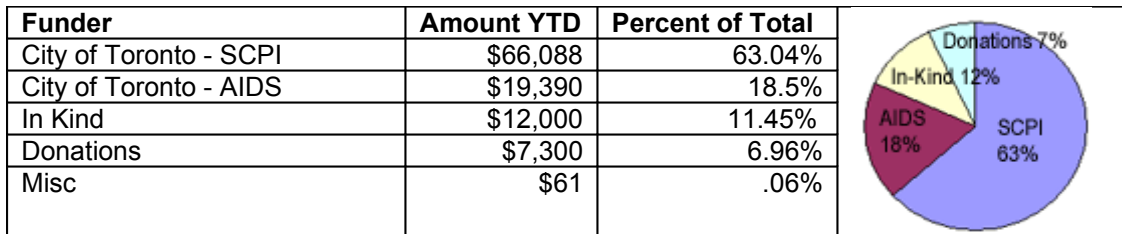


AGM 2005 – Financial Report

Financial Year 2004 (April 1 2003 - March 31 2004)

Income

WKNC receives most of it's income in grants from various branches of government. Below is a graph showing the distribution of income from various sources.



Expenses

The primary program delivered is the Drop-In Centre. To do this requires the staff, hence the cost of staff (Salary, Benefits, Taxes) is the cost of program delivery. Rent is also part of Program Delivery, since the Drop-In is a physical space allocated for the use of Users. The Admin portion includes Utilities, Phone, Internet, etc. A portion (<10%) of the Program Supplies category is spent on Admin overhead of Office Supplies.

