

ANNUAL REPORT 21/22

NAACJ • ANIJC



Social responsibility
Responsabilité sociale

**The National Associations
Active in Criminal Justice**

responsabilité sociale
social responsibility

About Us

Mission & Purposes

NAACJ enhances the capacity of member organizations to contribute to a **humane, fair, equitable and effective justice system**.

It does this by:

Contributing to the education of its member organizations, other organizations from the governmental and voluntary sector and the general public through activities that share and generate knowledge, information, ideas and values, in relation to current and emerging criminal justice issues.

Contributing to the capacity of the member organizations to carry out their purposes through activities that share and generate expertise; serving as a catalyst for action by member agencies; and, providing collective support for actions undertaken by individual member agencies where feasible.

Supporting the activities of its member organizations in the development of policy related to criminal justice by promoting the role and importance of the member organizations in consultation and policy fora with the federal government.

Vision

NAACJ is an organization that exists to support its membership of diverse and experienced national organizations in their respective efforts to provide leadership in various areas of justice.

It promotes an environment that encourages its members to share their values, to respect one another's differences and to develop their capacity to be engaged with and respected by government agencies, funding bodies and the Canadian public.

NAACJ enables and supports the efforts of members to learn, energize and gain strength through meaningful dialogue with each other and with others in the criminal and social justice fields. By doing so, NAACJ bolsters its members' ability to serve as catalysts for change relating to their missions of effective justice responses that uphold and promote human rights.

Membership



7th Step Society of Canada
7thstep.ca



Association des services de réhabilitation sociale du Québec
asrsq.ca



Book Clubs for Inmates
bookclubsforinmates.com



Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
caeifs.ca



Canadian Association of Social Workers
casw-acts.ca



Canadian Criminal Justice Association
ccja-acjp.ca



Canadian Families and Corrections Network
cfcn-rcafd.org



Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
quakerservice.ca



Canadian Psychological Association
cpa.ca



Centre for Justice Exchange
justiceexchange.ca



Church Council on Justice and Corrections
ccjc.ca

Circles of Support and Accountability Canada
cosacanada.com



Frontier College
frontiercollege.ca



Inclusion Canada
inclusioncanada.ca



John Howard Society of Canada
johnhoward.ca



Mennonite Central Committee Canada
mcc.org/canada/



Native Counselling Services of Alberta
ncsa.ca



The Salvation Army
salvationarmy.ca



St. Leonard's Society of Canada
stleonards.ca

Board of Directors

Allen Benson / Marlene Orr *	Native Counselling Services of Alberta
Kathryn Bliss / Cliff Yumansky *	Circles of Support and Accountability Canada
Emilie Coyle	Canadian Associations of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Anita Desai	St. Leonard's Society of Canada
Rod Friesen / Mary Ann Mooney *	Mennonite Central Committee Canada
David Henry	Association des Services de Réhabilitation Sociale du Québec
Lindsay Jennings / Jacqueline Gumienny *	Book Clubs for Inmates
Irving Kulik	Canadian Criminal Justice Association
Catherine Latimer	John Howard Society of Canada
Louise Leonardi	Canadian Families and Corrections Network
George Myette	Seventh Step Society of Canada
Fred Phelps	Canadian Association of Social Workers
Nancy Russell	Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
Sarah Thompson / Mélanie Valcin *	Frontier College
Kester Trim	The Salvation Army
Bonnie Wepler	Church Council on Justice and Corrections
Pamela Yates	Canadian Psychological Association

** Changed during the fiscal year*



Executive Committee

President	Allen Benson / Anita Desai *
Vice-President	Kathryn Bliss / Emilie Coyle *
Treasurer	George Myette / David Henry *
Secretary	Sarah Thompson / Bonnie Weppler *
Past President	Catherine Latimer

** Changed during the fiscal year*



Staff

Executive Director Susan Haines

We said goodbye to several Directors and Officers this year, and welcomed some new and familiar faces to our network.



Thanks go to outgoing members **Kathryn Bliss, Rod Friesen, Lindsay Jennings, Mary Ann Mooney and Sarah Thompson** for all of the time and knowledge you shared with the network. We hope that our paths cross again and that we stay in touch.

A special thank you - a big Hiy Hiy - goes to **Dr. Allen Benson**, who served as President from 2008 to 2012 and 2018 to 2021. We are so thankful for the strong leadership, vision and traditional knowledge you brought to the Association and the Membership. We hope that your schedule settles down and you are able to enjoy your family in this next chapter of life.

We wish you nothing but the best in your retirement!



Strategic Priorities

Strengthen the Profile of NAACJ and its Members

Strengthen the public profile of NAACJ and its Members by promoting our values, work and impacts among Members, stakeholders and the federal government.

Enhance and Expand Relationships

Increase the capacity of Members by facilitating opportunities for dialogue and relationship building with each other, and with stakeholders and federal partners.

Engage and Educate Members, Partners and the Public

Share and generate information, knowledge, experience and ideas to inform and empower Members, partners and the public.



In 2022, NAACJ's members helped us to update our map from 2012. This was no small task for the national organizations, but gleaned an impressive result showing that the network has a presence in just about 600 communities from coast to coast to coast.

The Year in Review

NAACJ had a busy year keeping on top of some of the federal priorities of its members and partners, which allowed us to foster greater collaboration among the membership, while at the same time achieving our strategic priorities.

Highlights from 2021-2022 included:

Member Driven Services

- Welcoming new Directors to the Association
- Acclaiming new Officers to the Executive Committee
- Designing a recruitment poster to diversify NAACJ's membership
- Convening regular bi-weekly meetings for Members to discuss, strategize and respond to the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism
- Coordinating ad hoc opportunities for dialogue on emerging issues, such as mandatory vaccine policies and best practices
- Supporting members to promote the value of pardons, and celebrating the reduced fees for record suspension applicants



The National Associations Active in Criminal Justice Invites you to join us!

NAACJ is looking for equality-seeking organizations to join our network



If your organization:

- Works in criminal or social justice
- Values research as the basis for sound social policy
- Supports social development rather than punitive responses to crime
- Operates on a national basis and for the public good
- Is independent and distinct from government
- Is supportive of human rights, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

It may be eligible for Full or Associate membership status

As stakeholders within and across the social and criminal justice systems, we have a commitment and responsibility to address the diverse range of differences that make people unique, both seen and unseen. We invite you to consider joining our network to be a part of creating a collaborative environment that engages multiple perspectives and different ideas in order to continually improve upon organizational policy and culture.

Why NAACJ?

Since 1976, NAACJ has been bringing together diverse organizations that are dedicated to human rights so they may share knowledge, ideas and values with each other and with others in the criminal and social justice field.

It is the only network in Canada that serves as a mechanism to connect leading national community-based agencies with each other and with federal government to advance progressive justice and corrections.

Through collaborative activities and events that span the criminal justice continuum, NAACJ enhances the capacity of its members to contribute to a justice system that is **humane, fair, equitable and effective**. Dialogue, respect for one another's differences, and supportive relationships are central to who we are and what we do.

The network provides strength, support and knowledge to each member organization, and amplifies the voices that inform and advance our collective purpose: healthier, safer and more inclusive communities that are free from fear, stigma and discrimination.

Learn more about us by checking out our Annual Reports [here](#), reading some of the pieces we've published [here](#), or viewing an informational presentation [here](#).

WE ARE
stronger
TOGETHER

www.naacj.org

What are the benefits?

NAACJ provides a forum for currently 19 well-established voluntary sector agencies to share distinct views and expertise that span the criminal justice continuum, thereby strengthening each member's perspective and understanding. These connections not only provide support and energy for each organization to pursue its mission, but also create and facilitate opportunities for collective action on persistent and emerging justice-related issues.

The Association is also ideally placed to stimulate and inform ideas and initiatives through formal and informal interactions with federal government departments, and to contribute to policy and legislation in and around justice and corrections. These annual and semi-annual meetings and conferences further allow members to showcase their work.

NAACJ's strength lies both in its diversity and its unity. With a greater range of voices that represent the people and communities we serve from coast to coast to coast, we are all better equipped to promote and provide meaningful justice and robust social policy that support some of the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals in our communities. Together, our voices are amplified.

What the members say:

“

NAACJ has been a great support to our organization by creating opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded organizations and to interface with the senior levels of Public Safety, the Parole Board and Corrections Canada in Ottawa.

NAACJ brings true meaning to the phrase, "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts!"

NAACJ brings together knowledgeable and skilled experts from social justice organizations across the country... both from within and externally. These connections help to provide effective channels of communication through which changes can often be advocated.

NAACJ provides support and information in assisting us to reach our goals as a national organization.”

”

Still have questions?

Contact Susan Haines, Executive Director,
by phone 613-761-1032
or email naacj@naacj.org

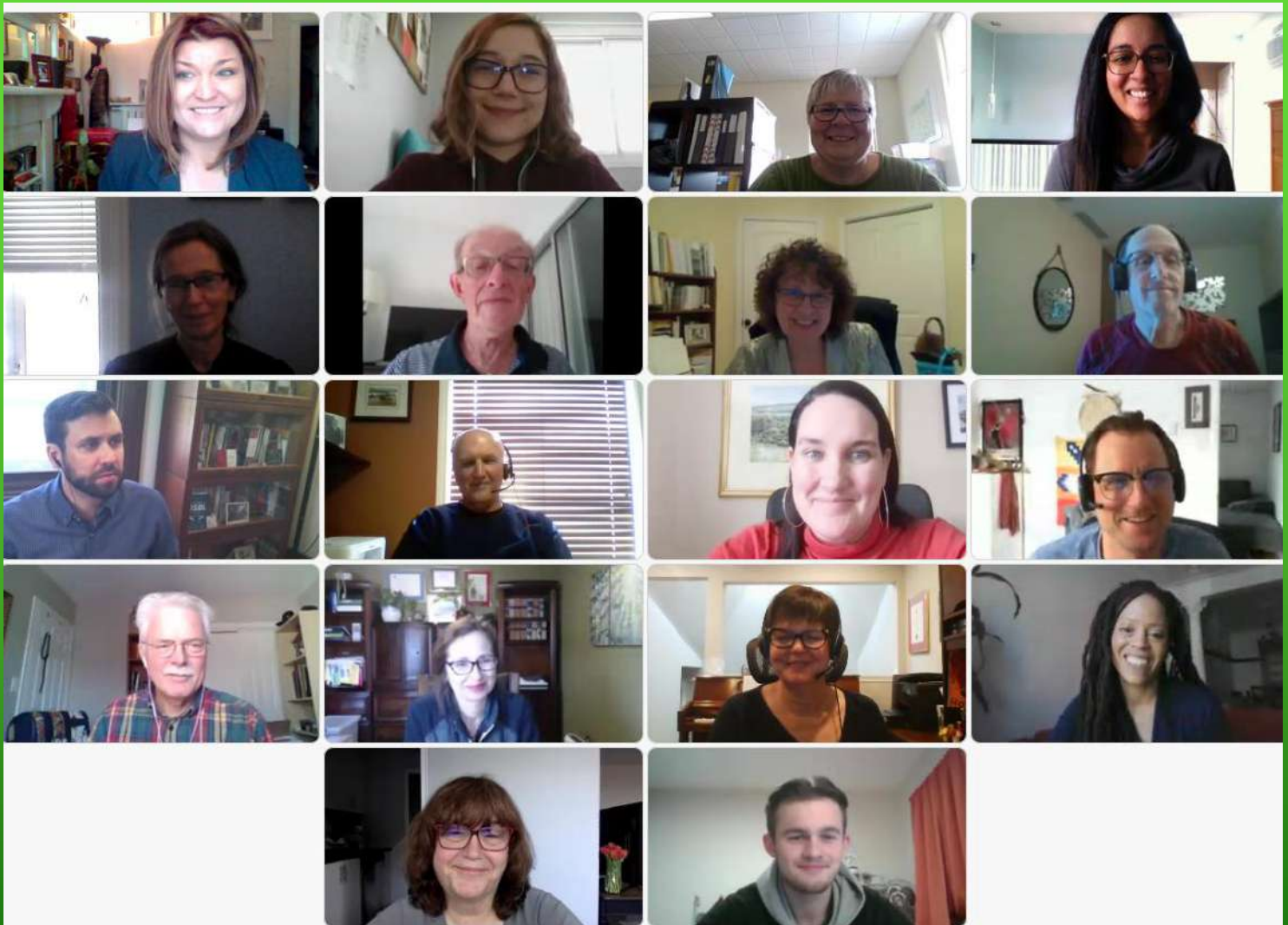
Ready to apply?

Download and complete
[this request form](#), or [this public application form](#)
by July 15 for consideration by members
at the AGM in September.



Engaging with Other Groups

- Connecting with Restorative Justice Housing Ontario (RJHO)
- Learning about the Fresh Start Coalition and encouraging partnerships
- Contributing to consultations about the Correctional Service of Canada's (CSC) Structured Intervention Units (SIUs)
- Exploring linkages with the Canadian Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents (CCCIP)
- Participating on the Nominations Committee for the Office of the Correctional Investigator's Ed McIsaac Human Rights in Corrections Award



Members smiling for a screenshot in March 2022

Federal priorities and Initiatives

- Engaging Members of Parliament and meeting the new Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety
- Maintaining open communications with Public Safety Canada and CSC
- Resuming Joint Community Corrections Working Group (JCCWG) and sub-group meetings with CSC
- Building relationships and contributing to Statistics Canada's Data Strategy consultation to better capture over-represented groups in the correctional system
- Taking part in the webinar series offered by the Policy Centre for Victim Issues at Justice Canada

For the first time, NAACJ participated in the fourteenth national symposium “*Re-Inventing Criminal Justice*”, hosted by the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform (ICCLR) and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP). About 100 participants from the judiciary, police services, government and voluntary sector came together virtually over two and a half days to discuss **Post-Pandemic Opportunities in Criminal Justice**.

The forum was an incredible opportunity for NAACJ to share perspectives and hear from leaders and practitioners across the country about various aspects of justice and reform, in order to inspire and learn from one another. Sessions focused on key trends during the pandemic; policing during the pandemic; and, innovations such as BC's first Virtual Indigenous Justice Centre, and the Peer Assisted Care Team project (PACT).

Deliberations resulted in fourteen recommendations around six key themes: Cross-sectoral collaboration, problem-solving, and redefining the criminal justice role; Lessons of the pandemic for equity, access, and reconciliation; Bolstering community resources to increase diversion and maintain public confidence; Managing the risks and unique opportunities of technology; Addressing pandemic case backlogs; and, Pandemic patterns and research questions. A draft report in EN & FR is available upon request.

Perhaps the most encouraging take-away was knowing that despite our distinct roles in the criminal justice system, the various players within the field agree: policing and corrections will not address or resolve social and public health issues. Our challenge, then, is to continue promoting the value of community-based responses and ensuring that the voluntary sector is accessible and relied upon for its flexibility and person-centered focus as part of an effective, collaborative system.

A Word from the President

It was truly a warm 'welcome back' after returning from maternity leave last fall, to be elected as Chair of NAACJ in December. I was, and continue to be, humbled to serve in this role in the footsteps of our Past Presidents that I hold in such high regard. The past year continued to push the criminal justice system in unparalleled ways. For NAACJ, this has meant that the dedication of its members has been unwavering in the face of many new challenges and opportunities, inspiring us to do more together. While there are many examples of this dedication in any given year, I was especially impressed by this year's collective effort by members to produce the [Reducing Recidivism: Shifting the Paradigm to Invest in Community](#) report in response to the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism. The upcoming year will continue to see members explore the possibilities of how to meaningfully engage with government and community partners to seek improved outcomes within and beyond criminal justice.

While the incredible members are at the heart of NAACJ's mission and activities, Executive Director Susan Haines is the soul of the operations. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere thanks to Susan for her steadfast efforts to keep us informed, engaged, and impactful as an association. I would also like to thank all of the Directors that I have the privilege to work with, including the wonderful people who are serving on this year's Executive Committee: Emilie Coyle (Vice-President), David Henry (Treasurer), Catherine Latimer (Past President), and Bonnie Weppeler (Secretary). With another 'pandemic year' passing us by, it is hard to know what lasting impacts the shifting landscape will leave behind. I do know that I remain resolved, along with my NAACJ colleagues, to strive to be a key part of advancing it towards a humane, fair, equitable and effective justice system.

Anita Desai



Executive Director's Report

This fiscal year was marked by change, conversation and collaboration, as we began to emerge from the COVID pandemic and continued our focus on humane, fair, equitable and effective criminal justice.

Although we may have wanted to see greater change in the correctional system this year, we did see significant changes to NAACJ's membership. Tremendous thanks go to outgoing Directors and Officers who gave their energy and commitment to NAACJ over the years: Kathryn Bliss, Rod Friesen, Lindsay Jennings, Mary Ann Mooney and Sarah Thompson. Thank you for your thoughtful support and contributions.

We also congratulated our President Allen Benson on his retirement, and thanked him for his fearless leadership, great vision and grounded knowledge. I'm so grateful for your unwavering support and dedication to community-based issues, to the Association and to me over the last 14 years. You will be missed.

With a new President and Executive Committee, NAACJ's operations felt a new energy that created new ideas and strategies. This led, in part, to countless conversations about the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (FFRR) among ourselves and with others. With remarkable input from the members, a working group developed our discussion paper, [Reducing Recidivism: Shifting the Paradigm to Invest in Community](#), in order to help shape more effective, holistic and humane community-based approaches to rehabilitation and reintegration. The dialogue was nothing less than enlightening and enriching, and demonstrated an unparalleled collaboration in the 16 years that I have been privileged to work for NAACJ.

Special thanks go to the Executive Officers who give so much wisdom, time and energy to our operations and progress. I'm so thankful for each and every member organization and delegate for their relentless pursuit of justice in our communities, their tireless commitment to the Association and its work, and their unwavering support to me this past year. Your expertise and compassion continue to inspire me.

Sincerely,

Susan Haines

Blast from the Past: Susan & Allen strategic planning in Ottawa in 2011.



Treasurer's Report

The fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 was a normal operating year financially, with no extraordinary expenditures but with slightly less income than anticipated, thus resulting in a deficit of \$4,877. This deficit is explained by projects that were not accepted to produce plain language info-sheets about employment rights for people with a criminal record in each Canadian jurisdiction, despite their relevance. NAACJ needs to find additional funding through new projects each year to balance its budget.

The operating deficit was covered by surplus cash from previous years and didn't cause any current financial hardship. Despite this small deficit, NAACJ still has operating funds totaling \$47,720; this includes financial reserves of \$21,372, allowing for approximately 4 months of operations. That being said, the financial sustainability of the association is far from assured given the very limited sources of funding and the cap on the Public Safety Canada grant.

Our primary source of funding was still the Public Safety Grant Program to National Voluntary Organizations, which is entering the 3rd year of a 5-year cycle, ending March 31, 2025.

I have reviewed the [draft Audited Financial Statements](#) as prepared by Hendry Warren LLP and recommend that the membership of NAACJ accept the statements as presented.

David Henry

Treasurer

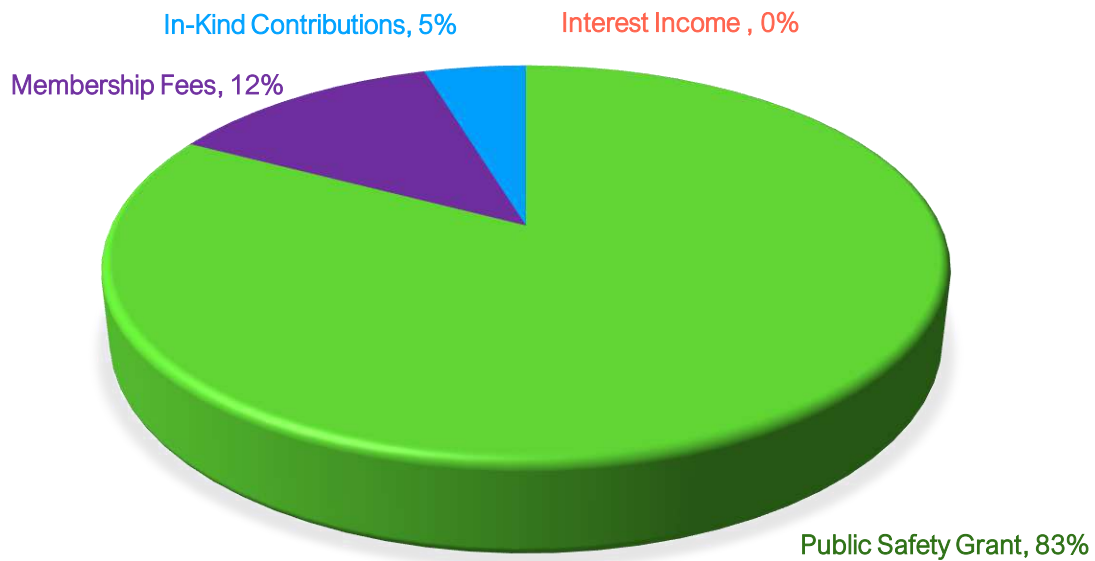


Financial Summary

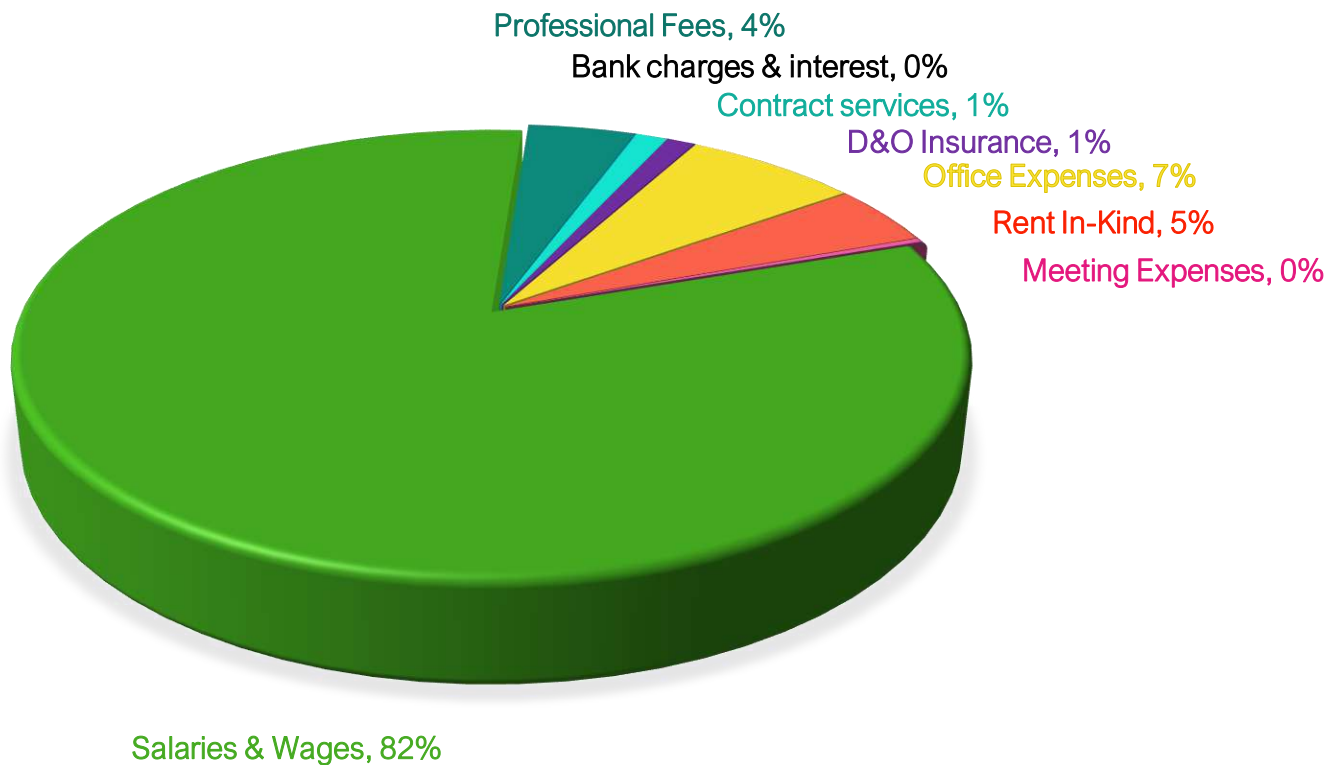
Income	2020-2021	2021-2022
Grant - Public Safety	\$55,867	\$55,867
Contributions/Projects/Fund raising	\$34,024	-
In-Kind Contribution - Rent	\$3,103	\$3,165
Membership Fees	\$10,000	\$8,500
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	\$1,303	-
Interest Income	\$124	\$1
Total Income	\$104,421	\$67,533
Expense		
Bad debts	\$10,848	-
Bank charges & interest	\$107	\$18
Contract services	\$1,583	\$928
Insurance (D&O)	\$654	\$820
Office Expense (incl Office insurance)	\$4,218	\$5,117
Rent In-Kind	\$3,103	\$3,165
Meeting Expense	\$1	\$208
Salaries and Wages	\$58,682	\$58,994
Professional Fees	\$3,314	\$3,160
Total Expense	\$82,510	\$72,410
Net Income	\$21,911	- \$4,876

How Dollars are Spent

Income



Expenses



Thanks . Merci . Meegwetch . Hiy Hiy

Sincere thanks go to all those who provide special contributions to NAACI:

- Grants Program to National Voluntary Organizations, Public Safety Canada
- St. Leonard's Society of Canada
- Stefka Zaharieva, CPA, CGA
- Marie Fraser & Jessica Arsenault, Hendry Warren LLP
- Luigi Laricchiuta, Scotiabank
- Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC), University of Ottawa
- Michael Spratt, LLP (PBSC)
- Riley Mintz (PBSC)
- Alvan Wong (PBSC)
- Robert Samaroo

NAACI is a proud member of:

Volunteer Canada

Ottawa Restorative Justice Network (ORJN)



Connect



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www.naacj.org



NAACJ is grateful to work on
unsurrendered and unceded
Algonquin Anishinaabe territory.

