

WOMEN CREATING CHANGE:

WORKING TOGETHER FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

A 20/20 VISION FOR WOMEN IN THE LOWER COLUMBIA REGION

In 2020, equitable economic opportunities are available for all women in the Lower Columbia region

	Equitable Employment	Sustaining Family	Community Infrastructure
Statement	<p><i>There are career planning, training and development opportunities that provide women with a diversity of employment possibilities while she earns a living wage that supports her and her family.</i></p> <p>Regardless of source of income, women have access to career planning and training opportunities. Career planning programs, delivered locally, support exploration into a range of traditional and non-traditional careers. Women also have local and regional access to a wide range of relevant and affordable educational and training opportunities.</p> <p>A diversity of work opportunities are available, as well as workplaces that practice 'family friendly' policies and value cultural and gender diversity.</p> <p>Women have access to mentorship and coaching opportunities that help them advance on the job and in their careers.</p>	<p><i>There are affordable and accessible services and resources for children and youth that support their social, emotional, physical and intellectual development.</i></p> <p>For children aged birth to 12 years of age, there are sufficient numbers of safe, quality childcare seats provided by licensed, trained caregivers & costing no more than \$10 /day.</p> <p>Children and youth can freely take part in a variety of affordable and stimulating recreational, leisure and arts focused after-school and summer programs.</p> <p>At risk children and youth have access to a variety of supportive community services and mentoring programs</p> <p>Participatory and engaging explorations of educational, training and career opportunities are offered to children and youth throughout their time in school</p>	<p><i>There are policies, structures and resources in place that reflect and incorporate the perspectives, experiences and needs of women.</i></p> <p>Women have a safe place(s) to go to for information , to network and to be supported to have a voice</p> <p>Housing options are in place that are safe and cost no more than 30% of gross income.</p> <p>Everyone in the region can access public recreation and leisure activities regardless of family income.</p> <p>There is access to transportation options that are affordable and accommodate evening and weekend employment.</p> <p>Food security initiatives including community gardens and farmers' markets are in place.</p>

<p>Priorities for Action</p>	<p>The Women Creating Change project will focus on working with local organizations, businesses and groups to develop and implement policies, action plans and initiatives that will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage and support the entry and retention of women in sustainable, non-traditional employment. 2. Identify and encourage the implementation of mechanisms to make education and training more accessible and affordable to women living at or below the living wage. <p>Attention will be given to underlying systems or supports that affect these priorities, with particular attention given to increasing the availability of affordable childcare spaces and transportation options.</p>
<p>Community Awareness and Engagement</p>	<p>With the goal of increasing community and stakeholder awareness and engagement in strategies to improve economic opportunities for women, the Women Creating Change project will develop and implement a communications plan that highlights key elements of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Gender Based Analysis of Economic Opportunity Report; • the 20/20 Vision for Women in the Lower Columbia Region; • the Living Wage calculation; and • the PhotoVoice video.
<p>Endorsement and Support</p>	<p>Within the limit of its resources, the Women Creating Change project will lend its support to other initiatives that correspond to the 20/20 Vision and that have the potential to improve economic opportunity for women and their families.</p>