

DANDELION INITIATIVE



Values and Goals

- ∴ We call-in community members rather than calling out, holding one another accountable through restorative justice models that are trauma-informed.
- ∴ We believe in the power of all Women (Womyn)
- ∴ We recognize we are on stolen land where our Indigenous sisters and Two Spirit folx have been oppressed, colonized and stigmatized. We are dedicated to amplifying the voices of our Indigenous community members, and approach our language and work with a de-colonized framework.
- ∴ Trauma informed practices are new and in constant development, we are dedicated to continuing our understanding of trauma through feminist and anti-ableist frameworks.
- ∴ We believe in a micro-planning approach to peer outreach and support, basing our approaches and tactics on the community's lived experiences and consultation.
- ∴ There are no hierarchies. There are branches and mentors who guide and help build on our movements but ultimately, **we are all students and peers.**
- ∴ We will ALWAYS celebrate one another's work. You will never be nameless. Honour your work and expect to be recognized for it.
- ∴ The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape (TRCC/MWAR) has been a groundbreaking and crucial network of survivor informed and led care and advocacy. We wish to continue honouring the work of these womyn and folx, through our work and hopefully many future collaborations.
- ∴ We will not tolerate the status quo. Our policies are built based on extensive research, lived experiences and shared vision.
- ∴ Survivors are experts of their own lives and healing.
- ∴ All survivors choose what language they wish to use and how much they wish to disclose.
- ∴ We will always aim to prioritize our community members to facilitate paid workshops.
- ∴ We believe that survivors should be paid for their work. When we can, we will always make this a priority.
- ∴ We believe in the power of community sharing by honouring our time together with food, music and art.
- ∴ We DO NOT tolerate any form of homophobia, sexism, transphobia, racism, ableism, ageism, sexual harassment, sexual assault, discrimination in any form and any form of violence.
- ∴ We recognize that as people who have experienced trauma we are more likely to find ourselves navigating internal violence, we have ZERO tolerance for any form of abuse through power or intimidation. We will always call-in when possible.
- ∴ Sex work is real work. Sex workers are always included in our community and movement.
- ∴ We are dedicated to sharing our policies and practices openly to support other organizations and establishments to challenge the status quo and develop a community practice based on the liberation of survivors everywhere.

- .: Develop and strengthen our internal policies and practices, along with the community board structure and by-laws.
- .: Incorporate the Dandelion Initiative as a non-profit.
- .: Continue our “Safer Bars Training and Education” with bars/restaurants and venues.
- .: Collaborate with other community partners like GNO Vancouver, PLURI, AASK MONTREAL, and other grassroots and non-profit survivor led organizations and movements.
- .: Develop a youth engagement project or branch of the Dandelion Initiative, where we can focus on empowering survivors of childhood sexual trauma through community activism and holistic healing.
- .: Receive funding to secure a permanent location for The Dandelion Initiative, where we can provide direct services for survivors by survivors. This space would serve as a multi-service drop in for survivors led by survivors, and we would also be able to use our space for community events, training, workshops and group sessions.
- .: We aim to find a location that is accessible.
- .: We will always aim to provide child care and TTC compensation for community members during our events.
- .: We recognize the power of animals and creatures in our healing journey, all pets welcome to any of our future events when we secure a location.
- .: We hope to engage in political action, policy development and knowledge transfers between The Dandelion Initiative community and staff and local leaders and politicians.
- .: We recognize the broken judicial systems that survivors have to navigate here in Ontario and throughout Canada. Because of this we will continue to challenge the current legislation and regulations that continue to fail survivors.