



**community
stitch
project**

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE**

LEARN MORE:

cvts.ca/16days

comoxvalleyarts.com/16days

**The story of a creative community-wide
project fostering COLLECTIVE CARE through
collaboration, awareness and engagement**

In August 2021, after:

- **two years of a global pandemic**
- **a rise in polarized & conservative views**
- **increased levels of systemic oppression and**
- **some general fatigue & disillusionment,**

the anti-violence worker decided to share this creative practice with the community, instead of feeling isolated and defeated

The Community Stitch Project was born

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



**Comox Valley
Anti-Violence Society**

LEARN MORE:

cvts.ca/16days

comoxvalleyarts.com/16days

CV/ARTS

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



LEARN MORE:

cvts.ca/16days

comoxvalleyarts.com/16days

CV/ARTS

With a desire to find opportunities to balance the front-line work with community engagement to build awareness & solidarity, the anti-violence worker proposed an idea to use stitching as a way to engage the

community in a collaborative community art project during the annual campaign called:

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

and her organization as well as others responded positively

750 stitch kits
were assembled
with the skilled
support of the local
quilting group called
the Merville
Grannies and others
who wanted to
contribute by
providing tools,
space, cutting,
ironing, preparing
delicious food,
sorting, laughter and
discussion



NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



community
stitch
project



Comox Valley
Transition Society

LEARN MORE:
cvts.ca/16days

comoxvalleyarts.com/16days

CV/ARTS

Community Partners who collaborated:

- **Comox Valley Arts**
- **Comox Valley Transition Society**
- **The Spool Sewing Studio**
- **Vancouver Island Libraries**
- **School District 71**
- **Indigenous Women Sharing Society**
- **MIKI'SIW Metis Association**
- **Merville Grannies**
- **Friends & Family**
- **Co-workers**

The free stitch kits were distributed at library branches, community organizations, local shops & schools.

Goals of the booklet in the stitch kits:

- **Provide materials**
- **Inspire creativity**
- **Support wellness**
- **Encourage reflection**
- **Spark discussion**
- **Raise Awareness**



NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



Comox Valley
Transition Society

LEARN MORE:

cvts.ca/16days
comoxvalleyarts.com/16days

CV/ARTS

Activity #1: Developing Information to Build Awareness & Engagement

Take a few minutes to:

- **review the booklet in the stitch kits on your own**
- **note what stands out as effective/useful**
- **note what could be improved/changed**
- **discuss observations with your table**
- **share a summary with the larger group**

During the campaign, we held 3 stitch circles, at the library and at The Spool Sewing Studio. Diverse members of the community participated across different ages, genders, skills and histories



Activity #2: Things to Consider When Holding Events

Brainstorm with folks at your table what factors might be important to consider when planning and hosting an event to raise awareness of gender-based violence

COMOX VALLEY

COMMUNITY

STITCH PROJECT

COMOX VALLEY

COMMUNITY

STITCH PROJECT

The story continues...

In March 2022, we wrote a funding proposal to hold an exhibit featuring the quilts & submitted it to the federal government who provides funds annually in May during **Victims & Survivors of Crime Week... and were successful!**



During three cold & VERY windy days in May, we held our outdoor exhibit downtown...

We made a zine for the exhibit which provided:

- **educational information about GBV**
- **community resources**
- **what community members can do outside of what programs might exist**

**In other words -
COLLECTIVE CARE!**





Activity #3: The Summit Exhibit

Take a few minutes to review the zine. Walk around and look at the quilts. Read the written reflections of the participants and then take a few minutes to write your own reflections about your experience with these questions in mind:

1. What possible impact(s) are there to seeing the exhibit? For whom?
2. In what ways might seeing the exhibit help raise awareness?
3. How does the zine add to the experience of the exhibit?
4. How can the quilts be used to call groups and individuals to action?



**CANADA'S NATIONAL ACTION
PLAN (NAP) TO END GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE ANNOUNCED IN 2021**

Advocates & front-line workers have identified the following items in their critique of the NAP:

- 1. Limited national-level actions**
- 2. Framing the suggested actions as optional**
- 3. Key recommendations missing**
- 4. Limited focus on systemic change**
- 5. No mention of meaningful accountability & independent oversight**
- 6. Lack of commitment to sustained & escalating investment**

Key Recommendations missing include:

- 1. Sexual Violence**
- 2. Housing, Income Supports & Privatization**
- 3. Intersectionality**



**community
stitch
project**

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE**

LEARN MORE:

cvts.ca/16days
comoxvalley.com

Resources:

Joint Statement on the Release of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence:
<https://caefs.ca/joint-statement-on-the-release-of-the-national-action-plan-to-end-gender-based-violence/>

Stitching Our Stories:
<https://norfolkheritagecentre.wordpress.com/stitching-our-stories/>

The Monument Quilt:
https://themonumentquilt.org/wp-content/uploads/FacilitatorsGuideBook_english_color.pdf