

**BUILDING
A MOVEMENT
FOR A JUST
SOCIETY, WHERE
DIGNITY,
FAIRNESS AND
COMPASSION
ARE FIRMLY
ROOTED IN
THE LAW.**



Message from the CEO

Pivot turned ten this year. It seems fitting that our tenth year would be a year of change and renewal. 2010 was an exciting year, but it was not easy. The recession finally caught up with us - we saw some core funding erode and our social enterprise - Pivot Legal LLP closed its doors.

At the end of August we left our offices on Hastings Street for a smaller space in the Duncan Building on Pender. We made the choice in order to cut overhead and bring everything and everyone closer together. The change in space has led to a tremendous coming together for the Pivot staff. We have also recruited some amazing core volunteers and interns who are adding great energy and ideas to our work and increasing our capacity. The team is feeling very re-energized. Right now, it feels like a lot is possible.

And work is getting done - at the heart of our work is a deep connection with people's lived experience of poverty and social exclusion. 10 years ago - when Pivot was just an idea - John Richardson recognized that people living on the margins of society all had a story, understood their own lives, and could be real actors in finding solutions...solutions that could impact our entire society. Pivot works to find legal solutions to these issues.

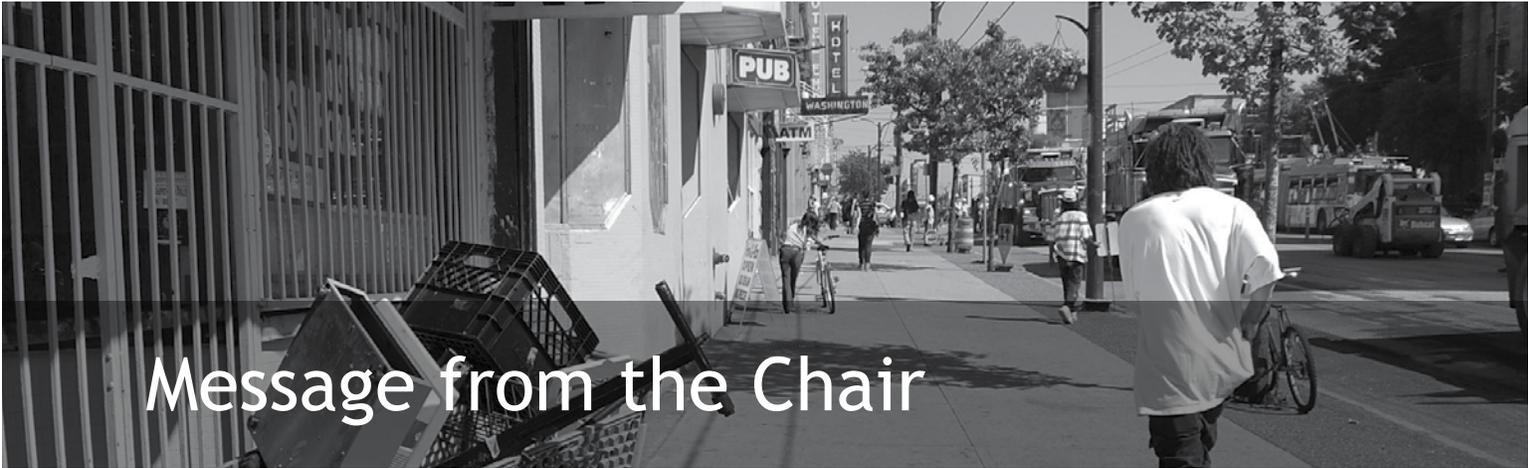
In the fall of 2010, when the Ontario Superior Court struck down key provisions of the criminal code that relate to adult sex work - Pivot joined sex work groups across the country in celebrating a legal victory that will help make sex work safer. Pivot's campaign to decriminalize adult sex work started with conversations with street based sex workers in the downtown eastside - through these conversations the push for decriminalization emerged.

It is this listening that is the heart of our work. It is this listening that makes our work different than that of other legal organizations working for social change. I believe that it is listening that makes our work so compelling to more and more people every year.

Taking the time to allow new ideas to emerge is not easy. It requires commitment and faith in people. The staff at Pivot all share this deep commitment - whether it is Katrina, Darcie, or Doug working on our legal campaigns or Paul or Carolyn working on Hope in Shadows. Their commitment to people make Pivot work.

Sincerely,

Peter Wrinch



Message from the Chair

Well, another year has come and gone and it is time once again to deliver to you our Annual Report. As you read this account of 2010 you will see that there is no question the work Pivot does is having an impact.

Since I last wrote to you we have undergone some significant changes, particularly with respect to the departure of our founder and executive director, John Richardson, and moving into new offices.

As many of you know, John was the visionary that created Pivot and the driving force behind the development of the Society's mandate and program direction and in the overall success of the organization since its inception a decade ago. However, it came to a point where John felt that he had taken the Society as far as he could and it was time for a change in his personal life, so he decided to pass the reins on to others. Although he will no longer be a part of the day to day operations of the Society John will continue to interact with us and participate in helping guide the Society into the future as a life-time member of the Board. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Last year I reported that we were facing significant financial setbacks, largely as a consequence of the sudden and unanticipated global financial meltdown that ensued in the latter part of 2009. However, I am pleased to inform you that over the past year we have become leaner, meaner and stronger thanks to the steady hands and oversight of our operations by the Society's new leadership team consisting of Peter Wrinch (CEO), Darcie Bennett and Katrina Pacey. They have done an amazing job and deserve special recognition for keeping us functioning and strong in the face of uncertainty and for ensuring that we remain able to defend rights of the marginalized persons in our society. Under their leadership we are now well positioned to carry forward with our vision of a more just society.

However, there is much left to do and we hope that the articles and stories contained herein will inspire you and motivate you even more to help us achieve our goals.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want thank all of you for your past and ongoing commitment to Pivot and hope you will join us in looking forward to another successful year.

And don't forget, if and when you are online, please take some time to check our website at www.pivotlegal.org.

Sincerely,

John Werring

Who We Are

Board of Directors

Hendrik Beune
Community Representative

Jason Gratl
Lawyer
Gratl and Company

Kasari Govender
Legal Director
West Coast LEAF

Ann Livingston
Executive Program Director
Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users

John Werring, Chair
Biologist
David Suzuki Foundation

Ondine Snowdon, Secretary
Lawyer
Conroy and Company

Donald MacPherson, Vice Chair
Drug Policy Consultant

Georges Maltais
Community Representative

Marie Claire Seebohm
Human Resources Specialist
David Suzuki Foundation

Cameron Ward
Lawyer
Cameron Ward & Company

Sharon Wilkie, Treasurer
CEO
Glasshouse Accounting Services

Staff

Darcie Bennett
Campaigns Director

Doug King
Lawyer

Katrina Pacey
Litigation Director

Paul Ryan
Project Director
Hope in Shadows

Carolyn Wong
Project Coordinator
Hope in Shadows

Peter Winch
Chief Executive Officer



Volunteers

Volunteers are at the core of Pivot's work. This year, we once again had the opportunity to work with hundreds of dedicated community members, law students, lawyers, artists and all professionals of all sorts who helped make 2010 a success. We also work with a dedicated group of core volunteers who take responsibility for reception, donor relations and volunteer coordination. In 2010 our annual internship program provided 25 young people with a more structured opportunity for students to engage in Pivot's work over a period of several months.

Funders and Supporters

BCGEU

CUPE

PSAC

City of Vancouver

Status of Women Canada

Province of British Columbia

Vancity

The Law Foundation of BC

Nicola Wealth Management

Illahie Foundation

Endswell Foundation

Sprout Creative

Somerset Foundation

Vancity Community Foundation

Hilda Mullen Foundation

Vancouver Foundation

Benefic

Corbel Commercial

International Centre for Science in Drug Policy

Portland Hotel Society

Saltspring Coffee

Shaw Communications

Sterling Fence

Hollyhock Retreat Centre



Our Work

How we work

Over the past year Pivot has significantly shifted our internal culture to support a more collaborative structure. We created four core teams that are responsible for all aspects of Pivot's work. While each of us brings unique skills, perspectives and areas of expertise to our work, we all contribute to campaign planning, communications, volunteer management and fundraising efforts. Over the last year, we have gotten to know each other better, learned more from each other, and have seen fuller more effective campaigns emerge.

Homes for all

Red Tent

When the Olympics came to town, Pivot responded with the Red Tent Campaign. During the Games, the tents stood as a symbol of the housing and homelessness problems that would exist in Vancouver long after the Olympics were gone. After the Games, the coalition of groups taking part in the campaign grew into a strong movement for a funded national housing strategy. On October 19th Pivot teamed up with ACORN Canada, The Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), the CWP Advocacy Network, Le Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU), the Alliance to End Homelessness, the Impact on Communities Coalition (IOCC), and many more groups to take the message of the Red Tent Campaign to the steps of Parliament Hill, and to the centres of government in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. It was an impressive display of solidarity, and another important step towards actualizing the establishment of housing as a right for all Canadians. 2011 will see the Red Tent Campaign's continued presence on Parliament Hill, as Libby Davies' bill C-304, a bill to create a national housing strategy, returns to the House of Commons for a final vote.

Bylaws and the Right to Shelter

2010 was also an opportunity for us to work collaboratively with the City of Vancouver on a number of issues relating to the Downtown Eastside. With the Adams decision coming from Victoria at the end of last year, which stated that homeless people have a constitutional right to set up temporary shelter overnight in the event that city shelters are full, we quickly moved to have the decision adopted in Vancouver. After getting the City to agree to amend its bylaws in accordance with the Adams decision, we prepared ourselves to defend anyone who might be caught by the bylaw in the meantime. This led to the case of James Oikle, who was using one of the Red Tents we had distributed to sleep on a sidewalk outside the courthouse on Main Street. During the night James was visited by city workers who placed stickers on his tent saying it was an illegal structure, and threatened to give him a ticket under the bylaw the City had agreed to amend. While we were prepared to take this case into the courts the City quickly backed off and issued an apology. Since then there have been no other reports of ticketing under the bylaw, and we continue to wait for the City to make the formal amendments to the bylaw.

Accountable Policing

VPD comes out in Support of Independent Investigations

In 2010, years of relentless pressure to change the current police complaints system away from the model of police investigating themselves has started to produce some results. This year, we were finally able to obtain a commitment from the Vancouver Police Department to support an independent provincial body to investigate police complaints. 2010 also saw a strong resurgence of our affidavit campaign, and with the help of countless interns

and UBC students we were able to take the stories of almost 90 people who had negative experiences with police and private security forces throughout B.C. The affidavits show clear trends, including significant complaints from people who suffer from mental illness and complaints about the circumstances and manner in which police dogs are being deployed.

Michael Van Hubbard Wrongful Death Suit

This year we filed a wrongful death suit against the City of Vancouver on behalf of the family of Michael Van Hubbard. In 2009, Hubbard, who suffered from a mental illness, was shot and killed by police. The case will be entering the courtroom next year, and we are hopeful that a result will be better training on interacting with people with mental illness for police officers in order to prevent future tragedies of this kind.

Pivot and VANDU bring Private Security complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal

This year, we were involved in a two week trial at the Human Rights Tribunal. Pivot and VANDU brought a human rights complaint against the Downtown Business Improvement Association, alleging that their Downtown Ambassador's program discriminates against the homeless. Through the trial it was revealed that the Ambassadors' own patrol records showed they had removed "sleepers", "street people", "drug users" and "panhandlers" from public space thousands of times between September 2005 and March 2010. The Tribunal is expected to deliver its ruling sometime in 2011. We are hopeful that when the decision comes down in 2011 it will be positive. This would open the door to further actions against contracted private security companies, with the hope of achieving our policy goal of no private security policing public space.

Sex Workers' Rights

Major Victory in Ontario Sex Work Case

In 2010, we saw a major victory for sex workers in Ontario (and Canada) when Terri Jean Bedford, Amy Lebovitch, and Valerie Scott succeeded in their challenge to the criminal laws relating to adult prostitution. The Ontario Superior Court found that the criminal laws force sex workers to choose between their liberty and their safety and must be struck down. The federal government has appealed the decision and Pivot is ready to support the sex workers in that case as they fight for safety and rights for all

Right of Former Sex Worker and Sex Work

Organization to Challenge Law Upheld

The Bedford decision is not yet binding in BC, and as a result Pivot is continuing with its challenge to the criminal laws relating to adult prostitution. The trial was stalled as a result of a Supreme Court ruling that the two plaintiffs - Sheri Kiselbach, a former sex worker and the DTES Sex Workers United Against Violence Society - were not entitled to challenge the prostitution laws. We appealed this decision and were thrilled that three groups - West Coast LEAF, the Trial Lawyers Association of BC and the BC Civil Liberties Association - intervened in support of our clients' right to bring this case to court. *cont'd on next page*



The BC Court of Appeal agreed with us and granted our clients public interest standing to challenge the laws. We are currently waiting to see whether there will be another appeal on the issue of standing before we can go to trial and argue sex workers' right to be safe and work in an environment that is free from violence.

BC Government Announces Public Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women

On September 28, 2010, the provincial government finally announced a public inquiry into the police investigations into the missing and murdered women from the DTES. For years now, we have been lobbying for a public inquiry and were very pleased that this important issue will be investigated. Pivot has applied to be a participant in the inquiry as part of our work to improve policing in the DTES, and in this case, work towards effective police protection for marginalized women.

Justice for Youth

Improving child welfare response to domestic violence

In early 2010 we convened a round table discussion with 16 advocacy organizations working with women who have experienced violence, to discuss the removal of children from mothers dealing with domestic violence, in cases where safety planning and support services would have been adequate to keep children safe. The group then prepared a short position paper for the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The result was a commitment on the part of MCFD to redraft and update their best practice guidelines in collaboration with women-serving organizations. The new provincial guidelines were made public at the beginning of December, 2010. In Vancouver, we set up a working group on child welfare and family violence. The group includes one representative of MCFD regional management, a child protection consultant, two Ministry child protection workers with expertise in the area of family violence and family preservation, two anti-violence agencies, two neighbourhood houses, and Vancouver Aboriginal Family Services Society.

Youth Legal Education Project

In 2010, Pivot's child welfare campaign expanded to look at the legal need of youth in care and transitioning out of care. Through this project, we have been working with organizations serving MCFD-involved youth to provide legal workshops and advice. The workshops also provide an opportunity to hear from youth about their legal concerns and needs. In the coming



year, we will be taking what we have learned and engaging youth to help us create an accessible legal resource for their peers in the form of short, funny online videos answering common legal questions.

Housing security for MCFD-involved families

In May, Pivot and West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund filed a complaint calling on the Ombudsperson of British Columbia to investigate shelter allowance reductions for families with children in temporary foster care. The systemic complaint was brought in response to the current Ministry of Housing and Social Development policy that reduces a parent's monthly shelter allowance when their children are in the temporary care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The complaint was made on behalf of Atira Women's Resource Society, Battered Women's Support Services, Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, and the Kettle Friendship Society and alleges that the policy unfairly impacts poor families, particularly single mothers. We are expecting a response early in 2011.

Ending Violence against Women

Jane Doe Legal Network

Pivot's Jane Doe Legal Network provides legal support to women who have experienced violence, as well as legal education for women and service providers. In 2010, our legal clinics provided free legal advice to over 300 women survivors of violence, and worked with 20 different women-serving organizations to provide legal education to staff and clients. Throughout 2010, we continued to facilitate the Jane Doe Legal Network Advocates' Group. The group meets monthly to bring together service providers who work with women survivors of violence to take action on issues of common concern, evaluate and direct Jane Doe services, provide training about violence against women for people working in the legal system and to

provide support to one another in our work.

Domestic Violence Courts

This year Pivot also got together with the UBC Centre for Feminist Legal Studies and Battered Women's Support Services, to host a sold-out public forum on domestic violence courts in order to spark a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of specialized domestic violence courts, for protecting and supporting women survivors of violence. The evening included talks from Representative for Children and Youth Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Law Professors Jennifer Koshan and Wanda Wieggers, Inspector Richard Konarski with the Langley RCMP and Angela Marie MacDougall- Executive Director of Battered Women's Support Services. We have developed a paper based on the forum and will continue to work on this issue in 2011.

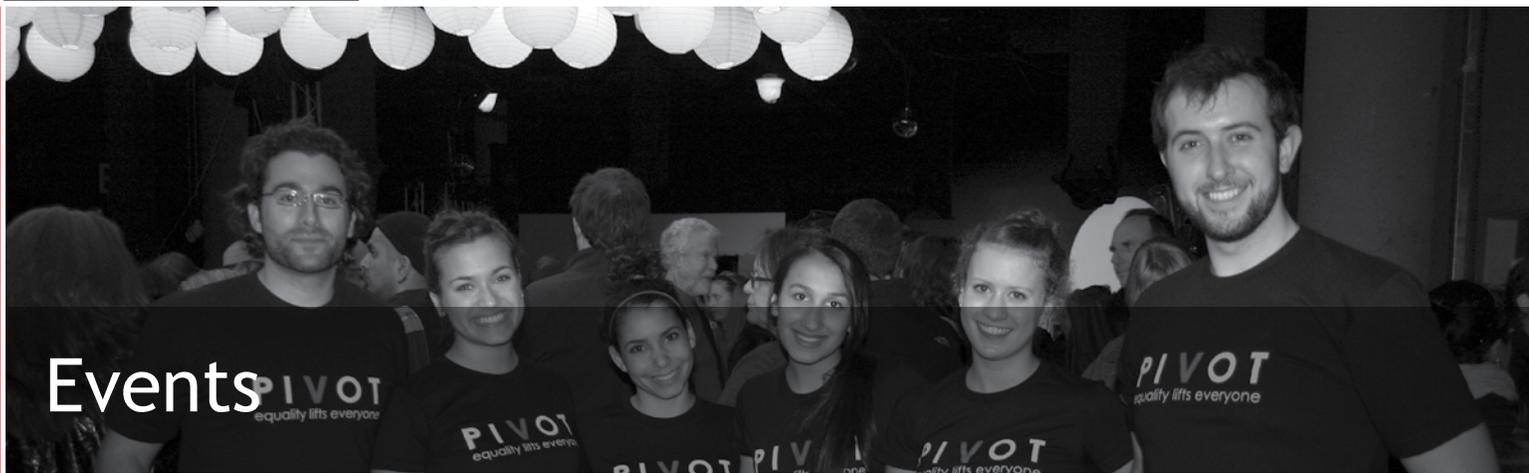
Hope in Shadows

For eight years the Hope in Shadows project has beautifully captured people's interest and imagination and this year the project continued to grow and evolve. This year we had a record number of images submitted in the photography contest, solid attendance at our events and more active vendors participating in our program - all of this resulted in a 20 per cent increase in calendar sales. More than 13,200 of the 16,000 calendars were sold on the streets by people participating in our Vendor program.

One of the most visible changes for Hope in Shadows this year was the introduction of colour photographs. After hearing requests from Downtown Eastside residents and checking in with our supporters we decided to take the plunge and open the contest to colour photos. We also added a new contest category for best colour, best landscape and best portrait. These changes sparked the photographers' creativity, opening up new ways for them to show their talent.

Sadly this year marked the passing of a beloved community member and Pivot director, Julie Rogers. With more winning photographs than any other Hope in Shadows participant, Julie had a generous spirit and a special talent for taking portraits and we named The Julie Rogers Memorial Award for Best Portrait in her honour.





Justice Rocks

On August 15, Pivot Legal Society joined an all-star lineup of social and environmental organizations for the third Justice Rocks music festival in Strathcona Park. The event featured capoeira, children's performers, break-dancers, youth hip-hop, and a full line-up of local musical acts including Maria in The Shower, Abstract Random, En Karma, Corbin Murdoch and the Cultural Medicine Cabinet. Justice Rocks 2010 was made possible by the generous support of our title sponsor, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Coming together for a national housing strategy

In the Spring of 2010, we asked Canadians to imagine what they would say if they had 30 seconds to convince Stephen Harper to end homelessness - and Canadians responded. On October 1st we screened some of our top video messages for the Prime Minister at Rhizome Café and announced the 30 Seconds to End Homelessness film contest winner. Five students from Capilano University's film program took home both the audience choice award and the grand prize for their video "Stickyman to End Homelessness." Jesse Vance and Shereese Staples, who accepted the awards on behalf of the group spoke about the way that gathering footage and talking to hundreds of people about ending homelessness inspired to be more active on the issue. We were also joined by Seth Klein, BC Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, discussed the findings of his latest report, Unpacking the Housing Numbers.

Passion for Justice

Passion for Justice is one of the hottest parties around and PFJ 2010 was no different. As well as silent and live auctions, the evening's line up included the fiery Spanish Guitar of Tambura Rasa, pole dancing by Tantra Fitness and ended with a drag show by the amazing Carlotta Gurl. This year we introduced a new venue, District 319, and were very happy to welcome the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) as a key sponsor this year.

Stand up for Mental Health

On December 8th Pivot and Stand up for Mental Health joined forces for a night of crazy comedy at the Yale. The show was a benefit for Pivot and the graduation performance for the SMH class of 2010. The evening also featured SMH comics from PACE and the SMH alumni. The show will be emceed by Adriane Carr, Leader of BC Green Party (or possibly the deputy leader of the federal Green Party, all we really know is that she likes recycling). Stand up for Mental Health trains people living with mental illness to write and perform comedy. The SMH comics have performed across Canada for audiences in concert halls, coffee shops, comedy clubs, and everything in between.

Pivot Legal Society

Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2010

	2010	2009 (Unaudited)
Receipts		
Grant	434,784	552,213
Calendar and book sales	137,417	143,137
Campaign income	21,850	38,067
Expense recovery	55,950	92,541
Donation	930	4,314
Other	3,896	642
	654,828	830,914
Expenditures		
Salaries, wages and benefits	349,862	388,297
Office and miscellaneous	124,677	190,924
Bad debts (Note 6)	81,920	40,000
Calendar and book supplies	59,869	79,913
Fundraising	38,935	26,867
Loss on loan guarantee (Note 6)	35,000	-
Professional fees	18,544	30,143
Campaign expense	16,576	44,766
General and administration expense	5,817	7,485
Volunteer expense	4,526	11,375
Communication	4,068	16,031
Amortization	967	1,515
	740,760	837,316
Deficiency of receipts over expenditures for the year	(85,932)	(6,402)

PIVOT
equality lifts everyone