



Cultivating hope through
inclusive, supportive
services & communities

38021 Third Avenue,
PO Box 2052
Squamish, BC, V8B 0B4

WWW.PEARLSPACE.CA

Jan 31, 2025

Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of PearlSpace Support Services Society (formerly known as Howe Sound Women's Centre Society - Est. 1981) to request that the Village of Pemberton proclaim **April Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)** as part of BC-wide education campaigns by non-profit organizations in receipt of Sexual Assault Services contracts from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Government of British Columbia. The noted Sexual Assault Services contracts grows locally available sexual assault response capacity, as well as strengthens sexual assault prevention work through public education and awareness campaigns in both small centers and large, across British Columbia.

PearlSpace has provided emergency housing to women and children escaping domestic violence in the Pemberton area since 1995, with a Safe Home being established in Pemberton in 2006. PEACE programming by PearlSpace offers counselling and educational presentations to children and youth who have been exposed to high conflict episodes in the family home, in collaboration with schools based in Pemberton.

Since June, 2021, we have formed a 24/7 mobile Sexual Assault Response team, who offer emotionally supportive and client-centered systems navigation across the Sea to Sky corridor, from Furry Creek to the Southern Stl'atl'imx First Nations in partnership with the Southern Stl'atl'imx Health Society and in concert with locally available forensic services at all Health Centers in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Victims of sexual violence can now access a



Cultivating hope through
inclusive, supportive
services & communities

38021 Third Avenue,
PO Box 2052
Squamish, BC, V8B 0B4

WWW.PEARLSPACE.CA

continuum of care much closer to their home communities, alleviating the necessity to seek urban services that are potentially hours of travel away.

All hub municipalities (Pemberton, Whistler, Squamish) in the Sea to Sky corridor are being approached to support SAAM in April and formally raise public awareness of this educational campaign. In Pemberton, this will specifically mean raising awareness of the newly passed Intimate Images Protections Act by the Province of British Columbia on January 29th, 2024, and the availability of the Third Party Reporting Option for victims of sexual assault who wish to remain anonymous.

By responding to and addressing sexual violence on a localized basis, we are collectively positioned to address the unique needs of each hub community in the Sea to Sky area, and will increase awareness of locally available resources. We are also going to be promoting protective measures to strengthen sexual assault prevention. The Village of Pemberton is in a position to play an important role in reducing stigma associated with sexual violence by proclaiming April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, in keeping with awareness campaigns that have been initiated across North America and specifically, in British Columbia.

Yours in the collaboration of creating well-being in our communities,

Shannon Cooley Herdman

Coordinator, Sexual Assault Services

PearlSpace