

To Rise's supporters, funders, donors, community partners, friends, and all who make Rise possible,

It is with a bittersweet mix of emotions that I write to let you know I will be leaving my position as executive director of Rise Women's Legal Centre, as of March 31, 2024, to take up the role of director of legal services grants at the Law Foundation of BC.

It is nearly 8 years to the day that I accepted the challenge of launching a new legal clinic. I was one of just 3 original employees who took over an empty room at Broadway and Cambie with the ambitious goal of creating a legal clinic that would provide accessible and inclusive family law services in BC. Today, Rise has grown to a team of 26 dedicated professionals and 8 students who work tirelessly every day to make a difference for women and gender diverse people across the province. To say that being part of Rise's story has been an honour, is an understatement – Rise will always be one of the most important achievements in my life.

During my tenure as executive director, Rise has helped over 9,000 people, trained 107 students, published 5 groundbreaking reports (with more on the way!), and partnered with more than 60 organisations around BC in the pursuit of justice. Rise has created resources and cultivated relationships that will provide support for those who need legal help in BC for years to come. One of the things that I am most proud of is that Rise is an organization that is also a community, where staff, students and others thrive, stay, and are always welcomed back when they return. I am thrilled to count Rise alumni among both our staff and Board, and I could not be happier to share this moment of transition with so many people who have worked with me to build Rise from the ground up. I know, without a shadow of a doubt, that the team at Rise will continue to achieve incredible things.

Rise has a transition and recruitment plan in place, and I am delighted to announce that Vicky Law, the supervising lawyer of our Virtual Legal Clinic, has agreed to serve as acting executive director during the transition. Vicky is an incredible leader, a brilliant lawyer and advocate, a capable manager, and a treasured colleague. I could not leave Rise in safer hands during this period of change. I will be supporting Vicky and our dedicated Board of Directors to assure a smooth transition for Rise. I cannot wait to see where Rise goes next.

Thank you all for an extraordinary 8 years.

With deepest gratitude,



Kim Hawkins
Executive Director
Rise Women's Legal Centre

Taanishi kiawaow (hello everyone),

After many years of dedicated service, executive director Kim Hawkins, has made the difficult decision to step away from Rise to take up a new role, where she will continue her amazing work in access to justice. Rise and the Board of Directors would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Kim. We are immensely grateful for her thoughtful leadership, strategic vision, legal expertise, and dedication to serving women and gender diverse folks throughout the province of BC.

Kim will indeed be missed, however, we are excited that she will not be going far. I have been taught that in Michif, the language of my people, the Métis Nation, there is no word for goodbye. We believe that we stay in relationship with each other even when no longer together. And so, at the end of March we will say Kawapamatin (see you again) Kim. We wish her all the best in her new position with the Law Foundation of BC.

As we bid farewell to Kim, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for Rise Women's Legal Centre. Together with Kim, the Board has created a transition plan, and is looking forward to working with acting executive director Vicky Law. Rise is embarking on the search for a new executive director with the assistance of Alison Brewing Consulting, and details will be released in coming days. We are confident that the Rise team will build upon our past success and continue to champion the values and purpose of Rise as we move forward.

Maarsii pi Kaakwaymiiyaayaa (thank you and take care),



Carly Teillet
President
Rise Women's Legal Centre Board of Directors