

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Jannit Rabinovitch on January 26, 2007, after a courageous struggle with cancer. Jannit was a tireless feminist and lesbian activist and an advocate for marginalized people. In 1997 she was awarded a YWCA Woman of Distinction Award and in 2004 she was named honorary citizen of Victoria for co-founding the Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society (PEERS). Her many achievements include raising funds to build a new Victoria Women's Transition House and Margaret Lawrence House, second stage housing for battered women. She also provided inspiration and leadership for the Downtown Women's Project's Sandy Merriman House, an emergency shelter for homeless women. Jannit helped plan the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth, "Out from the Shadows". She served as executive director for the International Centre to Combat Exploitation of Children and helped create the Canadian National Coalition for Experiential Women. Jannit was involved in local political affairs and sat on the Victoria Police Board for many years. Her latest work was with the Centre for Addictions Research at the University of Victoria.

Jannit was born in London, Ontario in 1949 and moved to BC in the early 1970s. She will be deeply missed by her daughter Hannah Rabinovitch, and her son Mischa Snopkowski, her sister Lori Rabinovitch, her brother Paul Rabinovitch and their families. Her absence will be deeply felt throughout the Victoria community.

A memorial service will be held at Alix Goolden Hall at 1pm on Saturday, February 17.

In lieu of flowers and in memory of Jannit, donations can be made to PEERS ([www.peers.bc.ca](http://www.peers.bc.ca)) or Sandy Merriman House (480-1408).