



BOLT SAFETY SOCIETY

2022 - 23 fiscal year-end report



Fighting to end violence, harassment, and abuse.

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The BOLT Safety Society was federally incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act on 07-07-2020. The organization was founded by youth, and is today operated fully by volunteers, aiming to create safer and equitable communities.



Letter from the Chairperson and Executive Director

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Yet another year has flown by at the speed of a bullet train, and we've been tested against new challenges, and soared through new adventures.

I don't think anyone really reads these letters anyways, so I'll keep it brief and thank everyone who made our work possible this past fiscal year: thank you to our team, thank you to our advisors, thank you to our mentors, thank you to our donors, thank you to our sponsors, and thank you to our clients.

A more safe and equitable world is possible as a result of all of your combined efforts, and it continues to be an honour leading this organization - full steam ahead!

Onwards and upwards,

Vedanshi
Co-Founder



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To-date, here's what we've achieved together:

15+ awards

60+ volunteers since incorporation

5,400+ hours volunteered since incorporation

18,500+ people impacted globally*

82,900+ impressions across platforms*

**as of July 27, 2023*

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Presentations, Collaborations, and Partnerships

We value opportunities to reach new audiences, and have worked with several organizations in the past fiscal year to achieve shared goals. Here is some of our selected work:

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver: Through a partnership, BOLT Safety provided the AMS with consulting services and conducted programming on UBC campus to improve safety and equity standards. We were part of the sexual violence policy review process for both the AMS and the University of British Columbia, presented personal safety resources and raised awareness to the student body through both in-person booths and workshops, and onboarded both the AMS Food Bank and the AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre as Safe Hubs partners. Through this partnership with the AMS, we were also able to formally launch our Project LyghtNying workshop program in the Nest.

5X Fest: Our Executive Director, Vedanshi, was invited to be a 5X Patron to support their organization's endeavours to support South Asian creatives. Our relationship with 5X Fest continued at their signature Blockparty in June, where Safe Buddies were on-site to foster a safe experience for all attendees, and provide risk-management services.

Ted Baker generously supported our advocacy for safer and equitable communities by styling our Executive Director, Vedanshi, for events where she represents our organization.

ICONNBC Business Association invited us to meet Premier David Eby, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and BC Government Ministers as part of a delegation to Victoria. Our Executive Director, Vedanshi, and Operations Director, Shreyanshi, represented us at these meetings.

TakingItGlobal: Our Executive Director, Vedanshi, was invited to co-author Flourish, a workbook for social innovators. We held a book launch event with our partners at the Vancouver Art Gallery.



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Visit to the BC Legislative Assembly
Styled by *Ted Baker*



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Awards

OXY Canada: The OXY Prize

Vedanshi named Top 6 'Face of Change' finalist
Canada-wide
BOLT Safety Society was in the running to win
\$5,000

Richmond Chamber of Commerce: Business Excellence Awards

BOLT Safety Society among five nominees in the
'Association of the Year' category

Fashion and Beauty United

Shreyanshi named a 'Wonder Woman'

United Nations CSW67

Vedanshi selected as NGO Delegate as part of the
Equal Chance delegation
BOLT Safety Society represented at the 67th
Commission on the Status of Women at UN
Headquarters in New York

TakingItGlobal and the Government of Canada: Sprout Ideas Fellowship

Vedanshi selected as Fellow
BOLT Safety Society recipient of funding

Financial Committee

BY THE NUMBERS

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grants won

\$1,900+

in donations received this fiscal year

\$14,750

in funding received through grants to-date



Financial Committee

As a not-for-profit organization, our community impact is made possible due to the generous support of donations and grants. Every single cent of funding received goes towards our programs, initiatives, and operations, as we are operated fully by volunteers. Funding is immensely helpful in improving the quality and quantity of our content, as well as our operations.

This year, we launched our donations platform on Ko-Fi, and we gratefully welcome donations: ko-fi.com/boltsafety

Key achievements:

- We announced a \$5,000 fundraiser to fund our work
- We were selected to be part of the TakingItGlobal Sprouts Fellowship to carry out a project titled 'The Rural Safety Network by BOLT Safety Society' (stay tuned for more updates on this project next year)
- We diversified our Income streams, such as through charging for Safe Buddies coverage at local events, and for Project LyghtNying workshop delivery

As always, BOLT Safety Society is eternally grateful for the grants, awards, and donations that make our work possible.



Marketing Committee

BY THE NUMBERS

60+ media appearances

900+ followers*

82,900+ impressions*

*as of July 27, 2023

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Marketing Committee

OVERVIEW

The Marketing Committee serves to promote BOLT Safety's initiatives on various media platforms and through in-person outreach events in the community. This year, BOLT Safety has made further advances internationally with our debut at the United Nations. We aim to further advance BOLT Safety's global presence in the time to come.

Our responsibilities include publishing official statements on behalf of BOLT Safety and both online and offline outreach so that our resources can be more widely found. A notable example of our efforts to raise awareness on topics pertaining to human rights, in the context of ending violence, is our 'Case Files' series, which was featured on Instagram Reels and YouTube Shorts.

BOLT Safety is extremely honoured for the opportunities and support that we have received in the past year to amplify our impact through our media partners. This year, we were featured on Medium, Global News, the Richmond Sentinel, Richmond News, North Delta Reporter, Surrey Now-Leader, Peace Arch News, Cloverdale Reporter, Fashion and Beauty United (FABU), Tricity News, the Indo-Canadian Voice, and the Leaders of Today Podcast.

SELECT MEDIA FEATURES

- Fostering A Sense of Safety and Community through the Safe Buddies Program **(Medium + TakingItGlobal)**
- Safe Hubs - Segment aired on August 20, 2022 on Global News Hour at 6 **(Global News)**
- Richmond businesses encouraged to support Safe Hubs program **(The Richmond Sentinel)**
- Women's safety organization wants to flip victim-blaming narratives **(Richmond News)**
- With Project LyghtNyng, youth-led BOLT Safety Society aims to end violence, harassment, abuse **(Surrey Now-Leader)**
- Ending the Stigma with Shreyanshi Vala **(FABU)**
- You can 'bolt' over to this Tri-Cities MP's office if your safety is at risk **(Tricity News)**
- Young Richmond advocate fights for gender equality at UN **(Richmond News)**

BY THE NUMBERS*

2 countries and **8** organizations reached through our Project LyghtNyng workshop program

8 cities now have a Safe Hub

10 donations to shelters, food banks, and humanitarian relief

15 Project LyghtNyng workshops hosted

21 Safe Hubs

80+ Digital Platform members

180+ Project LyghtNyng workshop participants

500+ Safe Buddies clients

800+ unique visitors to The Hub

1,700+ lifetime resource accesses from The Hub

4,600+ Safe Hubs digital map accesses

5,100+ unique website visitors

5,900+ people reached with event Safe Buddies

**Some of these stats were obtained on July 27, 2023*

Digital Platform

Our Digital Platform is available on the WIX mobile app, or accessed via web browsers on any device (e.g. phones, computers).

At the core of our Digital Platform, The Hub serves as a digital educational space to share survivor-centric narratives, self-defense tips, safety resources, as well as relevant news commentary. Our team of researchers, writers, and graphic designers collaborate on informative and digestible content for viewers while exploring new forms of engagement. This past fiscal year social media campaigns and collaboration with companies have helped to increase our article viewership. For instance, we partnered with L'Oréal Paris to include their *#StandUp Against Street Harassment* training on our Digital Platform.

We also covered a diverse range of topics and article styles in the eight articles we published this past fiscal year. We expanded our list of legal resources for victims of stalking, domestic abuse, violence, and sexual assault. Our article *Stalking: Taking Legal Action*, specifically outlines the legal process to take against one's stalker according to Canadian law. Another article, *Intimate Partner Violence Against Men*, provided statistics on the often undercovered topic of men's safety. In 2023 we also began expanding our list of international safety resources, starting with India.

This past year has brought numerous achievements, and the Hub aspires to continue increasing engagement and viewership as we expand our impact to communities internationally.





STAND UP

against street harassment

by L'ORÉAL
PARIS

Safe Hubs

Safe Hubs brings together the local community to provide a network of safe spaces and crisis management resources. This year, our program grew to 21 Safe Hub partners, including the office of Coquitlam Member of Parliament, Ms. Bonita Zarrillo.

In this fiscal year, we brought Safe Hubs to new cities through mobile team outreach events, and we are pleased to report that 8 cities now have a partner safe space. Our partners, For The Menstruator, have been an invaluable ally in connecting donors of menstrual hygiene products for us to both donate to community organizations and causes, and make available for disbursement through our Safe Hubs partner locations. In the year to come, we hope to continue building new relationships for our program to scale the impact it can have.



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Safe Buddies

The Safe Buddies program is dedicated to ensuring that everyone feels safe within their respective communities.

Our approach revolves around connecting clients with our trained volunteers who can provide accompaniment on the phone and in-person. Recognizing the need for greater impact, we have shifted our model from individual client requests to partnering with event organizers. This strategic move has allowed us to reach a wider audience, raising awareness and fostering a stronger sense of community safety.

Having maintained close ties with UBC's Alma Mater Society through a partnership, we have been able to connect with campus event organizers and recruit passionate Safe Buddies volunteers, amplifying our impact on safety on campus, and beyond. For instance, we provided coverage at the UBC Fraternities and Sororities' ACF event. More notably, Safe Buddies played a pivotal role in the 5X Fest Blockparty, the largest event we have engaged in yet, with a remarkable attendance of 3,000 people. By offering support and a dependable presence during such milestone celebrations, we aim to ensure that guests are able to enjoy a special event while feeling safe and protected.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we express our deepest gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, community partners, and generous supporters. With their unwavering commitment, Safe Buddies, driven by BOLT Safety, continues to champion safety and security for society's most vulnerable.



Project LyghtNying

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Project LyghtNying is a newly launched program which presents a series of workshops regarding topics such as violence prevention, flipping the victim-blaming narrative, and consent. Our goal is to remove stigma surrounding said topics in the hope of creating a safer and more equitable community.

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, we were able to deliver 12 workshops with each workshop being catered specifically towards our attendees. Our workshops were delivered online as well as in-person to participants who were as young as 14.

During this year, we were also able to successfully launch Project LyghtNying officially with around 70 attendees at the in-person launch event. Moving forward, the Project LyghtNying team hopes to deliver more impactful workshops and build our clientele.



- Global: 1 in 3 women experience violence (*United Nations*)
- Middle East: 66% of women in Iran experience domestic violence (*WHO Eastern Mediterranean*)
- Asia: 33% of all women in East Asia are estimated to experience sexual violence in their lifetime (*WHO Int*)
- Africa: only 22,200 out of 144,000 requests for protection orders were granted between 2018-2019 in South Africa (*United Nations*)
- USA: 694,050 violent-crime incidents in the US in 2021 (*FBI Crime Data Explorer*)
- Canada: ~2 million Canadians 15+ reported being stalked based off the "Stalking in Canada" report (*Statistics Canada*)

USA: 694,050 violent crime incidents in 2021

ASIA: 33% of women experience sexual violence

GLOBAL: 1 in 3

METRO VANCOUVER: From 2016-19 over 1100 cases of SA were reported (Vancouver Sun)

MIDDLE EAST: 66% of women in Iran experienced domestic violence

SOUTH AFRICA: only 22,200 requests for protection orders out of 144,000

CANADA: 2 million Canadians 15+ reported being stalked

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BOLT SAFETY SOCIETY

Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson, Vedanshi

Treasurer, Ravi

Secretary, Brina

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive Director, Vedanshi

Operations Director, Shreyanshi

Marketing Director, Brina

Financial Director, Victor

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Human Resources Manager, Olivia

Safe Hubs Manager, Emily

Safe Buddies Manager, Faaiz

Digital Platform Manager, Sarah

Project LyghtNying Manager, Hrishitha

Social Media Manager, Anannya

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Our Team

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Graphic Designer, Anannya

Host, Ananya

Programs Assistant, Anson

Programs Assistant, Carina

Programs Assistant, Chelsea

Programs Assistant, Dominic

Programs Assistant, Erin

Programs Assistant, Laura

小红书 (Red) Coordinator, Licy

Writer, Rosha

Lead Graphic Designer, Serena

Videographer and Video Editor, Srishti

Programs Assistant, Tianyun

Financial Assistant, Wendy

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Our Team

AMBASSADORS

Carina
Mien
Sophia

ADVISORS

Joey Yip, St. John Ambulance
Jewell Gilles, Okanagan College
Ravinder Safaya, The Youth Leadership Society of BC
Dr. Annalijn Conklin, The University of British Columbia
Kavita Bassi, University of Windsor
Rajeev Manchanda, Inventure Global Services Inc.

We are, moreover, grateful to our former volunteers for their service to our organization and this cause.

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Let's stay in touch.

We look forward to working hand-in-hand with community leaders, thinkers, and advocates alike as we strive towards a better world for all. Thank you to all who have helped us grow and learn. We'll continue fighting for a safer and equitable future.

boltsafety.org | [@boltsafety](https://twitter.com/boltsafety)

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