

# MOKAMI STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

<https://www.mokamiwomen.ca/>

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL

Advocating for gender equity and addressing gender-based needs in Labrador.

**Organizational type:** Non-profit, social enterprise, registered charity

**Mission:** Mokami Status of Women Council is an equality seeking organization that advocates, educates and provides programs and services to women and gender diverse people.

**Vision:** Mokami Status of Women Council promotes equality and social justice for the well-being of everyone.



**Mokami Status of Women Council**



## ACTIVITIES

Mokami Status of Women Council operates key frontline programs - the **Women's Centre** and the **Supportive Living Program** - to serve women and gender diverse people in Labrador. Through these programs, Mokami provides free advocacy, cultural and family programming, counselling, and safe, round-the-clock housing and support for residents facing violence, homelessness, or mental health challenges.

To generate earned revenue (outside of grants), Mokami operates **Thrifty's**, a 40-year-old social enterprise that provides affordable clothing to the community and offers supportive employment and training opportunities for women and gender diverse youth.



## EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Thrifty's, Mokami's social enterprise, was financially draining the organization before the current Executive Director began her tenure. Through acknowledging knowledge gaps in operating the thrift store and key partnerships (e.g. with Choices for Youth), Thrifty's turned profitable in 2022. This has enabled Mokami to reinvest their profits into store improvements and community supports and services.

Mokami operates other social enterprising activities, such as a transportation service that addresses community needs while generating revenue for the organization.



## EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL FINANCE

A significant portion of Mokami's budget is sourced from grants from federal and provincial governments/government agencies. However, the reliance on government grants, which are often short-term or annual, poses challenges for long-term planning and sustainability.

The current Executive Director has been learning about social finance through the Investment Readiness Program Learning Cohort, facilitated by RADIUS SFU. While eager to integrate social finance into the mix, Mokami also hopes to translate their conceptual understanding of social finance into actionable strategies that align with a cautious Board of Directors.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

Mokami Status of Women Council plays an indispensable role in addressing persistent issues facing the community they serve: women and gender diverse people in the Upper Lake Melville region of Labrador. Community organizations like Mokami are uniquely positioned to respond dynamically to the needs of communities on the ground. Accessing social finance alongside existing government grants will unlock Mokami's ability to serve women and gender diverse people in Labrador, while ensuring long-term sustainability.

