

Shawn Bayes Biography

Shawn Bayes is the Executive Director and CEO of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver (EFry), a non-profit organization providing support to women, girls and children involved in or affected by the justice system. She oversees the organization's strategic direction and operations, the management of its 25 programs and its advocacy work.

Ms. Bayes' background in the social services and criminal justice fields spans over 30 years. During virtually all this time, she has been involved with EFry in varying capacities. Beginning her career as a child and youth counsellor, Ms. Bayes was instrumental in the Society's work in community sentencing alternatives. A staunch supporter of Elizabeth Fry's belief that all people have the right to belong and the ability to become contributing members of society if given the opportunity, Ms. Bayes has played a key role in successfully advocating for changes to public policies affecting the treatment of women and girls involved with the justice system.

Ms. Bayes has led the development of numerous initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the marginalized. Among them is a Third Party Administration Program providing hard to serve individuals access to social assistance monies and community support and reintegration. The program is considered a best practice model for similar programs across the country. Ms. Bayes was appointed Executive Director and CEO of EFry in 1997.

Ms Bayes holds a B.A. in Psychology from Simon Fraser University (B.A). In 2001, she was one of 120 national leaders in Canada's voluntary and non-profit sector selected for a fully sponsored Masters of Management program at McGill University. Currently, she sits on the Board of the Provincial Association of Regional Corrections.

Ms. Bayes writes and is a frequent speaker on the subject of the children of prisoners, criminal justice, and Canadian social policy. In June 2009, she received the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the non-profit and public service category.