

Information bulletin

Victim Services and Crime Prevention

October 2015

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Thank you!



this issue

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Message from the Executive Director



Welcome to the October 2015 Information Bulletin. In this issue, we're profiling Aboriginal programs and initiatives in B.C.

This edition includes a program spotlight on the Moose Hide Campaign, a movement to raise awareness about violence against Aboriginal women and children. It also contains an article on First Nations Court and Court Support, and information about the recently announced Aboriginal Domestic Violence Funding application that is part of the \$5.5 million commit-

ment in the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan. To learn more, see page 5.

In this issue and moving forward, we're including a new section on provincial efforts to combat human trafficking. Human trafficking is a crime and a human rights abuse and we are dedicated to working in partnership to assist and protect trafficked persons. Please see page 7, for information about our activities.

We are very pleased to announce new online training for providing court support and justice system information that will be available free of charge for frontline service providers starting on November 17, 2015! Comprehensive resources and interactive activities will provide new support workers with a solid understanding of the justice system and practical tips on court support—so take advantage of this free training opportunity! The course will also serve

as a good refresher for more experienced workers. For more information and to register now, please see page 6.

Also in November, we will be holding a webinar for service providers on supporting child victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process. To learn more about this free webinar, please see page 3.

I appreciate you taking time to provide your feedback on thoughts and ideas about our bulletin, which is intended to provide useful and practical information to front-line service providers. If you have any thoughts or suggestions about topics for future bulletins, or if you have other feedback, please feel free to contact me directly at taryn.walsh@gov.bc.ca.

Taryn Walsh
Executive Director



Victim Services and
Crime Prevention
Community Safety and
Crime Prevention Branch
Ministry of Justice

Program Spotlight: Moose Hide Campaign

The Moose Hide Campaign is a grass roots movement of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men to raise awareness about violence against Aboriginal women and children. Wearing the Moose Hide signifies a man's commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in his life and to work together with other men to end violence against Aboriginal women and children. The campaign was started in 2010 by Paul Lacerte, Executive Director of the BC Association of Friendship Centres and has since spread across Canada.

"One of my daughters and I, Raven, were out hunting and shot a moose near the Highway of Tears, east of Burns Lake," says Lacerte. "It was one of those perfect moments with the sun coming up and we got the idea that we could tan that moose hide, cut it up into little squares, and start giving them to men to wear on their shirts on a daily basis to occupy the space of advocacy. It struck me deeply that indigenous women have to bear the burden of abuse and the burden of advocacy. We have to wake our brothers up and activate the men in our community to speak up about this issue."

The Moose Hide Campaign considers three key areas of attention to be paramount in addressing violence against Aboriginal women and children: raising awareness, expanding services, and legislation and public policy.

The early days of the Moose Hide Campaign involved Lacerte and his family gathering numerous moose hides, cutting them up into more than 25,000 squares, and distributing them to family and friends. To date, over 100,000 Moose Hide squares have been distributed through the Moose Hide Campaign. Each one of those squares represents at least one conversation about violence against Aboriginal women and children. Lacerte notes that he averages four to five conversations a day from



Photo: Moose Hide Campaign's Men's Gathering in February 2015.

people simply asking why he's wearing a square of moose hide pinned to his shirt. 'Thanks for asking' is the motto of the campaign. Each of those conversations, he notes, has "a little bit of a healing function" and helps to bring awareness to the issue of violence against Aboriginal women and children.

"We are healing from the effects of five generations in the Indian residential school system," says Lacerte. "There's unhealed early childhood trauma for a lot of our men who have been sexually abused and have been the victims of early childhood violence themselves. There's an opportunity now to look differently at how we respond in a public policy context to trauma amongst indigenous men that begins to look differently than the way that statutory services are built right now."

The Moose Hide Campaign has been widely supported across Canada. On October 16, 2015 the Moose Hide Campaign held a national one-day Men's Fast. The event presented an opportunity for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men in communities, organizations and governments across the country to pledge their support to end violence against women and children. The organizers of the campaign invited men to fast from sunrise until sunset, break their fast with their families, friends, or co-workers, and share their fasting experience.

Responding to Child Abuse, Collaborating for Success



Sophie's Place Child Advocacy Centre will be hosting a two day conference on November 17 and 18, 2015, in Surrey to provide training and education to front line service providers that serve children and youth who are victims of abuse and their families. The conference is open to service providers currently working with child and youth victims of abuse and/or their family members including child advocacy centre workers, social workers working with MCFD and delegated agencies or Provincial Health, victim service workers, police, medical professionals, counselors registered with BCACC, psychologists, and Crown counsel.

For more information or to register, please visit the conferencewebsite.com.

Moose Hide Campaign (cont'd)

"Because it's an indigenous initiative we have maybe a little bit more permission to invite ceremony into the space and give people permission to do that kind of stuff," says Lacerte. "In a country of 30 million people, hopefully you start to get a little closer to a national level of famil-

arity with the campaign and the things that we're trying to do."

For more information about the Moose Hide Campaign, please visit [their website](#).

Rebuilding the Circle: Indigenous Nations Society

Circle of Indigenous Nations Society recently completed their Rebuilding the Circle project. The initiative brought together ten women for 12 sessions to make traditional moccasins and shawls. Elders were present at every session and traditional practices related to healing such as smudging, drumming and singing occurred at each session. In a safe environment, women were encouraged to share their experiences of violence and healing from violence. The project also brought together 36 women for a two-day healing conference where women had the opportunity to experience traditional healing through a pipe ceremony, smudging ceremonies, as well as a healing ceremony.

"It is difficult to find the words to express or describe the healing I witnessed at this conference," says Kris Taks, Executive Director of the Circle of Indigenous Nations Society. "There was an obvious 'awakening' of heart and spirit for many of the women who attended. So many of the women arrived at the conference with their heads down looking at the ground, and left with their heads held high looking to the sky."

For more information about Circle of Indigenous Nations Society, please visit [their website](#).

Shining Stars

Millie Percival, Lisims Nass Valley Police-Based Victim Services

Millie Percival has worked as Victim Assistance Coordinator at Nisga'a Lisims Government for the past seven years. Millie also works with the Nisga'a Lisims Government Programs and Services & Access to Justice Department and the Lisims Nass Valley RCMP Detachment.

Among the many areas of Millie's work includes her involvement with residential school survivors.

"They're very keen on exchanging surviving for thriving," says Millie. "The work involved in this transition can be daunting at times, but there is never a shortage of people encouraging one another."

Millie attributes this to the collaborative efforts, kindness, and support of the Terrace, Prince Rupert and Smithers police-based victim services over the years. "It's truly an honor to be working with the people in the Nass Valley," says Millie. "Moving along and gathering inspiration from clients and co-workers is rewarding every day!"

Is there someone in your program who you would like to be recognized as a Shining Star? We'd like to profile them in our bulletin. We just need their name, job title, your program name, photo (optional), and a brief description of why you think they're a Shining Star. Please send your submission to victimservices@gov.bc.ca.

Free Webinars for Service Providers



We will hold an upcoming webinar on supporting child victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice process in November 2015. The webinar will be presented by a police investigator, a Crown Counsel, and a victim support worker with a focus on practical information and support strategies to assist children and their non-offending caregivers from the initial police investigation, through to charge approval and trial processes in criminal court (or at each stage of the criminal justice system). Details will be announced in the coming weeks. If you're interested in attending this webinar, please contact us at victimservices@gov.bc.ca.

Videos for the following webinars are available online (click on the links below):

[Human Trafficking](#)

[Draft Justice Framework](#)

[Crime Victim Assistance Program](#)

[Restitution Program](#)

First Nations Court and Court Support

First Nations Court takes a holistic approach, recognizing the unique circumstances of First Nations offenders within the framework of existing laws. First Nations Court provides support and healing to assist in rehabilitation and to reduce recidivism and seeks to acknowledge and repair the harm done to victims and the community.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch in the Ministry of Justice includes a Victim Court Support Program. The program supports Aboriginal victims of crime at First Nations court in North Vancouver and New Westminster. Caseworkers with the Court Support Program, Freda Ens and Corrine Hunt, have provided information about the unique aspects of First Nations Court and practical tips about providing support for Aboriginal clients in First Nations Court that may also be helpful to service providers assisting Aboriginal victims in other courts.

In First Nations Court, both the offender and the victim have a healing plan. The offender's healing plan involves a set of conditions imposed by a judge that the offender must follow as part of his or her rehabilitation. These conditions may include mandatory counselling sessions, attendance in treatment programs, providing a formal written apology to the victim, financial restitution, and other conditions. The healing plan is intended to help the offender, the community and the victims of crime to heal and move forward.

In First Nations Court, victims often have the option of speaking to the court and providing input into the offender's healing plan. This can be validating for the victim and provide them with a voice in the sentencing process. Having a voice during the offender's hearing can help to empower the victim and assist them in their process of healing and moving forward.



The victim's healing plan, although optional for the victim, provides important information and access to resources to help the victim recover from the effects of the crime. Aboriginal Court Support Caseworkers work with the victim to help clarify their needs from a physical, mental, and spiritual perspective and then connect them with culturally relevant resources.

Healing plans can benefit victims who are not attending the First Nations Court as well. When working with a victim to develop a healing plan, it is helpful to explore if they are in need of counselling services or other supports, such as financial assistance or housing. It is also beneficial to discuss if they would like to provide information to the court through a Victim Impact Statement and whether they wish to be present at an offender's sentencing.

Other suggestions for working with Aboriginal clients in court include the following:

- Find out from the client which [Nation](#) they are from. In B.C., there are more than 203 First Nations bands with their own distinct cultural practices and over 100 First Nations languages spoken.
- For a comprehensive list of B.C. First Nation Bands visit the BC Assembly of First Nations website, which also lists [contact information for Chief and Council in each First Nation](#).
- [A Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia](#) also lists B.C. bands and includes a pronunciation guide.

Launch of EVA Notes

Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC) has introduced the first edition of EVA Notes, a new monthly service for its member programs. EVA Notes is a series of two-page briefing notes intended to inform and direct anti-violence workers on timely and complex issues. The first issue of EVA Notes, issued in October 2015, provided practical, up-to-date information on Integrated Case Assessment Teams (ICATs). Upcoming EVA Notes will inform programs about rape resistance, violence against women and emergencies/disasters, trauma stewardship, bystander intervention, and supporting transgendered clients. EVA BC listserv members can look for EVA Notes in their email inboxes at the beginning of each month. EVA Notes will also be available for download from the Research and Publications section of the [EVA BC website](#).

Please contact EVA BC Program Manager Laura Woods at woods@endingviolence.org with your suggestions for future issues.

First Nations Court and Court Support (cont'd)

- With the victim's permission, connect with the client's band office to see what sorts of resources and supports may be available. For example, there may be restorative justice programs such as the Unlocking Aboriginal Justice program available.
- Contact an [Aboriginal Friendship Centre](#) to see if you can connect with a respected elder. First Nations elders are considered to be the wisdom holders of the community and may be a helpful resource for you and for your client. Helping to connect an Aboriginal person to their culture can assist in empowering them.
- Familiarize yourself with Aboriginal organizations and their services

(face-to-face visits are highly recommended) to support making effective referrals and connections that meet the needs of the victim you are working with.

To find out more about First Nations Court, please visit the [Provincial Court of British Columbia website](#).

For more information about the Victim Court Support Program, please visit [our website](#).

If you have questions about the program, please contact us at victimservices@gov.bc.ca.

Aboriginal Domestic Violence Funding

On October 1, 2015, the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) announced the release of an Aboriginal Domestic Violence Funding application. Funding for this initiative is being provided by the Province as part of the \$5.5 million commitment in the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan.

A total of \$1.5 million is available and is intended to provide funding to Aboriginal communities to address the issue of domestic violence while reflecting community needs, and incorporating culturally-safe and responsive methods and traditions.

Funding is available in one of two areas:

1. The development and delivery of a new culturally safe program, service, or project specific to Aboriginal women, men, and/or youth/children who have been or are at risk of being impacted by domestic violence. Up to \$70,000 per project.
2. To enhance or expand existing culturally safe Aboriginal programs

or services specific to Aboriginal women, men, and/or youth/children who have been or are at risk of being impacted by domestic violence. Up to \$25,000 per project.

The application process closes at 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2015. To be eligible for consideration, the applicant must be either a B.C. First Nation Band or Tribal Council or an Aboriginal organization (First Nation, Metis, Off-Reserve) that is a non-profit or registered charity and has a clear Aboriginal governance structure.

For more information on the Aboriginal Domestic Violence Funding application please visit the [BCAAFC website](#).



Awareness Days this Fall



Crime Prevention Week
November 1 – 7

Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards
November 7

Restorative Justice Week
November 15 - 22

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
November 25

International Day of the Abolition of Slavery
December 2

Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 6

For more information, please visit our [calendar page](#).

Free Training for Service Providers

Launch of New Online Training: Victim Services: Supporting Victims through the Justice System

New online training for providing court support and justice system information will be available starting November 17, 2015 and you can register now! The training is available free of charge to support workers in Victim Services and Violence Against Women programs contracted with the Ministry of Justice.

This online course consists of eight modules and consists of interactive activities, comprehensive resources, and video clips that will provide you with an understanding of the justice system and practice tips on providing court support to victims through the justice process.

The 12 to 15 hour online course covers a range of areas including:

- orientation to victim services
- financial benefits and assistance
- impact of victimization
- communication skills for working with victims
- introduction to the justice system
- court support
- court support and violence against women in relationships
- assisting victims after the trial

New support workers are particularly encouraged to take this training. More experienced workers may find this course a good refresher.

To register now for openings available starting November 17, 2015, please submit completed registration forms by email to Heather Matson at hmatson@jibc.ca or fax to 604-528-5640. You can find the registration form on the [training page](#) of the victim services website.

This training has been in development for some time—a big thank you to practitioners who provided feedback while this training was in the development

stages! We also want to acknowledge the financial support of the federal Department of Justice.

Please feel free to send us an email once you have taken the training – we are interested in your feedback and your input will be considered when we develop future training or resources!

Mental Health First Aid Training

In partnership with the Mental Health First Aid Canada, we are currently offering workers in victim service and violence against women programs the opportunity to receive Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) in person training free of charge! Participants will learn how to recognize signs of mental health problems, provide initial help, and guide a person towards appropriate professional help. A number of sessions have taken place, however, there are seats still available for the Prince George session, in November 2015. We would like to once again acknowledge the financial support of the federal Department of Justice. [To register](#) or for more information, please contact mhfa@mentalhealthcommission.ca.

Domestic Violence Safety Planning Online Training

Seats for staff and volunteers with our Branch-funded programs are still available for the Domestic Violence Safety Planning Online Training. For more information about the training, please visit our [training page](#).

Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune

This online course provides information about the indicators of human trafficking and ways to meet the unique needs of trafficked persons. For more information about the training, please visit the [OCTIP training webpage](#).

Updates on Human Trafficking

Second Year Status Report on B.C.'s Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

The Second Year Status Report on B.C.'s Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking describes the activities implemented to fulfill the actions in the plan from April 2014 to April 2015. The five key areas of the plan include awareness raising, training and education, community-led responses, service coordination, and policy and legislative initiatives. For more information, please see the [Status Report](#).

New Labour Trafficking Public Service Announcement



Photo: Members of West Coast Domestic Workers Association at PSA launch event.

On July 30, 2015 a new public service announcement entitled "End Labour Trafficking" was launched by West Coast Domestic Workers Association to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons as part of the Prevention of Labour Trafficking Project with support from Public Safety Canada. The project's aim is to provide awareness and education about the crime of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation in B.C. with a focus on migrant workers. The project will also produce an in-depth documentary capturing the voices and stories of those trafficked for their labour in B.C. and Canada. For more information, see the [public service announcement](#).

Train-the-Trainer Sessions in Courtenay

On June 25 and 26, 2015, a Train-the-Trainer workshop was held for service providers and community leaders in

Courtenay, B.C. The event was hosted and coordinated by the Wachiay Friendship Centre Society in Courtenay, and included participants from Nanaimo, Comox, Denman Island, and surrounding communities. Through presentations, group activities, and plenary discussions, participants gain an understanding of what human trafficking is, the related legislation, how to identify a human trafficking situation, and what to do to assist a trafficked person. In addition, participants develop a local response to human trafficking, and design collaboratively the next steps to be taken locally to prevent human trafficking, and raise awareness in their communities. Train-the-Trainer sessions are being planned for 100 Mile House (October 2015) and Abbotsford (November 2015).

If you are interested in hosting a train the trainer event in your community, please contact the Branch at octip@gov.bc.ca.

New Online Resource to Address Human Trafficking

Communities Taking Action: A Toolkit to Address Human Trafficking is the newest open website resource complete with downloadable guides and success stories for use in taking action at the local level to raise awareness and prevent human trafficking. Funding was provided by the Department of Justice for the development of this new resource. For more information, please see the [online toolkit](#).



Staffing Updates

New Assistant Deputy Minister!

Patricia Boyle has been appointed to the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch. Patti has been the Fraser Region Executive Director for the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation since 2010 and has been with the BC public service since 2007. She brings a wealth of diverse experience to her new position, including several years working in the private sector and holding leadership positions in not-for-profit organizations. Patti assumed her new position on October 26, 2015.

Susan Cunningham has joined the Branch as the new Office Manager. Previously with Police Services, Susan has extensive experience to bring to the Officer Manager position with the Branch.

Lorinda Stoneman has joined the Branch's Policy Unit as a new Senior Policy Analyst. Lorinda was previously with the Police Services Division's Road Safety Unit and the Research and Evaluation team.

The Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) has a new Claims Coordinator. Jennifer Elkabbany was previously with the Ministry of Children and Family Development as an Office Manager.

Kyla Tunstall is the new Project Coordinator for special projects. Kyla has recently completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Sociology.

Monica Girn has taken a permanent Claims Coordinator position with CVAP. She was previously on a temporary appointment with the program.

Stephanie Lee from the Residential Tenancy Branch joined the CVAP team on October 5 for a one year temporary appointment.

Michelle Buchholz will be working with the Branch for the next nine months as part of the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program. Michelle has worked with the First Nations Emergency Services Society of BC, the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of BC, New Relationship Trust, and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

Welcome Patti, Susan, Lorinda, Kyla, Jennifer, Monica, Stephanie, and Michelle!

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