



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

# COMMUNITY SAFETY & CRIME PREVENTION AWARDS

*For Outstanding Contributions Toward Crime Prevention  
and Community Safety in British Columbia*

November 3, 2023



# Message from the Minister



I am honoured to congratulate the 2023 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards recipients and to extend my sincere appreciation for the work you do to make our communities safer places to live. The Province recognizes the dedication and commitment that each of you has shown to community safety, victim services, restorative justice, and crime prevention.

It is through your advocacy, innovation, and hard work that many victims, survivors, and their families have received the inclusive, trauma-informed services that people need to help with their healing and recovery.

The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards provide an opportunity to recognize and honour the exceptional leaders that work tirelessly to ensure British Columbians feel safe in their communities. They make the effort to identify and understand the unique needs of their communities and bring people and resources together to collaboratively develop solutions.

Building safe, healthy communities is a goal that we all share - and we couldn't do it without help from individuals like our 2023 award recipients.

On behalf of Government and all British Columbians, thank you for your ongoing commitment to community safety in British Columbia. You inspire us all with your contributions and resiliency.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Farnworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Hon. Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
and Deputy Premier

# The 2023 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Each year, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General hosts the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards to celebrate and recognize individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions to crime prevention, restorative justice, victim services and community safety in British Columbia.

The awards ceremony is held as part of Crime Prevention Week, which takes place annually from November 1 to 7. Crime Prevention Week provides an opportunity for people across British Columbia to organize and participate in events that promote the importance of community awareness and action towards addressing and preventing crime and violence in their communities.

Nominations are accepted from across the province for the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards and are reviewed by representatives from the Provincial Safe Communities Working Group (SCWG), which brings provincial partners together with the common goal of keeping British Columbia's communities safer. SCWG members include:

BC Crime Stoppers

PLEA Community Services Society of BC

RCMP "E" Division

Block Watch Society of BC

Ending Violence Association of BC

BC Society of Transition Houses

Police Victim Services of BC

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

This year's award recipients have demonstrated a high level of commitment to crime prevention, victim services or restorative justice in their communities. These awards honour the time and tireless efforts of individuals and groups across British Columbia in making our communities safer.

## The Award Categories

Award of Distinction

Services to Victims Award

Restorative Justice Award

Safe Communities Award

Youth Leadership Award

## Award of Distinction

This premier award honours the extraordinary lifetime contribution and commitment to crime prevention, restorative justice, victim services, and/or community safety. The award was established in honour of Anthony J. Hulme for his role as a pioneer in crime prevention and community safety in British Columbia.

### Angela Marie MacDougall – Vancouver, B.C.



For over three decades, Angela Marie MacDougall has been deeply involved in movements for social justice. Through her community-based organizing, frontline work, and activism, Angela has been instrumental in advocating for and empowering women. Based in Vancouver, Angela works with a brilliant team of practitioners representing volunteers and paid staff who are on the frontline responding to intimate partner, domestic and sexualized violence in British Columbia and supporting thousands of victims and survivors annually.

Established in 1979, Battered Women’s Support Services (BWSS) is an intersectional feminist organization working to advance gender equity, including the elimination of gender-based violence. The organization believes that gender-based violence takes place in a social context, and is rooted in gender, race and class oppression. BWSS has made a significant and lasting impact in the community. They work tirelessly to help build strength and resiliency and ensure that survivors of all backgrounds have access to the supports they need.

Angela is also a founding member of Feminists Deliver, a grassroots collaboration dedicated to shedding light on the urgent issues that marginalized communities in B.C. face. She is also a founding member of the Intersectional Feminist Justice Research and Organizing Collaborative, a diverse group focused on providing critical research, data, policy, and strategic support for ending violence, gender equity, and social justice movements.

In 2014, Angela was named one of Vancouver's "Remarkable Women" by the City of Vancouver, a series honouring local women who made significant community contributions. Angela has written and edited numerous manuals on addressing gender-based violence and violence against women from an intersectional, anti-oppression feminist framework. She is a passionate leader that continues to inspire others to take action.

## Services to Victims Award

This award recognizes exemplary leadership in providing services and supports to victims and survivors. The award was established to honour the network of individuals and organizations across British Columbia that work directly with victims and support survivors whose lives have been affected by violence.

### Debbie Klaric – Port Hardy, B.C.



Debbie Klaric has been the face of police-based victim services on the North Island for over 20 years. As the manager of Northern Vancouver Island RCMP Victim Services, she provides services to three detachment areas within the Regional District of Mount Waddington. Debbie works with victims and witnesses of crime and trauma, providing assistance under the Victims of Crime Act and Canadian Victim Bill of Rights.

In 1994, Debbie participated in the North Island Crisis Line training and continued to volunteer with them for over 16 years. This is where she realized her passion for social services. In 1998, Debbie was hired to assist with the opening of a new police-based victim service program in Port Hardy. She worked tirelessly to get the program up and running, the only program on the North Island that would provide specific information and assistance to victims, survivors, and witnesses of crime and trauma. The program was well received and in 2010, the Port McNeill detachment area was added to the program and now covers all three North Island communities: Port Hardy, Port Alice, and Port McNeill.

The Mount Waddington Regional district is a large geographical area that encompasses many rural and remote communities and villages, several of which are Indigenous. Resources are limited in these communities, some of which can only be accessed by plane or boat. Travel within the detachment areas is often difficult. The needs of each community are diverse and often require special considerations due to their remoteness. Debbie is immensely dedicated to ensuring that all these communities have the best possible service delivery. As a longtime North Island resident of over 40 years, Debbie understands the dynamics and unique needs of each community and the challenges of remote living.

Debbie goes above and beyond to develop collaborative partnerships to support victims and survivors which includes participating and supporting community networks that respond to critical incidents. For many years Debbie has organized and led the North Island Domestic Violence Committee meetings, and she continues to work closely with the North Island Crisis and Counselling Centre to ensure there are no gaps in services for files from communities that do not have specialized victim service programs.

Debbie supports victims and survivors of crime and violence in remote and rural communities with compassion, respect, and dignity.



## Restorative Justice Award

This award recognizes those who have demonstrated a commitment to developing partnerships that have advanced the work of restorative justice and brought caring and respectful service to victims, offenders and their communities. The award was established in honour and memory of the late Dr. Liz Elliott, founding Co-Director of the Centre for Restorative Justice at Simon Fraser University and a highly respected practitioner and advocate for Restorative Justice.

### **Dr. Evelyn Zellerer – Vancouver, B.C.**



Dr. Evelyn Zellerer is a highly respected facilitator, trainer, and speaker. Evelyn is the Founder and Director of Peace of the Circle which offers space for people to have productive conversations to create change, using the energy of conflict to generate peace. She specializes in communication, peace circles, restorative justice, and conscious governance.

For over 25 years, Evelyn has been championing restorative and Indigenous justice. She earned her PhD in Criminology from Simon Fraser University in 1996 and has been an innovative advocate ever since. Evelyn has led many projects, developed and taught numerous courses, written over 20 publications, and presented at numerous forums, including the United Nations.

As a relational changemaker, Evelyn is sharing peace circles and restorative justice practices in diverse settings - across Turtle Island, Australia, Brazil, Iran, Nepal, Mozambique, South Africa, and UK - with governments, Indigenous Nations, communities, schools, workplaces, police, courts, and corrections. Among many accomplishments, Evelyn co-organized and co-chaired an International Conference on Women's Rights and Violence against Women in Kazakhstan (2000) and was an invited keynote speaker at the first International Conference on Restorative Justice & Crime Prevention at the University of Tarbiat Modares in Iran (2016).

Evelyn is also a justice and peace innovator. Over the past three years, Evelyn has sparked a movement and successfully built an unprecedented 'dream team' of representatives of Indigenous-led organizations, service providers, police, community corrections, parks, schools, businesses and more, coming together to form the Restorative Collective Vancouver.

Under Evelyn's leadership, dozens of diverse organizations are working collaboratively to achieve their consensus of making Vancouver a Restorative City, the first in Canada. They successfully got a motion passed by the City Council and Evelyn is continuing to bring people together to make this vision a reality in a collaborative, co-creative way. She facilitates meetings using a peace circle process and ensures all work is guided by restorative and Indigenous ways. Without Evelyn's tireless dedication, inspiration, incredibly hard work, and heart-centered approach, the possibility of Vancouver becoming a Restorative City simply wouldn't exist. She continues to overcome challenges in the enormity and complexity of this work and is doing more to advance restorative justice in Vancouver than anyone could have imagined.

## Safe Communities Award

This award recognizes exemplary leadership through developing innovative projects and key activities or initiatives to promote safe communities. The award was established in honour and memory of Constable Kenneth M. Lemckert who played a key role in the Vancouver Police Department's community policing program. Ken recognized the importance of partnerships and the contributions we can make towards solving local problems.

### Gary Thandi – Surrey, B.C.



Gary Thandi is the Founder, Executive Director, and Clinical Supervisor of Moving Forward Family Services, a collaborative non-profit organization that provides low barrier counselling and support services to residents of B.C. and across Canada. The organization's vision of 'a world without sorrow' feeds their mandate to provide counselling to anyone who needs it.

With over 20 years in the field, Gary had the privilege to connect with, learn from, and work alongside many that he considered mentors. In time he too was able to take on a mentorship role, supervising students on practicums for social work or counselling psychology. He saw this as an opportunity to pay it forward and support new practitioners in the field. What he didn't anticipate was that as a mentor, he learned a great deal from the fresh-out-of-school interns who brought new knowledge to the work and gave him a much needed recharge with their energy and support for heavy caseloads.

For years Gary struggled with having to turn away people who were struggling with mental health and/or substance use or putting them on long waitlists. Eventually this distress, coupled with the value he saw in what supervised students could do to address these concerns, led him to start Moving Forward Family Services; an agency that has a wide-open mandate that can support as many diverse communities as possible, complementing and easing the pressures off existing services.

Eight years later and Moving Forward Family Services has become one of the busiest non-profit counselling services in Canada, with about 150 supervised interns across the country, 20 clinical supervisors to support them, and 150 alumni who valued the agency's mission and offer sliding scale support for anyone who cannot afford traditional costs for therapy.

Gary strongly believes that accessible counselling and support for our diverse populations is key to safer, stronger communities.

## Youth Leadership Award

This award recognizes those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to working with youth in their communities. The award was established in memory of Constable Wael T. Audi, a young and enthusiastic member of the Squamish RCMP, who recognized the potential in youth and encouraged their participation in community safety and crime prevention.

### North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society Youth Services Team – Vernon, B.C.



Through programs such as Youth Agreements, Youth at Risk Programs, Parent Teen Conflict and Youth Justice (Redirect), the Youth Services Team at North Okanagan Youth and Family Services Society (NOYFSS) in Vernon, B.C. demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment to working with youth.

NOYFSS Youth Services focuses on engagement and connection to community resources for disenfranchised and at-risk youth. They also provide assessment, support and monitoring of Youth Agreements and support for independent living care orders. Through the Youth Justice program, counsellors work with youth to promote rehabilitation and reintegration, resulting in reduced future criminal behaviours. While the Parent Teen Conflict Program aims to reduce the level of conflict between parents and their teens and increase a family's safety and well-being through counselling and skill building.

As leaders in youth service delivery in the North Okanagan community, the Youth Team at NOYFSS assists youth to navigate their way to adulthood, working with community partners and the youth themselves to identify goals and create steps toward individual healthy change and independence. Services are tailored to the unique needs of each youth with every program aiming to increase a youth's safety and well-being through counselling, skill building and community connections.

The team consists of seven Child and Family Counsellors and one Supervisor. Every team member continues to show unwavering and concerted efforts to focus on the needs of high-risk youth in their community, often going above and beyond their job descriptions.

They are counsellors, helping youth to work through trauma. They are educators, guiding youth towards resources and teaching them life and social skills. And most importantly, they are cheerleaders, providing a positive influence in the lives of the youth they serve. The NOYFSS Youth Team ensures the needs, views and voices of youth are captured and heard in the North Okanagan Community.