



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 4, 2022



Message from the Minister



I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to each of the 2022 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards recipients. Thanks to their incredible leadership and innovation in crime prevention, they have supported individuals and communities through their journey towards safety, community cohesion, justice and healing. I appreciate the challenges frontline workers, organizations, and agencies have faced in re-adapting their services and approaches once again, as we move towards a post-pandemic world. Your courage and perseverance are truly remarkable.

The recipients of this year's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards all demonstrate outstanding commitment in delivering services to address the most pressing needs in our communities.

The Province is humbled to recognize the critical efforts that these leaders have invested in their neighbourhoods, organizations, and communities, working together towards a common goal. The Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards is an opportunity to celebrate their service, and a reminder that we all have a role to play in helping to build safer communities where British Columbians can thrive.

I thank you for your extraordinary commitment and unwavering dedication to community safety and crime prevention in British Columbia.

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 2022 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 November 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
- 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 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, with a keen focus on transformative Indigenous-led approaches. 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.

Shawn Bayes – New Westminster, B.C.



From the earliest stages of her career nearly 40 years ago, Shawn Bayes has dedicated herself to filling gaps in the supports needed to help marginalized and criminalized women build safe, stable lives in their communities. In 1985, she joined the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver (EFry), a charity dedicated to supporting women at risk, involved in or impacted by the legal system. Shawn began her career as a counsellor, expanding the scope of her work to

Community Services Programs, then Manager of Community Corrections, taking on the role of EFry's CEO in 1997.

Over the course of her career, Shawn has led the creation of a steady stream of programming to help women avoid going down the paths of incarceration or recidivism. These include unique approaches to shelters; creation of decarceration initiatives to help women address the factors that lead to incarceration and to instead build stable lives; creation of educational curricula for social workers; contributions to research initiatives that foster long-term change; and identification of a deeply marginalized population unrecognized in Canada: children who experience parental incarceration, homelessness and substance use.

While pursuing a Master of Management for Voluntary Sector Leaders at McGill, Shawn discovered that more than half of Canadian children who experienced parental incarceration would go on to become incarcerated themselves. However, international data showed this statistic could be greatly mitigated with specialized programming. EFry's JustKids initiative was then created to provide such programs and to pursue systemic change. Shawn has taken the call to protect children's rights to the House of Commons, and on the impacts of parental incarceration on children

at Child Rights Connect, the United Nations working group tasked with recommending international child rights standards.

Shawn has committed her professional life to helping women and their children overcome the risk factors that can lead to them coming into conflict with the law, and to supporting women returning to the community build stable futures. She led the creation of multiple social enterprises to help women gain job training and employment and is part of many local, provincial and national tables, including Canada's National Advisory Council on Poverty.

The public policy changes Shawn has advocated for have enabled women to get substance use treatment without upending their and their children's lives, and given access to the Canada Child Benefit and Canada Learning Bond by removing unintended barriers that further marginalized them.

Shawn is a strong believer in the power of innovation and collaboration with other social service organizations, all levels of government and community groups to help build safer, kinder communities for all.

Services to Victims Award

This award recognizes exemplary leadership in providing services and supports to victims. 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.

Lovepreet Brar – Surrey, B.C.



Lovepreet Brar is the Family Liaison Victim Services Manager for the RCMP Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT), Canada's largest homicide team, which covers the Lower Mainland District from Pemberton to Boston Bar. As the Family Liaison Services Manager, Lovepreet provides support, liaison, and coordination services to the family members of victims of homicide, suspicious deaths, and high-risk missing persons cases where foul play is suspected. Lovepreet is remarkable at creating an emotional support network with a

focus on the healing process for the grieving individuals during the most difficult time in their lives.

In 2017, Lovepreet spearheaded IHIT's first ever victim service program. She has since worked with families, victims and witnesses who have been affected by homicide and have undergone significant trauma. Lovepreet provides practical and emotional support with an understanding that grief and trauma related to homicide are unique and complex. Lovepreet liaises and coordinates victim services across 28 RCMP detachments and four municipal police departments that are within IHIT's jurisdiction. She ensures that families are receiving the necessary support and information they need. Lovepreet is a police-recognized subject matter expert and provides advice on best practices when completing next-of-kin delivery.

Beginning her career over a decade ago, Lovepreet started working at Surrey Women's Centre, working alongside the Surrey RCMP Domestic Violence Unit as a victim services worker. She provided support to individuals who were victims of domestic violence. Lovepreet then continued her career in victim services with the Surrey RCMP Victim Services Unit. Her passion for community service is demonstrated

through her volunteerism with organizations including the RCMP Youth Restorative Justice and Corrections Services Canada.

Lovepreet goes above and beyond in her support to meet the needs of every family member she works with. Leading with compassion and empathy, Lovepreet provides the highest level of service by adapting her approach to meet the unique needs that each victim's family requires. She continues to provide incredible leadership and support not only to the families she is supporting but also to the IHIT investigators in their efforts to provide justice for the victims and their families.

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.

Mary Brown – Heiltsuk Nation, B.C.



Mary has contributed greatly to creating new programs and initiatives dedicated to Heiltsuk Justice values. Since co-founding the Heiltsuk Gvi'las Restorative Justice Program in 1999, Mary has served as the Director responsible for restorative justice programs along with youth and adult programs. These programs include probation, youth educational programs, victim services, liaising with provincial courts and RCMP, conflict resolution, mediation and facilitation.

Mary has provided exceptional leadership and support in developing partnerships through her educational pursuits as well as her community involvement. She was a member of the Bella Bella Community School Board as a Director for 14 years, Native Court Workers of British Columbia for 12 years, First Nations Education Steering Committee for 10 years and has been on the board of directors for Kunsoot Wellness for 2 years.

Mary is committed to the advancement of restorative justice in her community as well as preventing and responding to conflict. While working with her mentor in 1999, they identified gaps in the provincial circuit court system and the provincial criminal justice system. They found there was a high rate of Heiltsuk youth and adults involved in the criminal justice system – often leading to incarceration and it was determined that Heiltsuk had the highest crime rate per capita in B.C. In response, they secured a one-time funding opportunity through the BC Law Foundation, completed research and developed a "Blueprint to Justice" for their Nation. In 2000, their findings and proposal were presented to their political and hereditary leadership and on April 1, 2000 the Heiltsuk Gvi'las Restorative Justice Program was founded. The program integrates the Heiltsuk Laws (Gvi'las) with the Canadian Law. By using a restorative approach that welcomes accountability, transparency, traditional law, and continuity

to address harms in their community that bring people into contact with the criminal justice system, the rates of incarceration have substantially decreased.

Mary's continual creation of new programming and her dedication to Heiltsuk Justice values have built strong, sustainable and growing responses to community harms, including the provision of services for at-risk community members. Mary believes that all individuals have it within themselves to change if the opportunities are present.

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.

Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness – Victoria, B.C.



The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness's mission is to support Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness. Their work is centered on the voices of Indigenous peoples who have shared their immediate needs, lived experiences, and perspectives on solutions. The Aboriginal Coalition

to End Homelessness (ACEH) listened to the voices of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Street Family, recognizing that an approach beyond housing provision was needed, one that could strengthen Indigenous self-identify, build community, support healing and create pathways to recovery.

Stepping up to the challenge of securing housing for Victoria's most marginalized Indigenous persons, the ACEH developed the Dual Model of Housing Care. This housing model is B.C.'s first culturally supportive housing and decolonized harm reduction service. They opened the Speqəhéutxw House and the Culturally Supportive House in partnership with BC Housing, in 2020. Speqəhéutxw (SPAKEN) House offers culturally supportive housing and services to 22 Indigenous women experiencing homelessness, with priority given to those fleeing violence. The Culturally Supportive House opened in March 2020 for up to 14 members of the Indigenous Street Family, with an Indigenous Alcohol Harm Reduction Residence Program on-site. The cultural supports at both houses include regular access to Elder Mentors, on-site native plants gardens, access to traditional foods, and the family reunification program.

Through research, advocacy, and networking, the ACEH is working towards improving the lives of Indigenous peoples by making system-

level changes and helping people connect back to their communities. To support the Indigenous Street Family in all its diversity, the ACEH has designed, delivered, and evaluated numerous programs rooted in community, culture, and the land. These include land-based healing, weekly women's circles, a Family Reunification program, youth programs, 2SLGBTQIA+ safety workshops, and many more.

The ACEH will begin to expand their footprint in 2022 from Victoria to across Vancouver Island. Through building partnerships, locally and island-wide, the ACEH works to identify and address systemic and structural barriers, share information, resources, and lessons learned, while also providing cultural supports, connections, and housing stability.

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.

Sk'ai Zeh Yah Youth Centre – Prince George, B.C.



The Sk'ai Zeh Yah Youth Centre, operated by Carrier Sekani Family Services, offers low-barrier, wrap-around supports designed to meet the needs of our most vulnerable youth and young adults by providing access to a safe space, advocacy services, housing supports, cultural teachings, life skills, and a primary care clinic. The resources

provided support Indigenous youth and young adults living off reserves and facilitate cultural connections that have often been neglected within the child welfare and other systems.

Sk'ai Zeh Yah was formed through the inherent need for increased supports for former youth in-care to mitigate the risk of homelessness and enhance crime prevention in the community. Prior to opening the Centre, staff engaged with youth, former youth in-care, Member Nations of Carrier Sekani Family Services and cultural knowledge holders to receive their feedback for the development of Sk'ai Zeh Yah. They took the knowledge gained from those engagements to community stakeholders to identify what was already being offered in the community and to discuss resources and goals. Sk'ai Zeh Yah was able to complement community services delivery and address the resource gaps that needed to be filled.

Since its creation in November 2020, Sk'ai Zeh Yah has sought continuous Indigenous community member and youth feedback as they expand services. Despite the pandemic and related restrictions, the team recognized the needs in their community and persevered until they could open the centre and provide supports to those living on the streets. Authentic cultural experiences are woven into each day at the Centre. By offering language lessons, the Centre provides Indigenous

children, youth and young adults with the opportunities to learn the Dakelh language, Carrier songs, make drums, and listen to traditional stories as part of their cultural connection and growth.

The commitment and efforts of staff do not go unnoticed as clients report feeling respected, safe, valued, and as if they are “with family” while at Sk’ai Zeh Yah Youth Centre. Sk’ai Zeh Yah has had huge impacts on the Prince George community by providing support to numerous Indigenous youth from Carrier and Sekani communities, as well as a variety of other First Nations.