

Ending Violence Association of
British Columbia



Annual Report
2008–2009

Ending Violence Association of British Columbia
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The Board of the Ending Violence Association of British Columbia would like to gratefully acknowledge the funding and working partnerships this year of the following organizations:

Ministry of Housing and Social Development	National Victim Policy Centre
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General	Vancouver Coastal Health
Ministry of Children and Family Development	The Vancouver Foundation
Canadian Women's Foundation	BC Women's Hospital
BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses	The Justice Institute of BC
Legal Services Society	RCMP E Division
Ending Relationship Abuse Society of BC	BC Chiefs of Municipal Police
Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)	Pacific Dawn
Access to Media Education Society (AMES)	Britannia Community Centre
Qmunity, BC's Queer Resource Centre	BC Federation of Labour
The Law Foundation of BC	Steelworkers Union

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Tracy Porteous

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

Harjit Kaur

PROGRAM MANAGERS

Connie Bonsteel, Ramona Barron

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Sheena Starky

OFFICE MANAGER

Habiba Rashid

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

Alison Timmons, Stephanie Bennett

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BACKGROUND

Prior to the existence of the Ending Violence Association of BC (formerly BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs), provincial funds enabled BC Sexual Assault Centres to meet and discuss issues on a yearly basis. The centres began discussing the idea of forming a provincial association to meet their needs and those of other Community-Based Victim Assistance programs for networking, information sharing and reducing duplication of effort.

A Secretary of State grant enabled a cross-section of individuals from sexual assault centres and other specialized victim assistance programs to meet, consult and formally assess the feasibility of establishing a provincial association. There were already similar provincial entities in place to coordinate and represent Police-Based Victim Assistance Programs, Women's Centres and Transition Houses. However, to this point, sexual assault centres and other specialized victim assistance programs in BC had no networking, supportive or coordinating body. Individual programs were all struggling in isolation to solve the same problems and to create policies for the same issues.

In March of 1992, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs arose from the founding general meeting. The vast majority of programs across the province joined the Association.

Our mandate is to provide support and training, undertake research, develop and distribute resources and tools, educate the public and government bodies on the needs of victims of violence, develop and maintain standards for the provision of service, and foster the development of cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration. The goals of the Association are:

- To serve as a coordinating, centralized organization in British Columbia that supports and assists individual agencies providing victim and survivor-related support and counselling services.
- To address the needs of programs supporting victims in British Columbia through training, education and information exchange, on issues related to providing service and support for people who have been traumatized by victimization.
- To provide programs across British Columbia with updated, accessible information regarding policy and legislative initiatives or changes and analysis of current relevant issues.
- To work in partnership with other provincial organizations, educational institutions and other key organizations in related fields to ensure that member programs are in a strong position to guide and improve our service to victims of violence in this province.



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- To act as a credible and visible liaison between Government and community through coordinating involvement in consultative processes. As well, by analyzing legislation and policy through a lens that looks at gender, race, class and other forms of marginalization, this organization works proactively in assisting government to remove barriers to the safety of all peoples.
- To manage programs and projects that assist all survivors' efforts to achieve safety, equality and dignity at the individual and systemic levels.
- To educate the public on the issue of victims of violence, particularly women and children who have been victimized by child physical and sexual abuse (recent or historical); relationship violence; sexual assault; and criminal harassment.
- To provide support, information-sharing and networking for specialized support and counselling service providers in an effort to alleviate isolation, maintain healthy organizations and continue to increase skills and knowledge, including the coordination of province-wide training based on needs identified by individual programs.
- To act as a consultant to individual programs in the area of program administration and clinical practice and to offer consultative services to offender-serving programs to prevent the re-victimization of victims of violence.
- To coordinate with other sectors, namely, the justice, health, and social service systems in an effort to increase their knowledge and understanding of related issues to reduce re-victimization and increase support and safety for those who have been victimized.



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At an Annual General Meeting in October 1994, the membership voted unanimously to expand its membership criteria to allow Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling Programs to become members. It had been proposed that because STV Counselling Programs provide non-residential counselling services to survivors of sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse and/or wife assault, they closely fit with the types of agencies the Association was founded to represent.

Through an interim agreement reached with the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses in 2007, the Association began providing support to the new STV Outreach Programs as the mandate of STV Outreach Programs is very close to the work of Community-Based Victim Assistance Programs, STV Counselling Programs and Community Coordination for Women's Safety. In 2008, this agreement became formal and we welcomed the STV Outreach Programs to our ongoing membership.

Currently, 220 programs come under the umbrella of EVA BC.

CO-CHAIRS' REPORT

Each year the co-chairs report on the activities and perspective of the Board as we oversee the functioning of the Association. The Board meets on a regular basis via teleconference calls and three times a year in-person. Each Board member also sits on at least one of the committees that provide guidance to such critical matters as Finance, Policy, Membership, Personnel, the Annual Training Forum and various Ad Hoc committees that are formed to address emerging issues.

Participating on the Board provides a comprehensive view of the work of our Association and we never cease to be astonished at the breadth and depth of the tasks taken on by EVA BC staff. Whether it is providing cutting edge input to emerging situations, working on the ongoing issues inherent in our work, actively contributing to solutions of organizational and coordination related challenges, providing information to the field through the website, listservs and newsletter, entering into negotiations and consultation with government, or providing attentive and helpful direct support to the field, the commitment of the staff never falters.

When we reported to you last year, the world was just beginning to feel the unfortunate impact of the global financial crisis that had emerged in the fall of 2008. As the impact began to trickle down to our own province, we all became concerned about the safety of women and of funding for our programs in the face of inevitable financial cutbacks. It is in times of such a crisis that the importance and impact of a strong, supportive provincial association is apparent. The Board saw EVA BC rise to the challenge of maintaining contact with the field, while engaging in important communication with government to advocate that our valuable programs remain intact. The Board supports our Association to continue carrying out this important function in collaboration with all the other programs and community voices who support the work of the anti-violence sector.

In 2008-09 we started the year with a new name and a fresh look for an already dynamic and vibrant organization. Our name, Ending Violence Association of BC, now more fully reflects the immensity of work that is produced by the Association in our struggle to address and end violence in the lives of survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence and child abuse. As well, the Association embarked on developing a three year Strategic Plan with three main goals: 1) to act as a strong and credible voice for the needs of survivors of violence across BC; 2) to increase the skills and knowledge of agencies working with survivors; and 3) to enhance coordination of services for child and youth survivors of violence.

The Association continues to work on a wide-range of projects and initiatives relevant to the work of our members across the province. Some of the activities that stood out for us this year were:



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- ⇒ Meeting with government to address issues related to the movement of STV Counselling and STV Outreach Programs out of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development;
- ⇒ The development of the You Are Not Alone DVD and companion toolkit intended to create meaningful discussions between women about creating safety from violence and to assist in conversations about substance use, mental health and survival sex work;
- ⇒ The need for strong, collaborative relationships between community-based and police-based programs so that referrals are appropriate and effective;
- ⇒ Addressing the reality of women being arrested and the need to enforce the use of the primary aggressor policies of the police;
- ⇒ Developing and launching Module 4 of the STV Core Training;
- ⇒ Developing and launching Modules 1-3 of the STV Outreach Core Training;
- ⇒ Development of an election package for programs to use in their efforts to make issues of violence against women an election topic;
- ⇒ Maintaining dialogue about the need for assaultive men's treatment programs and our work in encouraging all men to become more effectively engaged in addressing men's violence towards women;
- ⇒ Ongoing discussion with government on the definition of STV counselling; and,
- ⇒ Consultation and research on immigrant and refugee women's experiences of violence.

On the governance side, overseeing the finances of the Association is another important function of the Board. As the Treasurer will report to you at the AGM, EVA BC is healthy and strong, even in this time of economic uncertainty.

For the most part, our staffing compliment remained stable throughout the year. We have the luxury of knowing that there is a dynamic, resourceful and passionate group of women working on behalf of member programs and the women who experience violence throughout the province. As Board members we were honored to have the opportunity to work with such a fabulous staffing group as: Tracy Porteous, Executive Director; Habiba Rashid, Office Manager; Harjit Kaur, Special Projects Manager; Connie Bonsteel and Ramona Barron, Program Managers; Gail Edinger, CCWS Regional Coordinator; Michelle Novikowski, CCWS Regional Coordinator, Gisela Ruebsaat, CCWS legal Analyst, Alison Timmons and Stephanie Bennett, Admin Support and Sheena Starky, Communications Coordinator. Our Association benefits so much from their collective energy, brilliance, and commitment to anti-violence work.

We were saddened to learn that Connie Bonsteel, Program Manager would be leaving us towards the end of the year. In her short time as Program Manager, Connie brought her passion, perseverance and warmth. We wish Connie all the best in her next adventures.

The tireless work of all these women is felt throughout the anti-violence sector and supports our membership in being on the forefront of innovation and analysis in our work with women, children and men who are survivors of violence.

In 2008-2009, we were lucky to have such strong and smart women again this year on the Board. The Board consisted of: Jennifer Woods, North Island, Brigit Atkinson, Lower Mainland, Sonya Boyce, Fraser Valley, Jan Cotterell, Interior, Aimee Thompson, Okanagan, Jasmine Lothien, East Kootenays, Bally Bassi, North Central, Grainne Barthe, North West, Nancy Taylor, North East, Marsha Early, West Kootenays and Cathy Welch, South Island. As co-chairs, we want to express how rewarding it is to work so closely with such truly collaborative, dedicated, and strong women.



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We would also like to thank all of our members for your dedication to ensuring that the voices of survivors are heard. EVA BC is committed to hearing your needs and to supporting you as you carry out the essential work of addressing violence in the lives of survivors.

And most importantly, we wish to honour those who live with violence and those who bring their courage and resilience to work with us to heal from trauma and to work with us to build a safer, more accepting place for us all.

Respectfully submitted

Cathy Welch
Co-Chair

Marsha Early
Co-chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Year in Review April 2008 – March 2009

I am honored to be offering my 14th Annual Report to our Members and partners. I remain inspired by the continued commitment by EVA BC staff, the Board and the Members of this Association. Responding to sexual and relationship violence is complex, ever challenging and exhausting work. Those who work each day to try to ease the pain and improve the system have my utmost respect.

A very significant event that took place this year was the decision made at last year's Annual General Meeting to change the name of this Association. The Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) was born out of the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs (BCASVACP). This gave us a new acronym, one that everyone can pronounce, a beautiful new logo and marks the beginning of a new chapter for this organization. The name change as you know, was a long time coming and it is profound to now have a name that so clearly speaks to our ever-increasing presence and purpose.

It is my pleasure now to highlight just a few of EVA BC's accomplishments during the period of this report. I trust this will serve to give you a sense of what your Association is doing on a regular basis to work with you to bring about changes at many levels that will improve the lives of women and children, and male survivors too, affected by violence and abuse.

Every day, the staff at EVA BC work hard to support the great work being done by front line workers and program administrators across BC, and this year was no different. Our phone lines and email listservs were busy with dialogue, questions and conversations. What continues to strike me is the number of program staff across BC who refer to EVA BC as a life line, as a secure place to call to get trusted up to date information or to brainstorm about managing high risk situations. We are privileged to be there and will always do what we can to assist those on the front lines in whatever ways we can. We also work, not just to be an ear and a support, but we also try to solve the problems workers report to us. A great example of this is the work we have done in relation to MCFD. We heard from workers what the problems were, we collected information about the impact of the problems, we sought out partnerships such as BC Women's Hospital and the BC and Yukon Society of Transition Houses and got to work meeting with MCFD to come up with solutions. As you know, out of this work came the Domestic Violence Best Practice Guidelines for MCFD child protection workers. This year, with our partners, we completed the development of a new training curriculum for child protection workers that we hope will be launched sometime soon.



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In 2008-2009, our **Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS) Program** continued with its major initiative on **Third Party Reporting** that was launched the previous year. Third Party Reporting gives survivors of sexual assault who are reluctant to engage the justice system a way to provide information about a sexual offence anonymously to police. CCWS' Third Party Reporting initiative is the first comprehensive provincial policy of its kind in Canada and will serve as a model for other jurisdictions. In Spring 2008, supported by funding from the National Policy Centre for Victim Issues and the RCMP Family Violence Initiative, CCWS delivered Third Party Report training to close to 200 police, Community-Based Victim Assistance Programs (CBVAP) and Police-Based Victim Assistance Programs (PBVAP) across BC.

At the end of April 2008, a Coroner's Inquest was held to investigate the September 4, 2007 murders of Sunny Park, her 6-year old son Christian Lee, Sunny's parents Kum Lea Chun and Moon Kyu Park and the suicide of Sunny's estranged partner, Peter Lee. Building on the interest that the Coroner's Office had shown in the collaborative report we produced with others called, "*Keeping Women Safe*". EVA BC collaborated with lawyer Diane Turner to apply for official 'standing' in the Lee Inquest. Our application was accepted, making EVA BC the first provincial victim-serving organization to ever participate in an Inquest in BC. Throughout the first phase of the Inquest, we were able to call witnesses and question those testifying on behalf of police, Crown, child protection, corrections, etc. We believe our presence and the role we have played thus far has acted to not only inform the jury of the critical issues at play in this tragedy and many others in BC, but also, informed the media in important ways that resulted in highly intelligent and sustained reportage by the many media outlets present at the Inquest.

Throughout the year, CCWS continued its work in a variety of ways that included ongoing day-to-day supports to workers in close to 100 communities via telephone, email and community meetings. CCWS is also known for its excellent training, and again this year they offered the highly acclaimed 3-day Community Leadership Training to a full class of community leaders from across the province. CCWS also facilitated a number of important local training sessions for those managing coordinated responses and professionals in other sectors. And, as always, CCWS developed important new and relevant resources such as the *Keeping Women Safe* report that is currently being used by the Solicitor General as a guide to look at needed changes in the system.

Some other highlights for this year include the highly successful Annual Training Forum held in November 2008, "Creating Stronger Safety Nets: Ending Violence Through Risk Assessment and Safety Planning. This training brought together 330 participants from across BC to discuss and learn about risk assessment and safety planning through a variety of different lenses. The Forum featured 6 keynotes and fifteen 3-hour workshops.

The new STV Counsellor Core Training Module 4, "Substance Use and Mental Health" was developed and offered in the Spring of 2009. The four



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day Module was attended by twenty-seven counsellors who have all been challenged by the ever increasing complexity of STV Counselling work.

Another new set of in-depth training modules were created this year for STV Outreach Programs and was offered in the Fall of 2008 and the Spring of 2009. This training provided critical core training for 55 participants; each taking the 12 day, 3 Module course. Nearly 100% of training evaluation respondents said they would recommend the training to a colleague.

The **Peer Anti-Violence Education (PAVE) Project** got underway with funding from the Vancouver Foundation and The Canadian Women's Foundation with the goal of developing a workbook and accompanying DVD aimed at promoting safety planning and encouraging conversations about safety among marginalized women. By the end of the fiscal year, these tools were in the final editing stages and will provide another education tool for anti violence programs across BC to use with the women you work with.

EVA BC/CCWS continued to work on an important project in partnership with MOSAIC, the Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services and others called the **Women Who Are Immigrant or Without Status and Have Experienced Violence Project**. This project is consulting, analyzing and undertaking action to address serious policy gaps that compromise the safety of refugee, immigrant and non-status women. This project is funded by a three-year grant from the Law Foundation.

I would also like to tell you about the creation of the **Melissa Chatham Memorial Fund**. On September 21, 2008, 24-year old Melissa Chatham was tragically taken from her family and friends in an act of violence. At the request of her family, EVA BC has set up a memorial fund in honour of Melissa's life. Donations will be used to support other young women across BC who are facing violence in their relationships.

Our **Safe Choices Support and Education Program**, funded through the SMART Fund of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, exists to improve the health and safety of women in same-gender relationships. Between October 2008 and March 2009, Safe Choices offered public education sessions in its ongoing Healthy Relationships workshop series and in-service workshops for various social service organizations this issue. All of these trainings continue to receive hugely positive feedback. Program staff also provided a number of consultations to other service providers and organizations working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people specifically in the area of same-gender partner abuse.

This year, as in years past, we are producing an Association calendar featuring the work of Sheila Norgate, an accomplished and respected contemporary Canadian artist. Sheila provides her work free of charge to us as one of her many generous offerings to support anti violence work being done in BC. The calendar is extremely popular and we always receive positive feedback from those who look forward to receiving their copy each year.



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As always, we are grateful to our core program support funders. The Ministry of Housing and Social Development and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for providing funding for our direct service and support to programs, as well as funding for CCWS and the core training we deliver. Staff at both ministries are, as ever, committed to ending violence and working in partnership, assisting us to supporting the programs across BC.

We also thank the Law Foundation of BC, the National Victims Policy Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Foundation and the Canadian Women's Foundation for their major contributions to our special projects this year.

The Vancouver office staff have, throughout the year, collectively worked tirelessly every day to ensure that all the work gets done: Habiba Rashid, Office Manager; Connie Bonsteel and Ramona Barron, Program Managers; Harjit Kaur, Special Projects Manager; Sheena Starky, Communications Coordinator and Alison Timmons and Stephanie Bennett, Administrative Assistants. They care very deeply about the anti-violence programs in BC and the importance of the work in each community and they a critical part of the spine of EVA BC.

Making up other critical aspects of the backbone of EVA BC is CCWS team— Gail Edinger, Regional Coordinator working out of 100 Mile House; Michelle Novakowski, Regional Coordinator, working out of Kelowna; and Gisela Ruebsaat, Legal Analyst, working out of Victoria. These women continue to make a difference every day in the lives of frontline workers and women victimized by violence, by working to identify and remove local, regional and provincial barriers to women's safety.

Britt Permien, our creative graphic designer, continued her great work on the Association's newsletter and the Annual Training Forum brochure.

The volunteers on our Board of Directors are amazing as well. I cannot say enough about them for the hours of work and for the patience and creative insight that helps keep the Association the strong and healthy organization that it is.

Aside from the specific work and projects I have highlighted here, we are busy all year long trying to represent the interests of our Membership. We are involved in numerous projects as outlined in this report as well as those coordinated by others. We regularly attend various meetings and respond to varied requests for information. Part of our mandate is to provide advice to government on contemplated policy and programs and we continue to do that, often with the goal of linking some of these initiatives directly to you.

The incredible work that you, the Members, do in the field of anti-violence each and every day cannot be overstated. For that, please accept my continued respect and deep thanks.

PROGRAMS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES REPORT

Funding for the direct services to programs was provided by the Ministries of Housing and Social Development and Public Safety and Solicitor General. All other funding is noted where applicable.

I. ONGOING PROGRAMS

I.1. Direct Support to Programs, Consultation and Referrals

We provide support on a daily basis to front-line workers and administrators in STV Counselling Programs, STV Outreach Programs and Community-Based Victim Assistance Programs around the province. This section will highlight some of the key issues that we responded to in the field this year.

Emerging Issues

- **Women being arrested:** Service providers expressed concern that the primary aggressor policy is not being enforced and women are increasingly being arrested in domestic violence situations in some communities.
- **Gang violence:** In recent years, EVA BC has received more and more calls from workers whose clients are being abused by people with ties to gangs and/or organized crime. Workers requested information and training to meet the needs of these clients and ensure their personal safety.
- **Worker safety:** Workers across the province have expressed concerns for their own safety when working with survivors of abuse. Clients' abusers, as well as the abusers' extended family, friends, fellow gang members, pimps, etc, may pose a threat. This is particularly true in smaller communities, where worker anonymity is difficult or impossible to maintain. Workers have called EVA BC for information and ideas about increasing safety, and to express their desire for funding to support enhanced security systems for their workplace.
- **Organized group perpetration:** We have received calls about safety concerns, and requests for information and training, from frontline workers whose clients are being abused by cult members or by people involved in organized crime. We have been receiving more and more calls on this subject over the past year.
- **Requests for training:** We have received requests for information and training on the following issues at future Annual Training Forums: more on safety and risk assessment, risks associated with sexual exploitation of youth, Internet safety, coordination of anti-violence services in disasters, working with women with low literacy, working with women with physical and mental disabilities, how trauma affects brain function, how the impact of trauma varies across cultures, and responding to violence in same-sex relationships.
- **Recurring questions on our listservs:** providing transportation for clients—safety for workers, agency policy, working with women who have been charged with assault; sexual assault coordination protocols; STV program requirements and accreditation; access to RCMP VIR policy; bail condition

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variations; STV salaries; difficulty obtaining restraining orders under the Family Relations Act.

- **Requests for information and support for the new STV Outreach:** Issues brought to us by these programs include: questions about records management, the need for Outreach training, counselling services Outreach workers should provide, Outreach workers' access to justice system information, ethics, files being subpoenaed, risk assessment and safety planning, women being charged, immigration related questions, clinical supervision, intake procedures, mental health and substance use, third party reporting, WCB and ICBC access to client files, accreditation, etc. We have also received calls from agencies who administer Outreach programs and have questions related to administration.

Programs also continue to contact us about challenges that have been ongoing for a number of years. Please go to our website to view reports of issues from previous years. Some of these include:



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Ongoing Issues

- Social housing: Workers have repeatedly expressed the need for safe and affordable housing options for clients in their communities.
- Social assistance: Changes to social assistance regulations have reduced income options for women seeking to remove themselves from domestic violence situations.
- Transportation: The lack of transportation options in northern BC is a barrier to women seeking to remove themselves from domestic violence situations.
- Service referrals: EVA BC is concerned that police and Police-Based Victim Assistance Programs (PBVAPs) are not always referring victims to CBVAPs.
- Assaultive men's treatment: Service providers have expressed an interest in expanding voluntary assaultive men's treatment programs.
- Needs of immigrant women: The need for improved connections between immigrant/settlement workers and anti-violence workers and the need for interpretation for women who are at risk and who have little or no English.
- Mental health issues: Working with survivors who have complex mental health issues while maintaining staff safety and the need for coordination between health, mental health and addiction services.
- Debriefing: The need for critical incident debriefing on a regular basis.
- Dual arrests: The problem of dual arrests or women being arrested in relationship violence cases.
- Response to breaches: Overall lack of response to high risk breaches.
- Hospital response: Issues related to the lack of hospital response to sexual assault.
- Services for young women: Lack of sexual assault counselling services for young women.
- MCFD workers: Need for better coordination with and training of MCFD workers.
- Safety planning: Lack of safety planning being done by most other relevant sectors, i.e. police, Crown, MCFD, health.
- Coordination: Lack of coordination between civil and criminal orders.
- Legal support: High need for legal support and advocacy for women with complex family court cases, especially where litigation is used to continue the abuse. The inability of clients to access legal representation in family law

cases continues to be a serious issue for our programs and the people who use them.

Organizational Needs

- Trauma counselling training: The Association has been receiving requests for trauma counselling training, such as STV core training, from workers in other fields (e.g., Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance (MEIA), Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)).
- Wages: STV Counselling and CBVAPs are requesting wages equivalent to those paid to other government-funded agencies (e.g., mental health and addictions counsellors).
- Records management support: Member organizations often request support in managing their records. Common questions include the proper protocol for keeping records, closing files and dealing with third-party reports.
- Funding is an issue for most programs across the province, especially CBVAPs; the programs report that demand is exceeding their ability to respond.
- Recruitment and retention of staff, especially in the North, related to low wages and accreditation.
- Court orientation and accompaniment consuming major amounts of staff time and resources (these cases are too complex to be handled by volunteers).
- Courthouse and hospital closures resulting in increased travel time and travel budgets for accompaniments.



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1.2. Database of Clinical Supervisors

EVA BC has established a database of experienced feminist clinical supervisors from across the province who are available to work with STV Counselling programs. This resource list has been distributed to STV Counselling programs seeking clinical supervision, and continues to be a helpful resource.

1.3 Newsletter

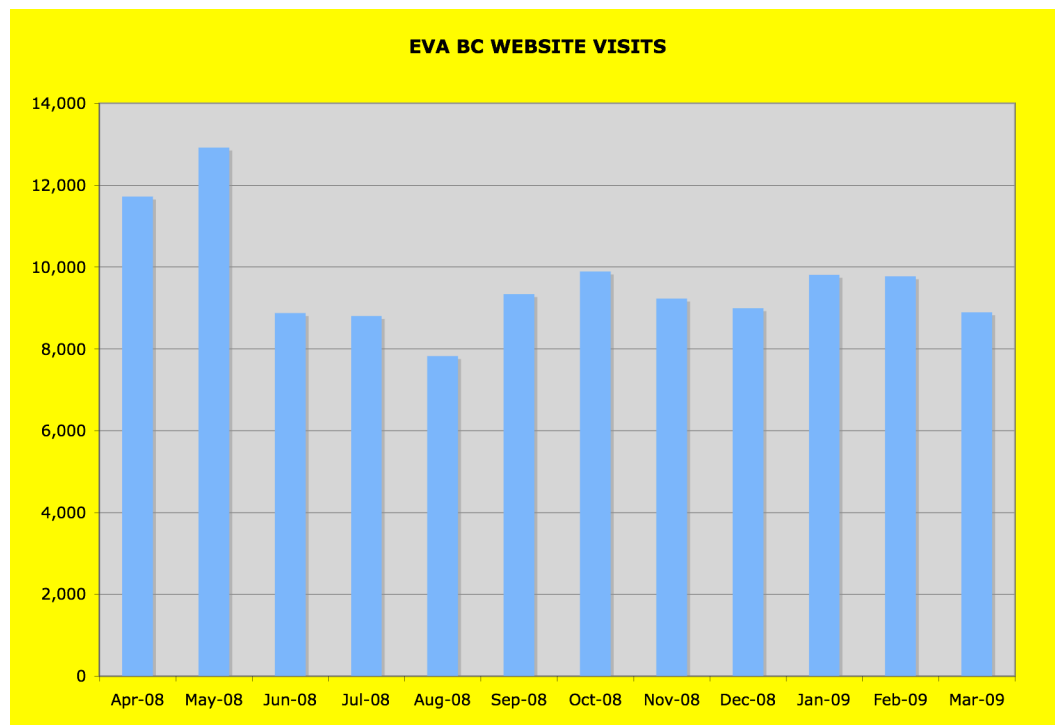
We publish three newsletters per year. We continue to choose an emerging issue as the theme for each newsletter. Our summer newsletter focused on the Lee Inquest, the BC Coroner Inquest that was held at the end of April 2008 to investigate the murder-suicide that took place in Oak Bay, BC in September 2007 when Peter Lee murdered his estranged wife, Sunny Park, their son Christian, and Sunny's parents Kum Lea Chun and Moon Kyu Park. The newsletter also emphasized the importance of connecting women's and children's safety in cases of relationship violence. Our fall newsletter was published in time for our 2008 Annual Training Forum, and included articles on risk assessment and safety planning, the theme of our Forum. The February 2009 issue focused on STV Outreach and introduced our new name, Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) and new logo. Our members continue to express their appreciation for the in-depth articles and practical tips and resources included in each issue. Previous newsletters are now also available on our website.

1.4. Website And Listservs

EVA BC's new revamped website, www.endingviolence.org, was originally launched at our 2007 Annual Training Forum. It has since proven itself to be a well-used resource for not only our members, but anyone looking for

information and resources on violence against women. New publications, resources and links to relevant sites are added to the site on an ongoing basis.

Between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, our website received a total of 116,077 site visits, averaging 9,673 each month or about 318 visits per day.



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We have five listservs: one each for STV Counselling programs, Community Based Victim Assistance programs and STV Outreach programs and two for Community Coordination Initiatives – one for all those in BC involved in cross sector coordination and one designated specifically for the CCWS Provincial Working Group. As of the end of this report period, plans were in the works to develop a new listserv for STV Counsellors in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley region and one for Executive Directors. The listservs continue to be an important source of discussion and information sharing among programs across BC, which could not happen without this resource.

I.5. Regional Support Conference Calls

Each year we conduct a series of regional conference calls with each provincially funded sector under our umbrella. During these calls, frontline workers have an opportunity to talk about the issues facing them and their clients and discuss solutions. These calls continue to prove to be an important means of support for many workers who are otherwise isolated and also provides critical opportunities for us to track regional and provincial trends and issues. At the conclusion of each set of conference calls, the EVA BC produces a report for each

sector. The reports from these calls are then sent out to the programs, provided to government and posted on our website.

I.6. Community Coordination for Women's Safety

This major provincial program provides assistance to BC communities to develop and improve existing models of cross-sector coordination on violence against women. Coordination brings together different sectors in a community—for example, police, crown, child protection, victim assistance, transition houses, health care, Aboriginal services, Settlement services, etc—to ensure that all services work together as effectively as possible.

Our program works with urban and rural communities, and women who face particular discrimination in those communities; including Aboriginal women, women of colour, Immigrant women, low-income women, women with disabilities, lesbians, transgender women, older women and young women.

The work of CCWS is guided by a Provincial Working Group that includes senior personnel in government, police and community agencies. This group provides input to CCWS on issues that relate to their field of expertise and identifies local and provincial strategies to help enhance coordination and implementation of violence against women policies to increase safety.

Over the past year, the Program has completed many important initiatives that provide concrete improvements to women's safety in BC. Communities throughout the province continue to benefit from the direct service funding provided to the program by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, which gives us the ability to plan and undertake ongoing initiatives to increase women's safety.

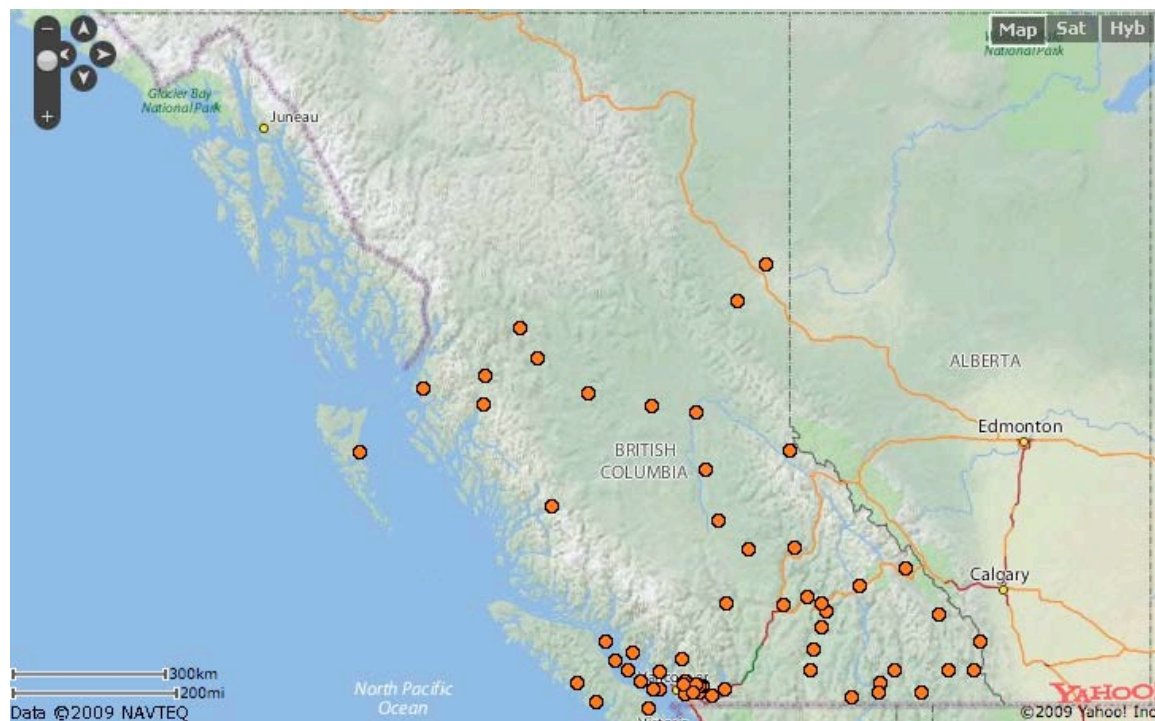
Between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, Regional Coordinators provided direct support and training to well over 60 BC communities (indicated on the following map) by way of community visits, telephone and email. These coordinated community initiatives received essential information and support in a timely manner, increasing their capacity to address women's safety without having to travel to an urban centre.

New this year, CCWS began conducting conference calls with VAWIR committee coordinators from around the province. They reported to us they experience the opportunity to share information and concerns during these calls as very important as this networking helps to reduce duplication and shares successful solutions that can be tried in other communities.

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Communities reached by CCWS during the 2008/09 fiscal year



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Source: Produced by EVA BC at www.batchgeocode.com/.

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| •100 Mile House | •Gabriola Island | •Prince Rupert |
| •Abbotsford | •Golden | •Port Coquitlam |
| •Ahousat | •Grand Forks | •Powell River |
| •Bella Coola | •Hazelton | •Prince George |
| •Burns Lake | •Hornby Island | •Queen Charlotte City |
| •Campbell River | •Invermere | •Quesnel |
| •Castlegar | •Kamloops | •Revelstoke |
| •Chase | •Kelowna | •Salmon Arm |
| •Chetwynd | •Kitimat | •Sechelt |
| •Chilliwack | •Langley | •Smithers |
| •Clearwater | •Lillooet | •Squamish |
| •Courtenay | •Maple Ridge | •Surrey |
| •Cranbrook | •McBride | •Terrace |
| •Creston | •Nanaimo | •Trail |
| •Delta | •Nelson | •Ucluelet |
| •Elkford | •North Vancouver | •Vancouver |
| •Elk Valley | •Parksville | •Vanderhoof |
| •Enderby | •Penticton | •Vernon |
| •Fernie | •Pitt Meadows | •Victoria |
| •Fort St. John | •Prince George | •Williams Lake |

Intersectoral Solutions Management

CCWS planned and facilitated 2 Provincial Working Group meetings this fiscal year, in September 2008 and January 2009, that looked at a number of issues, including:

- Follow-up to the *Keeping Women Safe* report and how to use it to identify gaps in the systemic response to victims of domestic violence;
- The Langley Domestic Violence Pilot Project and best practices coming out of that;
- The lack of a common definition of domestic violence throughout the system;
- The province's response to sexual assault and identification of gaps;
- Dual arrests;
- Threats to children, following the Oak Bay inquest and murder of the Schoenberg children in Merritt;
- The need for training in risk identification and response, including appropriate referrals;
- Changes to the Family Relations Act and the lack of protection for women and children in domestic violence situations under the Act.

CCWS also continued with its major initiative on **Third Party Reporting** launched the previous year. Third Party Reporting gives adult sexual assault survivors who are reluctant to engage the justice system a way to provide information about a sexual offence anonymously to police. CCWS' Third Party Reporting initiative is the first comprehensive policy of its kind in Canada and will serve as a model for other jurisdictions.

In Spring 2008, CCWS delivered Third Party Reporting training to close to 200 police, Community-Based Victim Assistance Programs (CBVAP) and Police-Based Victim Assistance Programs (PBVAP) across BC. The six regional sessions surpassed our highest expectations and we have already received enquiries about future offerings.

We are very grateful for funding from the National Policy Centre for Victim Issues and RCMP Family Violence Initiative to provide this training.

Resource Development

Each year, CCWS produces numerous resources to assist people in the field to analyze issues from a cross disciplinary perspective. Resources produced this year include:

- *Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence* report;
- PowerPoint presentation of key recommendations from the *Keeping Women Safe* report;
- *CCWS News Bulletin* (December 2008);
- *6 Third Party Reporting Info Sheets*, for Community-Based Victim Assistance Programs, Police-Based Victim Assistance Programs, STV

-
- Outreach Programs, STV Counselling Programs, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Transition House Workers (December 2008);
 - *CCWS Working Group Statistics Work Team Summary* (January 2009): answers key questions identified by the CCWS Statistics Work Team - distributed at the January 27, 2009 Provincial Working Group meeting;
 - *Immigration Project: Overview Document and Key Issues* (January 2009): an overview of the immigrant women project and key issues of concern - distributed to focus group participants and at the January 27, 2009 Provincial Working Group meeting;
 - *Protection Order Enforcement Case Study* (March 2009): intended to help local coordination and/or VAWIR committees explore issues related to the effective enforcement of protection orders;
 - *Protection Orders: What They Are and How They Are Registered* (March 2009): an adaptation of the appendix to the *Protection Orders: An Aid to Enforcement* paper developed in collaboration with the MPSSG;
 - *CCWS News Bulletin* (March 2009).



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Training

The sixth Community Leadership Training was offered in February 2009. This 3-day training had 19 participants and included a panel presentation on "Models of Coordination".

Local training sessions were provided across BC in communities who have or are starting cross sector coordination on the following:

- Third Party Reporting training;
- Protecting Privacy for Survivors of Violence: Cross Sector Records Management Guidelines for Anti-Violence Workers;
- Collaboration: From Basics to Best Practices - at the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses' Annual Conference, in collaboration with Jane Coombe (MPSSG), Ninu Kang (MOSAIC), Harry Stefankis (ERA BC) and Inspector Mike Cumberworth (VPD) (October 2008);
- Developing a Collaborative Response to Sexual Assault - workshop at the "Dancing in the Light" conference on sexual abuse in Bella Coola (March 2009);
- CCWS and the Benefits of Working Collaboratively;
- Training for Treatment Providers of Corrections Programs for Assaultive Men at Stroh Health Care.

Cross Sector Training at Conferences

- Cross Sector Forum and Consultation on Domestic Violence (Ministry of Attorney General and Multiculturalism) – with Settlement sector, 2 Keynotes provided;
- Coordinated Responses to Enhance Women's Safety Across BC (Social Planning and Research Council)
- LSS Intake Workers, an Integral Part of the Circle of Safety - at the 2008 Intake Conference (Legal Service Society);
- Building a Safer Community: Gang, Drug & Domestic Violence Issues (Union of BC Municipalities);

- Unpacking Reluctance: Coordinating Responses to Women Who Fear Further Retaliation - at the Annual Training Symposium (Police Victim Services of BC);

CCWS also plays an important role in developing and delivering training at EVA BC's Provincial Annual Training Forum. CCWS coordinated the following workshops for the event in 2008:

- "A Coordinated Response to Protection Order Enforcement"
- "Coordinated Interventions When Women Use Violence"
- "Working with Women at High Risk for Sexual Assault"
- "Collaboration for Victim Protection, Women's Services, Community Corrections and Offender Program Interventions"

The work of CCWS is multi faceted and the list of impacts and accomplishments too long for this report. In addition to the above, the program also assists people in accessing and using resources on the EVA BC/CCWS website; leads important discussions on the CCWS listserv; develops recommendations, strategies, protocols and solutions to provincial policy issues and identifies issues that are of particular concern to rural and isolated communities and marginalized groups within these communities.



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I.7. Safe Choices Support and Education Program

The Safe Choices program is funded by the SMART Fund of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. The purpose is to improve the health and safety (physical, sexual and emotional) of women in same-gender relationships by increasing options for intervention and support, and by removing barriers to health care and social services. The program continues to receive many requests for in service training, consultation, healthy relationship workshops and written materials about same-gender relationship abuse. There has been increased awareness about the program and we are starting to be recognized as a leader in this area locally and across the country.

Training, Consultation, Referrals and Resource Development

We provided a number of consultations and six workshops to other service providers and organizations working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and specifically in the area of same-gender partner abuse.

We continue to distribute our curriculum to other agencies across Canada. It is also available on our website at http://endingviolence.org/safe_choices/publications.

Public Education

As part of our ongoing Healthy Relationships workshop series, we provided:

- After the Honeymoon: Healthy Communication and Problem Solving (October 2008);
- Knowing Me, Knowing You: Negotiating Self and Togetherness in Intimate Relationships (November 2008);

- Mind Your Own Business - Don't Air Our Dirty Laundry: Talking about Relationship Concerns with Family and Friends (January 2009);
- Sexuality, Intimacy & Desire for Queer Women (February 2009);
- Time Out For Us: Keeping Our Relationship Alive While Parenting (March 2009).

Feedback on the series was extremely positive, with survey respondents indicating they felt the workshops enhanced the knowledge and skills required to create healthy relationships.

Community partnerships

Safe Choices is involved in a number of exciting partnerships with the Aaron Webster Public Safety Forums, the Britannia Community Centre and Qmunity, BC's Queer Resource Centre.



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II. TRAINING

II.1. Annual Training Forum, November 21-22, 2008 - "Creating Stronger Safety Nets: Ending Violence Through Risk Assessment and Safety Planning"

Once again, we hosted a very successful Annual Training Forum attended by 330 participants. Six distinguished keynote speakers and 15 3.5-hour workshops explored ways in which services providers can enhance the safety of domestic and sexual violence victims and their staff. Themes included risk assessment, safety planning, workplace safety and intersectoral collaboration.

New this year, the Federal Department of Justice provided financial support for participants traveling from the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory and Nunavut.

Videos of the keynote speeches are available on our website (www.endingviolence.org/public_education_tools).

II.2. STV Counsellor Core Training

Modules 2 and 3 were offered in April 2008. Both modules had 27 participants all reporting on the importance and the high quality of the training.

The newly developed Module 4, STV Counsellor Core Training on "Substance Abuse and Mental Health" was offered for 4 days in Vancouver in March 2009. 27 counsellors participated and feedback for the training was extremely positive.

II.3. STV Outreach Core Training

EVA BC developed a 12-day Core Training Program for STV Outreach workers. We are grateful to the BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses for their help in raising funds for the development of this curriculum.

- The pilot program ran three, 4-day modules in September, October and November of 2008. The training was a great success and there was a lot of positive feedback. There were 21 participants in each of the modules.
- The second round of STV Outreach Core Training ran in January, February and March 2009. There were 24 participants in each of the modules. Nearly 100% of respondents in all 3 modules said they would recommend the training to a colleague.

II.4. Best Practices Approaches: Child Protection and Violence Against Women

The Association partnered with the BC Women's Hospital and the BCYSTH to develop training for child protection workers, victim services staff and others, based on the MCFD Best Practices document that we developed collaboratively with the Ministry. We received funding for this project from MCFD and worked in collaboration with BC Women's Hospital, the BCYSTH and MCFD. The work is now complete and ready for delivery, and includes PowerPoint, case studies and curriculum.

II.5. Sexual Assault Health Care Provincial CME by BC Women's Sexual Assault Service (SAS)

EVA BC was one of the presenters at this two-day event for physicians, held in April 2008. The CME training was a shorter version of the annual provincial sexual assault examiner training. EVA BC presented information about community-based support and advocacy to assist physicians in making effective referrals.

III. SPECIAL PROJECTS

III.1. Renewing Resources—Education for Men in Resource-Based Industries

In a historically significant collaboration, EVA BC, in partnership with ERA BC, was engaged in a broad-based provincial prevention initiative involving the forestry and mining industries in BC. This project was funded by an MCS Partners in Prevention grant.

This project aimed to change attitudes that condone behaviors related to violence against women in the forestry and mining industries. Completed on March 31, 2009, the project reached more than 600 active project participants through workshops and presentations. In addition, it is estimated that approximately 2,500 people have viewed the *Men Speak Up: Ending Violence Together* DVD that was developed as one of the training tools.

III.2. Lee Inquest

At the end of April 2008, a coroner's inquest was held to investigate the murder-suicide that took place in Oak Bay, BC, in September 2007. Peter Lee murdered his estranged wife, Sunny Park, their son Christian, and Sunny's parents, Kum Lea Chun and Moon Kyu Park.

Building on the interest that the Coroner's office had shown in our collaboratively developed, "*Keeping Women Safe*" report, EVA BC, in consultation with lawyer Diane Turner, made an application to participate in the Inquest proceedings. The Coroner accepted our application, making this the first Inquest in BC to allow participation by a provincial victim-serving organization.

Having status at the Inquest gave the Association the right to call and question witnesses. Our legal Council called myself, as the Executive Director of EVA BC, to testify to the recommendations in the *Keeping Women Safe* report and we also called Dr. Lori Haskell, an Ontario psychologist, who testified about survivor post-traumatic stress, how difficult it can be for survivors to disclose abuse and how to recognize risk indicators.

III.3. Framework for Fee-for-Service STV Counselling

A few anti-violence programs in BC have set up a fee-for-service framework for their programs. EVA BC set up an ad hoc committee to explore how this could be transferred to STV Counselling Programs throughout BC. This does not mean that women would pay for counselling services. Rather, it would allow programs to bill the Crime Victim Assistance Program if the women are eligible to receive counselling funds from them.

III.4. Women Who Are Immigrant or Without Status and Have Experienced Violence Project

This 3-year project funded by the Law Foundation of BC aims to address serious policy gaps or problems that compromise the safety of refugee, immigrant and non-status women who experience violence. This work is being done in partnership with the Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services and MOSAIC.

This year, the project conducted a literature review and coordinated articles on immigrant, refugee and non-status women. In March 2009, four focus groups were conducted with anti-violence and settlement workers in Prince George, Victoria, Kelowna and Vancouver to identify policy barriers facing these women. A fifth focus group in Vancouver brought together representatives from other Law Foundation-funded programs working on immigrant women projects.

Phase 2 concluded with the selection of 10 key projects that we will explore further in phase 3:

I. Safety for abused immigrant or non-status women

1. Develop a woman abuse protocol or policy with Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

2. Negotiate a policy with Citizenship and Immigrant Canada that would allow abused women to be granted emergency work permits.
3. Negotiate work requirement expectations for refugee women that acknowledge the psychological impact of trauma and ensure access to social assistance and counselling services.

II. Sponsorship

4. Develop a backgrounder on sponsorship agreement exceptions that prevent women from accessing social housing and income assistance.
5. Alleviate the sponsorship debt repayment faced by abused immigrant women.

III. Cultural competency

6. Develop a culturally sensitive backgrounder on risk indicators and risk assessment. Develop strategies and guidelines with legal advocates and settlement service providers to deal with situations faced by abused immigrant women.
7. Develop an inventory of local violence against women in relationships (VAWIR) committees and promote the representation of immigration and settlement sectors on those committees.
8. Partner with health, settlement, legal and justice systems to design and deliver training for interpreters on risk indicators, response to disclosures and referrals.
9. Develop a province-wide service with Citizenship and Immigration Canada that provides immigrant women and advocates with consistent, timely and accurate immigration information.
10. Develop a backgrounder on the policy/legal issues related to custody and access faced by immigrant, refugee and non-status women.

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IV. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

IV.1. Peer Anti-Violence Education (PAVE) Project

After the release of *Freedom from Violence: Tools for Working with Trauma, Mental Health and Substance Use*, residents and service providers in Vancouver's Downtown East Side (DTES) requested a tailored version of the toolkit for BC communities that work with highly marginalized women.

EVA BC applied for and received funding from the Vancouver Foundation and The Canadian Women's Foundation to develop a workbook and accompanying DVD aimed at promoting safety planning and encouraging conversations about safety among marginalized women.

During the period of this report, the film and guidebook were developed to the final editing stages.

IV.2. Men Speak Up: Ending Violence Together (Film)

Since its April 2008 release, the *Men Speak Up* film has been distributed to more than 200 anti-violence programs across the province. Recipients included CBVAPs, VAW Coordination Committees, STV Counselling and

Outreach programs, key union executives and the Ending Relationship Abuse Society of British Columbia.

Fifteen male leaders from various sectors and communities participated in making the film by sharing their perspectives on the issue of violence against women with the hope of inspiring other men to live violence free and become part of the solution. In the film they share profoundly moving personal messages to men about the importance of breaking the silence and becoming actively involved in ending violence.

This film development funded was provided by the partners in Prevention Grant made to us by the Ministry of Community Services and the duplication and distribution was made possible by funds from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG). Programs are using the film as part of their public education programs and have reported excellent feedback and responses from viewers.



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An excellent example of how the film was used is the project that was done by the Castlegar & District Community Services Society (CDCSS) in partnership with the Castlegar Violence against Women in Relationship (VAWIR) committee. They initiated a federally funded 'Men Speak Out' project to coincide with National Victims of Crime Awareness Week in 2009. They stated that the Men Speak Out film proved to be a powerful tool that not only impacted the audience, but gave project volunteers the confidence they needed to stand on stage and speak out about a still taboo subject in male culture.

IV.3. Sexual Assault Protocol Template

EVA BC conducted a member survey to gather information on existing sexual assault protocols used to support women in communities across the province. A template is under development for communities looking to create or update their sexual assault protocols.

IV.4. 2009 Calendar for Programs

The Association produced calendars for the fourth year and provided them to all programs as a social marketing tool. Sheila Norgate once again generously donated her artwork. Programs have expressed their appreciation for this resource.

IV.5 Pre-Election Package

New this year was the development of a pre-election package to help programs keep the issues of relationship violence and sexual assault front and centre during the 2009 provincial election campaign. The package, which contained background information and questions on key areas of concern, was sent to all programs to use at local all candidate meetings and one on one meetings with people running for election. We also sent the questions to the major provincial parties. Official responses were received from the BC Green Party, the BC Liberals and the BC NDP and posted on the EVA BC website.

V. POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

V.1 Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence

CCWS worked closely with EVA BC, the Victoria VAWIR Committee, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG), Diane Turner and Judge Josiah Wood to develop *Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Specialized Justice Response to Domestic Violence*. The report's recommendations emphasize coordination between police, Crown prosecutors, community-based support services and government. RCMP E Division and BC Municipal Chiefs of Police have expressed their support in principle.

The report was publicly released in April 2008 to a great deal of media and government attention and played a crucial role in the Association being granted status at the Lee inquest.

VI. PROGRAM REPRESENTATION TO AND ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT

VI.1. Wages and Benefits STV Counselling and STV Outreach

The Association met with staff of the Ministry of Community Services in April 2008 to discuss emerging issues for STV Counselling and STV Outreach programs. Because of concerns raised by programs, we prioritized the issue of wages and benefits.

VI.2. STV Counselling Insurance

In December 2008, the Ministry informed STV Counselling programs that if their STV counsellors were working at a clinical level, they might not be eligible for insurance coverage under the "General Liability Insurance" policy provided through Ministry contracts. This created the realization that if STV Counsellors were not, for any reason, covered under the "General Liability Insurance" policy provided by the Ministry, professional liability coverage would need to be purchased privately.

Between December 2008 and March 2009, EVA BC researched costs and secured a quote for providing private liability insurance to all STV Counselling programs under the EVA BC umbrella. EVA BC held conference calls and conducted individual consultations with impacted agencies, as well as liaised with government around this issue.

EVA BC continues to liaise with MPSSG to address a range of issues critical to STV Counselling programs including the insurance question and how it is tied to the need for clarification of the common definition of mid-range counselling. Currently, there is often a discrepancy between what is contractually mandated as STV Counselling versus what women who have experienced violence need and what is being provided by STV Counsellors.

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VI.3. GNPI Working Together Task Force

The BC Government and Non Profit Initiative (GNPI) was designed to improve relations between the Provincial Government and BC's non-profit sector. The initiative is made up of a Steering Committee supported by 3 task forces on Procurement, Capacity Building and Working Together. EVA BC was an active member of the Working Together Task Force throughout this year.

The task forces developed papers on their respective themes and conducted province-wide consultations on the initial drafts. In mid-October, EVA BC invited CBVAPs and STV Outreach and Counselling groups to participate in focus groups that examined recommendations concerning the way the provincial government and non-profit sectors work together. Focus groups comprised of non profits ran across the province in October and November 2008.

VI.4. Cross-Sector Domestic Violence Forum and Consultation

On June 2-3, 2008, Immigrant, Settlement and Anti-violence workers in BC came together for consultations and a series of plenary presentations. The Cross-Sector Domestic Violence Forum and Consultation gave participants an opportunity to learn from one another, identify needs and discuss ways to improve responsiveness to domestic violence in immigrant communities. EVA BC was a member of the committee tasked with developing and delivering the forum and acted as the plenary speaker on the first day and CCWS acted as the plenary speaker on the second day.

The results were documented in a paper, which government will use to take steps to ensure services are responsive to immigrant and refugee women, define the role of Settlement agencies in responding to violence against women and identify appropriate partnerships between sectors.

VI.5. Consultation/Meetings with Ministry of Housing and Social Development

The Association meets with the Ministry on an ongoing basis to consult and raise issues from the field. The meetings were intended to dialogue about program related issues and the effectiveness and cost efficiency of services. Ongoing issues discussed included: STV wages, working with clients with mental health and substance use issues, the increased complexity of counselling, long waitlists, services for young women, sexual assault of young women, working with immigrant women, the lack of interpretation available, the need for more social housing, the need for increased STV Counselling funding, childcare and transportation.

VI.6. Meetings with Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division

On numerous occasions this year the Association met with VSCPD to bring forward and discuss emerging issues, including:

- **Keeping Women Safe report:** Following a meeting with the Deputy Solicitor General and the Director of VSCPD, the MPSSG said they have created a deputies' committee on social issues to develop a province-wide strategy on domestic and sexual violence using the report as their guiding framework. The Association and CCWS will be liaising with ministries throughout the process.
- **Victim Service Delivery Analysis (VisDA):** The second round of regional meetings commenced in September 2008.
- **Olympic Coordination:** The Association is an active member of the VSCPD committee responsible for coordinating victim services during the 2010 Olympics. The group held a 1-day strategic planning session with CBVAPs and PBVAPs to ensure optimal coordination across communities and has had numerous meetings since.
- **Amendments to BC's Victims of Crime Act (VOCA):** For some time, the Association has been recommending changes to the VOCA to ensure timely and seamless referrals. Both the Association and CCWS continue to support the VSCPD in its review of the legislation and potential impacts of amendments.
- **Victim Service Worker Curriculum:** EVA BC participated in a 2-day community consultation on the development of risk assessment and safety planning tools for the victim service worker training curriculum. Discussions focused on assessing the tools and skills currently used, identifying barriers to safety planning and determining how barriers are overcome.

VI.7. Family Relations Act Review

In February 2006, the Ministry of Attorney General announced a review of BC's *Family Relations Act* aimed at modernizing the law and supporting cooperative approaches to resolving disputes. A three-phase consultation was launched in 2007.

At that time, two submissions were made by EVA BC: one was a pre-submission giving them suggestions on the questions they should develop, asking them to ensure they had a specific focus on violence and the other was our formal submission to their public call for input.

As a result of our submission, they contacted us to ask for a special meeting to speak with us. At a Working Group meeting organized by CCWS in January 2009, the Director of the Civil/Family Law Policy Office at the MAG presented the proposed *Family Relations Act* reforms and sought input on key provisions concerning civil restraining orders and information sharing related to protection orders.

The discussion was very important, as it was a way for those in the Ministry who may be drafting new FRA legislation to engage with community about the problems and the new provisions.

VI.8. National Victim Policy Centre's Advisory Committee

The Association was invited to participate in the inaugural meeting of the National Victim Policy Centre's (NVPC) Advisory Committee and has since been a member of this committee.

VI.9. Provincial Integrated Recovery Council

This interagency provincial committee, hosted by the MPSSG, comprises a cross-section of crisis intervention and planning agencies seeking a coordinated disaster response. Council members communicate via email and conference calls to offer support and share information and resources.

VII. OTHER CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION

VII.1. Save Our Daughters Coalition

The Association has been participating in this Surrey-based coalition that works to address violence against women in South Asian communities (more info at www.saveourdaughters.ca). We are a member of the Core Group for the Coalition as well as a member of the Mapping the Services working group, which is developing a resource directory for women and service providers. The directory will include services available in specific languages. The SODC has plans to create a document that looks like a passport that will contain information about violence and about services available. It would be given to immigrant women before they arrived in BC.

VII.2. Building Bridges Project

EVA BC sits on the Building Bridges Advisory Committee. This provincial initiative, led by the Woman Abuse Response Program of the BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre, is aimed at improving service provision for women impacted by abuse, mental health and/ or substance use. This project has been engaged in identifying systemic challenges, successes and gaps in service province-wide.

VII.3. We Can Campaign

EVA BC sits on the We Can Advisory Committee. Sponsored by Oxfam, the We Can Campaign is an international movement to end all violence against women. We regularly share upcoming events with We Can and will continue to support their efforts, resources and work with our programs via our website link.

VII.4. Legal Education and Preventing Violence (LEAPV), MOSAIC

We sit on the Advisory Committee for this project. The project is responsible for providing the South Asian community with legal education on violence prevention with a focus on women, using the media. This is a three- year project funded by the Law Foundation. The goal of the project is to enhance the safety of women and children in the South Asian community and increase access to the justice system by providing legal information in order to eliminate barriers.



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VIII. OTHER

VIII.1. Women Being Arrested Survey

In October 2008, the Association distributed a survey to gather police file numbers and case specifics in instances where women were arrested by police in relationship violence cases. A preliminary survey of member programs in November 2007 had found that 86% of respondents (55 of 64 groups) are aware of women in their community who have been arrested by police in relationship violence cases. Reported arrests varied considerably across the province.

VIII.2 Melissa Chatham Memorial Fund

On September 21, 2008, 24-year-old Melissa Chatham was tragically taken from her family and friends in an act of violence. At the request of the Chatham family, EVA BC has set up a memorial fund in honour of Melissa's life. Donations will be used to support other young women across BC who are facing violence in their relationships.

VIII.3 Provincial and National Victims of Crime Awareness Week

In April 2008, the Association joined the Solicitor General in kicking off the provincial and national Victims of Crime Awareness Week. At the event, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General announced \$17 million in new funding for services aimed at victims of crime in BC.

VIII.4. EVA BC Strategic Plan

A new 3-year strategic plan was developed for EVA BC in December 2008. Strategic goals articulated in the plan are:

1. To act as a strong and credible voice for the needs of victims of violence across BC.
2. To increase the skills and knowledge of agencies working with survivors.
3. To enhance coordination of services for child and youth victims of violence.

Action steps to realize these goals in tangible ways are laid out in categories that include: Infrastructure & Administration; Community Development; Resource Development; Training; Interpretation of Policy, Legislation & Case Law and Strategic Partnerships.

Some of the action steps cited for the first 2 years of the plan are:

- Provide feedback and analysis to the BC Representative for Children and Youth;
- Continue to work towards government addressing the wage disparity facing STV Outreach workers, STV counsellors and CBVAP workers;
- Continue to support the implementation of Third Party Reporting procedures across BC;
- Evaluate current issues and trends to identify needs for best practice documents;
- Develop an orientation toolkit for new programs;

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- Offer cross-sectoral training regionally;
- Hold the 1st annual teleconference for the chairs of coordinating committees to identify emerging issues and discuss solutions that have proven successful (CCWS).

VIII.5. EVA BC Office Lease

A renewal of the lease for EVA BC office space at #728 – 602 West Hastings Street was negotiated to commence in June 2009.



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Appendix A:

Membership Listing 2008 – 2009



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EVA BC Membership 2008 – 2009

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
100 Mile House Women's Centre Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Abbotsford Community Services	Abbotsford Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Abbotsford Community Services	Abuse Counselling and Support Services	STV
Abbotsford Community Services	Multicultural Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Abbotsford Community Services	Mission Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Aboriginal Health Services – Vancouver Coastal Health	Aboriginal Wellness Program	CBVAP
Alberni Community and Women's Services Society	Community Based Victim Service Program	CBVAP
Alberni Community and Women's Services Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Alberni Community and Women's Services Society	Outreach Program	STV ORS
Arrow and Slokan Lakes Community Services	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Arrow and Slokan Lakes Community Services	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Atira Women's Resource Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Battered Women's Support Services	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Battered Women's Support Services	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre	Sexual Assault Support Services	OSP
Bella Coola Community Support Society	Bella Coola Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Bella Coola Community Support Society	Women's Counselling Program	STV
Bella Coola Community Support Society	Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS
Boundary Family & Individual Services Society	DAWN – Counselling Program for Women	STV
Boundary Family & Individual Services Society	Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Burnaby Family Life Institute	Stopping Violence Against Women Program	STV
Cameray Centre	Child and Youth Victim Support Program	CBVAP
Campbell River Family Services Society	Community Based Victim Service Program	CBVAP
Campbell River & North Island Transition Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Canadian Mental Health Association	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Castlegar & District Community Services Centre	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Castlegar & District Community Services Centre	STV Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society	Women's Outreach Services	STV ORS
Chetwynd Women's Resource Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Society of Greater Victoria (Mary Manning Centre)	Victim Service Program	CBVAP
Chilliwack Community Services	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Chimo Crisis Services	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Chinese Community Policing Centre	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society	Choices for Women	STV
Community Connections (Revelstoke) Society	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Comox Valley Family Services Association	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Comox Valley Transition Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Contact Women's Group Society	Women's Counselling Program	STV
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society	Specialized Victim Service	CBVAP
Creston & District Community Resource Centre	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Cythera Transition House Society	STV Counselling Program	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Cythera Transition House Society	Multicultural Services	STV ORS
Deltassist Family and Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Deltassist Family and Community Services Society	Alternatives to Violence	STV ORS
District 69 Family Resource Association	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society	STV Multicultural Program	STV ORS
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Family Resource Centre of Invermere	Women's Counselling Program	STV
Family Resource Centre of Invermere	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Family Resource Centre for the North Okanagan	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	New West Stopping the Violence Program	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver – VISAC	Adult Services Program	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver – TASA Counselling Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver – VISAC	Victim Support Services	CBVAP
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Burnaby/New West Community Based Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Vancouver Domestic Violence Unit (DVU)	CBVAP
Family Services of the North Shore	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Family Violence Resource Centre	Sexual Abuse Intervention Program	SAIP
Fernie Women's Resource & Drop-In Centre	STV Counselling Program, Fernie	STV
Fernie Women's Resource & Drop-In Centre	STV Counselling Program, Elkford	STV
Fernie Women's Resource & Drop-In Centre	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Fireweed Collective Society	STV Counselling Program	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Fireweed Collective Society	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Gitxsan Unlocking Aboriginal Justice Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Golden Family Centre Society	Abuse Recovery Program – Stopping the Violence Program	STV
Golden Women’s Resource Centre Society	Golden Outreach Program	STV ORS
Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace	STV Counselling Program	STV
Haven Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Haven Society	Community Victim Services	CBVAP
Haven Society	Haven Outreach Services	STV ORS
Haven Society	Haven Society Community Victim Services, Parksville	CBVAP
Hope & Area Transition Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Information Services Vancouver	VictimLINK	CBVAP
Interior Health Authority/Enderby Community Health Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Ishtar Transition Housing Society	Stopping the Violence Against Women Program, Langley	STV
Ishtar Transition Housing Society	Stopping the Violence Against Women Program, Aldergrove	STV
Ishtar Transition Housing Society	Ishtar Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Island Women Against Violence	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Island Women Against Violence	Women’s Outreach Services	STV ORS
Kamloops Community YMCA-YWCA Shelter Services	Y Women’s Emergency Shelter Outreach Services	STV ORS
Kelowna Family Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Kootenai Community Centre Society	Creston Outreach Program	STV ORS
Ksan House Society	Stopping Violence Against Women Program	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Ksan House Society	Stopping the Violence Outreach Program	STV ORS
Ksan House Society	Terrace Sexual Assault Centre/Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Laichwiltach Family Life Society	Stopping the Violence Outreach Program, Gold River	STV ORS
Laichwiltach Family Life Society	Stopping the Violence Outreach Program, Campbell River	STV ORS
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society	CHOICES - STV Counselling Program	STV
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society	Lillooet Community Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Lower Similkameen Community Services Society	LSCSS Stopping the Violence Program	STV
Mackenzie Counselling Services Society	Connections	STV
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Community Services	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Marguerite Dixon Transition Society	Marguerite Dixon STV Counselling Program	STV
MOSAIC	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
MOSAIC	Multicultural Outreach Program	STV ORS
MOSAIC	Multicultural Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Namgis First Nation, Namgis Health Centre'	Namgis Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Nelson Community Services Centre Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Nelson Community Services Centre Society	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Nicola Valley Community Human Services Association	Nicola Family Therapy, STV Counselling Program	STV
North Coast Transition Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
North Coast Transition Society	Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS
North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre Society	Port Hardy Women's Outreach	STV ORS

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
North Island Survivors Healing Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society	Community Based Victim Services Program	CBVAP
North Peace Community Resources Society	Women's Counselling Program	STV
North Peace Community Resources Society	Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS
North Peace Community Resources Society	Community Based Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Northern Shuswap Tribal Council	Aboriginal Victim Services	CBVAP
Northern Society for Domestic Peace	Stopping the Violence Counselling, Smithers	STV
Northern Society for Domestic Peace	Stopping the Violence Counselling, Houston	STV
Northern Society for Domestic Peace	Specialized Victim Assistance	CBVAP
Northern Society for Domestic Peace	Stopping the Violence Outreach Services	STV ORS
Omineca Safe Home Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Omineca Safe Home Society	Outreach Services	STV ORS
Pacific Centre Family Services Association	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Powell River Community Services Association	Specialized Victim Support Services	CBVAP
Powell River & Region Transition House Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Powell River & Region Transition House Society	Stopping the Violence Outreach Program	STV ORS
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	STV Counselling Program, Prince George	STV
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program, Burns Lake	STV
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	Quesnel Family & Sexual Victim Support Services	CBVAP
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	Women's Services Outreach	STV ORS

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Prince George Native Friendship Centre	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Prince Rupert Community Enrichment Society	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Princeton General Hospital (Interior Health Authority)	STV Women's Counselling Program	STV
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society	Haida Gwaii Women's Counselling Program	STV
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society	Community Outreach Services	STV ORS
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society	Haida Gwaii Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Quesnel Women's Resource Centre	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Quesnel Women's Resource Centre	Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS
Robson Valley Home Support Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Robson Valley Home Support Society	Stopping the Violence Outreach Program	STV ORS
Sea To Sky Community Services	STV Counselling Program, Squamish	STV
Sea To Sky Community Services	STV Counselling Program, Pemberton	STV
Sea To Sky Community Services	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society	Stopping the Violence Outreach Program	STV ORS
Sooke Transition House Society	STV Counselling Program, Sooke	STV
Sooke Transition House Society	STV Counselling Program, Port Renfrew	STV
Sooke Transition House Society	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
South Fraser Women's Services Society	STV Counselling Program, Surrey/ Cloverdale	STV
South Fraser Women's Services Society	STV Counselling Program, Surrey/White Rock	STV
South Okanagan Integrated Community Services Society – Desert Sun Counselling & Resource Centre	STV Counselling Program, Oliver	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
South Okanagan Integrated Community Services Society – Desert Sun Counselling & Resource Centre	STV Counselling Program, Osoyoos	STV
South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society	Women's Counselling Program	STV
South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
South Peace Community Resources Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
South Peace Community Resources Society	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
South Peace Community Resources Society	Dawson Creek Outreach	STV ORS
South Peace Community Resources Society	Tumbler Ridge Outreach	STV ORS
Summit Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence, Women's Counselling Program, Cranbrook	STV
Summit Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence, Women's Counselling Program, Kimberley	STV
Summit Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence Outreach Services	STV ORS
Summit Community Services Society	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society	Sunshine Coast Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society	Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS
Surpassing Our Survival (S.O.S.) Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Surrey Women's Centre Society	Women's Counselling Program	STV
Surrey Women's Centre Society	Surrey Community Victim Services	CBVAP
Tamitik Status of Women Association	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Tamitik Status of Women Association	Outreach Program	STV ORS
The Advocacy Centre / Nelson CARES Society	Community Based Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
The Alma Mater Society, UBC	Sexual Assault Support Centre	OSP
Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Tri-City Women's Resource Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Tri-City Women's Resource Society	Community Based Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Tri-City Women's Resource Society	Outreach Program	STV ORS
Tumbler Ridge Counselling Services – Northern Health Authority (North East)	STV Counselling Program	STV
Vancouver Island Men's Trauma Counselling Society – Men's Trauma Centre	Men's Trauma Program: Victims Assistance	CBVAP
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society	Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Vernon Women's Transition House Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Vernon Women's Transition House Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Vernon Women's Transition House Society	Outreach Services	STV ORS
Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre	Sexual Violence Victim Services	CBVAP
Victoria Women's Transition House Society	Spousal Assault Victim Support Program	CBVAP
Victoria Women's Transition House Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Westcoast Community Resources Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Westcoast Community Resources Society	Women's Outreach Program	STV ORS
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW/RCC)	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW/RCC)	Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	Abbotsford Women's Support Services	STV
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	Mission Women's Support Services	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	Multicultural Outreach, Abbotsford	STV ORS
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	Multicultural Outreach, Mission	STV ORS
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	STV Outreach Program	STV ORS
Yellowhead Community Services	STV Counselling Program	STV

Appendix B:

Audited Financial Statements



ANNUAL
REPORT
2008-2009