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CCWS STAFF/CONTRACTOR CHANGES

As many of you already know, Michelle Novakowski replaced Morgen Baldwin as Regional Coordinator in April. We were sad to say goodbye to Morgen and happy to welcome Michelle, with her years of experience and accomplishment in anti-violence work in BC. Also in April, Sarah Leavitt shifted from her position as Administrative Coordinator for CCWS to Communications Coordinator for both CCWS and the BCASVACP. Laura-Ashley Wright joined our team last month as the new Administrative Assistant, bringing excellent administrative skills and a strong background in social justice issues.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: TRAINING AND SUPPORT

As we were writing our last funding report, we realized that since April, CCWS has worked with 55 communities! From Port Hardy to Fernie and Fort Nelson to Surrey, CCWS has been working with communities all over the province, almost all of them small, rural and isolated. We support communities who are interested in—or involved in—violence against women coordination (i.e. bringing together various sectors—police, community counselling, health, Crown, etc—to address violence against women). We help communities start new coordination initiatives as well as working with communities that have been involved in coordination for years. We provide information packages, telephone and email support, in person training and facilitated strategic planning sessions.

NEW WORKSHOPS

We have developed new workshops for coordination initiatives based on requests from across BC: A Coordinated Response to Sexual Assault Intervention and Safety Planning for Coordination Initiatives. These workshops were developed to respond to feedback/requests from rural and isolated communities about their particular training needs. The new workshop "A Dialogue on Women Who Fear Further Retaliation or Are Otherwise Known as 'Reluctant,'" was developed for a community that was struggling to address this issue, and has now been offered to other communities as well.

BCASVACP ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM

The Forum will be held in Vancouver on November 29 and 30. The title of the forum is "Emerging Spirit: From Violence to Social Justice through Faith and Culture." One member of each BC coordination initiative will be subsidized to attend, though all members are welcome. CCWS is coordinating the following workshops at the Forum: The Journey Within: Using Spirituality As A Vehicle for Change (with a focus on assaultive men's treatment), Strengthening Community Coordination with Christian Faith Communities to Increase Safety, and Collaboration: A Bridge Between Faith Communities and Secular Anti-Violence Services.

BETHELL/THORNETT INQUEST

This fall, CCWS provided support and information to those involved in the inquest into the deaths of William Jeffrey Bethell and Seth Kinser Thornett in Nanaimo, including the local CBVAP and the Coroner. Bethell sexually assaulted his ex-wife Sarah and abducted their child before killing himself and Thornett (a four-year-old child) during the ensuing police chase.

IMPORTANT PROGRESS ON REFERRALS

Managing referrals between CBVAPs and PBVAPs is an ongoing issue in BC, and has direct impacts on women's safety. Representatives from CCWS met with Chief Insp. Richard Bent of the RCMP this summer regarding referrals. This meeting was an extremely significant step towards improving the referral process and ensuring that women receive appropriate and effective support. A protocol template has been developed for referrals between PBVAPs and CBVAPs and forwarded to Victim Service Division (MPSSG) for consideration in their response to the Coroner's Inquest regarding the deaths of William Jeffrey Bethell and Seth Kinser Thornett. Watch for updates on this key issue.

IMMIGRANT/REFUGEE/NON-STATUS WOMEN & VIOLENCE

In March 2006 we approached a number of experts on specific policy provisions that are impeding the safety of immigrant, refugee and women without status who experience violence and asked them to consult with CCWS regarding gaps in policy. We sought this input from the Philippine Women's Center, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services,

MOSAIC, Battered Women's Support Services, Prince George Elizabeth Fry Society and Kamaljit Lehal, Working Group member and immigration lawyer. As a result, we have an action plan on policy issues in priority areas that CCWS will follow up on.

CCWS PROVINCIAL WORKING GROUP NEWS

The CCWS Working Group members provide input on issues that relate to their field of professional expertise and identify local and provincial strategies to help enhance coordination and implementation of violence against women policies. Issues currently under discussion at the Working Group include: strategizing for meetings with deputies of key provincial government ministries, specialized response to domestic violence in BC, third party reporting, violence against immigrant and refugee women, Safety Issues Protocol between CCWS and RCMP and government pleadings in VAWIR cases.

New Members

Supt Byron Boucher, Officer in Charge, Enhanced Community and Aboriginal Policing Services, RCMP E Division, joined the Working Group at our May meeting, as did Georgia Peters, Criminal Justice Branch, MAG. We are thrilled to have a representative from CJB to assist us in our ongoing efforts to increase Crown involvement in coordination. The following people will join the Working Group at our November meeting:

- Frances Kelly, Lawyer, Community Legal Assistance Society: Frances comes highly recommended as a disability rights advocate, and will help us move forward in our work to reduce barriers for women with disabilities.
- Jill Cory, Coordinator, Woman Abuse Response Program, BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre: Jill has a long history of working on coordination in the anti-violence and health sectors.
- Cpl Colleen Campbell replaces Robin Bridge as the representative from "E" Division Operations Policy Unit; we look forward to continuing our excellent collaboration with the RCMP
- Leslie Page, Policy Analyst, Stopping the Violence Branch, MCS, replaces Alison Nutting as the representative from the Branch

PROJECTS TO ADDRESS PROVINCE WIDE ISSUES

- **Third Party Reports:** CCWS continues the development of a provincial protocol to allow sexual assault victims who do not wish to report to police to submit a third party report to another agency. We have brought together a task group with members from RCMP, municipal police, government

and Aboriginal communities—the group is hard at work developing draft protocol and preparing a presentation to the BC Association of Chiefs of Police.

- **Information Sharing:** With the assistance of Working Group members representing police/RCMP and MPSSG, CCWS has completed a backgrounder on Information Sharing between police and victim services. MPSSG and CCWS are also working in partnership to develop a provincial information sharing strategy to ensure that women who are at risk of domestic violence receive critical information about the accused's past violence.

NEW DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

Check out the CCWS page on www.endingviolence.org to download our latest documents:

- **Backgrounder: *Under What Circumstances Can a Woman Get Information from Police about Her Abuser's Criminal Past?***
 - **CCWS Services Available and Coordination Support for Communities:** detailed information on how CCWS can work with your community
 - **New Templates and Tools for Coordination Initiatives: *Leadership in Coordination Initiatives, Administrative Tasks for Coordination Initiatives and Advocacy and Coordination***
 - **Third Party Reporting:** report on our cross-regional intersectoral discussion groups (see February News Bulletin for more info)
 - **Referrals:** Discussion Paper and Template
 - **Safety Issues Protocol:** A protocol between CCWS and the RCMP for dealing with concerns about police practice that affects women's safety (see February News Bulletin for more info)
 - **Updated *Myth Of Mutual Battering Resource List***
 - **Updated bios for our Working Group members**
 - **Updated list of coordination initiatives across BC**
- *Keep checking our documents page regularly, as some new documents are in the final stages of completion...

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Go to www.endingviolence.org and click on
Community Coordination for Women's Safety