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CCWS MEETS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL

In December representatives from CCWS met with Attorney General Wally Oppal to discuss emerging and ongoing issues related to violence against women and the criminal justice system, particularly Crown.

CCWS touched on the following issues with the Attorney General:

- Strategies to encourage more effective prosecutions, including specialized courts, use of videotaped statements or KGB statements and referrals to specialized victim services
- The need for a protocol between Immigration Canada and Crown Counsel regarding Immigration's use of protective measures based on a conviction for spousal assault.
- The need for greater collaboration with Crown in coordination both locally and at the CCWS provincial table.

The meeting was very productive and positive, and the Attorney General stated that he would like to meet with CCWS again in the near future. We are excited at the possibilities for further collaboration with this ministry.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT—TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Please contact Gail or Morgen, our Regional Coordinators, if you are interested in support or training for your community. CCWS supports communities who are interested in or involved in violence against women coordination (i.e. bringing various sectors—police, community counselling, health, Crown, etc—together 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.

Since October 2005, CCWS has provided support to the communities of 100 Mile House, Abbotsford, Burnaby, Chetwynd, Courtenay, Creston, Enderby, Fernie, Houston, Invermere, Kimberley, Kitimat, Langley, McBride, Midway, Mission, Nelson, New Westminster,

North Vancouver, Parksville, Prince George, Queen Charlotte City, Sechelt, Squamish, Surrey, Terrace, Vancouver, Vanderhoof, Vernon and Victoria.

We presented our Myth of Mutual Battering workshop for coordination initiatives in Sechelt (participants from Sechelt, Gibsons, Robert's Creek) and Courtenay (participants from Courtenay, Parksville, Port Alberni, Powell River, Campbell River, Nanaimo, Ladysmith), and for counsellors working with assaultive men at the Ending Relationship Violence Conference in November. CCWS also presented about protection orders at the World conference on the Prevention of Family Violence in Banff in October 2005.

CHILD DEATH REVIEW PANEL

CCWS made a submission to the panel chaired by The Honourable Ted Hughes that has been examining oversight, public reporting and advocacy within B.C.'s child and youth protection system. The first report from the panel will be released on Feb 28 and the second on April 30. Both will be available on www.childyouthreview.ca. Many thanks to Jane Coombe of Victim Services and Community Programs Division, MPSSG, for encouraging us to make this submission.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Once again we are offering our popular Community Leadership Training for those involved in or interested in coordination—March 7-9, 2006 in Vancouver. This skills-based course is designed for a broad range of victim service workers and anti-violence workers involved in community coordination activities with a particular focus on violence against women. This training session is full. If you wish to be contacted about future sessions please contact Sarah at leavitts@endingviolence.org or 604-633-2506 ext 14.

INTERIOR HEALTH NETWORK

CCWS is collaborating with BC Women's Hospital and the BC Institute Against Family Violence to plan the forum Violence and Women's Health: Building an Interior Health Network in Kelowna in late March. The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) has provided funding for this project to help bring health providers and anti-violence workers from 20 communities in the Interior Health Region to strategize about improved collaboration between the two sectors to address violence against women.

NEW DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

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

- *Building Partnerships to End Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Rural and Isolated Communities*—over the past year we have distributed over 1000 copies across Canada—now available online in pdf format
- Updated list of coordination initiatives across BC
- Updated list of resources on “mutual battering”
- Updated list of services available from CCWS

CROSS-REGIONAL INTERSECTORAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

Since 2003 we have held discussion groups on a number of key issues with participants from a range of sectors across BC. (Reports from past groups can be found on our website—the latest series was on Third Party Reporting in October 2005; the report from these calls will be completed soon.) Participants have already been chosen for these discussion groups; keep your eye out for the report.

BCASVACP ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM

The Annual Training Forum, held December 5 and 6 in Richmond, was once again a great success. Representatives from coordination initiatives across the province came together to learn about sexual assault and strategize about how to address it more effectively. The title of the forum was “Without Consent: Working to End Sexual Violence in BC.”

Please call Harjit Kaur at 604-633-2506 ext 13 or email kaur@endingviolence.org to request copies of handouts from the following workshops:

- Third Party Reporting in Sexual Assault Cases - Exploring the Benefits and Challenges
- Summary of Bill C-2: Protection of Children and Other Vulnerable Persons
- First Stage Trauma Treatment: A Clinical Workshop on Effective Approaches and Strategies for Working with Women
- Sexual Violence: It Can Happen At Any Age
- How Can Community Based Services Engage with and Influence the Health System?
- Sexual Assault within the Context of Intimate Partner Abuse
- Empowering Immigrant and Refugee Women Who Have Experienced Violence in Their Intimate Relationship: What the Research is Telling Us

- Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Preparing Child Witnesses for Court

You can also download overheads from these keynote speeches at www.endingviolence.org:

- Women, Violence and Trauma: The Complexity of Women’s Responses
- Sexual Assault, Women’s Resistance and Representations of “Ideal Victims”

CCWS 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.

At our last meeting in November we were joined by three new members: Gloria Morgan of the Spallumcheen Band, lawyer and former RCMP officer; Monika Chappell of Pacific DisAbled Women’s Network (DAWN); and Chief Superintendent Dick Bent, Deputy Criminal Operations Officer, Community, Contract and Aboriginal Policing Services, RCMP “E” Division. Jill Cory, Coordinator, Woman Abuse Response Program at BC Women’s Hospital, attended as a guest to bring the Working Group up to date on new policy developed by the Ministry of Health in response to the 2004 murders of Sherry Heron and Anna Adams in Mission Hospital.

CHANGES TO SEX OFFENCES POLICY AT CJB

Changes have been made to Crown Sexual Offences Policy and further changes to sex offenses policy are under discussion at the Criminal Justice Branch. Also, there have been changes to the Crown Child Abuse Policy to take account of Code changes contained in Bill C-2.

CONTACT US

Michelle Novakowski, Regional Coordinator
250 751-2881 - micheno@telus.net

Gail Edinger, Regional Coordinator
250 397-2389 - rosebud@bcinternet.net

Gisela Ruebsaat, LL.B, Issues Analyst
250 592-3073 - gisela2@horizon.bc.ca

Laura-Ashley Wright, Administrative Coordinator
604-633-2506, ext 15 - ccws@endingviolence.org

CCWS MANAGING PARTNER

BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs