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Community Development

Since our last News Bulletin in August 2009, CCWS Regional Coordinators have been busy providing support and training to communities across BC.

In-person support and/or training: 100 Mile House, Campbell River, Houston, Kelowna, Maple Ridge, Masset and Old Masset, North Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte, Sandspit, Skidegate, Surrey, Terrace and Tlell.

Telephone and email support: 100 Mile House, Bella Coola, Campbell River, Castlegar, Chilliwack, Creston, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Houston, Invermere, Kamloops, Kelowna, Kitimat, Maple Ridge, Massett, Nakusp, Nanaimo, Nelson, Nelson/Kaslo, New Westminster/Burnaby, North Vancouver, Penticton, Prince Rupert, Queen Charlotte Islands, Salmo, Salmon Arm, Sechelt, Terrace, Ucluelet, Vancouver, Vernon, Victoria and Williams Lake

As of March 2009, the waitlist for CCWS training includes: Castlegar, Creston, Kelowna, Nakusp, Nelson, Penticton, Trail and Victoria. If you need help developing or improving cross-sector coordination in your community, please contact one of our Regional Coordinators.

Community Leadership Training II

On March 2-4, 2010, 28 anti-violence workers from communities across BC gathered in Kelowna for the first offering of the new Community Leadership Training II (CLT II), entitled "Domestic Violence: Developing a Community Response to Risk and Safety".

The three-day training, which builds on the original CLT curriculum, focuses on risk identification and safety planning. Participants learn strategies for working with each woman to identify the complexity

of the risks affecting her safety and to facilitate/coordinate safety planning, which includes liaising with justice system personnel and others.

This particular offering also incorporated the new Domestic Violence Service Priority Assessment Form developed by the Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division (VSCPD) of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG). The form is intended to assist victim service programs in identifying clients who are potentially at risk of serious injury or death as a result of domestic violence. Questions are based on the best available research of factors associated with violence by a current or former intimate partner.

Demand for the inaugural CLT II was higher than expected, with over 55 applications for less than half that number of seats! Participants cited a variety of reasons for enrolling in the training, including: increasing skills in chairing/facilitating a coordination initiative (75%), learning more about risk and safety in domestic violence cases (71%) and to network with others who are involved in coordination initiatives (63%).

A full 100% of survey respondents found the training useful and said they would recommend it to a colleague. In the words of one participant:

"My sincere thank you for an awesome three days of training that you provided!"

"I left yesterday feeling enriched, inspired, motivated, refueled, validated and empowered by all the information, process and awesome connection with all the other amazing participants."

"I truly appreciate all that you do on behalf of the women we serve."

Those unable to attend the March offering will have a chance again next year. Visit our online Calendar

of Events at www.endingviolence.org/event for an up-to-date listing of training opportunities.

Other Training Highlights

2009 Annual Training Forum

At the 2009 Annual Training Forum this past November, CCWS co-presented two workshops:



Engaged to Protect: Keeping Women Central to the Risk Assessment Process (in collaboration with Jane Coombe and Dr. Ellen Pence, pictured)

Increasing Safety for Immigrant, Refugee and Non-Status Women: Law, Policy and Practice (in collaboration with Kamaljit Lehal and Margaret Ostrowski)

A full 100% of survey respondents rated the workshops, overall, and their presenters “good” or “very good.”

Sexual assault training in preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games (Surrey)

On January 18 & 20, CCWS Regional Coordinator Michelle Novakowski and EVA BC Program Manager Harjit Kaur delivered two days of sexual assault training to help the Surrey Women’s Centre prepare for its 24-hour response during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Day 1 of the training looked at beliefs, assumptions, rape trauma and skills practice. Day 2 focused on medical procedures, drug-facilitated sexual assault and the legal system.

CCWS would like to thank the Surrey Women’s Centre for welcoming representatives from the Howe Sound Women’s Centre and Whistler Pemberton Victim Assistance.

Workshop to address the EUROCAN closure (Kitimat)

Also in January, CCWS Regional Coordinator Gail Edinger and Morgen Baldwin worked with Tamitik Status of Women in Kitimat to develop a workshop to address the expected impact of the EUROCAN mill closure on violence against women.

Safety and accountability through coordination (Maple Ridge & North Vancouver)

In March 2010, Regional Coordinator Gail Edinger

delivered training in Maple Ridge and North Vancouver on how coordination can be used to improve safety and accountability when dealing with violence against women. Participants were introduced to the Domestic Violence Service Priority Assessment Form and Summary of Risk Factors recently developed by VSCPD of the MPSSG.

High-Risk DV Response Team

CCWS was recently asked to review an updated Memorandum of Understanding and Information Gathering Guidelines for the North Okanagan High-Risk Domestic Violence Response Team.

The CCWS team provided extensive input on earlier drafts of these two resources, including: research on relevant privacy legislation and a review of other information-sharing models in the United Kingdom and Nova Scotia. CCWS also met with Debby Hamilton, Co-Chair of the North Okanagan High-Risk Domestic Violence Team, and was involved in drafting protocol documents like the Protocol Framework and the Affirmation of Confidentiality and Release of Personal Information forms.

If the RCMP approves the High-Risk Protocol Framework for Domestic Violence Cases that is being developed in the North Okanagan, it could be used as a template for other regions of BC.

Information-Sharing Template

In domestic violence cases perceived as “high-risk”, it may be necessary to share victim contact information or other critical information proactively in order to keep the victim, her children or others safe. Federal and provincial privacy laws allow for personal information to be shared without consent when it is in the public interest (*Privacy Act*) or there are significant health or public safety concerns (*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*).

CCWS has been working with communities, including in the North Okanagan, to develop a generic information-sharing template that will be suitable for use by Violence Against Women in Relationships or Domestic Violence Coordination Committees to help guide local information-sharing practices in high-risk cases and to help ensure that referral practices maximize women’s safety.

The document is expected to be released for use in the field in the near future.

The Lee Inquest & Domestic Violence Action Plan

On December 14, 2009 the BC Coroner's Inquest into the tragic September 2007 murder of Sunny Park, her 6-year old son Christian Lee and her parents Kum Lea Chun and Moon Kyu Park by her estranged husband, Peter Lee, resumed after an 18-month adjournment.

EVA BC Executive Director Tracy Porteous, CCWS Legal Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat and lawyer Diane Turner were in attendance. In addition, representatives from two of EVA BC's member programs testified: Wendy Walsh from the Spousal Assault Program in Victoria and Nancy Drewery, the Community-Based Victim Services Coordinator in Langley.

During the final four days, the Jury heard a range of witnesses and testimony that highlighted the systemic gaps and lack of coordination that were at the heart of this tragedy. As part of fulfilling its goal in participating at the Inquest, EVA BC submitted 46 recommendations to assist the Jury in developing its recommendations. Among them:

- a focus on risk assessment and safety planning training for all sectors,
- dedicated domestic violence police and Crown,
- coordination by all sectors on all cases,
- mandated referral to advocacy and support programs such as community-based victim assistance programs,
- increased funding for existing community-based programs and money for new programs,
- more programs and increased monitoring for offenders,
- changes to bail such as:
 - providing police more time to put together their reports for Crown Counsel,
 - implementing GPS monitoring system on offenders,
- better information sharing across sectors,
- rigorous enforcement of breaches,
- a province-wide public awareness campaign.

The Inquest, the *Keeping Women Safe* report and the *Honouring Christian Lee* Report prompted the BC government to introduce a province-wide Domestic Violence Action Plan that incorporates a number of recommendations from the *Keeping*

Women Safe report.

To download a PDF copy of the Domestic Violence Action Plan, visit:

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim_services/publications/docs/domestic-violence-actionplan-update.pdf

Provincial Working Group

The Working Group recently met on March 23, 2010 in Vancouver. New members welcomed to the group were Brian Rendell, Director of Legal Operations, Criminal Justice Branch, Sgt. Dave Selvage, RCMP "E" Division's new Domestic Violence Coordinator with Crime Prevention and Program Support Services, and Jane Katz, Chair of the Ending Relationships Abuse Society of BC (ERA) who is taking the place of Dr. Harry Stefanakis.

Presentations were made by Rob Kroeker, Executive Director of the Civil Forfeiture Office about the Senior Officials Task Force on Domestic Violence and Susanne Dahlin, Executive Director VSCPD of MPSSG and Chair of the Inter-Ministry Violence Against Women Steering Team.

The previous Working Group meeting took place on October 6, 2009 in Saanich.

New Resources

- Profile of the CCWS Program
- Revised Third Party Reporting Form
- Immigration Backgrounder
- Domestic Violence and Sponsorship Backgrounder
- Primary Aggressor Tool
- Information Sharing Template for High Risk Cases

To view CCWS resources and publications online, please visit www.endingviolence.org/publications.

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