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CCWS IS GETTING A BRAND NEW WEBSITE!

New address: www.endingviolence.org/ccws

Our managing partner, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, will be launching their updated website by the end of this month. CCWS will now be more visible and accessible on the site. In addition to our documents and resources, we will also have all of our training sessions and other activities listed in the website's new Calendar of Events. Please check out the site and let us know what you think!

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2008

Our next community leadership training will be held in Vancouver March 4, 5 and 6. This popular training is for those who are leading community coordination initiatives or who are interested in doing so. Detailed information and application forms will be sent to all communities in the new year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: TRAINING AND SUPPORT

CCWS works 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 have recently supported communities in a number of exciting projects:

- supporting a collaborative response to safety issues facing women after hours on Gabriola Island
- assisting new coordination initiatives for the South Okanagan and Similkameen region, Haida Gwaii and Bella Coola
- collaborating with Sea to Sky Women's Safety Network and Squamish and Whistler Victim Services on a new "integrated safety network" along the Sea to Sky Highway in anticipation of increased demand for services during the 2010 Olympics
- developing some new workshops for coordination initiatives, including "Issues Analysis to Practice

Protocols," which we piloted in Vernon in October 2007. The workshop focuses on how to create protocols based on key emerging issues in the community.

ASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNITS

CCWS is working with a number of communities that are developing domestic violence units in their police departments. Several communities are in the early stages of development. Surrey has successfully launched their unit, a partnership between Surrey Women's Centre and Surrey RCMP. Jane Coombe of Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, MPSSG, also provided substantial support for this project. Congratulations to everyone involved on this amazing achievement!

SNAPSHOT: CCWS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BELLA COOLA

On April 30, CCWS presented a workshop in Bella Coola called "Coming Together for Women." It was a great success, and included community workers, students and an elder from the Nuxalk Nation. This workshop built on work the community has done in the past to address violence against women and children. The steering committee that worked with CCWS included members from Bella Coola General Hospital, Bella Coola Community Support Services, the Federal Health Nurse on Reserve, the Public Health Nurse off Reserve, the Snxlhh Transition House, and On-Reserve and Community-Based Victim Services. Mary Tutt from BCCSS coordinated the work of the steering committee and new STV Outreach Worker Tracy McGrath will be carrying the work of the group forward in the future. It was a privilege to travel to beautiful Bella Coola and to experience the dedication of the service providers there. We look forward to continuing to support the Bella Coola community in whatever way we can.

NEW DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

Check out the Publications page on www.endingviolence.org to access these new documents:

- Third Party Reporting: Access to the Criminal Justice System for Marginalized Victims of Sexual Assault

- Sixteen briefing notes detailing the elements of an effective specialized response to violence against women (a collaboration between the BCASVACP/CCWS and the BC Institute Against Family Violence and the BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses)
- For the Dignity of Every Woman—this toolkit includes handouts and PowerPoint presentations that can be used by any group working in the area of violence against women in BC (produced by the BCASVACP)

The BCASVACP is in the final stages of production for the toolkit *Freedom from Violence: Tools for Working with Trauma, Mental Health and Substance Use*. CCWS provided consultation on a number of the chapters, including one on safety planning for women in rural areas who have substance use or mental health issues. The toolkit includes information and resources for anti-violence workers. It was developed in response to ongoing requests for support from workers who are seeing more and more women with mental health problems and addictions.

ONGOING WORK ON SYSTEMIC ISSUES

We are continuing work on many systemic issues, such as: third party reporting, the importance of identifying risk factors at bail hearings, lack of enforcement of breaches, and lack of consistency in K file designation.

BEST PRACTICES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNITS

In collaboration with Jane Coombe and Rita Buchwitz from VSCPD, Heather Whiteford and Terry Wilson from the New Westminster Domestic Violence Response Team and Richard Rabinovich from the Vancouver Domestic Violence Unit, we are working to address consistency in best practices for the development of domestic violence units across BC. This work is in response to concerns that some RCMP detachments are developing DVUs without community (anti-violence) partners.

INFORMATION SHARING IN HIGH-RISK CASES

We continue work on this issue. Deputy Attorney General Allan Seckel and Assistant Deputy Alison MacPhail have committed to liaise with federal and provincial privacy officials to resolve outstanding issues. This issue will also be raised with the Criminal Justice Reforms and Operations Committee as part of the report on the Critical Components Of An Effective Specialized Justice Response To Violence Against Women in Relationships document. This comprehensive paper is being developed by CCWS in collaboration with

the Victoria VAWIR Committee and MPSSG. Former Court of Appeal Judge Josiah Wood acted as project advisor. The paper will be available on the CCWS website in the near future.

DUAL ARREST

In response to reports from communities that some RCMP detachments were arresting both parties in cases of relationship violence, we met with Supt Byron Boucher and Inspector Terry Kopan at RCMP "E" Division to discuss the concerns. As a result, we drafted a proposal for training for RCMP detachment commanders and developed a backgrounder on the issue for anti-violence workers (available on our website).

BCASVACP ANNUAL TRAINING FORUM 2007

The title of the BCASVACP's training forum this year is "Freedom from Violence: Navigating the Intersections of Trauma, Mental Health and Substance Use"—to be held November 21 and 22. We look forward to seeing many of you there, and will report on the forum in our next bulletin. Once again, we anticipate a productive and exciting two days of workshops and keynotes, and lots of opportunities for information sharing and relationship building across sectors.

If for some reason you did not receive the registration package for the forum and would like to attend, please contact us to see if last-minute arrangements can be made.

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**New web address by the end of November:
update your bookmarks!
www.endingviolence.org/ccws**