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THE COMPLETION OF OUR PILOT PHASE

December 31, 2003, will mark the end of the first phase of the CCWS Project. We are optimistic about obtaining funding to continue supporting coordination across the province, and we hope to have good news to share with you soon!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The CCWS Project has connected with almost eighty communities since we began our work in July 2001. The communities on this list may have received support from project staff for their coordination initiative, participated in a regional discussion group, and/or attended the community leadership training (some communities are listed due to their membership in a multi-community coordination initiative):

100 Mile House, Abbotsford, Alert Bay, Armstrong, Atlin, Beaverdell, Boundary, Burnaby, Burns Lake, Campbell River, Castlegar, Chetwynd, Chilliwack, Christina Lake, Clearwater, Comox, Courtenay, Cranbrook, Creston, Dawson Creek, Dease Lake, Elkford, Fernie, Fort St James, Fort St John, Golden, Good Hope Lake, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Houston, Invermere, Kamloops, Kaslo, Kelowna, Kitimat, Langley, Lytton, Lillooet, Lower Post, Lumby, Masset, Mackenzie, McBride, McLeod Lake, Mission, Moberly, Morriceton, Nanaimo, Nelson, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Oak Bay, Penticton, Powell River, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Princeton, Port Coquitlam, Queen Charlotte City, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Robson Valley, Rock Creek, Saltspring Island, Sechelt, Smithers, Spences Bridge, Squamish, Terrace, Trail, Tumbler Ridge, Valemont, Vancouver, Vanderhoof, Vernon, Victoria, Williams Lake.

The Campbell River Courtenay/Comox, Nanaimo and Powell River VAWIR Coordination Initiatives Joint Meeting was held in Courtenay on September 15. The four initiatives collaborated with each other and with CCWS to develop the agenda and background materials,

plan the meeting logistics, explore possible funding, and advertise and coordinate registration. CCWS Regional Coordinators facilitated a solutions management workshop at the meeting, providing participants with an opportunity to practice skills for identifying, analyzing, and resolving issues in their communities that impact the safety of women experiencing violence. Many thanks to Daphne Wilson, Powell River, Michelle Novakowski, Nanaimo and Michele Clark, Campbell River.

Communities across the province have been discussing the need for concrete tools to track the impact of changes that are occurring in their communities such as cuts to services and weakening of the Crown charging policy. The Women's Contact Society in Williams Lake has received funding from Status of Women Canada to gather statistics and develop a tracking tool to document the impact of the change in the Crown charging policy locally. CCWS Regional Coordinators are assisting the project in an advisory capacity and will share the process and results with other interested communities.

RESPONDING TO THE MISSION TRAGEDY

This past summer, after Bryan Heron shot and killed his wife Sherry Heron and her mother Anna Adams in the Mission Memorial Hospital, CCWS staff joined with our managing partner, the BCASVACP, and the BC Women's Hospital to reach out to anti-violence and health workers in Mission.

The group has been working together to connect with and offer support to front-line workers directly impacted by the tragedy. The group has also been working to identify service gaps or other safety issues leading up to and after the tragedy. Where possible the group is working to remedy these safety issues. CCWS staff also consulted with the Deputy Chief Coroner to discuss options for individuals and community groups in the Mission area to present evidence or request standing at a potential inquest.

RESULTS FROM CROSS-REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS

The findings of the January Cross-Regional Discussion Groups on protection orders were presented to CCWS

FUNDING PARTNERS

Law Foundation of BC ~ Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General ~
National Crime Prevention Centre: Community Mobilization Program & Crime Prevention Partnership Program ~
National Victims Policy Centre ~ Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services

Working Group members along with a commitment that they would bring these issues forward within their sectors. In addition, the Discussion Group distributed directly to relevant staff within the Victim Safety Unit, MPSSG, and to key community-based provincial organizations. BC Women in Action used the summary in the delivery of training workshops around the province. The BC Institute Against Family Violence and the MPSSG are now in the process of incorporating recommendations from the summary into their User Manual on safety planning and victim risk assessment for spouse assault victims.

FOCUS GROUPS ON WOMEN WHO FACE PARTICULAR DISCRIMINATION

Working Group member Joan Meister of Pacific Disabled Women's Network collaborated with CCWS to plan and chair a focus group with women with disabilities, which was held September 17. This group will assist the CCWS project in developing resources for coordination initiatives that will increase participation by people with disabilities, as well as enhance the ability of coordination initiatives to address violence against women with disabilities. Focus group participants also had an opportunity to learn more about CCWS and violence against women coordination. CCWS Staff have also been collaborating with Working Group Member Ninu Kang, Director of Family Programs at the multicultural organization MOSAIC, as well as Setsuko Hirose and Perminder Flora, immigrant women's advocates at MOSAIC, to plan for a focus group. This focus group, "Immigrant Women's Experiences with Violence and Oppression", will provide an important opportunity for immigrant women working as advocates to connect and develop recommendations to improve the situation for immigrant women experiencing violence as well as for the advocates. Findings from the focus group will be used to make recommendations for future CCWS work that will address partnerships between multicultural organizations, their women-serving advocates and various system responders.

THE CCWS WORKING GROUP

Working Group member Mike Chadwick of the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, as a result of collaboration with CCWS staff, has been able to: provide information to the MPSSG Police Services Division that supported their commitment to keeping current practice in violence against women cases despite policy changes; streamline Saanich police procedure to avoid timing difficulties that interfere

with the enforcement of police undertakings; support ongoing work to make municipal and RCMP policies consistent in the area of violence against women. Two new members have joined the Working Group, and will be attending our October meeting: Anita Pascoe, Provincial Program Coordinator at Pacific Association of First Nations Women, and Al Macintyre, Chief Superintendent RCMP "E" Division and Deputy Criminal Operations Officer, and member of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

Please contact Sarah to request a copy. Some of these documents are also posted on our website, www.endingviolence.org.

- *Case study on The Myth of Mutual Battering*
- *The Use of K.G.B. Statements in Violence Against Women in Relationships Cases*
- *Summary of Cross-Regional Discussions On Peace Bonds And Other Criminal And Civil Protection Orders, January 21& 23, 2003*
- *List of Acronyms for use by coordination initiatives*
- *List of Provincial Organizations Working in the Area of Violence Against Women*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Leadership Training, October 20-22: Our popular skills-based training for coordination initiative leaders is full, and we have a waiting list for our next session which we hope to offer in the spring of 2004 if we are successful in obtaining ongoing funding.

Provincial Forum on Coordination, November 27-28: Contact Sarah for more information on this exciting opportunity to hear from BC and international leaders in violence against women coordination.

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**Watch our webpage on
www.endingviolence.org for more on these
issues-- and check out our Online
Discussion Forum!**

MANAGING PARTNER

BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs