



Services Available From
Community Coordination for Women's Safety
Support For Communities Working to End Violence Against Women

Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS) can help your community increase women's safety. We work with rural and urban communities, and women who face particular discrimination in those communities (including Aboriginal women, women of colour, immigrant women, low-income women, women with disabilities, lesbians, transgendered women, older women and young women).

The CCWS program also includes a Provincial Working Group made up of senior police and RCMP members, representatives from provincial ministries, major provincial non-profit organizations and members of the civil and criminal bar. It also includes members who represent women with disabilities, Aboriginal women and immigrant and refugee women. Working Group members provide technical expertise and liaison between their sector and the project. Specific local or regional concerns that have broader implications are also considered by the Working Group.

Crime Prevention through Coordination

CCWS assists communities to increase women's safety by developing new coordination initiatives on violence against women, or by enhancing existing coordination initiatives. "Coordination Initiatives" are groups working to increase women's safety with a more coordinated local response to violence against women. These coordination initiatives range from Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) committees, to specialized partnerships between two agencies, to safety committees that include increased safety of women experiencing violence as part of their mission.

Crime Prevention through Policy Development And Implementation

CCWS also tracks and develops negotiated solutions to issues that arise locally but may require response at a provincial level. This approach includes legal and policy analysis of the issues, production of written resources, and addressing of key systemic issues by a provincial level Working Group.

Services Available:

Support for Building or Enhancing Coordination Initiatives

CCWS Regional Coordinators Gail Edinger and Michelle Novakowski have extensive backgrounds in working with coordination initiatives on violence against women, as well as with women experiencing violence. Communities are welcome to contact Michelle or Gail for phone and email support to start or enhance a coordination initiative on violence against women. Gail and Michelle can also provide in person support with strategic planning workshops, coordination initiative meetings, focus groups on safety for rural women, and discussion groups on backgrounder topics.

- Gail Edinger, 100 Mile House: 250-397-2389 rosebud@bcinternet.net
- Michelle Novakowski, Nanaimo: 250-862-2887 micheno@telus.net

Analysis of Key Issues Impacting Women's Safety

CCWS Issues Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat has a background in law and policy development. She reviews and presents issues that arise locally but may require response at a provincial level. Communities are welcome to contact Gisela to: inform her of issues of concern that require action at a provincial level or to discuss local or regional strategies on issues of concern. Communities can also request specific workshops, such as "Domestic Violence: The Dilemma of Dual Arrest" or "Protecting Privacy for Survivors of Violence: Records Management for Anti-Violence Workers."

- Gisela Ruebsaat LL.B., Victoria: 250-592-3073 gisela2@horizon.bc.ca

Resources Related to Coordination on Violence Against Women

All resources are available at www.endingviolence.org/ccws or through the CCWS Vancouver office at 604-633-2506 extension 15 or ccws@endingviolence.org.

- Templates and tools for coordination initiatives including solutions management, member agreements, confidentiality agreements, mission statement building, case conferencing and protocols
- Backgrounders and discussion papers on particular issues related to violence against women with analysis of law, policy and/or practice
- Information Bulletins - brief updates on particular topics
- Summaries from cross regional intersectoral discussion groups, including recommendations arising from the groups
- Semi-Annual CCWS Program Newsletter
- Listserv for those interested or involved in coordination on violence against women

Background Information on CCWS

The CCWS Program is an outcome of the work of local and provincial women's organizations and of the Ministries of Community Services (MCS) and Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG). The program is the end result of several years of consultation and coordination that the Ending Violence Association of BC¹ (EVA BC) did with groups across the province who were attempting to improve their community's response to violence against women.

The program's development and start-up work was managed through a partnership between the EVA BC and VSCPD. EVA BC is now the sole managing partner, while VSCPD continues to participate actively in the Provincial Working Group. Funding for the CCWS Program pilot was provided by the Law Foundation of BC, the National Crime Prevention Centre, the National Victims Policy Centre of the Federal Department of Justice, the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

CCWS is now funded by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development.

For more detailed information on CCWS, as well as resources related to coordination on violence against women, please go to www.endingviolence.org/ccws.

¹ Formerly the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs