

BACKGROUND

Brief Chronology Of Domestic Violence Murders & Attempted Murders And Suicides In British Columbia Between January And September, 2014 (from information in the public domain)

February 25, 2014 Campbell River

Caroline Doreen Surrett, 72, was found dead in her home at 874 S. Alder St. Her 84-year-old common-law husband, Konstanty (Karol) Bukiewicz, is charged with second degree murder and is currently on bail.

March 20, 2014 Saanich

77-year-old woman murdered by firearm along with her dog. 71-year-old man called police to report murdered and arrested and charged. Names not released by police.

April 2, 2014, Langley

Sonia Cella and her two children (14 and 8) were attacked and their house set on fire – all managed to escape but Sonia Cella and her daughter were injured. Andre Richard, 44, ex-husband and father of the children, has been charged with attempted murder and arson. Police say Richard had violated a no contact order.

April 3 2014, Prince Rupert

Angie Robinson, 40, took the life of her son, Robert Robinson (aged 16, diagnosed with autism) before killing herself. Ms. Robinson had repeatedly sought support for a long-term residential placement for her son because his behavior was increasingly difficult to manage. According to news accounts, her suicide note, together with her last post on Facebook, show that she believed she could no longer manage Robert, and that Family Services could not provide adequate support. It was reported to EVA BC that Ms. Robinson was also a victim of domestic violence in an intimate relationship.

April 4 2014, Kelowna

Amy Parkes was murdered. Her fiancée, Ryan Quigley, has been charged with second-degree murder.

April 16, 2014, Abbotsford

A woman was stabbed and seriously injured and her 18-month-old baby was abducted. Troy Alexander Perrin, father of the child, has been charged with attempted murder, assault and abduction and breach of a no-contact order.

April 20, 2014, Clearwater

Angila Wilson, 33, mother of three, was murdered in her home. Following a 7-hour standoff with police, Iain Drummond Scott, 42, former common law spouse, was arrested and has been charged with first-degree murder.

April 28, 2014, Saanich

Anne Harvey, 61, was murdered in her home and her husband, Neil Harvey, 59, subsequently drowned himself. Investigators determined he killed his wife and then killed himself.

May 5, 2014, Richmond

Jian Hua Wu, 41, has been charged with the second-degree murder of his wife (who has not yet been named).

May 10, 2014, East Vancouver

Thi Tam Nguyen, 27, was murdered while her 4-year-old son was in the home. Cong Danny Nguyen, 31, husband from whom she had separated was a suspect in the murder, was found hanged in a park the following day. Nguyen was twice charged with domestic assault in 2011; police were last called to the home in 2013 but say there "wasn't enough evidence to press charges".

May 12, 2014, Cloverdale

Gregory Quesnelle, 32, was fatally shot at a home in Cloverdale. Surrey RCMP described the death as a "targeted domestic murder", related to an "ongoing domestic dispute". Police had attended the residence in the past. Barrie McQuarrie, 33, who was a suspect evaded the police and was eventually arrested on July 6, 2014 and charged with first-degree murder.

June 15, 2014 Mission

Attempted murder of 60-year-old female by 70-year-old man. Names not released.

June 16, 2014 Fort St. John

80-year-old male shot 80 year old wife and then committed suicide by firearm. 80-year old woman survived the shooting and husband died. Names not released.

June 19, 2014, Lumby

Linda Marie Stewart was shot and killed at her residence in the small Okanagan town of Lumby. The suspect, Howard Everett, who was in a relationship with the Stewart, was found with an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound. Everett survived and was charged with second-degree murder.

July 13, 2014 Surrey

Narinder Kalsi, 67, was brutally assaulted in her Surrey home and later died in hospital. Narinder's husband, 66-year-old Baldev Singh Kalsi, was arrested on July 14 and had originally faced charges of aggravated assault in connection to a domestic dispute and those charges were later upgraded to second-degree murder.

July 15, 2014 Port Coquitlam

Andra Ghiorghita, 38, was murdered with a shotgun at her home. Her husband, Irinei Catalin Ghiorghita, 38, was charged with second-degree murder. The couple have an 8-year-old son who was visiting grandparents in Romania at the time of the murder.

July 26, 2014 Abbotsford

William Butz, 34, cut the throat of his ex-girlfriend and attacked 3 other residents in building. Butz was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and attempted murder.

August 12, 2014 Fort St. John

A 60 year old woman murdered and 64-year-old male rushed to hospital after self-inflicted wounds with a firearm. The male died at the hospital. RCMP state that the murder suicide was not a random act and the parties were known to each other. RCMP have not released the names of the parties and BC coroners are investigating the incident.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

We are recommending that the Province of BC implement three key measures immediately:

1) New Community Based Victim Assistance Programs

Increase the number of community-based victim services to make them available in every BC community and to Indigenous peoples through Aboriginal Friendship Centres and on reserve.

The underfunding of community-based victim services is at the centre of all of these tragedies. Over more than 15 years, we have not been able to find any women or their children who have been murdered who were fully connected with one of these programs. The fact there are only 69 of these programs across all of BC and the funding structure has remained virtually unchanged for more than 20 years is unconscionable. These advocates are key to women's and children's safety and the Province must move to increase the number of these programs and better fund the programs that exist. While domestic violence is on the increase, as is awareness, the funding for these programs must keep pace. Just in the last ten years alone police have 2000 more FTEs and \$400 Million more in funding, yet the community victim service programs have been forced to remain stagnant. We suggest 40 more programs and an increased funding formula to allow these programs to do their jobs.

2) Early Intervention for Offenders

Provide early intervention treatment for abusive men when risk-related behaviours first appear, rather than waiting for post-conviction treatment. Effective and accessible services for offenders are also essential to ending intimate partner violence. It is essential that programs for offenders not operate in isolation, but be included in a coordinated system of services for victims and children. Treatment interventions early on, when risk-related behaviours first appear, could stop an abuser from progressing on a path of escalating violence ending in murder and suicide.

3) Capacity for More ICATs: Interagency Case Assessment Teams

A number of inquests and inquiries, including the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel Report to the Chief Coroner of BC in 2010, have stressed the fact that safety for women and children can be improved by collaborative interagency responses. EVA BC, through its Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS) program have been helping communities develop ICATs, which are

cross sector partnership teams that include criminal justice, child welfare, health and community victim service workers who work together with a goal of keeping domestic violence victims and their children safer. Safety is achieved by legally sharing risk related information from multiple sources so that a more fulsome risk assessment can be performed and better safety plans put in place. Over the past two years CCWS has helped set up 25 of these ICAT teams however, capacity funding is needed so that CCWS through the provision of resources and training, can continue to support communities to increase the number of ICATs and to strengthen the capacity and expertise of existing teams. This work would be undertaken in partnership with police/RCMP and other involved sectors including health and MCFD and income assistance.