

Highlighting Coordination – Robson Valley CCWS Committee

We are pleased to launch what we hope will become a regular feature of the CCWS News Bulletin – highlighting the incredible work of coordination committees throughout the province. Please let CCWS know if you would like your group featured!

Mission Statement:

Robson Valley CCWS ensures a coordinated approach amongst community agencies to stop violence against women in the Robson Valley.

The Robson Valley CCWS committee started in 2003, developing strong foundations and relationships, identifying safety needs in the valley, and taking action on those needs. The committee spans 7 communities in a 200 km stretch of Highway 16 between the Alberta Border and Prince George, including the communities of Albreda, Dunster, Tete Jaune, Valemount, McBride, Crescent Spur, Loos and Dome Creek. Eight Nations have traditional territories within the Robson Valley: Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Simpcw First Nation, Lhtako Dene Nation, Canim Lake Indian Band, Xat'súll First Nation (Soda Creek), Shuswap First Nation, Okanagan First Nation, and the Tsilhqot'in National Government. There is an RCMP detachment in Valemount with offices in Valemount and McBride, and circuit court visits the valley 6 times a year.

Robson Valley Community Services (formerly Robson Valley Support Society) has taken a leadership role with the committee since its beginnings, collaborating with a broad range of key agencies and service providers in the valley. CCWS has supported the Robson Valley committee since 2003, providing phone and email support as well as several training sessions:

- December 2003: Building the Robson Valley CCWS Committee, Dunster, BC

- February 2005: Myth of Mutual Battering Workshop, Dunster, BC
- April 2014: Building A Coordinated Response to Sexual Violence, Dunster, BC
- February 2018: Third Party Reporting, Valemount, BC

The committee has accomplished a great deal including increased awareness and connections between available resources, work on agreements and protocols for coordinated responses to sexual and domestic violence, numerous trainings for service providers in the valley, and creative public and school awareness activities.



CCWS most recently assisted Robson Valley coordination efforts in September 2018.

CCWS Regional Coordinators were excited to be in the Robson Valley again on September 12 and 13, 2018 with our training partners from BC RCMP Crime Prevention Services, assisting the Robson Valley CCWS Committee to revitalize and build on their impressive history of work to stop violence against women through a coordinated approach.

Sixteen participants from a broad cross section of services in the valley gathered on September 12th at the Dunster Hall 35 kilometres east of McBride. The team worked hard to map out a strategic plan by identifying and prioritizing 27 key issues impacting safety for long term, short term and transient residents in the valley. Groups then took four top priorities and developed action plans, using the **CCWS Solutions Management Tool**.



CCWS delivered the *Myth of Mutual Battering* workshop to the Robson Valley in 2005.

On September 13th, CCWS and 18 Robson Valley service providers were at the McBride Fire Hall for a day long training and regional discussion toward establishing an **Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT)** in the Robson Valley. The Robson Valley joins 60 other local and regional areas in BC with developing or active ICATs.

Participants appreciated the information presented as well the opportunity to interact with the broad range of service providers in the Robson Valley.

CCWS Regional Capacity Building

Regional Southern Gulf Islands Regional Training; *Strengthening the Collaborative Response to Sexual Assault*; May 3 and 4, 2018:

This 2-day training on Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOŦEN territory on Salt Spring Island focused on strengthening sexual assault coordination for the Southern Gulf Islands was attended by a broad range of agencies from Southern Gulf Islands. Training participants explored the benefits and goals of a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to sexual assault, the realities of sexual assault, and the work of other collaborative teams.

Regional Lower Mainland ICAT Training (Surrey, Chilliwack, Mission, Langley, Burnaby, Hope, Coquitlam, Port Moody); June 12, 2018: CCWS delivered this one-day training in collaboration with RCMP and MCFD to 75 participants from the Lower Mainland. The training focused on the ICAT Best Practices Manual, 2nd Edition, and also addressed the needs of trainees who had not taken ICAT training before.

CCWS Capacity Building

Fort St. James; *Community Engagement Day: A Conversation on Gender Based Violence*; April 11, 2018: This was an introduction to coordination, co-organized by Sgt. Stephanie Ashton from RCMP "E" Division, as Fort St. James is one of five priority communities identified by RCMP because of their high rates of domestic and sexual assault. This session was a step towards bringing the full CCWS VAWIR/ICAT training into the community. The session was well attended with 20 service providers that included police (including the Detachment Commander), representatives of the Nak'azdli First Nation, MCFD, and Transition House.

Golden; *Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assault*; June 13, 2018: This one-day training was held on Xtunaxa and Secwepemc territory in Golden. As one of the communities in the province of BC that does not presently have access to CBVS programs locally, Golden is part of the pilot to expand the types of community programs that can facilitate Third Party Reports. This one-day training covered the background of the provincial Third Party Reporting Protocol, in-depth technical information regarding facilitating Third Party Reports with sexual assault survivors, and steps in developing and maintaining the local Third Party Reporting interagency protocol.

Quesnel; *Revitalizing the Violence Against Women in Relationships/VIR Committee*; May 8, 2018: Twenty-nine services providers working in the Quesnel area attended this VAWIR/VIR session, which focussed on rebuilding community coordination efforts to improve the local response to violence against women and children.

Campbell River; *ICAT Training – Working Collaboratively to Identify and Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence*; May 8, 2018: This training focused on increasing capacity in

identifying high risk domestic violence cases, sharing information legally and ethically, collaborating on increasing safety and the process of ICAT using best practices. Thirty-nine participants from a diversity of sectors attended the 1-day session, which was organized by CCWS with representatives from community-based victim services and RCMP.

Quesnel; Working Collaboratively to Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence; ICAT Capacity Building, May 9, 2018: CCWS delivered this training to thirty-four participants in conjunction with the Vernon RCMP Domestic Violence Coordinator, and with contributions from the regional MCFD Director of Practice.

Courtenay/Comox Valley ICAT Training – Working Collaboratively to Identify and Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence; May 10, 2018: Twenty-eight participants from a diversity of sectors attended the one-day session, which was delivered by CCWS with co-trainers and resource people from RCMP, MCFD Directors of Practice, and MCFD Director, Domestic Violence Practice & System Coordination.

Surrey Women’s Centre ICAT Training; May 18, 2018: Delivered a half-day workshop to fifteen Surrey Women’s Centre staff on high risk domestic violence, referring to ICAT and conducting intakes that address high risk factors.

Vancouver – University of British Columbia (UBC); Third Party Reporting; April 26, 2018: This half-day TPR training session was provided on Musqueam territory at UBC for both UBC and nearby services. The training covered the background of the provincial Third Party Reporting Protocol, technical information regarding facilitating Third Party Reports with sexual assault survivors, and steps in developing and maintaining the local Third Party Reporting interagency protocol.

Southern Gulf Islands; Third Party Reporting; August 17, 2018: CCWS and BC RCMP Crime Prevention Services travelled to Salt Spring Island to provide a one-day training on the Third Party Reporting option for service providers in the Southern Gulf Islands. This is one of several smaller regional centres in the province that do not presently have access to CBVS programs locally. CCWS is supporting Island Women Against Violence Women’s Outreach Services to build their capacity to take Third Party Reports, and to develop an interagency protocol for the Southern Gulf Islands with Salt Spring and Outer Gulf Islands RCMP, RCMP Victim Services and other key partners.

Lower Mainland; Third Party Reporting; September 20, 2018 CCWS and BC RCMP Crime Prevention Services worked with presenting partners WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre and the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre (VACPC) to provide a one-day training on the Third Party Reporting option for service providers in the Lower Mainland. Participants from community and police agencies explored the history, process and benefits of the TPR option. WAVAW shared their learnings since developing the TPR option in 1982 with the Vancouver Police Department and the BC RCMP Behavioural Sciences Unit. VACPC presenters also supported the training participants with information and experiential exercises from their practice of Aboriginal/Indigenous Focusing Oriented Therapy.

Trends and Emerging Issues

CCWS is a forum for discussing the challenges of policy and program implementation and resolving those challenges. When communities identify issues such as those below, CCWS Regional Coordinators work with community stakeholders to address the issue at the local level. When an issue cannot be addressed at the local level and CCWS recognizes a province wide “trend” emerging, we endeavour to address the issue at a provincial level through the CCWS Working Group.

ICAT Referrals – Information Sharing and Risk Assessment Concerns: In the course of providing trainings to communities and through ongoing consultation work, we have received reports indicating that best practices are not always followed around ICAT referrals, which need to be brought

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forward to the entire ICAT team for full information sharing and risk assessment.

ICAT Services to Mature Minors – Privacy Laws and Information Sharing: There is confusion in some communities about consent from mature minor survivors to participate in ICATs without their parents' or guardians' consent (but with the knowledge of MCFD/DAA or another child protection agency).

Transferring Highest Risk ICAT Files between Communities: As more ICATs are developed in all regions of the province, we are hearing more about the need to share or transfer highest risk files between communities when a perpetrator and/or victim relocates.

Provincial ICAT Advisory Committee

CCWS would like to introduce you to the Provincial Interagency Case Assessment Team Advisory Committee. The ICAT Advisory Committee is made up of subject matter experts, knowledge holders and policy analysts from a variety of sectors that participate in ICATs. The impetus for striking this standing committee arose from the BC Coroner's Service Death Review Panel recommendations, CCWS Provincial Working Group, and, most importantly, queries from ICATs that require subject matter expertise and policy guidance.

Individual members of the ICAT Advisory will lend their expertise to BC's ICAT best practices. This will be achieved by offering support and information as practice and governance issues arise, and to participate in the soon-to-be-launched ICAT Community of Practice Network. The ICAT Advisory Committee will oversee the continual renewal of the *ICAT Best Practice Guidelines: Working Together to Reduce the Risk of Domestic Violence*.

The first complex issue that the ICAT Advisory Committee will tackle is a review of terms that describe "domestic violence" and come to a common understanding, while keeping true to each agency's culture. This clarity will guide the mandates of ICATs as well as enable research to be more thoroughly performed. Additionally, BC Prosecution Services will help CCWS and ICATs understand the possibilities and limitations for using ICAT Risk Reviews for court proceedings.

A strategic planning session, where gaps and issues are identified, will be held in February 2019. We will be soliciting ICATs and others for topical trends and conundrums before the session takes place, so please stay tuned. Please contact Debby Hamilton for more information.

Gail Edinger Retires

As many of you know, we bid a fond farewell to our colleague and friend, Gail Edinger, when she retired in June 2018. Gail has had a positive impact on so many communities throughout BC over the years in her role as a CCWS Regional Coordinator. Her years of anti-violence work leave a legacy of forged relationships, cross-sector collaboration, and a respect for the processes that lead to the shared understanding found at the heart of effective coordination. Thank you for everything, Gail, and happy trails! We will miss you!



And there was cake! Visit our website at <http://endingviolence.org/gail-edinger-retirement-party/> for a few words from Gail!

Welcome Charlene Eden!



CCWS was pleased to welcome Charlene Eden to the team as a Regional Coordinator in July 2018. Charlene has over two decades of experience in the anti-violence sector. She has served the sector through volunteer work at both a transition house and sexual

assault centre, managed a low-barrier homeless shelter program and most recently, as the Agency Coordinator of the Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre. She has extensive experience in program creation and redesign; community coordination; partnership and team building; policy overhaul and implementation; facilitation and training; and advocacy work. For more information about Charlene, please visit our Staff page online at <http://endingviolence.org/about-us/staff/>
Welcome, Charlene!

Provincial Working Group

The most recent Working Group meeting took place in Vancouver on February 27, 2018. The next meeting is slated to take place on October 23, 2018.

To see a current list of Working Group members, please visit <http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/ccws-program/ccws-working-group-members/>

VAWIR Committee Conference Call

The next VAWIR Committee conference call will be held on October 9, 2018.

Resources

View CCWS resources and publications online at: <http://endingviolence.org/research-publications/>

[In Custody, No Contact Orders](#) – This information bulletin describes the availability of and limitations to No Contact Orders while an accused is in custody.

[Community Safety Planning in Indigenous Communities](#) – This information bulletin was developed to help workers in the field identify and address risk factors and safety considerations

specific to Indigenous women within the broader context of safety planning for all women impacted by violence and abuse.

[ICAT Research Project: Summary of Results, June 2018](#) – Provides a summary of a research project undertaken by EVA BC in 2015 to better understand the access to justice and increased safety related outcomes that ICATs are achieving in BC.

Upcoming CCWS Workshops at EVA BC's Annual Training Forum 2018

CCWS will be delivering three workshops to front-line workers from across the province at ATF 2018:

- Sexual Assault Coordination: Leadership, Challenges and Lessons Learned
- Successful Models of Collaboration in Responding to Sexual Violence
- Working with Survivors of Sexual Assault Who Have Mental Health and Substance Use Issues

Contact Us

Debby Hamilton, Manager, CCWS & ICAT
778-475-6164, dhamiltonccws@shaw.ca

Morgen Baldwin, Regional Coordinator
250-631-7897, morgenbaldwin@gmail.com

Kristi Yuris, Regional Coordinator
250-255-0471, yuris@endingviolence.org

Charlene Eden, Regional Coordinator
778-538-3917, eden@endingviolence.org

Brooke McLardy, Regional Coordinator (contracted)
250-540-7528, mclardy@endingviolence.org

Heather Wojcik, Legal Analyst
604-633-2506 ext 16, wojcik@endingviolence.org

Jessica Lee, Project and Communication Coordinator
604-633-2506 ext 15, ccws@endingviolence.org

Kathleen Yang, Administrative Assistant
604-633-2506 ext 13,
adminassistant@endingviolence.org

Tracy Porteous, Executive Director
604-633-2506 ext 11, porteous@endingviolence.org