

Nisga'a VAWIR Receives 3rd Annual Be More Than a Bystander Award



On November 16, 2018, the Nisga'a Violence Against Women In Relationships Committee (VAWIR) was recognized for their dedication to increasing safety and wellness in the Nass Valley and addressing issues of domestic and sexual violence through collaboration, when they received the 3rd Annual Be More Than a Bystander Award.

The Nisga'a VAWIR Committee is an interagency team comprised of the RCMP, four Village Governments Social Development departments, School District 92, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority, and NLG Programs & Services Directorate, which includes Access to Justice, Nisga'a Child and Family Services, Ayuukhl Nisga'a Department, and Social Development.

"Collaboration is the key to the work of the members and we always work under the principles of our edicts in the Nisga'a Nation, which are take your time and be careful in all the work we do," said Millie Percival, as she accepted the award on behalf of the group. "It's an amazing honour and it encourages us to continue the work that we're doing...when it comes to raising awareness and increasing safety, the discussion is the work."

ICAT Grant Announced

CCWS and EVA BC staff, along with representatives from several Interagency Case Assessment Teams, were on hand to meet with Minister Mike Farnworth of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General on December 5, 2018 when he announced a one-time grant of \$100,000 to continue supporting new and developing ICATs in BC.



Discussion during the one-hour meeting centred around the role CCWS plays in delivering ICAT training and providing ongoing support to ICATs throughout the province, as well as the structure and impact of ICATs to survivor safety.



CCWS Regional Capacity Building

Northwest Regional ICAT Training and Northwest Regional Memorandum of Understanding for Sharing and Transferring of ICAT Files; November 22 and 23, 2018: Six communities (Hazelton, Kitimat, Nass Valley, Terrace, Smithers and Prince Rupert) participated in this regional training that included a one-day ICAT training for members new to ICATs as well as those wanting a refresher. The second day focused on fine tuning and training on a MOU between ICATs in the Northwest region for sharing and transferring ICAT files. CCWS created this new workshop to facilitate the creation of an MOU for regional ICATs, with the Northwest being the pilot region.

CCWS Capacity Building

Prince George; Revitalizing the VAWIR Committee; November 6, 2018: Building on the extensive history of coordination efforts in the Prince George area and working within the established Mission Statement of the Committee, this training focused on building commitment from both systems and communities' organizations to continue the coordination work of the VAWIR Committee.

Kitimat; Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assault; November 20, 2018: Kitimat and Haisla Nation are one of the areas in BC that does not have a local CBVS program, and are piloting Third Party Reporting through other identified community programs. CCWS provided this training to prepare STV Outreach and Counselling, and Haisla Health workers to facilitate TPRs.

South Okanagan, Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assault; January 17, 2019: In August 2018, SOWINS began operating the CBVS Program for the South Okanagan Similkameen region. Upon fulfillment of the CBVS contracts, the TPR Protocol was reviewed with CCWS, Regional RCMP and community partners, updated and formalized between CBVS and Regional RCMP.

Fort Nelson; VAWIR Coordination; January 30, 2019: CCWS provided training to Fort Nelson organizations to assist the community in rebuilding their VAWIR committee after a long period of dormancy.

Haida Gwaii; Community Coordination; February 4, 2019: Haida Gwaii has built effective collaborative teams working to address gender-based violence in their communities and were seeking further training to better coordinate both system and community response between from the North and South areas of the Island. The training was well attended by all sectors and began with a blanket exercise, which helped participants examine and understand the impacts of colonization on the Haida peoples and larger community.

Prince George, Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assault; March 6, 2018: Part of a two-day conference *Strengthening Community; Supporting Sexual Assault Survivors in Northern BC*, this three-hour presentation by CCWS and BC RCMP Crime Prevention Services focused on the context of sexual assault coordination in BC, the background, key elements and updates to the BC TPR Protocol, and the opportunity for skills practice on referrals to support and reporting options.



ICAT Capacity Building

Langley; ICAT Training; October 11, 2019: The goal of this workshop, co-facilitated by CCWS and RCMP, was to solidify and strengthen the existing ICAT and bring its operation in line with best practices.

Prince George; Working Together to Respond Collaboratively to Highest Risk Domestic Violence; November 7, 2018: CCWS, in collaboration with our RCMP training partners, provided a one-day training on Interagency Case Assessment Teams to 20 Prince George service providers.

Burnaby; ICAT Training; November 8, 2018: CCWS delivered this one-day training in collaboration with RCMP and MCFD. The training focused on the ICAT Best Practices Manual, 2nd Edition and addressed the needs of trainees who had not taken ICAT training before.

Powell River; *Working Together to Respond Collaboratively to Highest Risk Domestic Violence*; November 21, 2018: CCWS provided a shortened one-day training on Interagency Case Assessment Teams attended by 52 participants.

Merritt; *Interagency Case Assessment Teams*; November 29, 2018: Delivered in the territory of the Coldwater Indian Band, Shackan Indian Band, Nooaitch Indian Band, Upper Nicola Indian Band and Lower Nicola Indian Band. Attended by 38 individuals from key community partners.

Fort Nelson; *Working Collaboratively to Address Highest Risk Domestic Violence*; January 31, 2019: CCWS, in conjunction with the RCMP, provided a one-day training to Fort Nelson service providers on ICAT Best Practices to assist the community to develop a cross-sector team to respond to highest risk domestic violence.

Haida Gwaii; *Working Collaboratively to Address Highest Risk Domestic Violence*; February 5 & 6, 2019: This training was delivered in partnership with the RCMP to a wide range of representatives from North and South Haida Gwaii. The second day focused on how to facilitate collaboration and information sharing between the North and South ICATs and ensure that ICAT membership and practices are culturally safe, reflecting needs of members from the Haida community.

Bella Bella; *Community Engagement*; February 26, 2019: CCWS provided this one-day training on community engagement and coordination initiatives to a wide range of participants. The training focused on building relationships and attaining commitments from community partners to move toward greater community engagement, partnering and the formalization of a coordination initiative.

Golden Regional ICAT Training: *Working Collaboratively to Identify and Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence*; March 6, 2019: Twenty-nine service providers from five

communities (Golden, Invermere, Castlegar, Revelstoke and Cranbrook) participated in this one-day Regional ICAT training.

Provincial ICAT Advisory Work Team

The ICAT Advisory Work Team is made up of subject matter experts, knowledge holders and policy analysts from a variety of sectors that participate in ICATs. One of the important reasons for creating the ICAT Advisory was in response to inquiries from local ICATs seeking subject matter expertise and policy guidance on issues related to ICATs and domestic violence.

A strategic planning meeting on the topical issues and trends identified by local ICATs will be held in Spring 2019. For more information on the ICAT Advisory, please contact Kristi Yuris.

ICAT Community of Practice

Launched in December 2018, the ICAT Community of Practice has been established to provide some much-needed opportunities for ICATs to network, share ideas and problem solve.

The objectives of the Network are:

1. Problem solving, sharing of ideas and promising practices with other ICATs.
2. Posing practice questions to experts on the ICAT Advisory Committee from ICAT sectors for case-specific questions.
3. Circulating the most recent information about Privacy and Information Sharing, Risk Identification, Risk Management, ICAT Governance and other related topics.
4. Giving and receiving support for this difficult yet rewarding work.

Provincial Working Group

The most recent Working Group meeting was held on February 13, 2019. The next meeting is slated for October 10, 2019.

VAWIR Committee Conference Call

Twenty-two participants from 14 BC communities were on the VAWIR Committee call on February 19, 2019. They discussed key challenges for coordination initiatives, and shared strategies and successes.

Third Party Reporting Webinar

Delivered in January 2019, the TPR Webinar provided a history and overview of TPR Protocol and key elements of local implementation, as well as updates to the BC TPR protocol since 2017. It was the most recent update in a series presented by the BC TPR Work Team over the last several years and was hosted by the TPR Work Team member for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. To view, please visit: <https://youtu.be/uAInf8aPU9c>

Resources

CCWS currently has several new resources in the final stages of development, which will be soon be available. These include:

- CCWS Backgrounder, *Crown Intimate Partner Violence Policy (IPV 1)*
- CCWS Information Bulletin, *Importance of Coordination Committees as Foundations for TPR, ICAT and SA Collaborations.*
- *Third Party Reporting Guidebook 2.0*, including updated TPR Protocol, Form and Cover Sheet.

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

Welcome Natalie Dunbar!



CCWS is pleased to welcome Natalie Dunbar to the team as our Legal Analyst. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia and a law Degree from the University

of Manitoba. Natalie has always been passionate about justice. For more information about Natalie, please visit our Staff page online at <http://endingviolence.org/about-us/staff/>.

A Thanks from Debby

Debby Hamilton wants to thank her colleagues at CCWS and EVA BC for the wonderful opportunities, experiences and fun that she's had over the past five years. Debby came to EVA BC in 2013 with 25 years in the anti-violence field. Prior to coming to CCWS, Debby led the North Okanagan Interagency Case

Assessment Team, the pioneer of the provincial ICATs. Those of us at EVA BC and CCWS will miss Deb and thank her profoundly for all her many contributions!

Thank You, Heather!

CCWS recently bid a fond farewell to our Legal Analyst, Heather Wojcik. Heather was a committed team player who will be missed. We thank her for all the good work she did during her time with CCWS and wish her nothing but the best in all future endeavours. Thank you, Heather!



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Contractors who provide invaluable assistance to CCWS are: Brooke McLardy, Debby Hamilton, Gail Edinger, Gisela Ruebsaat, Katie Chave, and Scott McLeod.