

BC Association of Specialized Victim
Assistance and Counselling Programs



Annual Report 2004–2005

BCASVACP

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The Board Of The BC Association Of Specialized Victim Assistance And Counselling Programs would like to gratefully acknowledge the funding and working partnerships this year of the following organizations:

- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Ministry of Community Services
- Ministry for Children and Family Development
- National Crime Prevention Fund
- Legal Services Society
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- The Vancouver Foundation
- BC Women's Hospital
- BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses
- The Justice Institute of BC
- Pacific Association of First Nations' Women
- BC Institute Against Family Violence
- RCMP E Division
- BC Chiefs of Municipal Police
- Pacific Dawn
- The Centre, A Community Centre Serving & Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual People & their Allies

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Cindy Holmes

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BACKGROUND

Prior to the existence of the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs (BCASVACP), the BC Ministry of Attorney General provided \$5,750 per year, supplementing other federal Secretary of State funding, in order for the existing seven sexual assault centres throughout the province to meet and discuss current issues, provide training specific to specialized programs and share information on statistics, services and fund raising. This included problem solving on issues such as staff shortages, vicarious traumatization and isolation. The sexual assault centres began discussing about forming an association that would meet their needs and the needs of the many other specialized victim assistance programs for networking, mentoring and accessing vital information.



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A Secretary of State grant enabled a cross-section of individuals from sexual assault centres and other specialized victim assistance programs to meet, consult and formally assess the feasibility of establishing a provincial association. There already were similar provincial entities in place to coordinate and represent police-based victim assistance programs, women's centres and transition houses. However, to this point, sexual assault centres and other specialized victim assistance programs in B.C. had no networking, supportive, or coordinating body. Individual centres were all struggling in isolation to solve the same problems and to create policies for the same issues.

In March of 1992, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs arose from the founding general meeting at which 22 of a potential 32 program agencies across the province joined the Association. The goals of the Association are:

- Provide support and training to the staff and volunteers of Community-Based Victim Assistance, STV Counselling, Sexual Assault Centre and other similar programs in BC.
- Undertake research, develop and distribute resources and tools to the staff and volunteers of Community-Based Victim Assistance, STV Counselling, Sexual Assault Centre and other similar programs in BC.
- Educate the public (including government bodies) on the needs of victims of violence.
- Develop and maintain standards for the provision of service to those who have been victimized, and other guidelines that assure quality of service and work.
- Foster the development of relevant intersectoral initiatives across BC and support communities to maintain them.

- Provide related education and training to criminal justice, health and social service system personnel.
- Work in partnership with other non-profit provincial organizations, educational institutions and other key organizations in related fields to ensure intersectoral collaboration and information exchange at the provincial level.
- Engage in projects and programs that work toward the prevention of violence.
- Provide oral and written representations to government bodies, commissions and committees with respect to legislative, policy and financial matters pertaining to those who have been victimized by violence.

With its inception, the Association established a provincial voice for women, children and others who are victims of violence. It created a network of communication between all programs in the province and established a link with the government and policy makers to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of all Specialized Victim Assistance Programs in B.C.

In April of 1992, the Association applied to the Ministries of the Attorney General, Women's Equality, Social Services and Health for core and project funding. Only the Ministry of Attorney General responded with an agreement to provide 28% of the core funding request, amounting to \$37,500 per year. This amount was meant to cover the executive coordinator, support staff, office supplies, telephone, fax, information distribution costs, Board meeting costs and other related expenses. All these needs could not be met by \$37,500.

In the fall of 1992, the number of Specialized Victim Assistance Programs that qualified for membership with the Association had grown from 32 to more than 50 programs, with the addition of new sexual assault/woman assault centres and other specialized victim assistance programs. All these programs focus on issues of sexual assault, woman assault, child sexual abuse and/or adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

At the Annual General Meeting in October 1994, the membership voted unanimously to expand its membership criteria to allow Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling Programs to become members. It had been proposed that because STV Programs provide non-residential counselling services to survivors of sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse and/or wife assault, they closely fit with the types of agencies the Association was founded to represent.



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CO-CHAIRS' REPORT



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In 2004 – 2005 the theme was change and more change. The usual hard work and lots of it intermixed with staff coming and going and always learning on the fly. We are blessed to have such incredible and flexible staff that in all the turmoil, nary a ripple was evident. As a Board it is heartening to know that the Association continues to attract staff members who come with a multitude of experience and talents. As member agencies it is reassuring to know that the fabulous and dedicated work of the staff support our work, day in and day out, and lead us towards positive change in the lives of women, children and men affected by violence throughout BC.

This year we saw lots of shifting and change in the make up of our core staff. Carol Ross came to work at the Association for one year as our Special Projects Manager, and then left as planned to return to Nelson in July. Thankfully, Cindy Holmes stayed on as Program Manager but from afar for the next year, as she is temporarily located in Kelowna. Michele Novakowski joined us for one year as Special Projects Manager on leave from Haven Society and Charito Gailling took on a nine-month position as Training Coordinator. Wendy Farmer-O'Neil joined us as the editor of our newsletter. For the first year we took on a summer student, Harpreet Kahlon. The Board welcomes all the new amazing women. Sarah Leavitt, Gail Edinger, Morgan Baldwin and Gisela Ruebsaat remained as the skilled Community Coordination for Women's Safety team. The CCWS Program received ongoing funding this year from the Ministry of Community Services. Through all the shuffling, Habiba Rashid, Office Manager and Tracy Porteous, Executive Director worked tirelessly to keep the ship afloat and running smoothly. Thanks to all you wonderful women for going above and beyond.

The Board has also been busy this year. We have been looking at various policy and membership issues. We would like to acknowledge the work done. Each member sat on at least two of the following committees, policy, membership, finance, liaison, and ad hoc. In June, Liisa Laakso left the Board when she moved from Haida Gwaii to Vancouver Island. Her leaving left a significant gap on the Board and in committees. Her perspective has been missed.

An influx of new money for STV Counselling programs, prior to the election, has brought us many new members. We wish to welcome all new members.

The next year will be interesting and challenging. Our work is grounded in the analysis and the understanding of the multitude of issues and everyday struggles of women who experience violence. Our movement is about strength, vision and perseverance. Let us remember that we are strong, the people we work with are even stronger, that we are resilient and that we need to continue to work together to strengthen and create new alliances.

Ruth Sauer
Co-Chair

Cathy Welch
Co-Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Year in Review 2004-2005

In 1942, Zora Neil Hurston, an African-American poet and writer said, "I was to walk through the storm and hold my power and find my answers to life and things in storms. The symbol of lightening was painted on my back - this was to be mine forever."

When I think back over the year 2004-2005, it is this resilience Ms. Neale Hurston spoke about that comes to mind – the strength that is built from experiences of hardship and adversity. There is palatable, tangible energy in the anti-violence sector today, which was not there, understandably, four years ago. Communities devastated in 2001-2002 by court house closures, funding cuts to sexual assault centres and women's centres, MCFD and MHR office shutdowns, cuts to legal aid, and the list is long, seem to have survived what was likely the deepest and most far-reaching social policy regression we have seen in our lifetimes. I remember those days in 2001 so clearly. When the cuts and policy changes were being announced; when the meaning of the information was realized by people across BC - the feeling of devastation that so many of our members called to express to us.

Somehow, because of the resilience and tireless work of those on the front-lines, in management and on volunteer Boards across BC, it is clear that the sector remains strong. Now, there is no doubt that great losses were experienced and are still being felt by communities large and small; communities who have had cuts to First Nations Victim Assistance Programs, Sexual Assault/Woman Assault Centres, Violence Against Women Coordination Committee Contracts, Women's Centres and Assaultive Men's Treatment. Many programs that once were, are now gone, impacting those women, children and men who need their help. And while we must continue to hold a light for these lost services and work towards filling the gaps - in 2005 I hear hope – I see members building again. This change, I think, has a lot to do with the new STV Counselling Programs and new Outreach Services being funded through the Ministry of Community Services. 12.5 million new dollars were approved by the BC government to be spent on initiatives related to violence against women. With this announcement came a renewed hope that communities could again re-build their response to violence to ensure the safety of women and children. While this news is great, and these new programs are greatly needed, we also need to continue to identify the cracks and gaps in response that create risk.

For the Association, our experience over this last four years is no different than our members. Cuts to our core funding, combined with the cuts that resulted in one whole sector being lost – that is the sexual assault/woman assault centres – were directly experienced by us. We have worked harder than ever before (and believe me always give 200%) to keep the dialogue with government going, to keep it constructive and honest. We have been tireless in our work to communicate the impacts and articulate the needs. We



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submitted numerous proposals; for expanded counselling services, new emergency response programs, programs for young women, proposals for programs that could respond and assist women dealing with the family law system and proposals for training and computers. We met with Ministers of the Provincial Cabinet, their assistants, and their staff. We told the truth about what was needed. Our efforts with the Ministry has resulted in 19 new STV counselling programs, 34 new outreach services, new computers and other technical upgrades for STV Counselling programs in greatest need, funds for training and core funding for the Community Coordination for Women's Safety Program.

We have to give thanks to the previous Ministers, the Honorable Wendy McMahon and Honorable Murray Coell and the current Minister Ida Chong for not just meeting with us but hearing us. There remains much to do though. We will continue to meet and submit information to assist those in government to understand what is needed.

On other fronts here at the Association our work has been tireless. Some other highlights over this year include our work to assist front line workers in better understanding the Family law system that we began the year before. Working in partnership with the BC and Yukon Society of Transition Houses we completed the offering of 14 regional trainings on Family Law. Also in this area, we developed a discussion paper on Family Law. We did this to provide us with both a snap shot of the issues and a tool to have discussions with those in government with the authority to consider changes to Legal Aid. Those conversations continue.

We are also very proud of the work Cindy Holmes has been developing in the area of providing training and capacity building for communities on the subject of LGBT violence. During this year we embarked on a new partnership with the LGBT Centre to do training on queer related violence and assist communities with capacity building for an improved response to the hate related and relationship violence that queer people experience. While communities across BC have been doing some work in this area, this innovative project proved to be ground breaking in bringing together the anti violence and queer communities in 2 regions this year. We heard from these communities that queer people are experiencing homophobic based violence with little support. We also heard that for lesbian, gay, trans and bi folks around BC, there is really very little in the way of services for them to access support for hate based crimes or relationship violence. We continue to do this work with the Centre and reach out to BC communities to work with them in bettering our collective response.

Also on the theme of partnerships, our work with the Pacific Association of First Nations Women (PAFNW) has continued and deepened over a five-year period. We are very proud to stand up with the Women of the PAFNW and work as their ally, along with BC Women's (Hospital) to create responses in BC to the unacceptable levels of violence BC Aboriginal Women continue to experience. This year we embarked on work to hold a second provincial gathering of First Nations leaders to meet with government to call for an end



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to more research and ask for funds for action. In the year 2005-2006 we hope we will all be able to celebrate this joint effort and see the launch of a provincial initiative specifically focused on the prevention of violence against Aboriginal Women in BC.

On yet another partnership and intersectoral front, I can't say enough about the amazing work that continues via the Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS) program. As you know, the CCWS program supports communities who are interested in or involved in violence against women coordination, i.e. bringing various sectors—police, victim assistance, community counselling, health, Crown, etc—together to address violence against women. The program helps communities start new coordination initiatives as well as works with communities that have been involved in coordination for years. We provide information packages, telephone and email support, in person training and facilitate strategic planning sessions.

As I said earlier, this project now has core funding and this has allowed the work to not just continue but to deepen and broaden as well. Very concrete, timely and relevant resources, tools and policy changes have been developed by the program team. Resources like the National Partnership Guide which the team wrote and distributed nationally to assist communities by describing best practices for community coordination that increase women's safety. Easily accessible tools like the information bulletin on the "release of undertakings". The development work initiated by the CCWS team in this area was done to ensure that women are now able to have copies of their UTAs (Undertaking To Appear). This work has actually resulted in the RCMP changing their policy! The team has since developed a tool for anti-violence workers to address the issue with local police, and local police are using it as a tool to update their detachments. Other RCMP policy changes have taken place as the result of our work. A Safety Issue Protocol (SIP) has been developed between us and the RCMP, which will allow the CCWS team more direct ability to assist communities to identify high risk cases that need action by the RCMP.

The team, Morgen Baldwin, Gail Edinger, Gisela Ruebsaat and Sarah Leavitt are to be applauded for their creative and tireless efforts. The Provincial Working Group that guides and advises the project too is a group that has a great number of experts who contribute enormously to increasing the safety of women in BC.

Another highlight that we are very proud to share with you is the work we did this year with the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. In the aftermath of public awareness of the heinous sex crimes of Donald Bakker, a number of agencies in the Downtown Eastside had a meeting to discuss setting up a coordinated effort to ensure support was being provided to the survivors of these crimes. As the conversation evolved, it became apparent to everyone in the room that those who work with women in the sex trade were feeling as marginalized as the women they worked with and hence were in need of support, training and resources. Our Association volunteered to try to put some funding together to provide front line advocates of women in the sex



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trade with a multi day training in responding to sexual violence. We were able to access partial funding from Victim Services and Community Programs Division to facilitate a two-day training that took place in October of 2004. The Association funded the event as well and it proved to be very successful. The work that is being done to respond to women in that community is very similar to the work being done across the Province by community based victim assistance programs and important links were made.

In the process of developing and delivering this training we became re-committed to pushing harder for training and resources for those doing the work of responding to sexual violence. It was at that time we began an effort to access funding to provide similar training to front line workers across BC and to bring sexual violence back onto the radar screen in BC. Since this time and over into this next fiscal year, we have been successful accessing funding to facilitate 10 regional 3 day training sessions on working with survivors of sexual assault. This far we have done three, Cranbrook, Fort St. John and Terrace. It has been many years since BC has had this kind of training and we are thrilled to be able to be developing it. The funding we have accessed is allowing us to invite not just community based victim assistance programs, but also police based VAPs, stopping the violence counselling programs, transition houses, safe homes, and children who witness abuse counselling programs. The Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General have funded this initiative with both the BC and Yukon Society of Transition Houses and ourselves contributing as well.



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This outreach in the area of sexual assault of course then lead us to want to do more, as sexual violence in all its forms is such a complex area of law, remains difficult for people to talk about and is intense and difficult to recover from. That then brings us full circle in terms of highlights. We are pleased to launch the 2 day Training Forum this year focused on sexual violence, and were once again able to raise funds to bring together Community Based Victim Assistance programs, STV Counselling programs, and Coordination Initiatives. In addition this year we were able to access funding from the Department of Justice of invite Aboriginal women from numerous communities throughout BC who are connected to the Pacific Association of First Nations Women and as well, in agreement with the BCYSTH, we were able to financially support Outreach programs to attend! As you know, we have added a day of strategy development which will take place on December 7th, 2005. By next year's report, we hope to share with you the findings from that day and speak about movement we have made based on the direction that comes form those who attend.

Those who volunteer to form the Board of Directors of the Association put in hundreds of hours overseeing the direction and scope of the Association's work this year, and as well, attended numerous meetings and provided invaluable advice, support and assistance to the staff.

The staff, Habiba Rashid, our Office Manager, Cindy Holmes, our Program Manager, and Carol Ross our one year contracted Special Projects Manager

put in thousands of hours and have all worked tirelessly to ensure that not only the work got done, but more, they contributed everyday as committed, professional, creative women who care very deeply about the anti-violence programs and the importance of the work in each community across BC. More recently, we are lucky to have Michelle Novakowski from Haven Society in Nanaimo join us for the next year, and as well we have Charito Gailling who has joined us this year to assist with all the training initiatives we have going. They are sharing their expertise, experience and good will to contribute to this Association being the dynamic and committed provincial body that we are.

Sarah Leavitt moved on from her role writing the newsletter and we miss her very much. We were lucky however to find Wendy Farmer O'Neil who now works on contract for us to write the newsletter. Wendy is putting her expertise together with Britt Permien, who continues to be our creative graphic designer, doing her magic on the Association's newsletter, the Training Forum brochure, and the Safe Choices pamphlets. Once again this year Sheila Norgate is to thank for allowing us to use her art for the Training Forum brochure design, many thanks to her generosity.

On the government side, appreciation is in order to the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for their core funding of the Association and for funding numerous projects. Many of the Ministry staff – too numerous to name, must be acknowledged for their undying commitment to these issues.

The National Crime Prevention Centre's Partnership Fund and Mobilization Fund, the National Victims Policy Centre, Legal Service Society of BC, and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority all need to be thanked for their major contributions toward our many special projects.

Other provincial organizations that we have worked with need to be appreciated for the spirit of collaboration we share; BC Women's Hospital, the Pacific Association of First Nations Women, BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, BC Institute Against Family Violence, Trans Alliance, the LGBT Centre, the Justice Institute of BC, BC Disabled Women's Network, E Division of the RCMP, the BC Chiefs of Municipal Police, thank you for your commitment to collaboration.

DIRECT SUPPORT TO PROGRAMS

We provide support on a daily basis to front-line workers and administrators in Community-Based Victim Assistance and STV Counselling programs around the province. This section will highlight some of the key issues that we are responding to in the field.

In general, programs are seeing an increase in the complexity and severity of their cases. There is a general rise in crisis calls and a reduced capacity to



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manage speedy response or service within existing staffing limits. Many programs are also concerned about high caseload size, risks of burn out, vicarious traumatization, and lack of adequate time for necessary records management, data collection and program reports.

There continues to be a high need for legal support and advocacy for women with complex family court cases and especially where litigation is used to continue the abuse. The inability of clients to access legal representation in family law cases continues to be a theme for our programs. Recently we have received calls asking about the role of duty counsel as well as how and where to access duty counsel. We have also responded to calls from programs about child protection issues, specifically when the abuser is out of the province.



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Poverty is another consistent message across the province. Poverty has increased and agencies are finding that they must become involved in activities beyond previous mandates (e.g. creating affordable housing, starting community kitchens, gathering food donations for their clients, assisting in Family Law matters). Many programs speak about the impossibility for women living in poverty to even take the risk of leaving an abusive situation. As one worker put it: "When poverty and hunger are daily realities, trauma becomes secondary". Across the board front-line staff are telling us about the complexity of their work and high skill requirements to do this work.

Administrators and front-line staff have identified the extreme financial burden of maintaining service delivery at a professional and ethical standard given other funding cuts, operating budget short falls and general funding insecurities. Programs are also identifying the rise in infrastructure costs. Many agencies have spoke with us about the inordinate amount of time doing fundraising for their agency programs and the stress and uncertainty of various fundraising events. Charitable donations are also reported to be down significantly. All these activities take time and energy away from direct service and have a negative impact on the workplace.

Accreditation continues to be an issue facing programs. The extensive time and costs required leading up to accreditation has added stress to their work and that post accreditation, "record keeping has quadrupled".

We receive numerous requests for information and resources about records management. Many programs have no specific record retention policy. Some destroy records after 7 years. Issues of adequate secure storage space, legal liability, lack of administrative support, differing agency policies, all have an impact on record management. We also receive requests for information about records management in cases of sexual assault, and questions pertaining to PIPA and records management. We frequently receive calls from programs enquiring about existing resources such as program standards and records management guidelines.

NEWSLETTER

We publish 3 newsletters per year. The overall coordination of the newsletter this past year was done by Carol Ross, who was here on a temporary basis assisting us with the overwhelming workload. We hired a new newsletter writer as well. She is Wendy Farmer O'Neil and is connected with Haven Society in Nanaimo. The layout is done by graphic designer, Britt Permien. We have been trying to make the newsletter more readable. In the Spring 2005 mailing of the newsletter we included a survey to members to collect feedback on specific changes, if any, they would like to see to the newsletter and the website. The overall feedback that we got from programs across BC is that they see our newsletter and website as an important place to get information on issues related to the services they are providing. We will be integrating ideas from members on an ongoing basis over the next year.

WEBSITE AND LIST SERVES

We keep receiving quite a lot of good feedback about our website. We upload pretty much all of our new materials on to the site. The reason for this is that even though we still send faxes to programs on various issues, we want to have a one-stop information source available to programs 24/7. We have completed our process of going through the website to clean up outdated, old materials to make sure that everything on the site is up-to-date. While we were conducting the STV Counselling Program Alt Training Project, we started an email listserv for STV Counselling Programs. Even though there has been funding provided to some of the programs for computer equipment, and that has been great, it is still the case that not all programs have access to a computer and email. We suggested that if the Ministry is ever in a position again to provide capital, one time grants to agencies, that they consider providing funds to the programs for upgrades of computer equipment or to ensure each program has their own computer.

REGIONAL SUPPORT CONFERENCE CALLS

In January, February and March of 2005, we did a round of regional conference calls with all of the STV Counselling programs. Please see extensive report available through the Association office or on our website.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

TRAINING

Annual Fall Training Forum 2004 and 2005 - Each year, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs works to raise funds to provide Community-Based Victim Assistance programs and STV Counselling programs with an annual training event focused on current and emerging issues in the field to assist those on the



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front line in the difficult and complex tasks of providing trauma response services.

For the 2003 Training Forum, the Association was able to expand our training forum invitation list to Violence Against Women Coordination Committee members in local communities across BC, thanks to funding from the BC Law Foundation. Since the 2003 Forum, we have heard from systems-based and community-based workers across the province that the 2003 Forum played an inspirational and energizing role in communities across BC, so much so that in some communities, the Forum was instrumental in giving new energy and focus to coordination initiatives and effectively brought together system folks with front line advocates to create a rich learning environment and opportunity for all of us to re-commit to the work of increasing the safety of women and children in BC.



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Building on the success of the expanded 2003 Forum, the Association, with the support of the National Crime Prevention Centre, Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, Victim Services and Community Programs Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and Stopping the Violence Branch, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, we once again were able to invite both community and systems based workers from across the province to the 2004 Training Forum.

The focus was on "Prevention" and examined the many ways communities are working to end the violence. Keynotes and workshops examined both the traditional ways we might think about prevention, such as school based education projects, as well as how intervention services actually prevent further violence from occurring by way of their response. *Building Safe and Strong Communities: Practicing Interventions that Prevent Violence* was a provincial training event designed to strengthen the capacity of organizations and communities across British Columbia and to support and acknowledge the work being done throughout BC across all levels of prevention, from primary prevention to intervention services. The Forum raised awareness of how to: incorporate prevention into intervention; build competencies for reducing risks; increase understanding of how strong coordination prevents violence and secondary victimization; and strengthen relationships across the sectors. It was a resounding success!

Plans of course also began within this fiscal year for the Association's Annual Fall Training for 2005. The theme this year is sexual violence.

Down Town Eastside Sexual Assault Training – In response to the violent sex crimes of Donald Bakker, the Association was asked by outreach workers in the DTES to organize a training for workers who work with women in the sex trade to assist them in responding to women who are being sexually assaulted. The training was held on October 28 and 29, 2004 and was a huge success. We lined up trainers including Maggie Zeigler, Gisela Ruebsaat, Cheyene Dyer, Lianne Ritch, Carol Martin, staff from Vancouver WAVAW, and myself, rented space at the YWCA Hotel Residence on Beatty Street,

provided coffee, lunch and a binder of resource materials for each participant and all the trainers. Those who attended all expressed their isolation and desire for more opportunities to connect with the anti violence field.

Family Law Training – With funding from Legal Services Society and VSCPD the Association worked in partnership with the BCYSTH and coordinated a series of 14 regional trainings for front line workers on family law. Those who were invited were made up of community based and police based VAPs, STV counselling programs, transition houses, second stage programs, CWWA counselling programs and some safe homes. In all, 248 workers attended these trainings. We received overwhelming positive feedback for the training.

Regional Sexual Assault Training – Quite a lot of planning has gone into proposals we developed to VSCPD and MCS to do regional training on the topic of Sexual Assault. We were successful and hence have already begun offering 10 regional trainings throughout BC to ensure that all of those in the anti-violence field enhance their competencies to respond to sexual assault in the short term. The 3-day regionally delivered trainings are providing participants with the opportunity to explore the immediate traumatic consequences of sexual assault as well as observe and apply specific intervention skills to assist a range of diverse women who have been sexually assaulted.

Participants have the opportunity to observe and apply key support approaches for women in the initial and middle stages of crisis, plus be given an overview of the critical components of the justice system, specific to sexual assault cases. Central ethical and recovery issues that arise out of supporting sexually assaulted women in the initial aftermath of disclosure are also being addressed. The specific needs of women who are marginalized - for example, women with disabilities, immigrant women, First Nations women, and lesbians - will be reflected throughout the training.

Both, the Association and the BCYSTH are assisting with some travel and accommodation funds for our programs as the funding for the actual training did not include this. We hope that this training will support the development of an improved coordinated response to sexual assault survivors in the field and foster good intersectoral coordination.

Management Training For Women and Victim Serving Agencies - As reported in the previous year, in partnership with the BC/Y Society of Transition Houses, we successfully accessed \$55,000 of funding from Human Recourses Development Canada to move forward with a certificate program for managers in the women's sector in BC. We were also able to access \$40,000 from the Vancouver Foundation towards this training. With this funding we were able to develop a 20 day program and pilot it to 20 senior managers or program coordinators in a 100% subsidized manner. We contracted the JIBC to develop the curriculum, which was a huge success. During this year reporting period we oversaw the revisions to the curriculum that was done by the JIBC and developed, distributed and reviewed a survey



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we conducted of all the anti violence programs in BC to assess the possibility of offering this program again in a partially subsidized way. We found a very clear response that people want this training in the future and are willing to set aside funds to help pay for it. The three partners have been meeting to reconfirm our partnership, and discuss how we launch to new program in a semi fee for service way.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PIPA Overview Paper for Programs – Late last fiscal year we developed a new resource for programs to assist them in understanding how the new Personal Information Protection Act affects their programs. We did this because our office was overrun with calls and emails from programs asking questions in this regard. In April of this year we distributed this paper to all the programs. The paper can be found on our website. Throughout this year we continued to receive calls from the field with questions about the legislation.

Sexual Assault Support Worker Handbook - Work was ongoing this year and is now complete for the re-writing of the Sexual Assault Intervention Handbook for Victim Services Workers. This manual will help those on the front line understand the critical issues one needs to know in order to respond to women who have been sexually assaulted.

Records Management Guidelines Re-writing – In 1998 the Association lead the production and distribution the Records Management Guidelines in partnership with the BCYSTH. This resource has proven to be an invaluable tool for programs across BC in the development of their policy and procedures in managing confidential case files. Because a number of pieces of legislation have changed or been developed in the ensuing time frame, we approached MPSSG and the MCS and requested funding to assist us in the re-writing of this document.

During this year we have been able to once again work with Gisela Ruebsaat who is doing the re-write. To be specific, we have done two focus groups, have done all of the research needed and have written drafts which went out to the field for feedback. There has been a complication come up that relates to a number of programs going through Accreditation with CARF and COA. There are numerous issues with respect to American law and Canadian law and case law that Gisela Ruebsaat has had to sort through. The other issue that has come up relates to the fact that COA and CARF require that programs collect as much information as they can about their clients and our previous Records Management Guidelines recommend that only as much information be collected as is required to provide the service. This perspective is also validated in the PIPA legislation. We are currently finalizing the draft which when ready, will be made available.

STV Counselling Program Best Practices Manual – This new project, funded by the Ministry of Community Services will include producing a document designed to assist STV Counsellors with the delivery of their services. The work in creating the Manual will include a literature scan of



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relevant 'best practice' material; a distillation of best practice content from that research; a review of the Draft Program Standards for Stopping The Violence Counselling Programs (December 1998) for relevance to the proposed best practices and an assessment of existing STV counselling program practices in BC.

A working advisory group has been created, drawn from the field of STV counsellors and program administrators to provide consultation for the production of the draft STV Counselling Program Best Practices Manual. Diverse representation from rural, Aboriginal and immigrant women's perspectives as well as from STV counselling programs of different sizes, make this committee an important ground for the project.

The manual content will promote service delivery quality and consistency, yet retain the flexibility necessary to be adaptable for STV counselling programs and agencies in all corners of the province.

The resulting 'best practices' will respond to questions and concerns from STV counsellors that have arisen in their work with women who are, for example: using drugs or alcohol, coping with mental health issues, charged with a criminal offence, mandated to counselling by MCFD, suicidal, seniors and/or minors. The manual will also assist programs in addressing questions and inconsistencies that have arisen for counsellors and agency managers regarding such issues as wait lists, case-loads, external and inter-program referrals, and "administrative" versus "direct service" work. The Best Practices Manual will provide guidance in responding to women survivors of violence, for both new and experienced STV counsellors and administrators. The manual will also assist programs in developing policies and procedures specific to STV counselling and will include some sample policies for agencies to use.

We are pleased to have contracted with Maureen McEvoy and Maggie Zielger to develop the Best Practice Guidelines. Maureen and Maggie are both highly regarded trauma counsellors in BC and have a long and dedicated history of providing curriculum development, training, case consultation and clinical supervision to Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs since their inception in 1992.

POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Family Law Framework Development - With funding from VSCPD, we have completed this project this year. Linda Light, who we contracted to do research and write a paper for us submitted the final draft of *Family Law Services for Women Who are Victims of Violence: What Can Be Done? Issues and Options for BC*. The paper was ready for final review and release in April, 2005. On February 1, 2005 the BC Government announced a \$4.6 million funding increase to the Legal Services Society for legal services for "families in crisis" that included "additional family legal services in cases involving domestic violence; the provincial family duty counsel program; a new Supreme Court family duty counsel program; and a limited Supreme



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Court Family Referral program." The preceding allocations were consistent with the findings of the Issues and Options paper, however did not go far enough to address all issues and gaps identified during the development of the paper.

Informants to the paper confirmed that without informed and widely accessible victim support and legal services, women can and do remain in an abusive relationship or leave their children with their abusive partner, placing themselves and their children at even greater risk. Additional recommendations in the paper covered the need for expanded victim support and legal advocacy; expanded duty counsel; greater and more consistent collaboration with Family Justice Counsellors; cross ministerial and sectoral improvements in intake procedures and risk assessment; interdisciplinary training in assessment and referral procedures; and a simplification and revision of the use of Supreme Court in family matters.

To access a copy paper, you can go to our website.

ASAP Project - The Association continued to be busy this year providing feedback to the BCIAFV for their ASAP project. Each draft we have reviewed has consisted of many hours of staff time, so the BCIAFV has been kind enough to provide for a bit of compensation to cover that time. The issues are many and have been submitted our contributions and analysis to the BCIAFV and VSCPD in writing. During this year, we have written numerous reports on their various drafts and have written an appendix for the manual on assessment as same sex violence.

Best Practices Approaches: Child Protection and Violence Against Women – The document Best Practices Approaches: Child Protection and Violence Against Women was developed in response to the preliminary discussion paper (“Developing a Dialogue”) on child protection issues in cases involving violence against women and children. “Developing a Dialogue” was developed in June 2000, and submitted to the Ministry of Children and Families by a partnership of provincial organizations, including the BCASVACP, BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses, the BC Institute Against Family Violence, BC Women’s Sexual Assault Service and BC Women’s Woman Abuse Response Program.

Since the submission of this paper to the MCFD and other ministries, we participated in extensive collaborative meetings with MCFD and the other provincial organizations in bringing forward the concerns of front-line workers and service providers, regarding issues related to children who witness the abuse of their mothers, violence against young women in relationships, and sexual assault/abuse of adolescent women. Vancouver/Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services and the Pacific Association of First Nations Women were also involved at various points in the process.

The final document Best Practices Approaches: Child Protection and Violence Against Women is a resource for Ministry child protection workers and other staff. Although not specifically written for anti-violence workers, it



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will also act as a resource in assisting programs who are unsure about reporting requirements and who are engaged in dialogue and/or community coordination with MCFD.

The Association also worked in partnership with the BCIAFV and the BC/YSTH to deliver a presentation at a meeting of all of the MCFD Regional Directors to propose that we jointly design regional training to be implemented to the MCFD and anti-violence sectors. During the later part of this fiscal, we followed up with MCFD to see if they have made a decision yet to proceed. We have since been invited to submit a proposal.

Sexual Assault Research - Working in partnership with the JIBC and the Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Society, the Association is involved in a research project that is looking into the large number of police designated “unfounded” sex assaults complaints. Funding has been provided by the National Victims Policy Centre, Department of Justice, Canada. During this year the partners have scoped out the project, assessed which communities to include in the research, negotiated with RCMP and VPD, permission to access their files for review, and have provided extensive input to the draft research categories and questions.



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ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS, SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Community Coordination for Women’s Safety Project – Funded by the MCS; this a major prevention project of the Association that is assisting communities to put in place or maintain violence against women coordination committees or functions. This project goes out to assist communities with coordination related issues, provides them with in-service training, develops resources for them and takes the issues coming up around the province to a provincial working group made up of senior police and others who work towards solutions to province wide issues. This project is a broad provincial mutli-faceted program. Highlight for this fiscal include:

Community Development and Training

- Since April 2004 CCWS has provided information, support and training to coordination initiatives in over 100 communities across BC. This includes email, phone and in person meetings, specialized trainings and regional training events.
- CCWS gathers data from communities on an ongoing basis using the Solutions Management Tool to track key emerging issues across BC.
- CCWS held Cross-Regional Intersectoral Discussion Groups on Assaultive Men’s Treatment (January 2005), Coordination as Prevention (February 2005) and Third Party Reporting (October 2005). Summaries of the first two discussions have been completed and posted on our website.
- CCWS participated in planning and developing workshops for the 2004 and 2005 BCASVACP Annual Fall Training Forums. Representatives from

coordination initiatives have been invited to attend the annual forum since 2003.

- CCWS presented workshops at provincial and national conferences.
- The Project continues to work with Aboriginal, immigrant and disability communities to increase the accessibility of CCWS materials and trainings.
- The CCWS Project launched a listserv that is open to those who are interested in or involved in local coordination initiatives, with over 100 members.

Issues Analysis and Policy Development

- CCWS created a Safety Issues Protocol between CCWS and RCMP "E" Division. The protocol is designed to guide the RCMP in addressing concerns related to women's safety.
- CCWS provided input on proposed Ministry of Health policy on violence against women in health care settings (in response to the Sherry Heron/Anna Adams inquest recommendations).
- CCWS collaborated with RCMP "E" Division to ensure that victims are given a copy of conditions attached to Undertakings to Appear (UTAs). This resulted in a specific amendment to the provincial RCMP VIR Policy.
- CCWS participated in setting up a tri-ministry protection orders task group to help the different sectors coordinate the enforcement of protection orders (MCFD, MPSSG, MAG).
- CCWS presented in collaboration with Pacific Association of First Nations Women at the Commanding Officers Aboriginal Advisory Committee (COAAC) of the RCMP regarding policing issues and the violence experienced by First Nations women.
- CCWS provided information to MPSSG regarding issues and concerns related to peace bonds and criminal and civil protection orders. This information was used to develop recommendations in a ministry discussion paper for a meeting of federal/provincial justice officials regarding enforcement of protection orders.
- CCWS has formed a partnership with MPSSG to update the protection order enforcement matrix (POEM) that was developed by the MAG and sent out to police across the province in 1999.
- CCWS is in consultation with Victim Services and Community Programs Division (VSCPD) and Police Services, both of the MPSSG, regarding protocol for sharing statistics from these sources with coordination initiatives.
- CCWS provided input to the justice system on sexual assault and child abuse.
- CCWS began the development of a provincial protocol to allow sexual assault victims who do not wish to report to police to submit a third party report to another agency.
- The CCWS Working Group includes several work teams developed to address specific issues: Crown Work Team, Immigration Work Team, Protection Orders Enforcement Matrix Work Team and the Assaultive Men's Treatment Work Team.



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- New members on the CCWS Working Group include Monika Chappell, Pacific DAWN; Gloria Morgan, Spallumcheen Nation; Dick Bent, RCMP “E” Division HQ.

Resource Development

CCWS has developed the following resources (as well as others—please see our website):

- Building Partnerships to End Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Rural and Isolated Communities. This guide was funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre. Over 1000 copies have been distributed across Canada, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Regular news bulletins
- Findings on the Benefits of Coordination
- Coordination Initiatives in BC (contact information for all initiatives)
- The Myth of “Mutual Battering” Resources List
- Protection Orders: Policies, Public Legal Education Materials and Other Available Resources
- Overview of Project Charter: Protection Order Enforcement Matrices 2004 Revisions (developed in partnership with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General)
- Issues Update: Under What Circumstances Can Assaulted Women get Information from Police about the Abuser’s Criminal Past?
- Information Bulletin on RCMP VIR Policy Change (re: UTAs—see above)
- Information Bulletin on Sexual Assault (revised from the 2002 version)
- Information Bulletin on the RCMP Safety Issues Protocol (SIP)
- Police-Community Based Referrals Template
- CCWS Support Available

Safe Choices – Support and Education Program – The Safe Choices program is funded by the SMART Fund of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. The purpose is to improve the health and safety (physical, sexual, and emotional) of women in a same-gender relationships by increasing options for intervention and support, and by removing barriers to health care and social services for women in abusive same-sex relationships in Vancouver.

The program continues to receive many requests for training, consultation, healthy relationship workshops and writing about same-gender relationship abuse. Over the past year we have seen an increased awareness about the program in the community and we are starting to be recognized as a leader in this area locally and across the country.

Healthy Relationship Workshops

Over this year the program has delivered two Healthy Relationship workshops. The first was “Knowing Me, Knowing You: Negotiating Separateness and Togetherness in Intimate Relationships” facilitated by program coordinator Cindy Holmes and Sally Shamai with Family Service of Greater Vancouver LGBT Service Options program. Sixteen women (lesbian,



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bisexual and transgender) participated. And for the first time we offered a workshop on “Healthy Communication and Dating” in the Coming Out Group at The Centre for Lesbians and Bisexual Women delivered by Cheyene Dyer with 10 women participating. These workshops reduce queer women’s isolation and offer concrete skills and information about healthy communication and conflict resolution. They work to prevent violence and abuse in relationships as well as offer referrals and support to individuals and couples who are or have been in abusive relationships. Registration for these workshops indicate that there is a high demand for opportunities for women to come together to break isolation, strengthen women’s self-awareness and relationship skills, and increase self-confidence.

Consultation and Referrals

We provide consultation to other service providers and organizations working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and specifically in the area of same-gender partner abuse. Over the last year we have provided consultation to the following agencies and individuals:

Battered Women’s Support Services re: support group
Mayor’s Community Consultation with LGBT Community
Counsellor at LGBT Service Options – client case consultation
Counsellors re: international trauma conference
Student at Native Education Centre
Toronto Coalition Against Same-Sex Partner Abuse
SFU Women’s Centre



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Over the year we saw an increase in crisis and referral calls coming to our program as a result of there being no LGBT-specific counselling programs in Vancouver for responding to domestic violence and sexual assault. Although our program is not funded to provide crisis intervention services, we have been providing referrals and support for many women in abusive lesbian relationships.

Public Education and Resource Development

In March, 2005 we had the opportunity to speak at the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority’s SMART Fund Showcase. The theme of this year’s showcase was “social isolation” and the programs that work to reduce and respond it. The program coordinator spoke at a panel of five Vancouver-based programs and we created a Poster Board Display for this event which provides information about abuse in lesbian relationships and highlights powerful quotes from participants in our workshops.

We also developed and printed our first pamphlet for the program, which will increase awareness about abuse in lesbian relationships as well as provide information about the services we provide and resources for further information on the subject.

Network Against Abuse in Same-Sex Relationships

The Association is part of the Network which is a coalition of service providers and others who work together to organize, educate and share information about abuse in same-sex relationships and barriers to service for lesbian,

gay, bisexual and trans survivors of violence. This non-funded coalition operates with the assistance of donations, including in-kind donations from community agencies. Agencies that are currently active in the Network include: BCASVACP, The Centre, Family Services of Greater Vancouver (LGBT Service Options), the Domestic Violence Unit of the Vancouver Police Department and BC Women's Sexual Assault Service. The Centre, in partnership with the Network, organized a community forum on gay male domestic violence in November.

LGBT Anti-Violence Network

This is a new local initiative of The Centre, which seeks to bring together those working in the area of LGBT relationship abuse and anti-LGBT violence (hate crimes). These groups have not always worked collaboratively in the past and this network is a new attempt to increase coordination, collaboration, education and information sharing.

The LGBT Anti-Violence Project: Creating Strong and Safe Queer Communities - This provincial anti-violence project addresses both hate-motivated violence against and intimate relationship abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities in British Columbia. It is a partnership between the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs (BCASVACP) and The Centre, A Community Centre Serving and Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered, Bisexual People and Their Allies. The Government of Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy is a partner with the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in this initiative. The lead organization is the BCASVACP and The Centre is partnering in a coordinating role.

This one-year project set out to focus on increasing safety, preventing violence and improving the strength and well being of LGBT people in four communities in BC: Prince George, Nanaimo, Nelson and Kelowna. Once the project had completed work in two communities it was clear that the issues were more complex than we had anticipated and it was decided to do only one more communities until we had adequate resources. While this project addresses anti-LGBT violence (hate-crimes), there is a specific focus on intimate relationship abuse. The project does this by building community capacity to respond to this issue and empowering individuals in the following ways:

- **Training:** Developing curriculum and providing training to service providers including RCMP/police, probation, crown counsel, victim service workers, stopping the violence counsellors, transition house staff, school-based personnel and other social service and health care providers, to improve their knowledge and skill level.
- **Resource Development:** Developing, producing and distributing a series of pamphlets on topics related to hate crimes, violence in relationships and creating healthy relationships for LGBT people.



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- Community Development and Education with LGBT Communities: Organizing and facilitating four Roundtable Discussion Forums with LGBT communities in Nanaimo, Nelson and Kelowna to discuss violence impacting these communities and specifically abuse in intimate relationships. Building capacity within LGBT communities to break the silence about this issue by creating strategies and developing tools to educate about violence as well as healthy relationships in LGBT communities.

This project began in mid-October. We held a consultation meeting with representatives from provincial organizations (LGBT, anti-violence, AIDS, health, and others), and conducted phone consultations with key individuals and organizations in some of the communities. We have work closely with two planning committees in Nanaimo and Kelowna comprised of LGBT individuals and social service organizations. We developed the curriculum and have also compiled and created an extensive resource package for participants.

We delivered the first LGBT Community Roundtable and two-day Training for Service Providers in early April in Nanaimo. Ten people participated in the roundtable and twenty-seven service providers participated in the training. Service providers from a variety of sectors participated, including: Alcohol/drug, youth, mental health, CBVA and PBVA programs, STV counsellors, transition house workers, city councilor, RCMP members, multicultural and Aboriginal organizations, AIDS service organization and others. The feedback and evaluations indicate that the project increased awareness, provided support for future community initiatives, strengthened networks and offered new skills in responding to violence in the lives of LGBT people.

We have also delivered the training and roundtable forums in Kelowna in early June. We have also developed a series of pamphlets which will be distributed to all participants. We will report on those next year.

First Nations Women and Violence Initiative – Over the last few years we have been working in close collaboration with the Pacific Association of First Nations Women as an ally to do whatever we can to work towards more resources being put forth for women who are Aboriginal and who experience violence. We continue to meet and communicate on a regular basis and began work this year of assisting the PAFNW to organize a 2nd Provincial Gathering of Aboriginal women from across BC to validate the findings from the last meeting and to develop a framework for provincial service delivery.

Charitable Tax Number Application - The Association has not had a charitable tax designation and therefore we have not been eligible to apply for formal foundation funding, nor have we been able to issue tax receipts for charitable donations. We were approached by a fundraising company who wishes to work with the Association to put on a series of fundraising concerts, but in order to do this and in order to apply to foundation funding, we need to



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have charitable tax status. We therefore applied to Revenue Canada for this designation and were successful!

PROGRAM REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

Educational Consortium – This is a committee of educators, government ministry reps and provincial associations who have been meeting for the last two years to try to find ways to have formal education in BC teaching to and adhering more to the occupational competencies that are in place for each of the anti violence sub sectors in BC. The intent here is to try to save post employment training dollars by having people learn more while they are taking a college or university course that relates to community based victim services, transition house work and other similar work.

Empowerment Curriculum Project – Advisory Committee - The Association has partnered with the JIBC to develop curriculum based on the empowerment research and to pilot this curriculum in a number of sites in the province. In this last year we have worked with the JIBC on the advisory committee, as well provided staff to work on the video and have supported the development and launch of a 2nd phase of research to identify the empowerment aspect needed to empower immigrant women. This later project is being lead by MOSAIC and the VLMMSSS.



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PROGRAM REPRESENTATION AND ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT

Submission Re: Additional Counselling Programs, Emergency Support, Training and Outreach – In anticipation of new funding being made available in BC this year, the Association conducted a survey of needs throughout our programs in the province to assist us in determining what communities needed. Over the course of a few days we called all of our programs and from those calls developed a spreadsheet of needs. From that we were able to make formal submissions to the MCS outlining the need for more STV Counselling, counselling for young sexually assaulted women, emergency counselling, support for women dealing with family law issues, community coordination, increases in the FTE rate for existing STV Counselling programs, funds for training, money for travel for STV Counselling programs. In addition we heard from many programs that funding was also needed for children who witness abuse programs and transition houses, so of course we lent all the support we could to the case being made for increases in these areas. As a result of the joints efforts made by us, the BCYSTH and others, we saw an increase in the anti-violence sector of 12.5 million dollars!

STV Counselling Program Technology Needs Survey - In February, 2005 we sent out a survey to assess current technology status and needs of STV Counselling programs. Sixty four surveys were returned. The results were

astonishing especially when we looked at the disparity between agencies. A majority reported having old computers with inadequate software. Only 48% of STV counsellors had their own computers; 14% of STV counsellors had no access whatsoever to computers; 38% had shared access only.

Some programs reported that they had had no new equipment since their program began. Some were quite well equipped with up to date software, high speed internet and their own websites.

With the information we collected, we provided the Ministry with a complete run down of the needs from the field in the form of a spreadsheet so the Ministry could proceed with a request for capital expenditure to attempt to meet the need. We also made this information available to the Minister's office after it was requested.



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STV Counselling Program Technology Capital Grant Project - Funding for this initiative was subsequently made possible by the Ministry. As you know, the BCASVACP and the BC/YSTH agreed to administer the grant allocations. The Association received over 60 applications with most requests being for the maximum allowable of \$1,500.

The total amount of money made available was insufficient to provide the funds requested in all applications, therefore, hard decisions had to be made. The final allocations were based on: the criteria set by the Ministry; your identified need; whether grants were approved by the BC/YSTH; the number and nature of applications from one society; and whether the equipment could be shared between programs within one office.

It was a new and challenging process for the Association. In the end, all applicants received at least partial funding; however the way we communicated with the programs was such that we encouraged applications only from those programs most needy. We hope to see more funding of this kind by the Ministry so those who need more than one computer or who didn't get funding for upgrades could do so.

STV Counselling Wages and Benefits - The Association receives regular requests from members for assistance in setting fair wage, holiday and benefit levels for their employees. This year we designed a survey to gather all relevant data from Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs that were willing to participate. The results have been compiled, and those who need this information can now contact us as the need arises. This will provide valuable data for new programs and for the sector to use in future planning and funding initiatives. We also requested related sample policies where available.

RFP Support for STV Counselling and Outreach Programs - A Request for Proposals was issued March 28, 2005 by the Ministry Community Services. We responded by ensuring communities were aware of the initiative and opportunity. We developed a summary of the proposal requirements and "tips" and resources for the development of successful STV Counselling

program applications. This information was provided to any proponent on request, whether member or not. We also drafted sample STV Counselling and Outreach job descriptions to assist successful applicants who would be designing new programs. Extensive support was also provided by phone to assist agency managers as they prepared their proposals.

OTHER

National Health Conference - The Association traveled to Ottawa this year and presented at a national queer health conference on same sex domestic violence and the new provincial LGBT Queer Anti-Violence project we are doing in partnership with the CENTRE and that is funded by VSCPD and the NCPD.

Consultation With The National Victims Policy Centre – The Association initiated discussions with the Policy Centre related to Bill C2 and provided the Policy Centre with information and a letter from a victim who had a horrendous ordeal being cross examined by an offender. The issue came to us by way of one of our members as part of our daily one to one support and grew into us providing info to the National Policy Centre at the time of the Federal hearings on that Bill. During this year we were also invited to Ottawa to be part of a consultation they were doing on the feasibility of the Policy Centre forming a national Advisory Committee.

DV Death Reviews – The Association has been working with VSCPD by way of discussing the Ontario model of domestic violence death review committee and whether that is a model that makes sense for BC.

BC Coalition Against Violence Against Women – this coalition is comprised of provincial organizations working to end violence against women and their children. The purpose has been to develop and implement strategies to address the impact of BC government service cuts and policy changes on women and children who experience violence. It developed after four provincial groups (BCASVACP, BCIAFV, BCYSTH, BC Women's), which worked together on a preliminary project on provincial cutbacks, realized we wished to work with a broader coalition to respond to the cutbacks. The coalition focused on broadening its membership and understanding of issues, which led to developing a project building on solid ground funded by Status of Women Canada.

Building On Solid Ground - Phase I focused on formally broadening the coalition's outreach to groups of marginalized women and their advocates, to enable us to better carry out Phase II (research on the impact of cutbacks). The goal was to develop a BC wide membership, to increase the diversity of our network, and to develop a research project proposal.

The coalition has now completed the Final Report to Status of Women Canada. Important outreach to marginalized women (with accompanying data about the impacts of service cuts and policy changes) was conducted throughout Phase 1. Perhaps the most unexpected outcome was just how



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overwhelmingly positive the support was from women towards our initiative of surveying them before proceeding with research itself. We were also surprised with how thorough and detailed women's suggestions were on how to conduct research and what questions to ask.

Despite these successes, ideological differences and the diverse mandates of individual member organizations created obstacles in our work of building the Coalition itself. Discussions ranged from methodologies of doing Phase 1 work, to its purposes. These differences and disagreements amongst coalition members have impacted member organizations' commitment to continued involvement in Phase II of the project.



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Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Porteous
Executive Director

**BC ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALIZED VICTIM ASSISTANCE
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Appendix A:

Membership Listing



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BCASVACP Current Membership

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
100 Mile House Women's Centre Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Abbotsford Community Services	Abbotsford Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Abbotsford Community Services	Abuse Counselling and Support Services	STV
Abbotsford Community Services	Multicultural Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Abbotsford Community Services	Mission Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Battered Women's Support Services	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Battered Women's Support Services	Specialized Victim Service	CBVAP
Bella Coola Community Support Society	Women's Counselling Program	STV
Bella Coola Community Support Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Boundary Family & Individual Services Society	STV Program	STV
Burnaby Family Life Institute	Stopping Violence Against Women Program	STV
Cameray Centre	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Campbell River Family Services Society	Community Based Victim Service Program	CBVAP
Campbell River & North Island TH Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Canadian Mental Health Association - Family & Community Services	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Chetwynd Women's Resource Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Society of Greater Victoria	Sexual Assault Centre - Mary Manning Centre	CBVAP
Chilliwack Community Services	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Chimo Crisis Services	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Chinese Community Policing Centre	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Comox Valley Family Services Association	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Comox Valley Family Services Association	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Comox Valley Transition Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society	Specialized Victim Service – Cowichan WAVAW	STV
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society	STV Counselling Program – Cowichan WAVAW	CBVAP
Cythera Transition House Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Desert Sun Counselling & Resource Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Family Resource Centre of Invermere	STV Counselling Program – Women in Crisis	STV
Family Resource Centre for the North Okanagan	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	New West Stopping the Violence Program	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - VISAC	Adult Services Program - VISAC	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - TASA	STV Counselling Program – TASA Counselling Centre, Richmond	STV
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - VISAC	Victim Support Services - VISAC	CBVAP
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Burnaby/New West Community Based Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Vancouver Domestic Violence Unit (DVU)	CBVAP
Family Services of the North Shore	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Fernie Women's Resource & Drop-In Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Fireweed Collective Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Golden Family Centre Society	Abuse Recovery Program - Stopping the Violence Program	STV
Haven: A Society for Women and Children	STV Counselling Program	STV
Haven: A Society for Women and Children	Women's Assault Program	CBVAP
Haven: A Society for Women and Children	Haven Society Community Victim Services - Parksville	CBVAP
Information Services Vancouver	VictimLINK	CBVAP

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM	TYPE
Interior Health Authority/Enderby Community Health Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Ishtar Transition Housing Society	Ishtar Counselling Services – STV Program	STV
Ishtar Transition Housing Society	Ishtar Counselling Services – Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Kelowna Family Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Ksan House Society	Stopping Violence Against Women Program	STV
Ksan House Society, Terrace Sexual Assault Centre	Terrace Sexual Assault Centre/Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society	CHOICES - STV Counselling Program	STV
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society	Lillooet Community Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Lower Similkameen Community Services Society	LSCSS Stopping the Violence Program	STV
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Community Services	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Marguerite Dixon Transition Society	Marguerite Dixon Transition House	STV
MOSAIC	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
MOSAIC	Multicultural Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Namgis First Nation, Namgis Health Centre	Namgis Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Nelson Community Services Centre Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Nicola Valley Community Human Services Association	Nicola Family Therapy, STV Counselling Program	STV
North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
North Island Survivors Healing Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
North Island Women's Services Society	STV Counselling - North Island	STV
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
North Peace Community Resources Society	Choices for Women (STV Program)	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
North Peace Community Resources Society	Community Based Victim Services Program	CBVAP
North Peace Community Resources Society	Choices for Women (STV Program)	STV
Northern Health Authority	Fort Nelson Community Counselling Services	STV
Northern Society for Domestic Peace	Stopping the Violence Counselling	STV
Northern Society for Domestic Peace	Specialized Victim Assistance - VACB	CBVAP
Omineca Safe Home Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Pacific Centre Family Services Association, Victoria	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Port Alberni Women's Resources Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Port Alberni Women's Resources Society	Community Based Victim Service Program	CBVAP
Powell River Community Services Association	Specialized Victim Support Services	CBVAP
Powell River & Region Transition House Society	STV - Powell River Women's Outreach Office	STV
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	Quesnel Family & Sexual Victim Support Services	CBVAP
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Prince George Native Friendship Centre	SATS - Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Prince George Sexual Assault Centre	STV Counselling Program	STV
Prince Rupert Community Enrichment Society	Community Based Victim Services	CBVAP
Princeton General Hospital (Interior Health Authority)	STV Women's Counselling Program	STV
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society	Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society	Women's Counselling Program - STV North	STV
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society	Women's Counselling Program – STV South	STV
Quesnel Women's Resource Centre	Women Against Violence (STV)	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Robson Valley Home Support Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Sea To Sky Community Services	STV Counselling Program	STV
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society	STV Program	STV
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society	Community Based Victim Service Program	CBVAP
South Fraser Women's Services Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
South Fraser Women's Services Society	STV Counselling Program – Cloverdale	STV
South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society	STV Women's Counselling Program	STV
South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
South Peace Community Resources Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
South Peace Community Resources Society	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Summit Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence, Women's Counselling Program	STV
Summit Community Services Society	Family & Sexual Violence & Victim Support Services	CBVAP
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society	Family and Sexual Violence Victim Support Services	CBVAP
Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society	STV Multicultural Program	STV
Surrey Women's Centre Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Surrey Women's Centre Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Tamitik Status of Women Association	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
The Advocacy Centre / Nelson District Community Resources Society	Community Based Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre	Specialized Victim Services	CBVAP
Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Tri-City Women's Resource Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program - Path Counselling Centre	STV

AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE
Tri-City Women's Resource Society	Community-Based Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Tumbler Ridge Counselling Services - Northern Health Authority - North East	STV Counselling Program	STV
Vancouver Coastal Health – Aboriginal Health Services	Aboriginal Wellness Program	CBVAP
Vancouver Island Men's Trauma Counselling Society (Men's Trauma Centre)	Men's Trauma Program: Victims Assistance	CBVAP
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society	Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Vernon Women's Transition House Society	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Vernon Women's Transition House Society	Specialized Victim Assistance Program	CBVAP
Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre	Historical Abuse Program - STV Counselling Program	STV
Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre	Sexual Violence Victim Services	CBVAP
Victoria Women's Transition House	Spousal Assault Victim Support Program	CBVAP
Victoria Women's Transition House Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Westcoast Community Resources Society	STV Counselling Program	STV
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW/RCC)	Stopping the Violence Counselling Program	STV
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW/RCC)	Victim Services Program	CBVAP
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	Mission Women's Support Services	STV
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley	Abbotsford Women's Support Services	STV
Yellowhead Community Resources	STV Counselling Program	STV

**BC ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALIZED VICTIM
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Appendix B:

Audited Financial Statements