



**BC Association of Specialized Victim  
Assistance & Counselling Programs**

**News Release**

**April 28, 2008**

**PROVINCIAL VICTIMS' GROUP TO PARTICIPATE AT CORONER'S  
INQUEST INTO OAK BAY DEATHS**

**Victoria, BC** — A provincial organization representing community-based victim service programs across the province has been granted permission to participate in the inquest into the Sept. 4, 2007 tragedy in Oak Bay (the Lee case) which resulted in the deaths of five people. Participation of a provincial victim serving organization in a Coroner's Inquest is unprecedented in British Columbia.

The BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs (BCASVACP) provides support, resource development and training for direct service programs that specialize in responding to domestic violence, criminal harassment, sexual assault and child abuse.

The BCASVACP recently co-authored a major report on domestic violence entitled: *Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence*. "The report, based on research and analysis from jurisdictions across Canada, may assist the jury in formulating practical and reasonable recommendations to try and prevent similar tragedies," said Tracy Porteous, Executive Director of the BCASVACP.

The inquest will likely raise significant issues related to the handling of domestic violence cases. The BCASVACP is pleased to be able to make a contribution to this important fact finding process. The Association will be represented at the inquest by Victoria lawyer Diane Turner, Kelliher & Turner.

Copies of the complete *Keeping Women Safe* Report can be downloaded from the website of the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs at: [www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org).

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