

**Third Party Reporting (TPR)  
British Columbia Protocol**

**TPR WORK TEAM UPDATE  
October 2019**



In British Columbia, Third Party Reporting (TPR) of sexual assault is a process which allows adult survivors (19 and over) to access support and to report details of a sexual assault to police anonymously, through a Community Based Victim Services program (CBVS) or other designated community program. This “Third Party Report” is an option of last resort for survivors who would not otherwise provide information to the police. It is not a substitute for a call to 911, nor is it in and of itself a police investigation.

The BC TPR protocol has been led since 2008 by the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) program Community Coordination for Women’s Safety (CCWS), which supports CBVS and police to develop local interagency protocols and to implement and maintain the TPR protocol. The TPR Protocol is guided by a provincial TPR Work Team comprised of CCWS, BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP), RCMP “E” Division, Vancouver Police Department Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit, BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, and BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The BCACP endorsed the BC TPR Protocol in 2008 and renewed the endorsement in 2014 and 2019.

**2017 TPR Enhancement Now Permanent**

In March 2017, the BC TPR Work Team implemented additional provincial processes and responsibilities for TPR. This included an enhanced response by BC’s RCMP and Municipal Police services, coordinated by BC RCMP Crime Prevention Services (CPS). The protocol enhancement is one of several initiatives the provincial TPR Work Team is leading to increase the availability of this important reporting option across the province. A review by the TPR Work Team has concluded that the 2017 enhancements will continue as a permanent part of the TPR Program. CPS has committed to continuing coordination of police response for TPR in BC. Some features of the enhanced TPR protocol:

**→ CCWS and CPS TPR Alert**

When a survivor of sexual assault completes a Third Party Report with a CBVS program, that program provides the report to the local police of jurisdiction, in the manner which has been decided between those agencies. Under the enhanced TPR protocol, the community agencies also alert CCWS and CPS that a TPR has been submitted. This alert has enabled CCWS and CPS to provide more timely support to CBVS and police when needed. The following procedure is now a permanent addition to the TPR procedures for CBVS programs:

**After delivering the TPR Form to the police, confirm this by sending an email with the date, community, RCMP detachment or municipal police department, and your agency file # to CCWS and CPS:**

**CCWS**  
[ccws@endingviolence.org](mailto:ccws@endingviolence.org)

**CPS**  
[E\\_THIRD\\_PARTY\\_REPORTING@RCMP-GRC.GC.CA](mailto:E_THIRD_PARTY_REPORTING@RCMP-GRC.GC.CA)

### → Coordinated Police TPR Response

CPS will continue to act as a liaison with RCMP detachments and Municipal Police departments to support their efforts to investigate these incidents, and to ensure consistent attention to Third Party Reports and related policing issues. This Provincial TPR Police Coordination has proven to enhance the ability of police services to review TPRs from across the province to identify linkages between investigations of sexual assaults within and across police jurisdictions.

### → Follow Up At 2 Weeks

CBVS is now directed to follow up with local police if they have not received confirmation within 2 weeks of delivering a TPR Form, and to cc. [ccws@endingviolence.org](mailto:ccws@endingviolence.org) on the email as an accountability measure.

### → Other Police Jurisdictions

It is possible for a survivor to complete a TPR with their local CBVS program, even if the sexual assault did not occur in that community. With the provincial coordination of police TPR response, the process and tracking is smoother to ensure that all TPR are received and appropriate follow up is undertaken. The TPR Form is forwarded to CPS, and then to the police jurisdiction where the crime occurred. That local police agency contacts the CBVS program directly with the police file number, and any further information or requests to bridge with the survivor. For assistance contact CCWS and CPS.

### → Training



CCWS and CPS collaborated on 20 TPR trainings between November 2016 and June 2019. The training team visited Cranbrook, Terrace, Fort St John, Nelson, Sea to Sky Corridor, Kwadacha, Campbell River/Comox Valley, Prince George, Robson Valley, Golden, Lower Mainland, Kitimat, South Okanagan, Nakusp, Burnaby, Langley and Vernon.

## Why CBVS?

When the BC TPR Protocol first began in BC, only Community Based Victim Service (CBVS) programs were designated to facilitate TPRs to police. CBVS provides services primarily to victims of domestic and sexual violence; providing information about and accompaniment to police, legal and other systems, practical help, emotional support and referrals to other appropriate programs.

The rationale for designating CBVS programs for the BC Third Party Reporting protocol was that these programs have the training and mandate to deal with sexual assault response in their communities, have custody and control of their own files, have the necessary understanding of and relationships with the criminal justice system and related personnel in their communities, and are able to provide support and accompaniment through and after survivors' involvement with systems.

### More CBVS Programs Needed

The fact that BC has only 66 CBVS programs creates a problem for our province. While most communities across BC have a police department or detachment, the same cannot be said for access to community-based victim support. There is unequal access for victims to the TPR option since so few communities have this victim support program type. There is a need to increase the number of FTEs in existing programs and expanding the number of communities that have access to a CBVS program locally.

### Other Identified Community Programs

As there are currently only 66 CBVS programs in BC, the TPR Work Team suggested that as we continue to push for more CBVS funding in BC, we also expand the types of programs which can facilitate TPRs. This is currently being tested on a pilot basis with STV Counselling and Outreach and Multicultural Outreach, Indigenous Support Services and other key programs. The Work Team will review challenges and benefits with the pilot communities, including whether TPR is a good fit for the identified community program mandate and capacity.

## UPDATED DOCUMENTS:

Please ensure that your community uses the March 2019 versions of TPR Cover Sheet and Form. These documents are provided to CBVS and other identified community programs as part of the community development and training process. For copies contact CCWS.

### → TPR Form

The TPR Work Team last updated the TPR Form in December 2017 and has now released the March 2019 update. The most recent revisions to the form reflect the Work Team analysis of the CPS review with ViCLAS analysts, and feedback from community and police stakeholders. One of the significant changes was to remove terms describing consensual sexual activity such as kissing and replace with the following question which instead uses terms describing the assault.

7. Assault Information:						
ASSAILANT	VICTIM (please circle)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Penetration	_____Vagina	Anus	Mouth	Unknown	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/> Penile Penetration	_____Vagina	Anus	Mouth	Unknown	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ejaculation	_____Vagina	Penis	Anus	Mouth	Unknown	N/A
Other Sites: _____						
<input type="checkbox"/> Condom Used	_____Yes	No	Unknown	N/A		
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral Contact	_____Vagina	Penis	Anus	Mouth	Unknown	N/A
Other Sites: _____						
<input type="checkbox"/> Object Penetration	_____Vagina	Penis	Anus	Mouth	Unknown	N/A
Specify Object: _____						
<b>Other Assault Information (please circle):</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Possible Drugging (including alcohol)	_____Yes	No	Unknown	N/A		
<input type="checkbox"/> Strangled	_____Yes	No	Unknown	N/A		
<input type="checkbox"/> Weapon Used	_____Yes	No	Unknown	N/A		
Describe Weapon: _____						

### → TPR Cover Sheet

The Third Party Report Cover Sheet has been updated, including making the document more user friendly for community agencies and ensuring the language used in the document is more accessible to survivors. The March 2019 revision of the Third Party Report Cover Sheet is in response to feedback from survivors and service providers to provide more clarity and plain language information. Updates include suggested revisions from PACE Society, used with their permission and our appreciation.

### → TPR Guidebook 2.0, July 2019

The BC Third Party Reporting (TPR) Work Team is pleased to announce the enhanced BC TPR Protocol, and the release of the July 2019 *Third Party Reporting Guidebook 2.0: Increasing Reporting Options for Sexual Assault Survivors*, (“TPR Guidebook 2.0”). The TPR Guidebook 2.0 includes background, guidelines and key documents and reflects enhancements to the TPR Protocol since the release of the first edition of the TPR Guidebook in 2015.

## NEW TOOLS:

### → Police Officer Action on TPR

CPS and the TPR Work Team have created some new tools and training for police regarding how to take action after receiving a TPR Form. Guidance on data entry, communication with survivors through CBVS, and required actions regarding ViCLAS are laid out in a process map for police action on TPR, and a detailed outline which expands on the process map. These tools are included in the TPR Guidebook 2.0.

### → Community Agency Action on TPR

CCWS and the TPR Work Team have created some new tools and training for CBVS and pilot community agencies regarding facilitating TPRs. Expanded guidance on privacy, record keeping and required actions regarding TPR are laid out in the TPR Guidebook 2.0 including a new process map for community based agency action on TPR.

### → TPR Webinar

This January 2019 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.

The TPR Webinar was the most recent update in a series presented by the BC TPR Work Team over the last several years, hosted by the TPR Work Team member for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The January 2019 TPR Webinar is available at: <https://youtu.be/uAlnf8aPU9c>



## **What Were You Wearing?**

This is one of the most revictimizing questions for survivors of sexual assault. A certain type of clothing (tighter and exposing more skin) is falsely assumed to put people more at risk for sexual assault, despite this myth being countered by decades of experience and research. Sexual assault is perpetrated against survivors wearing every type of clothing. The responsibility for sexual assault does not belong to the survivor for how they were dressed, no matter what they were wearing. For survivors, the question can feel, and very often is, loaded with blame, judgement and disbelief.

CCWS regularly fields questions about why the TPR Form provides space for a description of clothing. **On the TPR Form and in police practice, the question about clothing is asked and analyzed for an entirely different purpose – to identify serial sex predators.** These types of predators often target numerous survivors with a similar physical appearance to each other, which may include aspects such as age, race/ethnic heritage, hair, height, weight, eye colour, clothing and occupation.

The BC TPR option was originally envisioned by survivors for the specific purpose of stopping serial predators from harming others. The process is designed to give survivors the option to pass on information about their appearance that they are comfortable sharing. Passing on this information to the police through the TPR process may result in a link to other police files where there is an assailant targeting survivors with a similar appearance.

**The BC TPR process is designed to prevent further harm by ensuring the survivor works with a trained and skilled anti-violence worker. The worker explains the purpose of the questions on the TPR form, including the ones about the survivor's appearance.** The worker also supports the survivor after the TPR Form is completed and assists with completing the TPR process and providing ongoing support and referrals to the survivor.



## **TPR 2017/18 Review: A Snapshot**

**An estimated 80 TPRs were forwarded to police in BC from January 2017 to May 2018. 77 of the survivors received support from CBVS programs.**

**60 of the 80 TPRs were analyzed by CPS.\***

- **5 out of 60 were turned into formal investigations with the survivor's consent.**
- **98% of survivors identify as female.  
2% of survivors identify as male.**
- **97% of assailants are identified as male.  
3% of assailants are identified as female.**
- **The average age of the survivors is 27.**
- **In 88% of cases, the assailant was known to the survivor prior to the incident.**
- **98% of survivors were able to identify the assailant.**

**\*Some files could not be located in PRIME; police members of the TPR Work Team have worked with PRIME analysts to ensure that all TPR files will be locatable in PRIME for further analysis.**



## **SUPPORT & INFORMATION**

### **CBVS & Coordination Support:**

ccws@endingviolence.org

Ph: 604 633-2506 ext. 15

### **Police Support:**

E\_THIRD\_PARTY\_REPORTING@  
RCMP-GRC.GC.CA

### **CCWS TPR Webpage:**

<http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/ccws-program/third-party-reporting-tpr/>