

ENDING VIOLENCE

Association of BC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 15, 2020

23 Organizations to Receive Emergency Sexual Assault Services Funding Grants Through the Ending Violence Association of BC

Twenty-three organizations from across BC will receive grants to support the delivery of coordinated emergency sexual assault response services, the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) announced Dec. 15, 2020.

EVA BC is administering a three-year, \$10-million Emergency Sexual Assault Services (ESAS) grant program. The services that will be offered will start to fill the gaps in funding created when all funding to BC Sexual Assault Centres was cut in 2001.

“We’re proud to provide this funding through the grant program to organizations that will be supporting sexual assault survivors in their communities,” says EVA BC Executive Director Tracy Porteous. “For the past 18 years, EVA BC has been in dialogue with the Province about both the status of sexual assault response in British Columbia and the significant need for funding for services for survivors. This funding program will provide a huge benefit to survivors of sexual assault in the 23 communities being funded.”

The Ending Violence Association of BC received the funding to administer the grant program in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG), the Ministry of Finance - Gender Equity Office (GEO), and the Minister’s Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) and the Ministry of Health (MoH). This grant program will help organizations deliver community-based, emergency sexual assault response services that are trauma informed and culturally appropriate from now until March 31, 2023.

“Sexual assault survivors need swift access to compassionate and comprehensive care, and these 23 organizations are committed to ensuring that the supports meet the diverse needs of survivors, including the unique needs of Indigenous communities,” said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. “On behalf of the Province, I want to thank EVA BC, and all other partners, for their hard work and tremendous efforts on establishing this grant program, and I look forward to our continued partnerships.”

“This sexual assault grant funding is a much-needed and awaited opportunity for Indigenous communities in BC to develop and deliver vital services to survivors of sexual assault,” said Chastity Davis-Alphonse, EVA BC Indigenous ESAS Co-Lead. “It is a significant step forward in supporting Indigenous communities to develop their own community-based programming that is specific to the needs of their community members. It is important as we move forward together as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples, that we are shifting how program funding is provided to Indigenous communities by recognizing that Indigenous Peoples have been healing themselves for thousands of years and that we know best the path to providing healing-centred approaches to our communities.”

“We recognize that these organizations – and so many others – are on the front lines of providing the care that survivors of sexual assault need and deserve,” said Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Grace Lore. We also know there is a need for greater support, which is why we are developing an action plan to end gender-based violence and supporting the hard work of so many service providers and community groups by moving towards core funding for sexual assault centres. This will help service providers focus on providing care without having to worry about ongoing funding.”

Proposals totaling \$30 Million were received from every corner of BC, including the North, the Island, the Interior, and all points in between. As this funding was capped at \$10 Million, there were many more communities who we were not able to assist at this time. Funding provided to organizations in the Indigenous Services Stream and the General Services Stream totals \$9.3 million. Ten organizations will be funded through the Indigenous Services Stream, totalling \$4,650,000 (with \$145,698 pending confirmation). Thirteen organizations will be funded through the General Services Stream, totalling \$4,650,000.

Please see below the communities being funded:

Indigenous Services Stream

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Association, Surrey
Lake Babine Nation, Burns Lake
Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia, North Vancouver
Nuxalk Nation, Bella Coola
Qwí:qwelstóm Wellness - Stó:lō Service Agency, Chilliwack
Okanagan National Alliance (ONA), Westbank
Southern Stl'atl'imx Health Society, Mount Currie
Tahltan Band Council, Telegraph Creek
Yeqox Nilin Justice Society, Williams Lake
One more Indigenous Community TBA as final approval pending

General Services Stream

Alberni Community and Women's Services Society, Port Alberni
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society (COEFS), Kelowna
Islanders Working Against Violence, Salt Spring Island
Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre Society, Kamloops
Ksan House Society, Terrace
Nelson Community Services Society, Nelson
Northern Society for Domestic Peace, Smithers
PACE Peer Support Services, Vancouver
Prince George Sexual Assault Centre & Elizabeth Fry Society, Prince George
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society, Salmon Arm
Surrey Women's Centre Society, Surrey
The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre Society, Victoria
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre, Vancouver

For more information regarding the Grants Program, please contact:

sagrants@endingviolence.org. For a media interview, please contact Heather Conn, EVA BC Communications Manager, conn@endingviolence.org, 604-633-2506 ext. 16.

Project Descriptions for the Grant Program

Indigenous Services Stream

Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Association (FRFA)

The *Traditional Healing and Intervention for Sexual Violence Against Indigenous Peoples Project* will expand the FRFA's Indigenous Domestic Violence Program to offer services for survivors of sexual violence for the Urban Indigenous population in the Fraser Valley. These services will include Traditional Counselling, Crime Victim Assistance Program Counselling, Red Path traditional healing, and survivor support for healing from trauma.

Lake Babine Nation, Burns Lake

The *Keep the Gooze Team Going Project* will support the Gooze Team to provide rapid response and coordinated emergency response services in a culturally sensitive and compassionate way to victims/survivors of sexual assault and their families. The program will serve Lake Babine community members from Fort Babine, Old Fort, Tachet, Woyenne, Donalds Landing as well as Burns Lake, Smithers, and Prince George. The project will also foster an Interagency Working Group to provide a forum for sharing information about emerging issues as project and construction camps operate in the regional northwest, and community education on sex trafficking and other safety concerns, and cultural programs.

Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia (NCCABC)

The *Indigenous Victim Services Program for Emergency Sexual Assault Project* will support the hiring of an Indigenous Victim Services Worker (IVSW) to work alongside NCCABC's family advocate in Prince George and in the North Vancouver Island region. The purpose of the IVSW is to facilitate providing emergency response services that are culturally relevant, culturally safe, and trauma-informed for Indigenous sexual assault survivors.

Nuxalk Nation, Bella Coola

The *Nuxalk Emergency Sexual Assault Response Team Project* will provide emergency sexual assault response, intervention and healing opportunities to victims/survivors of sexual violence in the Bella Coola Valley on the traditional territory of the Nuxalk Nation. The program will provide culturally safe, comprehensive response to sexual assault victims/survivors through coordinated, professional, trauma-informed, and victim/survivor centered services rooted in Nuxalk wellbeing and spiritual practices.

Okanagan National Alliance (ONA)

The *You Empowered and Strong (YES) Program* will serve community members of the ONA, Syilx Nation, including Upper Nicola Band, Okanagan Indian Band, Westbank First Nation, Penticton Indian Band and Lower Similkameen Indian Band. The YES Program supports Syilx individuals, families and communities experiencing impacts of trauma from violence, specifically sexual assault and human trafficking. The program will provide culturally relevant service delivery including one-on-one and family support to assist survivors of sexual assault, cultural prevention and education, fostering of collaboration and partnerships and specialized training.

Stó:lō Service Agency - Qwí:qwelstóm wellness

The *Qwí:qwelstóm Sexual Violence Response Team Project* will provide prevention and intervention programming to address sexual violence in S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō traditional territory) spanning from Hope, BC to Fort Langley, BC, on both sides of the river. The program will create a community of responders to sexual violence, who can walk with survivors to fill the service gaps the justice system, victim/survivor services and other relevant services.

Southern Stl'atl'imx Health Society, Mt. Currie

The *Southern Stl'atl'imx Sexual Assault Response Project* will provide support to survivors of sexual assault and their families in the Southern Stl'atl'imx including emotional support and safety planning, criminal justice system process and community resources, court & police accompaniment, orientation, information and advocacy, coordination and education. These services will align with the Stl'atl'imc way of life and represent cultural safety and humility.

Tahltan Band Council, Telegraph Creek

The *Tahltan Emergency Sexual Assault Response Services Project* will provide culturally safe and relevant emergency supports to survivors of sexual assault in the communities of Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake. The services will include supporting access to medical assistance, support networks, referrals and navigation of systems, safety planning, court advocacy, and education and outreach. The project will also create a coalition of community members to provide opportunities for men and women to sit at the same table together and discuss the issues faced within the communities regarding sexual assault.

Yeqox Nilin Justice Society (YNJS), Williams Lake

The *Yeqox Nilin Sexual Violence Victim Support Services Project* is a culturally-focused program that will enhance the current YNJS victim services with a specialized focus on emergency sexual assault response in seven rural, isolated and remote Indigenous communities. The program activities include development and implementation of a Prevention Strategy, establishing a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), working with Health Care Providers to obtain specialized services, and providing cultural and traditional healing activities.

General Services Stream

Alberni Community and Women's Services Society, Port Alberni

The *Sexual Assault Responders Community Initiative (SARCI) Project* will undertake to offer culturally sensitive and trauma-informed services to survivors of sexual assault including emergency response, emotional support and assistance with transportation. The program will also develop a collaborative approach in the region and conduct service gap analyses to identify targeted solutions in the Alberni Valley.

Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society (COEFS), Kelowna

The *COEFS Sexual Assault Response Program* will be enhanced to increase capacity for providing timely, effective and supportive responses to sexual assault survivors. The

program provides crisis response for recent sexual assault survivors including emotional support, safety planning, information, short-term counselling, assistance with forms and referrals, accompaniment to hospital, police or court, after hours response and short-term counselling for survivors.

Islanders Working Against Violence, Salt Spring Island

The *Salt Spring Island Sexual Assault Response Program* will develop a coordinated emergency response to support survivors of sexual assault on the Southern Gulf Islands to have a timely and appropriate access to services including medical, police, legal and counselling. The program will work collaboratively with other organizations, develop a peer support program and conduct outreach to educate the community about sexual assault and consent.

Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre Society, Kamloops

The *Kamloops Violence and Sexual Assault Response Team Project* will enhance services to survivors of sexual assault in Kamloops and surrounding smaller communities. Survivors of sexual assault over the age of 13 can receive immediate, appropriate, 24/7 access to emergency sexual assault services including emotional support, advocacy, systems navigation, information of medical and reporting options, safety planning, and referrals for follow up care and supports.

Ksan House Society, Terrace

The *Ksan Sexual Assault Support Services Project* will enhance services for survivors of sexual assault in Terrace and surrounding communities to add to a wrap around, multi-disciplinary team that will contact clients the moment they enter the hospital, police detachment, or other community organization. The services will provide trauma-informed, emotional and practical support and referrals, and build the partnerships that are required to support survivors of sexual assault.

Nelson Community Services Society, Nelson

The *Nelson Sexual Assault Response Team Phase 2 Project* will enhance coordinated sexual assault response services in the Nelson area through developing after hours services, and raise awareness of sexual assault. The program will engage a SART Program Coordinator to coordinate the overall delivery of SART, its promotional efforts, training needs, and the evaluation of service delivery.

Northern Society for Domestic Peace, Smithers

The *Northern Society for Domestic Peace Emergency Sexual Assault Services Project* will develop and enhance the regional sexual assault response in the northwest. The program will serve Smithers, Houston, the Hazeltons and surrounding remote villages, providing 24/hour crisis response, advocacy, emotional and practical support, referrals, counselling and follow up care for women with current and/or historical lived experience of sexual assault.

PACE Peer Support Services, Vancouver

The *PACE Peer Support Services Project* will address the wide scope of factors that increase intersectional marginalization and risk of violence (including sexual assault) among sex workers in the Downtown Eastside. The project will enhance capacity to provide immediate and long-term wraparound supports for sexual assault survivors who are sex workers through one-on-one case management, trauma-based counselling and

peer support. Services will include health navigation, safety planning, and assistance with reporting.

Prince George Sexual Assault Centre & Elizabeth Fry Society, Prince George

The *Prince George Sexual Assault Response Team (PG SART) Project* will enhance and develop new services for survivors of sexual assault in the Northern region of British Columbia, including remote Indigenous communities. The program will provide trauma informed feminist analysis and support including 24/7 emergency sexual assault response, emotional and short-term crisis support and information, accompaniment to hospital, safety planning, facilitation of Third Party Reporting, and coordination to help survivors navigate system processes.

Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society, Salmon Arm

The *Shuswap Enhanced Emergency Response to Sexual Assault Project* will increase access to dedicated and specialized services for sexual assault survivors in the vast geographical area the Columbia/Shuswap/Secwepemc Region. The program will provide specialized, dedicated wrap around services including information, emotional support and referrals, accompaniment to medical services, police or through the criminal justice system support as well as after-hours support, and support for people not involved with the healthcare or criminal justice system.

Surrey Women's Centre Society (SWC), Surrey

The *SMART- Improving Police Response for Survivors of Sexualized Violence Project* co-locates two community-based victim support workers with the Surrey RCMP's Special Victims Unit. The program will increase the safety and supports for survivors of sexualized violence by increasing the coordination between the Surrey RCMP's Special Victims Unit and SWC's SMART and SMART Van to reach survivors who are reluctant to engage with the criminal justice system.

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre Society, Victoria

The Victoria Sexual Assault Centre (VSAC) Clinic is a single location for recent survivors in the Victoria Region to access emergency sexual assault services and acts as an information hub connecting them to the next steps in their healing process. The *Sexual Assault Clinic Project* will provide coordinated, and compassionate emergency response care to recent survivors of sexual assault, enhance crisis support and outreach to address backlog due to COVID-19 pandemic, enhance outreach to communities made vulnerable through online technologies, and deliver training to staff and volunteers to enhance inclusion and accessibility of the program.

Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre, Vancouver

The *Inclusive Emergency Sexual Assault Response Services Project* will augment WAVAW's newly founded SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) that launched in September 2020, and provide emergency sexual assault support services to survivors of all marginalized genders aged 14+ across Metro Vancouver. Services will include 24/7 support and advocacy for survivors accessing medical care and/or forensic exams at Vancouver General Hospital, crisis support and referrals through the Crisis & Information Line and WAVAW Connect, and assistance with police reporting options.