

## **EVA BC Communities of Practice – Q&A**

### **Q. What is a Community of Practice (CoP)?**

According to the anthropologists who coined the phrase, Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger, “Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly”. A community of practice has three main characteristics:

- 1) The domain: An identity defined by a shared interest and/or expertise (in our case, anti-violence work).
- 2) The community: The relationships between participants. Participants engage in joint discussions, activities, information and resource seeking and sharing, problem solving, learning and networking.
- 3) The practice: Through regular interaction, they develop and improve upon a shared body of resources, tools, documents, policies, best practices, and joint strategies to address shared challenges.

### **Q. What are EVA BC’s Communities of Practice?**

EVA BC has six CoPs for the programs and coordination initiatives under our provincial umbrella:

- Program support CoPs:
  - Stopping the Violence Counselling programs (STVC)
  - Stopping the Violence and Multicultural Outreach programs (STV ORS and MORS) – collectively referred to as Outreach services (ORS)
  - Community-Based Victim Services programs (CBVS)
  - Sexual Assault Service (SAS) programs
- Coordination (CCSS) CoPs
  - Community Coordination
  - Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs)

### **Q. Why a Communities of Practice model?**

EVA BC’s Communities of Practice are intended to better connect frontline anti-violence workers and community partners in order to learn and share with one another to enhance everyone’s knowledge and competency.

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Communities of Practice aim to:

- 1) Develop and increase awareness of best practices, guidelines and current strategies for doing anti-violence and coordination work
- 2) Act as a peer-driven and provincially supported “knowledge base” that anti-violence workers and community partners can draw upon as needed
- 3) Provide a forum for anti-violence workers to network and connect with others doing similar work, thereby lessening isolation
- 4) Provide a means for anti-violence workers and community partners to identify shared issues and concerns and guide strategies to address them, locally and provincially.

### Q. What do EVA BC’S Communities of Practice consist of?

- Program Support CoPs:
  - A dedicated Slack workspace for members to network, ask questions, brainstorm and share information and resources
  - Quarterly CoP Zoom meetings to identify and discuss shared concerns and issues, and to provide opportunities to network
  - Training and group discussions with subject matter experts.
- Coordination (CCSS) CoPs
  - Bi-annual CoP Zoom meetings to identify and discuss shared concerns and issues, to celebrate successes, hear about related EVA BC work, and to provide opportunities to network.

### Q. Who can join EVA BC’s Communities of Practice?

- Program Support CoPs
  - Frontline staff carrying a caseload in Stopping the Violence Counselling programs, Stopping the Violence and Multicultural Outreach programs, Community-Based Victim Services and Sexual Assault Services programs funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and holding a current EVA BC membership are welcome to join the CoP for their program.
- Coordination (CCSS) CoPs
  - Community Coordination CoP: Chairs of coordination initiatives such as Violence Against Women in Relationships/Violence in Relationship and Sexual Assault Coordination committees.
  - ICAT CoP: ICAT co-chairs and ICAT coordinators.

## Q. How do I join a Community of Practice?

If you are eligible to join one of EVA BC's CoPs, please send a message to the relevant email address below, and one of our staff will review your request and follow-up with you.

- Program Support CoPs
  - Contact [programsupport@endingviolence.org](mailto:programsupport@endingviolence.org)
- Coordination CoPs
  - Contact [ccss@endingviolence.org](mailto:ccss@endingviolence.org)