



# **NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES**

**Annual Report 2014-2015**

**Community Justice Division**

**Department of Justice**



## INTRODUCTION

The Community Justice Division provides support and development of victim services at the community level through funding to community based victim service programs.

Recognizing the need for additional victim services programs in Nunavut, Community Justice holds a contribution agreement with Government of Canada's Policy Centre for Victims Issues (PCVI) as part of a five-year contribution agreement (2011-2016). Funding provided has increased the Victim Service team from one to three members, Victim Service Coordinator, Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator and the Victim Care Program Coordinator.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the fiscal year, Nunavut Victim Services made significant progress both in addressing the needs of individual victims of crime in Nunavut and in developing a sustainable framework for victim service delivery within the territory.

First, Nunavut Victim Services promoted a toll-free number (**1-866-456-5216**) and created an email address ([victimservices@gov.nu.ca](mailto:victimservices@gov.nu.ca)) to make Victim Services more accessible to Nunavummiut.

Second, Nunavut Victim Services provided public education and awareness on victim issues. During the 2014 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, the Victim Services staff organized a week-long campaign to raise the profile of victims of crime. The campaign included a multilingual poster that was distributed, presentations at the Nunavut Arctic College Main Campus and the Makkuttukkuvik Youth Centre, and an information booth at the Iqaluit North Mart. Nunavut Victim Services also partnered with PVCI in the development of an information booklet entitled "Abuse is Wrong in Every Culture," which was translated in all four of Nunavut's official languages and distributed to all the communities.

Third, the Nunavut Victim Services staff received important job-related training. In August 2014 and February 2015, the unit attended "Our Life's Journey: Counselling and Peer Support Training" at the Clyde River Ilisaqsivik Centre. During these trainings, Victim Services staff learned culturally relevant counselling theories and techniques to facilitate the delivery of frontline support to Nunavummiut who have been victimized by crime. In October 2014, the unit travelled to Ottawa to attend a "Helping Children" Workshop run by the Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute. This training provided Victim Services staff with useful tools and insights for working with children in crisis. Finally, the Victim

Services Coordinator and Victim Care Coordinator attended the Nunavut-wide "Restorative Justice and Family Group Conferencing" training session that was held in Iqaluit in March 2015. This intensive training provided the Victim Services unit with a strong grounding in Restorative Justice Theory and methodology, and provided important insight as to how the needs of victims can be addressed through Restorative Justice process.

## NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

### VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

The Nunavut Victims of Crime Act establishes the Victims Assistance Fund and provides for the appointment of a Victims Assistance Committee.

### VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

The Victims Assistance Fund is a special purpose fund maintained with revenue from victim fine surcharges. The Victims Assistance Fund does not provide direct financial compensation to individuals but it supports community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime through:

- **Training** geared toward sensitizing and informing community resource workers as to the needs and circumstances of victims of crime;
- **Direct services** that assist victims through crisis response, personal support, follow-up assistance, victim information and systems referral;
- **Public awareness and information** on the rights and responsibilities of victims, available services, the criminal justice system and its procedures and any issues relating to victims of crime, or
- **Research** into and the distribution of information about services to victims and the needs and concerns of victims.

## VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

To ensure all Nunavummiut are represented, three (3) Victims Assistance Committee members are appointed by the Minister of Justice for a three (3) year term. Committee members are respected community members with knowledge of, and experience in dealing with justice and social issues. Each Committee member represents one of three regions in Nunavut. The current Committee members are:

**Rhoda Ungalaq**, of Qikiqtaaluk – Committee Chairperson

**Ken Mulgrew** of Kitikmeot Region

**Cecilia Karlak** of Kivalliq Region

Twice a year a call for proposals is made out to all Nunavut communities. Once proposals are received, the committee thoroughly reviews all submissions and recommends projects to the Minister of Justice for funding.

## VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

The Victim Services Coordinator works with community members and/or organizations as they submit proposals for funding from the Victims Assistance Fund by; providing information, answering questions, and offering support in preparing proposals for submission to the Victims Assistance Committee.

Over the past year, the Coordinator has been working to develop more effective ways of distributing the Victims Assistance Fund, such as creating improved contribution agreement and report writing templates.

The revised contribution agreement was created with departmental lawyers to ensure that the proposed projects and final reports are delivered in a timely manner. The new report writing template makes it easier for applicants who may be unilingual or who do not have formal education to successfully deliver a report on their projects.

The fund guidelines and application were put on the Department of Justice webpage for easy access.

Furthermore, the Victim Services Coordinator has been exploring ways to enhance the roles of the Victims Assistance Committee to better assist in helping victims of crime. This will ensure that the issues surrounding victims of crime are addressed appropriately by the Victims Assistance Fund.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

See Appendix A

## DISBURSEMENTS

Twice a year, a call for proposals for community-based projects is sent out to all municipalities. The following disbursements and projects were approved for funding:

### Project A) Women's Group, Coral Harbour

A carefully planned out program was developed by the Coral Harbour Community Justice Outreach



Worker. This program was geared towards women to help them gain confidence, self-reliance and to live healthy lives. Participants in this program learned sewing and cooking skills, as well as lessons about their rights to live an abuse free life.

Requested amount: \$15,000.00

Coral Harbour Women's Group with finished dolls

### **Project B) Mianiqsijiit Project, Baker Lake**

The Mianiqsijiit Project is a non-profit organization that offers counselling to victims and their families, since 1994. This organization offers their services in both English and Inuktitut and uses both traditional Inuit counseling practices and a Western model. In addition to counseling, the Mianiqsijiit staff also offer support to clients needing assistance through court procedures.

Requested amount: \$15,000.00

### **Project C) Ilisaqsivik Society, Clyde River**

The Ilisaqsivik Society, in partnership with the Clyde River Elder's Committee and Lifeworks Counseling and Training Services Incorporated offers a program entitled '*Our Life's Journey*'. This program is an Inuit specific counselor training and peer support program. It offers training in counseling victims on addictions, trauma, grief and loss, abuse and violence and suicide ideation.

Requested amount: \$15,000.00

### **Project D) Men's Cultural Healing Journey, Cambridge Bay**

The Men's Cultural Healing Journey is a program run by the Cambridge Bay Wellness Center in partnership with Life Works Counseling and Training Services, Incorporated. It is a program that concentrates on male centered concepts that deal with power, authority and responsibility. This program also offers an opportunity for men to participate in a healing journey in a traditional setting out on the land.

Requested amount: \$ 14,850.00

### **Project E) Women's Cultural Healing Journey, Cambridge Bay**

The Women's Cultural Healing Journey is a program run by the Cambridge Bay Wellness Center in partnership with Life Works Counseling and Training Services, Incorporated. It is a program that focuses on concepts such as power, authority and responsibility from a female perspective. This program also offers an opportunity for women to participate in a healing journey in a traditional setting out on the land.

Requested amount: \$ 14,850.00

### **Project F) Kataujaq Society, Rankin Inlet**

The Kataujaq Society is a local incorporated non-profit organization based out of Rankin Inlet. It is the only domestic violence shelter for women and children in the Kivalliq region. Through their proposed project, training will be offered to the shelters staff to enhance the services they provide. This training is based on a program made by Pauktuutit entitled *'Making Our Shelter Strong: Training for Inuit Shelter Workers'*.

Requested amount: \$14,900.00

### **Project G) Healthy Me, Healthy Communities, Iqaluit**

*'Healthy Me, Healthy Communities'* is a program developed by the YWCA Agvvik Shelter. This program provides workshops for residents of the Agvvik shelter as well as residents of the Sivummut shelter for homeless women and children. Workshops will be offered that focus on educating women in sexual health and reproductive rights.

Requested amount: \$14,993.75

## **NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The Department of Justice secured a five year funding from the Federal Government for a pilot project entitled "Nunavut Victims Travel Support Program". The fund enables those impacted by homicide and other violent crimes occurring in Nunavut to travel and participate in certain court proceedings that are held outside their home communities. Each year, \$200,000 is allotted for program provisions which include air travel, accommodation and meals for the duration of a court process. Thus far, the Program has provided an opportunity for 94 victims, family members, and support persons to attend court proceedings outside of their home communities.

## **NUNAVUT VICTIM CARE PROGRAM**

The Nunavut Victim Care Program (Victim Care) is administered through the Victim Services Unit of the Community Justice Division and funded through a contribution agreement with the Federal Government. Its mandate is to increase support and services for victims of crime in Nunavut through direct services to victims, through public education and awareness activities, strategic partnerships with other government and non-government agencies, including the development of a Victim Services policies and procedures manual.

## APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

### Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015

#### **Revenue**

Opening Balance	\$ 264,478.15
Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial	\$ 0.00
Victim Fine Surcharge -- Federal	\$ 50,363.65
Proceeds of Crime	\$0.00
Incomplete Project Refunds	\$ 7,219.46
Interest Accumulated (2013-14)	\$ 2,895.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 324,956.95</b>

#### **Expenditures**

Disbursements – Contribution Agreements	\$ 124,783.20
Honoraria	\$ 150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 124,933.20</b>

**CLOSING BALANCE** **\$ 200,023.75**

*The bank balances will differ from the amounts shown in approved projects because of cheques that have not been cleared from the VAF account. The Coordinator remains in continued communication with the project proponents.*