



Nunavut Victim Services

2022-2023 Annual Report

Community Justice, Department of Justice
Government of Nunavut

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
SECTION 1: NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND	3
NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND	3
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE.....	4
VICTIM PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	5
KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	5
CHALLENGES	7
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND FINANCIAL REPORT.....	7
SECTION 2: NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAINING PROGRAM	7
KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	7
VICTIM CARE COORDINATOR POSITION IN POND INLET	7
TRAINING FOR NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES PERSONNEL	8
TRAINING AND RESOURCES FOR JUSTICE PARTNERS, STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE PUBLIC.....	9
COLLABORATION WITH JUSTICE PARTNERS	10
CHALLENGES	10
SECTION 3: NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM	11
KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	11
PARTICIPATION IN COURT PROCEEDINGS.....	11
COLLABORATION WITH JUSTICE PARTNERS	12
CHALLENGES	13
SECTION 4: NUNAVUT VICTIMS OF CRIME EMERGENCY FUND	13
KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	13
COLLABORATION WITH JUSTICE PARTNERS	14
CHALLENGES	14
SECTION 5: FAMILY INFORMATION LIAISON UNIT	14
KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	14
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SESSIONS	15
PRIVATE FAMILY HEALING SESSIONS.....	15
COLLABORATION WITH JUSTICE PARTNERS	16
CHALLENGES	16
SECTION 6: FUTURE DIRECTION – NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES.....	16
APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT	17

INTRODUCTION

Nunavut Victim Services is part of the Community Justice Division of the Department of Justice. It consists of five main programs:

- 1) Nunavut Victims Assistance Fund, administered by the Victim Program Development Coordinator;
- 2) Nunavut Victim Training Program, administered by the Victim Care Coordinators;
- 3) Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program, administered by the Victim Program Development Coordinator;
- 4) Nunavut Victims of Crime Emergency Fund, administered by the Victim Program Development Coordinator; and
- 5) Family Information Liaison Unit, administered by the Information Referral Coordinator.

In April 2021, Nunavut Victim Services began receiving funding from Justice Canada to provide services and resources to victims and to develop and implement training sessions and educational materials for frontline service providers. The funding from Justice Canada also provides financial assistance to enable victims of crime and their families to travel for court proceedings. The current funding agreement is in effect until March 2026.

As of July 2017, Nunavut Victim Services has been receiving funding from Justice Canada to establish the Family Information Liaison Unit. The Family Information Liaison Unit complements the work of the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) by providing support and services to families affected by MMIWG. The contract between Nunavut Victim Services and Justice Canada is renewed every two years, and, in March 2023, Justice Canada extended its funding commitment until 2025.

Positions under Nunavut Victim Services are funded by both Justice Canada and the Government of Nunavut. Justice Canada funds positions for two Victim Care Coordinators, the Victim Program Development Coordinator, and the Information Referral Coordinator. The Government of Nunavut funds the Victim Services Manager position and provides funding to the Hamlet of Pond Inlet via Contribution Agreement to employ a local Victim Care Coordinator.

SECTION 1: NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

The *Victims of Crime Act* establishes the Nunavut Victims Assistance Fund and provides for the creation of a Victims Assistance Committee to allocate the funds. This part of the report is prepared in accordance with section 10 of the *Victims of Crime Act*, which requires the Committee to report on its

activities at the end of each fiscal year.

The Victims Assistance Fund is a special-purpose fund maintained with revenue from victim fine surcharges imposed under Canada's *Criminal Code*. The Fund was established to support community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime, including:

- **training** aimed at sensitizing community resource workers to the needs and circumstances of victims of crime;
- **direct services** that assist victims with 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; and
- **research projects** on best practices for addressing issues faced by victims of crime across Canada and developing strategies that support Nunavummiut who are victims of crime.

A call for project proposals is typically announced in all Nunavut communities once a year. Victims Assistance Committee members review project proposals and send recommended projects to the Minister of Justice for approval. Because the call out for 2021-2022 was delayed, proposals received in response to that request were considered and developed throughout 2022-2023, and a new call out was not issued during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Victims Assistance Committee is made up of three members appointed by the Minister of Justice to serve for up to three years. Committee members are respected community members with knowledge of and experience in dealing with justice and social issues.

The Victims Assistance Committee members for 2022-2023 are:

- Kendall Greenley-Aknavigak, of the Kitikmeot region;
- Charlene Nichol, of the Kivalliq region; and
- Marie Lucie Uviluq of the Kitikmeot region.

VICTIM PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

The Victims Assistance Fund is administered by the Victim Program Development Coordinator, whose role is to provide support in the following areas:

- **Victims Assistance Committee:** provide training that supports the Committee with carrying out its function and achieving its goals, and maintain an open ongoing platform for Committee members to share information on current issues faced by victims of crime in their respective regions and discuss strategies that address these issues.
- **Victims Assistance Fund Applicants:** support applicants with the proposal- and report-writing process, and assist individuals and/or non-governmental organizations with developing effective projects that align with healing and empowering survivors of crime.
- **Public Awareness:** establish initiatives to raise public awareness about the impacts of victimization and the supports available in Nunavut's communities.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Victims Assistance Committee reviewed seven (7) project proposals in 2022-2023, all of which were recommended to and approved by the Minister. Funding disbursement to applicants began in July 2022.

Approved Victims Assistance Fund Projects 2022-2023

Organization <i>Community</i>	Program Description	Approved Contribution Agreement Amount 2022-2023	Disbursed Funds 2022-2023	Project Status
Qajuqturvik Community Food Centre <i>Iqaluit</i>	Peer advocacy project for women's healing circles. Focusing on knowledge transfer of making traditional crafts and encourage the spirit of Qanuqtuurniq.	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	in progress
Women's Healing Group <i>Pond Inlet</i>	Women's Healing program - offering a safe space for individual counselling with an Elder and group activities that support healing and encourage healthy coping strategies.	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	in progress
Kids Program <i>Pond Inlet</i>	Kids program - offering a safe space for Pond Inlet youth to participate in activities that will develop cultural, traditional, and social skills.	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	in progress
Women's Sewing Group <i>Coral Harbour</i>	Empowering female victims of crime to develop basic sewing skills while supporting mental wellness.	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	in progress
Mothers and Daughters Program <i>Kinngait</i>	Providing a safe space for mothers and daughters to learn how to make patterns and sew parkas, while promoting open healthy relationships.	\$15,000.00	\$6,000.00	in progress
Qanuttuuniq Project <i>Pangnirtung</i>	Knowledge transfer through traditional tool making skills and land-based activities as a form of therapeutic counselling for male young adults.	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	in progress
Paunut Project <i>Pangnirtung</i>	Sewing project. The project will support 2 missions, the priority is to provide warm parkas to victims of crime, and the second is to provide meaningful work for Elders who are isolated due to tuberculosis restrictions.	\$15,000.00	\$13,500.00	in progress
Totals:		\$105,000.00	\$64,500.00	

CHALLENGES

Although the Community Justice Division encourages equal regional representation on the Victims Assistance Committee, the Committee did not have a member from the Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin) region during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The Community Justice Division issued a call out for members from the Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin) region, but the individuals who expressed interest either did not complete the application and appointment process or were ineligible, as it would have conflicted with their professional duties.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

See **Appendix A: Victims Assistance Fund 2022-2023 Financial Report.**

SECTION 2: NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAINING PROGRAM

The Nunavut Victim Training Program was established to increase front-line support and services for victims of crime and to increase awareness and training for service providers through strategic partnerships with other government and non-government agencies. Its purpose is to increase the quality of culturally relevant and safe supports and services for victims of crime in Nunavut and to mitigate the harm caused by crime.

Victim Care Coordinators in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay administer the Nunavut Victim Training Program. These Coordinator positions are funded by Justice Canada. Although the Program's main purpose is to enhance services for victims of crime, Victim Care Coordinators also provide direct support to victims and survivors of crime.

In 2022-2023, the Department of Justice funded an additional Victim Care Coordinator position in Pond Inlet, which is governed by a Contribution Agreement between the Hamlet of Pond Inlet and Department of Justice.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Victim Care Coordinator Position in Pond Inlet

Adding the Victim Care Coordinator position in Pond Inlet has increased direct front-line services for victims and survivors of crime in the community. The Contribution Agreement and partnership between the Department of Justice and Hamlet of Pond Inlet has also encouraged the sustainable expansion of community-based Victim Services programs to residents of Pond Inlet.

Training for Nunavut Victim Services Personnel

In-Person Training

- The Victim Care Coordinator in Pond Inlet received on-the-job orientation, client-support training, and field training from senior Victim Services personnel during their visits to Pond Inlet during court sessions.
- Victim Services staff attended a seven-day certificate program titled “Responding to Trauma and Grief for Indigenous Communities and Organizations”, which was facilitated by the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute Inc. The certificate program included topics such as:
 - “Counselling Strategies for Healing and Resilience”;
 - “Walking with Grief – Helping Others Deal with Loss”;
 - “Vicarious Trauma – Strategies for Resilience, Crisis Response Planning”; and
 - “Critical Incident Group Debriefing”.
- Victim Services staff participated in the Mental Health Trauma Symposium that was hosted by the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Health, Mental Health. The Symposium included various keynote speakers who have engaging and interactive presentations about trauma.
- Victim Care Coordinators attended Embrace Life Council’s full-day training session on “Trauma Informed Practice”, which teaches participants practical skills for supporting individuals who have experienced trauma.

Online Training

Victim Services staff participated in online training programs, including on the following topics:

- Trauma and Trafficking in Tribal Communities: working with Indigenous victims of human trafficking.
- Jordan’s Principle: overview of the program and the application process.
- *Indian Welfare Act*: understanding intersectionality to better advocate for victims of crime.
- Trauma and Attachment: an introduction to intimate partner violence and working with children that witness domestic violence or who have experienced abuse.
- Combatting Online Child Sexual Exploitation: exploring best practices on how to talk to children and youth regarding pornography, and the safety measures that parents and caregivers can implement.
- The True COSTS of Domestic Violence: Financial Fraud and Financial Abuse Confirmation.
- Connected & Protected: strategies to equip children and youth with online safety.

Training and Resources for Justice Partners, Stakeholders, and the Public

In 2022-2023, Nunavut Victim Services personnel travelled to sixteen (16) communities and delivered information sessions and workshops based on each community's needs. The information sessions were for front line service providers such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), community social services workers, mental health consultants, etc. Information sessions and workshops included:

- **Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2022:** Nunavut Victim Services personnel hosted information sessions about Victim Services resources in eight (8) communities (Arctic Bay, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Resolute Bay). Community feasts and barbeques formed a great platform for disseminating information on how the public could access Victim Services resources. Additional comprehensive presentations were held for key community partners to build up and encourage collaborations.
- **Interagency Information Sessions:** Nunavut Victim Services hosted information sessions during community visits to Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Sanikiluaq, Sanirajak, and Taloyoak. The purpose of the sessions was to promote cultural awareness, cultural safety, and trauma-informed practices when working with victims of crime in their various capacities.
- **Healthy Relationships and Consent Issues for Youth:** Nunavut Victim Services gave presentations to grades 9-12 in Baker Lake, Naujaat, and Arviat to address various topics ranging from bullying, sexual consent, healthy relationships, and peer disclosures of sexual assaults. Separate meetings were held with community partners that work with youth to discuss and encourage wrap-around services for youth living in the community. Information and referral processes for remote counselling – such as Mianiqsijit counselling service and Healing by Talking – were also shared during these meetings.
- **RCMP Sexual Assault Investigators Course (Halifax):** Nunavut Victim Services personnel were invited to participate in the Course via pre-recorded video interview. A Victim Care Coordinator was interviewed to highlight the collaboration between the RCMP “V” Division’s personnel regarding support for victims and survivors of sexual assault.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Nunavut Victim Services and the Agvik YWCA co-hosted a knowledge exchange meeting with Iqaluit women’s shelter to raise awareness of the adverse impacts of intimate partner violence and traumatic brain injury.
- **Lunch and Learn Information Sessions:** Nunavut Victim Services personnel presented at the Iqaluit women’s shelter’s lunch and learn information sessions, which support frontline service providers and the general population residing at the shelter.

Collaboration with Justice Partners

Victim Care Coordinators participated in various working groups and initiatives, including:

- **Women’s Safety Working Group:** this Working Group is led by the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Family Services, with participation from the Department of Justice’s Community Justice and Community Corrections Divisions, the Department of Health’s Mental Health Division, Embrace Life Council, the RCMP, Public Prosecution Services Canada (PPSC), and community health representatives. The Group aims to gather information on existing resources that are available for women and to address known gaps in services.
- **Sexual Assault Investigation Review Committee:** this Committee was established by the RCMP in support of Canada's Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence. The Committee provides additional file reviews for sexual assault investigations that are initially considered unfounded.
- **Umingmak Child and Youth Advocacy Centre Case Review Working Group:** this Working Group is led by Umingmak Child and Youth Advocacy Centre to review the Centre’s cases for best practices. Various stakeholders such as the RCMP, the Department of Family Services, and Nunavut Victim Services are invited to review the referral process and make recommendations to improve the Centre’s processes.
- **Embrace Life Council Partnership:** Victim Care Coordinators are working with the Embrace Life Council to develop a podcast on the services and supports that are available to victims of intimate partner violence.
- **Access to Justice Working Group:** this Working Group is led by the Law Society of Nunavut. The Victim Care Coordinator attended multiple meetings throughout the year to assist with the development of a multi-tiered resource handbook for easy-to-access, relevant, and up-to-date information for front-line service providers and the public at large.
- **“Take Back the Night” Event:** this event was held in Cambridge Bay during Mental Health Awareness Week and featured a walk followed by a presentation from front-line agencies.

CHALLENGES

While trying to widen the scope of service delivery, Nunavut Victim Services faced minor challenges stemming from sustainability issues and limited resource availability from other services, such as counselling for victims and survivors of crime.

SECTION 3: NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program provides financial assistance for victims and survivors of crime to travel and participate in court proceedings that are held outside their home communities. This includes financial support for air travel, accommodation, and meals for the duration of the court proceedings. The Program also enables Nunavut Victim Services personnel to travel to various Nunavut communities to provide support for victims and their families before, during, and after court proceedings.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Participation in Court Proceedings

Trauma-informed support is essential to minimize harm and reduce revictimization. Through the Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program, victims are provided with opportunities to choose family members or close friends (support person) to accompany them while they testify and recount their traumatic experience. By having a support person accompanying them, victims and survivors of crime are provided with physically and emotionally safe environments.

The Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program also allows families to attend preliminary hearings, trials, and sentencing hearings for criminal offences such as homicide and attempted homicide. Enabling families to attend these hearings supports them with finding closure by providing them the opportunity to prepare Victim Impact Statements and access information about their loved ones through information shared and decided during the proceeding.

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Victim Program Development Coordinator attended sixteen (16) court circuits in ten (10) communities: Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Sanirajak to provide support to victims and their families before, during, and after the court proceedings. Support and services for families included access to mental wellness support services such as traditional community-based counselors, clergy, and clinical counselors during and after challenging hearings.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, eighteen (18) Nunavummiut travelled to attend court using financial assistance through the Victim Travel Support Program. The clients were from six (6) Nunavut communities: Cambridge Bay, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, and Rankin Inlet. Additionally, clients from two (2) out-of-territory locations – Nova Scotia and New Brunswick – accessed the Program.

Other supports and services offered by the Victim Program Development Coordinator through the Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program include:

- court orientation and court accompaniment;
- educating victims of crime on their rights to information, participation, restitution, and protection;
- advocating for a statement of restitution to be addressed in court proceedings;
- supporting victims to write and present Victim Impact and Community Impact Statements;
- advocating for testimonial aids, where applicable;
- assisting with Peace Bond applications; and
- assisting victims with registering with Correctional Service Canada and the Parole Board of Canada after sentencing has been imposed on an offender.

Collaboration with Justice Partners

The Victim Program Development Coordinator collaborates with staff from the Department of Justice's Corrections Division to notify victims of crime when an incarcerated offender applies for early release or temporary absence for compassionate leave. This is an important service for victims, as it allows them to mentally prepare for an offender's return to the community. For their role, the Victim Program Development Coordinator informs victims of an offender's release and assists each victim with accessing appropriate resources, such as counselling and additional protective measures such as applications for an Emergency Protection Order or Peace Bond.

The Victim Program Development Coordinator and PPSC continue to work in partnership to share accommodation costs for victim witnesses and their support persons to attend and testify in court outside their home community. This is an important partnership as it allows victims to have their support networks alongside them as they recall traumatic events while testifying in court.

Nunavut Victim Services continues to strengthen its partnerships with other Justice stakeholders, such as the RCMP's Major Crime Unit, to enhance Victim Services personnel's ability to disseminate information to victims and their family members regarding ongoing police investigations.

The Victim Program Development Coordinator also maintains collaborations with various partners to offer comprehensive supports and services to victims of crime and their families. These services range from income support and financial assistance, to clinical, community-based, and traditional forms of counselling. Partners include representatives from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Family Services and Department of Health's Mental Health Division, Municipality of Cambridge Bay's Department of Healthy Living, and non-profit organizations such as the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River and Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre in Rankin Inlet.

CHALLENGES

The residual backlog in court proceedings from the COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause delays in court hearings and circuits throughout 2022-2023. However, the Victim Program Development Coordinator continued to support victims of crime and their families through these delays by notifying them of postponements and new court dates as soon as the information became available and ensuring any existing travel arrangements were updated in accordance with new dates.

SECTION 4: NUNAVUT VICTIMS OF CRIME EMERGENCY FUND

The Nunavut Victims of Crime Emergency Fund was established to meet victims' immediate practical needs and offset financial burdens that arise from criminal offences by providing short-term financial support for expenses associated with crime scene clean up, funerals and funeral homes, repatriation, and related travel. The Fund is also available to individuals who have no other financial means, such as private insurance.

The Emergency Fund program will complement Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's bereavement and compassionate supports that it offers to Nunavummiut grieving a loved one.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2022-2023, the Nunavut Victims of Crime Emergency Fund assisted sixteen (16) families from five (5) Nunavut communities – Cambridge Bay, Kinngait, Pond Inlet, Sanikiluaq, and Sanirajak – and three (3) out-of-territory cities – Edmonton, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg.

Fund expenditures assisted with expenses such as:

- emergency shelter in hotels, overnight essentials, and meals for victims of crime;
- crime scene clean ups in three (3) communities;
- replacement flooring and furniture for victims in one (1) community;
- funeral home expenses, including the cost of a casket and hearse funeral transportation;
- airline waybills for repatriation of a loved one to their final resting place;
- the cost of city permits, such as Disinter and Reinter Permits and Casket Disinterment; and
- travel-related expenses for family members to attend a funeral.

Other non-financial supports and services offered to clients include:

- referrals to RCMP Major Crime Units and victim services in other jurisdictions (Ottawa and Edmonton);
- referrals to remote counselling and covering appointment costs;
- assistance with obtaining city permits for casket disinterment; and

- assistance with applications for federal and provincial funding to support victims of crime (this assistance was provided to the families of two homicides victims for homicides that occurred outside Nunavut).

Collaboration with Justice Partners

Nunavut Victim Services personnel worked with the RCMP's Major Crime Unit, Nunavut's Office of the Chief Coroner, the Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Services, and funeral homes in Nunavut and other jurisdictions (Ottawa and Edmonton) to provide wrap-around services for grieving families as they planned for bringing their loved ones to their final resting places.

CHALLENGES

There were operational challenges with the administration of the Nunavut Victims of Crime Emergency Fund related to out-of-territory vendors' procurement processes. Many of these procurement processes were unfamiliar to Victim Services personnel, which caused some inefficiencies and delays while staff familiarized themselves with different jurisdictions' and partners' unique procedures.

SECTION 5: FAMILY INFORMATION LIAISON UNIT

The Nunavut Family Information Liaison Unit is a resource program that was established as a one-stop centre to provide various supports to families of MMIWG. The program is administered by the Information Referral Coordinator.

Supports that can be accessed through the Family Information Liaison Unit program include:

- **Information:** assistance with system navigation for families seeking to access third-party records about their missing or murdered loved ones.
- **Healing Workshops:** referral to and coordination of group and/or individual healing sessions for family members, with options for facilitators from a pool of Elders, therapeutic counsellors, clergy, or clinical psychologists.
- **Celebration of Life:** financial aid to support with coordinating family feasts in commemoration of a loved one.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Family members of MMIWG can access funding and resources through the Family Information Liaison Unit program.

In 2022-2023, the Information Referral Coordinator held information sessions with families from seven (7) communities: Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, Inuvik, Kugaaruk, Pond Inlet, and Taloyoak. The

purpose of the information sessions was to facilitate initial contact between the Information Referral Coordinator and MMIWG families and allow the Coordinator to share information with each family and assess their needs. During information sessions, the Coordinator and families began building foundations for the healing process by exploring ideas on how to move forward with coping with the loss of their loved one.

The Information Referral Coordinator also travelled to five (5) communities – Yellowknife, Cambridge Bay, Arviat, Iqaluit, and Igloolik – to facilitate healing workshops for MMIWG families. Two (2) families from the Kitikmeot region, one (1) family from the Kivalliq region, and two (2) families from the Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin) region attended family healing workshops with Inuit Counsellors. Overall, the Liaison Unit supported over a hundred (100) people from five (5) MMIWG families.

Throughout 2022-2023, the Information Referral Coordinator organized and facilitated various gatherings to meet the needs of families of MMIWG. The Liaison Unit provided funding for the events, travel-related expenses, and honoraria for Elders and cultural health support workers who assisted with counselling. Below are additional highlights of collaborations and successes for 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Restorative Justice Sessions

The Information Referral Coordinator, in partnership with Correctional Service Canada, assisted in the facilitation of restorative justice dialogue/victim-offender mediation. The dialogue was guided by the trained professionals at Community Justice Initiatives, a contracting partner for the Correctional Service Canada. The partnership between Correctional Service Canada and the Family Information Liaison Unit has created a unique pathway for MMIWG families and offenders to engage in dialog that is safe and further supports the healing journeys for families, particularly youth.

Private Family Healing Sessions

The Information Referral Coordinator assisted four (4) families with their private healing sessions. Each family identified which cultural activities they wanted to have incorporated into their healing session and selected the facilitators and coordinators to implement those activities.

One (1) family held a memorial, facilitated by the Clergy, at the cemetery and invited attendees to a celebration of life feast at the Community Parish Hall. There were over thirty (30) family and friends in attendance.

Multiple groups of family members from different communities gathered at a central location for a 5-day healing session. The session was facilitated by an Elder who led a sewing project while an Inuit Counsellor incorporated traditional healing exercises.

The remaining families organized elaborate events for their healing sessions, which included the following components:

- designing and sewing a wall hanging project in memory of their loved one during counselling sessions;

- an on the land ceremony for releasing their pain by burning facial tissue they used during their counselling sessions;
- a visit to the final resting site to adorn it with flowers;
- a community feast to share traditional country food and celebrate the life of their loved one;
- extending an invitation to the offender’s family to join the event, aimed at fostering reconciliation and support the mental wellness of the child left behind.

Collaboration with Justice Partners

The Information Referral Coordinator continues to stay informed about available counselling resources to ensure they can offer clients a bigger pool of options. The Coordinator also maintains good relations with Health and Justice partners, including the Healing by Talking program, community mental health nurses and consultants, and Inuit Counsellors from wellness societies such as the Iliqaqsivik Society in Clyde River, Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre in Rankin Inlet, Healthy Living Centre in Cambridge Bay, and Tukisigiavik Society in Iqaluit.

CHALLENGES

The scope of services offered by the Family Information Liaison Unit program continues to gradually increase in response to MMIWG families’ resource needs in the territory. The challenges faced in accommodating those needs highlight the importance of careful planning, ensuring the availability of adequate resources, and maintaining strong commitments from all stakeholders involved in serving Nunavut’s MMIWG families.

SECTION 6: FUTURE DIRECTION – NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES

The Department of Justice is committed to the advancement of Victim Services and will continue to build momentum going forward. All Victim Services staff continue to build stronger relationships with various Justice partners to offer seamless services and supports to victims and survivors of crime.

APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES: APRIL 1, 2022 – MARCH 31, 2023

Opening Balance		\$ 211,687.56
Revenue		
Interest accumulated (2022-2023)	<u>\$ 5,890.00</u>	
	\$ 5,890.00	
		\$ 217,577.56
Expenditures		
Bank charges	\$ 0.00	
Disbursements – Project	<u>\$ 64,500.00</u>	
	\$ 64,500.00	
Closing Balance		\$ 153,077.56