



NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES

Annual Report 2019-2020

Department of Justice



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INTRODUCTION

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

- 1) Nunavut Victim Assistance Fund, administered by the Victim Services Coordinator;
- 2) Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program, administered by the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator;
- 3) Nunavut Victims Training Program, administered by the Victim Care Coordinator; and
- 4) Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU), administered by the Information Referral Coordinator

Of the four staff positions in Victim Services, the Victim Services Coordinator position is core funded within the GN structure.

Starting April 1, 2016, Victim Services received five-year funding from the federal government's Policy Centre for Victims Issues to develop and implement training sessions and educational materials for frontline service providers, Victim Services staff, and volunteers to effectively respond to victims holistically. This funding also provides financial support to enable victims of crime and their families to travel for court proceedings. As well, this funding also provides salaries and benefits for Victim Care Coordinator and the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator positions. The total amount of this funding is \$2.5 million, or \$500,000 per year.

In July 2017, the Government of Nunavut secured three-year funding totaling \$790,400 from the federal government to establish a Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) that would complement the work of the national Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). This funding is used to support the Information Referral Coordinator position and to support MMIWG families.

SECTION 1: NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

NUNAVUT VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUND

The *Victims of Crime Act* establishes the Nunavut Victim Assistance Fund and provides for the creation of a Victim Assistance Committee (VAC) to allocate the fund.

The Victim Assistance Fund (VAF) is a special purpose fund maintained with revenue from victim fine surcharges. It was established to support community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime. This includes the following:

- **Training** aimed at sensitizing community resource workers 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; and
- **Research projects** on the best practice of addressing issues faced by victims of crime across Canada and the development of strategies that will best support Nunavummiut who have been harmed by crime.
- A call for project proposals is announced in all Nunavut communities twice a year (Spring and Fall). Project proposals are reviewed by VAC members and the recommended projects are sent to the Minister of Justice for approval.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Victim Assistance Committee (VAC) is made up of three members, each representing a region in Nunavut. They are appointed by the Minister of Justice to serve their respective regions for up to three years. VAC members are respected community members with knowledge of and experience in dealing with justice and social issues.

The Committee members for 2019-2020 are:

- Kendall Greenley-Aknavigak, of the Kitikmeot Region

Community Justice, Department of Justice is preparing a Nunavut-wide call out for community members who are interested in Victim Assistance Committee to apply to be appointed by the Minister of Justice.

VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

The Victim Assistance Fund (VAF) is administered by a Victim Service Coordinator. The role of the Coordinator is to provide support in the following areas:

Victim Assistance Committee - provide training which supports the committee's function to achieve their goals; maintain an open ongoing platform for Committee members to share information on current issues faced by victims of crime in their respective regions and to discuss strategies that address these issues.

VAF Applicants - to assist individuals and/or non-governmental organizations to develop effective projects that align with healing and empowering the survivors of crime. Also providing support to applicants with proposal and report writing.

Public Awareness - establish initiatives to raise public awareness about impacts of victimization and the supports available in our communities.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ten projects were approved; however, four projects were completed and funded through contribution agreements, as set out below.

Victims Assistance Fund Projects

Organization/ Community	Program/Description	Approved CA 2019/20	Disbursed Funds 2019/20	Project Status
Seal Skinning Program - Arctic Bay	The instructors combine counselling with a knowledge transferring project	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	Project Successfully Completed
Annaumagasutii - Pangnirtung	Creating a safe space for victimised women to learn a new skill	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	Project Incomplete
Ilitaqsiniq – Nunavut Literacy Council - Rankin Inlet	Supporting female victims of crime. Critical thinking and literacy development programming through traditional knowledge skills such as sewing.	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	Project Successfully Completed
The Kataujaq Society - Rankin Inlet	Supporting and empowering woman. Kataujaq partnered with the spousal abuse program.	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	Project Successfully Completed
Kinngait Performing Arts Club (KPAC) - Kinngait	Helping youth explore their hidden talents and creativity in performing arts	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	Project Successfully Completed
Avaalaqiat Justice Committee - Igloodik	Educating community on the services to victims of Crime.	\$3,525.00	\$1762.50	Project Incomplete
Women’s Support Group - Kimmirut	Support group for women and girls	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	Project Incomplete
Grise Fiord	On-the-land project sharing Inuit traditional Knowledge	\$10,704.00	\$0.00	Project Incomplete
Men’s Group - Taloyoak	On-the-land project sharing Inuit traditional Knowledge	\$14,600.00	\$0.00	Project Incomplete
Arnat Ihuaquikhinnut - Kugluktuk	Supporting victims of domestic violence	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	Project Incomplete
	Totals:	\$114,829.00	\$52,762.50	

CHALLENGES

The Victim Assistance Fund is made up of territorial and federal surcharges collected by the Nunavut Court of Justice. Until recently, federal victim surcharges under the Criminal Code were mandatory. However, in December 2018, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that mandatory federal surcharges were unconstitutional. In response, in March 2018, the federal government introduced Bill C-75. This Bill would amend the Criminal Code to give judges the discretion to order the federal surcharge, but the surcharge would no longer be mandatory.

Note that the Supreme Court decision does not likely affect territorial surcharges. This is because, under the territorial Victims of Crime Act, a judge already has the discretion to waive a surcharge. Moreover, C-75 does not affect territorial surcharges, as that Bill only has to do with surcharges under federal jurisdiction.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Community Justice division is currently working on building capacity on the Victim Assistance Committee, especially to appoint two new members to the Victim Assistance Committee and will review existing funds to determine the best approach in moving forward with future call outs for proposals.

The division will continue to monitor the legislative landscape to ensure that any changes to victim surcharges on a federal level does not negatively impact the ability to fund community-based initiatives.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUND - FINANCIAL REPORT

See Appendix A

NUNAVUT VICTIMS TRAINING PROGRAM

The Nunavut Victims Training Program was formerly known as Nunavut Victim Care Program. The name of the program was changed to reflect the mandate of the program, which is to increase support, training, and services for victims of crime in Nunavut by strategic partnerships with other government and non-government agencies. The purpose of this Program is to increase the quality of culturally relevant and safe support and services for victims of crime in Nunavut and to mitigate the harm caused by crime. The target populations for the Program include, but are not limited to, frontline service providers, victim services team and volunteers.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Training for Victim Services Staff

In addition to providing training to front line service providers, the Nunavut Victims Training Fund financed the professional development of Victim Services staff to access nationally recognized and specialized training tailored for Nunavummiut to address grief and loss, abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, addictions, controlling and hurtful behavior.

In May 2019, two Victim Services staff attended a four-day Missing and Exploited Children's Conference in Winnipeg. This conference provides training for front line service providers to address ongoing issues associated with missing and exploited children and the technology impacting children in Canada.

In June 2019, two Victim Services staff attended the Indigenous Cultural Competency Course in Iqaluit facilitated by the Government of Nunavut. The course provided participants with an overview of the history of Indigenous Canada and the colonization of those nations and training on cultural competence, focusing on the impact of Residential Schools, the resilience of Indigenous Communities and best practices when working with those experiencing intergenerational trauma.

In June 2019 and February 2020, three Victim Services staff attended train-the-trainer course in Iqaluit called Our Children, Our Responsibility organized and developed by Embrace Life Council. This course is specifically developed for Nunavummiut and front-line service providers to recognize the signs of abuse, to appropriately respond to disclosure of child sexual abuse and prevention of abuse. Victim Services staff completed the course and can now facilitate Our Children, Our Responsibility workshops in Nunavut.

In October 2019, November 2019, and January 2020, the Victim Services Coordinator completed the last three modules of Our Life's Journey course facilitated by the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River. This twelve-day course is tailored to Nunavummiut to address various forms of abuse, including domestic violence, and controlling and hurtful behavior. It also equips its participants with tools for culturally

relevant counselling.

In February 2020, two Victim Services staff attended Being Trauma Aware (Train-the-Trainer) workshop in Iqaluit organized by the Umingmak Child Advocacy Centre and facilitated by the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre in association with the Public Health Agency of Canada. Participants from Victim Services became trainers to facilitate workshops discussing different ways for front line service providers to respond to children who have experienced traumatic events.

In March 2020, three Victim Services staff attended a four-day Canadian Domestic Violence Conference in Halifax. This conference is a national knowledge exchange for successful grassroots initiatives that assist victims of intimate partner violence. Participants learned about different, progressive ways of assisting victims of domestic violence, to challenge the current social determinants of domestic violence, and to foster knowledge in bringing about effective interventions and conversations with adults and children dealing with domestic violence.

In March 2020, one Victim Services staff completed several modules of StepWise Child Abuse Investigation Training facilitated by The Forensic Practice Team. This Training was provided to frontline service providers working with children hosted by the Department of Family Services, GN. Participants at this Training received

Training for community partners and the public

The Victim Care Coordinator developed a variety of interactive training packages to deliver to targeted audience using different forums, such as:

- Interagency information sessions to promote cultural awareness, cultural safety and trauma-informed practices when working with victims of crime in their various capacities: Members of interagency group in the communities include RCMP officers, Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs), Mental Health Nurses, Consultants and Counselors, traditional Inuit Counselors, Wellness Centre Counselors Nurses and Health Centre staff, Community Social Services Workers, Community Corrections Officers, Nunavut Arctic College's Student Counselors and local Hamlet staff.

The Victim Care Coordinator visited nine communities; Kugluktuk, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Cambridge Bay, Pond Inlet Gjoa Haven, and Iqaluit to facilitate the interagency information sessions. During these community visits, the Victim Care Coordinator provided training around victims needs and trauma informed practices to front line service providers in the local interagency groups.

- Funding for Community Justice Outreach Workers to attend NU Healing and Learning Together (NUHALT) workshop: Community Justice Outreach Workers from Arviat, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet, Resolute and Sanikiluaq attended NUHALT workshop with funding provided by Nunavut Victims Training Program. NUHALT is a workshop designed to support healthy relationships between service providers and clients through

respectful communication and interaction. It offers many culturally relevant intervention strategies and tools to use in the workplace.

- Collaboration with Nunavut Coroners Training in Iqaluit: Victim Care Coordinator and Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator attended a three-day training course provided for coroners in Nunavut. Victim Services staff provided an overview of Nunavut Victim Services and intersection between the Coroner's office and Victim Services in assisting mutual clients. Coroner's office also shared the policies and guidelines that are in place for investigation which will be helpful for Victim Services staff in dealing with clients. This training highlighted the areas for potential future collaborations for mutual clients to reduce revictimization.
- Information sessions with victims of crime and their families on specific issues: Through self-referrals or referrals from other stakeholders (RCMP, Mental Health, Public Prosecution Services of Canada, and community partners) victims of crime and their families receive information sessions on many issues that affect them in the aftermath of crime.
- Open House/ Information Booth at the Annual Trade Show in Iqaluit: Victim Care Coordinator and other Community Justice staff set up information booth at the annual trade show in Iqaluit. This was an opportunity for information dissemination through pamphlets, fact sheets, booklets, and flash drives with information about Victim Services, *Family Abuse Intervention Act* program and Restorative Justice Diversion Program.

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Victim Care Coordinator canceled community visits and face-to face meetings scheduled with stakeholders and clients when the COVID-19 lockdown was implemented in March 2020. However, during the lockdown, the Victim Care Coordinator continue to provide services by

- Informing clients of updated court dates and postponements
- Providing referrals and counseling resources over the phone
- Preparing safety plans and mitigating risk factors for victims in anticipation of offenders' early releases and releases through bail into their communities

CHALLENGES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Victim Training Program did not reach as many targeted communities as planned. Face to face meetings, presentations and information sharing sessions with clients and stakeholders were also canceled.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Victim Care Coordinator continues to build strong working relationships with various government departments and non-government agencies for the purposes of joint project coordination and a closer collaboration on victim issues. These interagency working groups help identify the priorities and standard of care for victims of crime.

NUNAVUT VICTIMS TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Nunavut Victims Travel Support Program provides financial support 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 court proceedings. The Program also allows for the Victim Travel Support Coordinator 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 the Court Proceedings

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator travelled to four communities (Arctic Bay, Baker Lake, Coral Harbour and Taloyoak) to provide before, during and after support to victims and their families attending court. The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator also assisted victims and their families to access traditional, community-based, and clinical counselling services during challenging hearings and aftercare for families.

Clients were supported in a variety of ways:

- 36 victims and support persons from sixteen Nunavut Communities (Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Sanirajak, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay and Taloyoak) were provided with funding to allow them to attend court proceedings in other communities.
- In addition to clients in Nunavut, the program was accessed by clients from three other locations – Inuvik, Yellowknife, and Ottawa.
- The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator assisted with victims from twelve court proceedings such as preliminary hearings, trials and sentencing hearings at the Nunavut Court of Justice in Iqaluit. The support and services offered include:

- Educating victims of crime on their rights to information, participation, restitution, and protection,
- Advocating for a statement of restitution to be addressed alongside the crime in court proceedings,
- Supporting victims to write and present a Victim Impact Statement and Community Impact statements,
- Advocating for testimonial aids where applicable,
- Peace bond application and court accompaniment,
- Victim registrations with Correctional Services of Canada and Parole Board of Canada post-sentencing.

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Court proceedings in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel lockdown imposed in March 2020. Travel arrangements for victims and families were canceled. However, during the lockdown, the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator continue to provide services by

- Informing clients of updated court dates and postponements
- Providing referrals and counseling resources over the phone
- Preparing safety plans and mitigating risk factors for victims in anticipation of offenders' early releases and releases through bail into their communities

Collaboration with Justice Partners

The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator works in collaboration with staff from the Corrections division of the Department of Justice to notify victims of crime when an offender applies for early release or temporary absence for compassionate leave. This is an important service for the victims, as it allows them to mentally prepare themselves for the offenders' return to the community. The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator informed the victim of the release and assist each victim to access counseling, and additional protective referrals such as the Emergency Protection Order or a Peace Bond application.

The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator and the Public Prosecution Services of Canada (PPSC) worked in partnership to share accommodation cost for the testifying witnesses (victims) and their support persons when testifying outside of the victims' home community. This partnership allowed for victims to have their family members or friends alongside them when recalling traumatic events to provide testimonies during court. As well, this partnership ensured that victims have support networks after the court proceedings end. As well, with the partnership with PPSC, the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator can regularly update victims and their families of

information regarding court processes.

Partnerships with other Justice stakeholders such as the Major Crime Unit of Royal Canadian Mounted Police continues to be strengthened and allows for the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator to disseminate information regarding ongoing police investigations to the victims and their family members.

The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator also collaborated with staff from the Department of Family Services, Department of Health, Mental Health, non-profit organizations such as the Wellness Centre in Cambridge Bay, Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River and Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre in Rankin Inlet to provide income support and financial assistance, mental health clinical counselling, and community based, traditional counselling for victims and their families.

CHALLENGES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, travel for twelve victims and their families were canceled. Victims and families from Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, Iqaluit and Pond Inlet were not able to travel to other communities since court proceedings were also canceled. Funding allocated for travel was not spent fully.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Department of Justice is committed to the advancement of victim services and will continue to build momentum going forth. The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator continues to build stronger relationships with various justice partners to create seamless service and supports for victims of crime.

FAMILY INFORMATION LIAISON UNIT (FILU)

The Family Information Liaison Unit is a new resource for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) families and is intended to help these families access third party information about their missing or murdered loved ones. Other supports provided by the Information Referral Coordinator are referrals to traditional health supports and facilitating meetings between families and the various record holders.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2019/20 was a productive year for Nunavut FILU.

Family members of thirteen women and girls who were deceased and categorized under Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) were able to access funding and resources through Family Information Liaison Unit. Family members and community members from ten communities; Cambridge Bay, Coral Harbour, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kuuujuaq, Naujaat, Pond Inlet and Rankin Inlet and families from two other locations; Ontario, and Alberta received assistance from the Information Referral Coordinator to access information regarding their deceased loved ones and to plan events/ activities for healing.

The Information Referral Coordinator assisted families who attended the National Inquiry for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls by making sure that families were able to access counseling resources after the Inquiry ended. Some families of MMIWG were not able to attend the Inquiry; however, the Information Referral Coordinator also assisted them with referrals to counseling services.

The Information Referral Coordinator organized and facilitated various gatherings listed below to meet their needs. FILU provided funding for the events and the Elders who assisted as counselors.

- Private Family Healing Sessions: families of MMIWG participated in private counseling/ healing events with family members to commemorate their deceased loved ones. Elders were identified by families to facilitate traditional healing practices and families held events such as burial site visits, release of balloons, blessing and cleansing of the crime scene to process their grief.
- Group Healing Workshop: The Information Referral Coordinator partnered with the Manitoba Inuit Association to host a three-day workshop in Rankin Inlet, the Red Amautiit Project. Participants at this Project were family members of MMIWG, and they came together to sew an amautiit in commemoration of their loved ones. An Elder from Rankin Inlet was present at the workshop to facilitate healing process and to create an emotionally safe environment for participants to share their lived experiences.
- Celebration of Life Ceremonies: some families of MMIWG access funding from FILU for memorial services and community feasts to celebrate the life lost. The Information Referral Coordinator facilitated several planning meetings with families to address their needs and concerns. Elders were identified for counseling during these events.

Collaborations with Justice Partners

The Information Referral Coordinator worked together with the members of RCMP Major Crime Unit in Nunavut and the RCMP Advisor to FILU, Contract and Aboriginal Policing to assist MMIWG families to receive clarification regarding unanswered questions and updates on respective investigations. Face to face meetings between the families, the Information Referral Coordinator and identified stakeholders took place in Iqaluit, Igloolik, Coral Harbour and Ottawa.

The Information Referral Coordinator also collaborated with FILU and Coroner's office in Ontario, alongside RCMP members and Forensic Pathologist to provide MMIWG family with information requested.

The information Referral Coordinator referred out and received referrals from indigenous partners including Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI). FILU's positive collaborations with Inuit organizations played an important role in enhancing support for clients, especially if they are out of the territory. Inuit, outside of Nunavut were able to utilize traditional meeting spaces and culturally relevant services through TI.

Additionally, the Coordinator has maintained good relations with other FILU representatives who sit on the Federal/Provincial and Territories (FPT) working group. This has allowed seamless flow of referrals in and out of Nunavut. The group has been a great resource for best practices and the knowledge exchange has been remarkable.

Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, some gatherings and face to face meetings with MMIWG families were postponed.

During the lockdown, the Information Referral Coordinator continue to assist clients and families over the phone to provide referral services.

CHALLENGES

Some gatherings and events were delayed due to weather conditions in the communities. Due to weather constraints, some family members were not able to participate.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Government of Nunavut, Department of Justice is committed to advancement of victim services and will continue to build momentum going forward.

APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2019/20 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures, April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Opening Balance		\$ 157,641.88
Revenue		
Federal Contributions	\$ 101,491.49	
Interest accumulated (2019/20)	<u>\$ 3,608.15</u>	
	\$ 105,099.64	
		\$ 262,741.52
Expenditures		
Disbursements - Contribution Agreements	<u>\$ 52,762.5</u>	
	\$ 52,762.5	
Closing Balance		\$209,979.02