



NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES

Annual Report 2017-2018

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 three 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 Victim Care Program, administered by the Victim Care Coordinator.

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

Starting April 1, 2016, Victims 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.

SECTION 1: NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2017-2018

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

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

The Victims 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.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Victims 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 2017-18 were:

- Rhoda Ungalaq, of the Qikiqtaaluk Region (Chairperson);
- Kendall Greenley-Aknavigak, of the Kitikmeot Region; and
- Cecilia Karlak, of the Kivalliq Region

VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

The role of the Victims Services Coordinator is to provide support to the following:

Victim Assistance Committee – The Victims Services Coordinator provides training to committee members to support the functioning of the committee. The Coordinator also helps committee members share information about current issues faced by victims of crime in their respective regions and discuss strategies to help address these issues.

Victims Assistance Fund Applicants – The Coordinator assists individuals and non-governmental organizations to develop effective projects that support the healing and empowering of survivors of crime. The Coordinator also helps applicants with proposal and report writing.

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

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2017-2018

Ten projects were approved and funded through Contribution Agreements. Seven of the projects were successfully completed in 2017-2018 fiscal year; one was canceled and two were incomplete.

Victims Assistance Fund Projects

Organization/ Community	Program/Description	Approved CA 2016/17 and 2017/18	Disbursed funds 2017/18	Refunds received 2017/18	Project Status
Kataujaq Women's Shelter, Rankin Inlet	Training for Shelter Workers to meet client needs.	\$ 8,665.96	\$ 4,332.98		Project successfully completed
Coral Harbour Women's Group. Coral Harbour	Support for women to gain confidence, self- reliance and knowledge of rights to live abuse free lives	\$ 10,575.00	\$ 10,575.00		Project successfully completed
Women's Healing Group, Arviat	Support for women to live healthy lives, free of violence and abuse	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 832.61	Incomplete project
Naujaat Elder's Counselling, Naujaat	Elder's Counselling. Traditional Counselling and support	\$14,399.74	\$ 8,081.67		Project successfully completed
Kitikmeot Heritage Society (KHS), Cambridge Bay	Training in Self Esteem and Traditional knowledge	\$15,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,500	Incomplete project
Community Justice Committee, Arctic Bay	Traditional Counselling and support for Victims	\$10,519.89	\$ 5,259.95		Project successfully completed
Ingutsijiit Baker's Club Cape Dorset	Youth and Parent Relationship Building	\$12,900.00	\$ 8,629.44	\$ 4,270.56	Project successfully completed
Annaumagasutiit/ Community Justice Committee, Pangnirtung	Counselling and support for Victims	\$ 9,755.85	\$ 4,350.00		Project successfully completed
Arctic Child and Youth Foundation, Iqaluit	Leadership training to support Youth Victims of Abuse	\$10,811.70	\$ 10,458.99		Project successfully completed
			\$ 51,688.03	\$ 12,603.17	

*The Youth Counselling Support Project Proposal was Withdrawn by Community Justice Committee in Pond Inlet - March 1st, 2017.

CHALLENGES

There were no challenges for Nunavut Victims Assistance Fund for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Victim Services Coordinator continues to explore creative communication strategies to encourage community partners and organizations to access Victims Assistance Fund.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT 2017-2018

See Appendix A.

SECTION 2: NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM 2017-2018

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

During 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator travelled to two communities (Gjoa Haven and Pond Inlet) to provide support for victims during court proceedings in their respective communities. The type of support include preparation of victims and their families for court, creating resources and referrals for traditional, clerical, and clinical counselling services during and after court proceedings.

The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator also travelled to Sanikiluaq to provide logistical assistance for a special court hearing that involved 19 victims for a historical sexual assault case.

Clients were supported in a variety of ways:

- The Victim Travel Support Program funded families of victims from seven communities (Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Coral Harbour, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak) to attend court proceedings in Iqaluit.
- Funding was also provided for 3 victims of crime, and their supporting family members residing in Ottawa to attend court hearings in Rankin Inlet on different occasions and 2 victims of crime and their supporting family members residing in Iqaluit to attend court hearings in Pangnirtung.
- A total of 38 family members and victims of crimes were assisted through the Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program.

Victim Care

Victim Services is committed to expanding capacity in areas of care for victims and survivors of crime before, during and after the court process. Victim Services staff created intake forms to systematically organize client information and provide them with information and assistance while victims go through the court process. In addition, the intake forms also allow Victim Services staff to assist clients with providing Victim Impact Statements, community impact statements, and victim registration with the Correctional Services of Canada and Parole Board of Canada. The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator facilitated presentations and discussions with victims for court orientation and information about the Criminal Justice System.

In 2017-2018 fiscal year, Victim Services staff was able to assist 58 clients from 14 communities. Assistance include but not limited to:

- Referrals to Inuit traditional counseling
- Providing information regarding the victims' matter at court
- Creating Victim Impact Statements
- Registering with the Correctional Services of Canada and Parole Board of Canada
- Providing information from the Coroner
- Attending court to support victims and survivors of crime

The communities that Victim Services staff visited were Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Cambridge Bay, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet and Sanikiluaq.

Collaboration with Justice Partners

The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator continues to build stronger relationships with the various justice partners to create seamless services and support for victims of crime. A successful cost sharing initiative was implemented with Public Prosecution Services of Canada. This initiative allows for testifying witnesses to bring supporting family members with them to court. This initiative meets the needs of victims to have close

family member to provide emotional support through tough court proceedings outside of their home communities.

The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator is in discussion for a possible collaboration and partnership with the Corrections division 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 offender's return to the community.

The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator had an opportunity to attend Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2017 Symposium hosted by Policy Center for Victim Issues in Calgary. The Symposium offered resources for participants which will be useful as the National Inquiry for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls will be hosted in Nunavut. The Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator attended two workshops; "Supporting the Loved Ones of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – Collaborative and Promising Practices" and "It Takes a Village: A Homicide Survivor's Dedicated Team of Support" which provided learning opportunities.

CHALLENGES

There were no challenges for Nunavut Victims Travel Support Program in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Funding for Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program will expire on March 31, 2018. Department of Justice is currently looking to secure funding to continue the Program.

SECTION 3: NUNAVUT VICTIM CARE PROGRAM 2017-2018

The purpose of the Nunavut Victim Care Program is to increase support, training, and services for victims of crime in Nunavut, 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 by strategic partnerships with other government and non-government agencies. Victim Care Coordinator provides trainings and awareness of victim issues to front line service providers such as nurses, RCMP, mental health nurses, social workers, and Community Justice Outreach Workers.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Training for Victims Services Staff

Three new staff members were hired for the Victims Care Coordinator and Victims Services Coordinator positions. They received in-house training called Essential Skills for Northern Victim Service Workers as part of their orientation. This training was developed by the Pan Territorial Working Group for Victim Services with a grant from the federal Policy Center for Victim Issues. This training focuses on the basis essential skills that will support the work of a victim service provider using trauma-informed approaches.

In August and September 2017, Victim Services staff also attended a four-day training on Mental Health First Aid and a two-day training on Non-Crisis Intervention Workshop. Both courses were tailored for Government of Nunavut employees assisting primarily Inuit clients. Victim Services staff gained basic skills to initiate help for individuals experiencing mental health issues related to depression, substance abuse, suicidal behavior, anxiety, trauma, self-injury behavior and psychosis.

In October 2017, the Victim Care Coordinator participated in a 12-day intensive course (Our Life Journey: Module 1) offered by the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River. This 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. The Victim Care Coordinator will continue to participate in next modules offered by Ilisaqsivik Society.

In March 2018, Victim Care Coordinator attended a five-day course on Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention Training (SACIT) in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Training provided a great foundation for working with victims of sexual assault, both adult and children. It explores best practices for providing victims with wrap-around services and support which the Victim Care Coordinator will apply in assisting clients.

Development of Training Project Materials

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

- Training for frontline service providers

The Victim Care Coordinator delivered a three-day workshop titled “Trauma Stewardship and Self Care Training” in Rankin Inlet for Community Justice Outreach Workers, Community Justice Specialists, the Family Mediator, and the Victim Service Coordinator. A total of 10 participants attended this workshop in August 2017. In addition to Community Justice staff in Rankin Inlet, Community Justice Outreach Workers and Community Justice Specialists travelled from Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, Igloodik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Pangnirtung and Sanikiluaq to attend the workshop.

- Training provided at Community Justice Territorial Gathering
Victim Services staff worked alongside Community Justice Specialists to provide Community Justice Outreach Workers with information about the Criminal Justice System and victim issues. Victim Care Coordinator facilitated workshops during Territorial Community Justice training and gave participants USBs with informational video explaining the Criminal Justice System in Canada, fact sheets about Canadian Victims Bills of Rights and resources on how to assist victims and survivors of crime. Resources provided to participants were translated in all four official languages.
- Information sessions with various Government Departments who work with victims of crime.
The Victim Care Coordinator facilitated information sessions with GN staff from various departments to provide awareness and resources for victims and survivors of crime. These information sessions were conducted through face to face meetings, and teleconferences with Corrections staff, nurses at the emergency room at the Qikiqtani General Hospital, senior staff members at Department of Education, Mental Health Nurses, and Community Health Representatives at the Department of Health, Community Social Services Workers with the Department of Family Services, Adult Educators at the Nunavut Arctic College and Government Liaison Officers with Department of Executive and Internal Affairs.
- Information sessions with various community partners who work with victims of crime.
Victim Services provided an information session to the Qimaavik Women's Shelter and the Sivummut homeless shelter in Iqaluit. The Quality of Life Secretariat and Embrace Life Council also participated in the information sessions at the shelters. Topics varied from criminal record suspension, navigating the criminal justice system, and resources available for Nunavummiut.
- Information sessions with victims of crime and their families on specific issues
The Victim Care Coordinator received client referrals from RCMP, Mental Health, Public Prosecution Service Canada, and community partners such as Wellness Coordinator and Community Counselors. Such clients are victims of crime looking for information regarding the crime and court processes that impacted their lives. The Victim Care Coordinator provides them with information on the specific details and issues surrounding their cases
- An open house style information booth
Victim Services staff occupied an information booth at the Annual Trade Show in Iqaluit at Arctic Winter Games arena. Victim Services staff was able to provide information and resources that Community Justice offers to Nunavummiut. Pamphlets on Victim Services Programs, *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, Restorative Diversion Program, fact sheets on Canadian Victims Bills of Rights, and USBs with videos explaining court process in all four official languages were provided to attendees.

Similar information booth was also set up by Victim Services staff at Nunavut Arctic College Orientation Day.

Victim Care Coordinator also developed evaluation forms for clients and training participants to provide feedback.

CHALLENGES

There are no challenges for Nunavut Victim Care Program in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Victim Care Coordinator continues to build strong working relationships with various government divisions 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.

APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2017/18 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures, April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Opening Balance		\$ 130,403.68
Revenue		
Federal Contributions	\$ 83,966.81	
Refunds – Contribution Agreements*	\$ 12,603.17	
Interest accumulated (2017/18)	<u>\$ 1,995.78</u>	
	\$ 98,565.76	
		\$ 228,969.44
Expenditures		
Disbursements - Contribution Agreements	<u>\$ 63,458.59</u>	
Closing Balance		\$ 165,510.85

*Refunds - Contribution Agreements, represents the money that was refunded to the VAF Program
Three (3) Projects did not utilize their full funding as per Contribution Agreement

