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Building Nunavut Together
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Community Justice Committee: Restorative Justice Diversion Process

**Community Justice Division
Department of Justice**

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INTRODUCTION

Nunavut Victim Services (NVS) is part of the Community Justice Division of the Department of Justice. It consists of three main programs:

- 1) the Victims Assistance Fund (VAF), administered by the Victim Services Coordinator;
- 2) the Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program (NVTSP), administered by the Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator; and
- 3) the Nunavut Victim Care Program (NVCP), administered by the Victim Care Coordinator.

Of the three staff positions in Nunavut Victim Services, only the Victim Services Coordinator position is core funded within the GN structure. The remaining two positions, Victim Travel Support Program Coordinator and Victim Care Coordinator, are funded by the Government of Canada's Policy Centre for Victims Issues (PCVI) as part of a five-year contribution agreement, which will end on March 31, 2021.

SECTION 1: NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2018-2019

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

The Nunavut *Victims of Crime Act* establishes the Victims Assistance Fund and provides the appointment of a Victims Assistance Committee (VAC).

The Victims Assistance Fund is a purposed 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 through:

Training geared toward sensitizing and informing 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; or

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 that 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 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 current Committee members are: Rhoda Ungalaq, of the Qikiqtaaluk Region and VAC Chairperson; Kendall Greenley-Aknavigak, of the Kitikmeot Region; and Cecilia Karlak, of the Kivalliq Region.

VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

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

Victim Assistance Committee - provide training which supports the committee's function to achieve their goals; a platform for Committee members to share information on current issues faced by victims of crime in their respective regions and to discuss strategies to help 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 2018/19

In 2018/2019 fiscal year, the Coordinator implemented several changes to the application process so that it is more accessible to the applicants. New templates were developed to assist applicants with proposal and report writing.

Translations for these new documents are ongoing. The Contribution Agreement template was revised, with the support from the department's Legal and Constitutional Law Division.

Ten projects were approved and funded through Contribution Agreements as follows:

Victims Assistance Fund Projects for 2018/19 Annual Report

Organization/ Community	Program/Description	Approved CA 2018/19	Cheque instalments cleared in 2018/19	Total funds Disbursed to Projects
Seal Skinning Program, Arctic Bay	The instructors combine counselling with a knowledge transferring project - traditional seal skinning skills	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,500.00
Annaumagasutii, Pangnirtung	This group creates a safe space for victimised women to learn a new skill - making traditional parkas, purses and mitts.	\$15,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,500.00
Iliitaqsiniq – Nunavut Literacy Council Rankin Inlet	To support female victims of crime to develop basic sewing skills to create outer wear clothing for themselves and/or their family members.	\$15,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,500.00
The Kataujaq Society Rankin Inlet	This project focused on supporting and empowering woman in partnership with the spousal abuse program.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Kinngait Performing Arts Club (KPAC) Cape Dorset	Helping youth explore their hidden talents and creativity in the world of performing arts; as a way of coping with victimization	\$15,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,500.00
Avaalaqiat Justice Committee Igloodik	This project's goal is to educate community members on the services the community currently offers to victims of Crime.	\$ 3,525.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,762.50
Women's Support Group Kimmirut	Support group for women and girls who identify as victims of abuse or at risk of abuse, such as sexual, emotional, verbal, mental abuse and of violence.	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Sharing Traditional Knowledge Grise Fiord	On-the-land project which includes counseling, skills building and hands on training that is targeted for men and young men	\$ 10,704.00	\$ 5,352.00	\$ 5,352.00
Men's Group Taloyoak	On-the-land project which includes counseling, skills building and hands on training that is targeted for men and young men	\$14,600.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Arnat Ihuaqulikhinnut Kugluktuk	Support for victims of domestic violence – providing a safe, supportive, informal environment to provide after-care and follow up to victims.	\$15,000	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,500.00
			\$ 12,852.00	\$ 50,114.50

*A total of **\$ 50,114.50** in cheques were issued to the projects in 2018/19. \$12,852.00 was cleared in 2018/19 fiscal while \$ 37,262.50 was cleared in the 2019/20.

CHALLENGES

The Program experienced some delays in appointing new Victim Assistance Committee Members due to staffing issues in the 2017/2018 fiscal year. However, the Coordinator was able to use this time to review and update program procedures.

Community Justice Division foresees some challenges in receiving funding for Nunavut Victims Assistance Fund. NVAF receives funding through surcharges from NCJ to distribute to communities-based initiatives. However, recent changes through Bill C-75 could affect the Judge's decisions and further, affect the funding that NVAF receives through surcharges. Community Justice Division believes that NVAF is unsustainable for long term and could function for no more than a year if alternative funding is not provided for Nunavummiut.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Victim Assistance Fund is at a halt until the Parliament and Government of Nunavut determines whether the Program will receive additional funding. We continue to look for varying avenues to find funding for the Victims Assistance Funds program.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUND - FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-2019

See Appendix A

NUNAVUT VICTIMS TRAINING PROGRAM

Nunavut Victims Training Program is formally known as Nunavut Victim Care Program. The name of the Program has been changed to reflect the mandate of the funding source. The Nunavut Victim Training Program mandate is to increase support and services for victims of crime in Nunavut by providing through strategic partnerships with other government and non-government agencies.

VICTIMS TRAINING PROJECT

The Training Project for Victim Service Providers is administered through the Victim Care Program (VCP) of Community Justice Division, GN Department of Justice. This project is funded through a five-year contribution agreement with the federal government ending March 31st, 2021. Its mandate is to increase the knowledge and quality of support and services that are culturally relevant and safe for victims of crime in Nunavut, hence mitigating the harm caused by crime. The target populations for the Training Project include but are not limited to frontline service providers, victim services team and volunteers.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Training for Victims Service Staff

Two new staff members joined the Nunavut Victims Service Unit in the 2018/19 fiscal year (November 2018) they all received in house training using 6 modules of 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 Policy Center for Victim Issues (PCVI). Each staff member completed their training within the first 3 months from their start date. This training focuses on the basis essential skills that will support the work of a victim service provider utilizing trauma informed approaches.

The Victim Care Coordinator attended the Knowledge Exchange hosted by the Policy Centre for Victim Issues at the Department of Justice Canada on the involvement of adult victims in restorative justice processes in the criminal justice system. The Knowledge Exchange was held in Gatineau on February 5, 2019. The Knowledge Exchange provided an opportunity to share promising practices, experiences and challenges regarding victim engagement and their safe participation in restorative justice processes in order to better support the involvement of, and effectively serve, victims. Participants had an opportunity to identify and share principles, approaches and methods from across Canada that includes victim involvement in restorative justice processes.

The Victim Services Coordinator was enrolled into the specialized training which is highly recommended in his line of work. Our Life's Journey module 5 & 1 is a 12-day intensive course that is offered by Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River, Nunavut. It is a special course that is tailored for Nunavummiut to address abuse, domestic violence, controlling and hurtful behavior. It offers the context to Inuit history and Impact of clinical counselling. It also equips its participants with tools for culturally relevant counselling that is better received by our clients.

The Victim Care Coordinator organized the 3-day training in Iqaluit from the Ottawa Police Victim Services Manager to focus on domestic violence and child sexual assault/exploitation across Nunavut. We are strengthening our staff capabilities with training specific to Victim Services to assist Nunavummiut with best practices and a gold standard of care. Included in the training was trauma, trauma informed care and practice and assisting families who are grieving with the death of a loved one.

Training for Community Partners

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

- One-on-one training for intake staff members of a Child Advocacy Centre - Umingmak Centre, which was created to respond to physically and sexually abused children and youth. Umingmak Centre is a non-profit organization with limited resources and Victim Services supported their training needs by providing the same on-the-job training they give to Victim Service new staff members. Training also included practical field work in cases that involved child witnesses who required advocacy and practical work on supporting the family as they were moving through the multiple systems.
- Personalized training for the new FILU Coordinator to support her work with MMIWG families. The Essential Skills from Northern Victim Service Workers training included:
 - an orientation to the work of the National Inquiry into the MMIWG;

- how Indigenous community partnerships and partnerships with Non-governmental agencies and government agencies are developed, maintained, and strengthened
- communication skills that build trust when engaging with families;
- the importance of cultural safety and how it informs the delivery of culturally responsive practices and services;
- trauma informed approaches when working with families;
- an understanding of vicarious trauma and strategies for self-care;

The Coordinator also attended a 3 days training workshop hosted by the Ottawa Police Victim Services Manager. The training focused on supporting grieving families, the reality of vicarious trauma, the practice of trauma informed client care and debrief & self-care strategies.

- Inter-agency information session to promote cultural awareness, cultural safety and trauma informed practices when working with victims of crime in their various capacities. Members of the inter-agency working groups generally include RCMP Officers, Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs), Mental Health Nurses, Traditional Inuit Counsellors, Wellness Centre Counsellors, Nursing Staff, Community Social Workers, Community Probation Officers, Student Counsellors and Hamlet Staff. The Coordinator was able to visit 15 Communities this year -: Arctic Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Kugaaruk, Igloodik, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Resolute Bay, Sanikiluaq and Taloyoak.
- Information sessions with various Community Partners who work with victims of crime. The Victim Service provided an information session to the Qimaavik Battered Women's Shelter and the Sivummut homeless shelter in Iqaluit. Topics varied from Criminal record suspension to navigating the Justice system how to obtain a pardon. Other community partners are Wellness centers, Quality of life and Embrace life.
- Information sessions with victims of crime and their families on specific issues
Through self-referrals or from other stakeholders (RCMP, Mental Health, Public Prosecution Service Canada, and Community Partners) victims of crime and their families receive information sessions on many issues that affect them in the aftermath of crime.
- An open house style information booth was held at the annual trade show at the Arctic Winter Games arena. The trade show was all about making connections and public education on how to access the support and services offered by Community Justice (CJ) Division. It was an opportunity for information dissemination through pamphlets, fact sheets, booklets and flash drives loaded with the CJ programs, supports and services.

Other materials developed include evaluation forms to measure the effectiveness and quality of training materials that is delivered in knowledge exchanges or trainings that are over a day long.

CHALLENGES

There were no challenges for Nunavut Victims Training Program in 2018-2019 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.

NUNAVUT VICTIMS TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM

In September 2016, the Department of Justice secured a five-year funding from the Federal Government to support victim participation through a program 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, funding is allotted for program provisions which include air travel, accommodation, and meals for the duration of a court process.

In the 2018/19 fiscal year \$114,440 was allotted for program provisions which provided an opportunity for 30 victims and/or support persons (20 families) to attend and or participate in the Justice System.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Participation in the Court

In 2018/2019 fiscal year, thirty (30) persons were beneficiaries of the Nunavut Victims Travel Support Program (NVTSP). Clients were supported in a variety of ways:

- The Program supported families from thirteen (13) Nunavut Communities (Arctic Bay, Cambridge Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Grise Fiord, Cape Dorset, Coral Harbour, Kimmirut, Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Taloyoak and Whale Cove) to attend court proceedings.
- In addition to serving clients in Nunavut, the program was accessed by clients from 4 other jurisdictions – Winnipeg, Ottawa, Inukjuak and Yellowknife. The applicants were victims and/or support persons going to attend court proceedings.
- The Coordinator travelled to 3 communities (Arctic Bay, Gjoa Haven, Pond Inlet and Sanikiluaq) to provide support for victims/ survivors of homicide during the court process in their respective community. The Coordinator assisted in victims and families preparation for court, accessing resources such as traditional, clerical and clinical counseling services during and after the court proceeding so that victims and families could navigate challenging information. Early intervention with support allows survivors to better understand the Nunavut Justice System and the logic behind change of venue applications.
- The Coordinator continues to offer information session on the justice system, court orientation and support with Victim Impact Statements, community impact statements, victim registrations with Correctional Services of Canada and Parole Board of Canada post-sentencing.

Collaboration with Justice Partners

As a part of the aftercare program, the Coordinator has partnered with Correction Division Staff to notifying victims of crime when an offender applies for early releases and/or temporary absence for compassionate leave. This line of communication is a necessary service to the victims of crime as the offender are returning to their home communities which are very small and are most likely to encounter the victims at the airport. The notifications have thus far allowed the Coordinator to mentally prepare the victims of crime before the release dates. The process is still in the trial phases.

The Coordinator had an opportunity to attend a knowledge exchange workshop that was hosted by the Greenlandic Government. Both Nunavut and the Greenlandic governments serve the Inuit people and share a lot of key similarities. The 4 Day workshop provided a learning opportunity to discuss best practices in addressing sexual abuse, health services and cross-sectional cooperation in the community justice sector. Discussions included

- Killiliisa – The Government of Greenland’s Strategy Against Sexual Abuse 2018-2022 presentation,
- Saaffik + Janus Centret + Training Models for Greenlandic staff - Frontline work on sexual abuse presentation,
- Nakuusas campaign against sexual abuse “Ullut Tamaasa” presentation,
- The Greenlandic Travelling Team for adults who suffer consequences of childhood sexual abuse presentation
- Preventive and Family consultation model
- Sharing accommodation cost with Public Prosecution Services of Canada when they support a testifying witness while we provide for the support person. These efforts yield a favorable outcome, a confident witness whose emotional needs are met by their natural support network for continued support when they return to their home community.
- Facilitate family meetings for ongoing police investigation (RCMP); court cases – with the Crown and /or the Crown Witness Coordinator, with Department of Family Services and Setting up referral with Mental Health.

CHALLENGES

There were no challenges for Nunavut Victim Travel Support Program in 2018-2019 fiscal year.

FUTURE DIRECTION

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

FAMILY INFORMATION LIAISON UNIT (FILU)

In July 2017 The Government of Nunavut secured a 3 years funding 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). FILU is a new resource for MMIWG families and is intended to assist families in accessing third party information about their missing or murdered loved one. This fund will support work of an Information Referral Coordinator (IRC), which will sunset March 2020.

This position provides a centralized, coordinated mechanism for families to access requested information relating to the loss of their loved one from multiple government sources. Other supports provided by the Coordinator are referrals to traditional health supports and facilitating meetings between families and the various record holders.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2018/19 was a productive year for NU FILU. 13 MMIWG families (29 people) accessed FILU services from 11 NU Communities (Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Nauyasat, Pond Inlet and Rankin Inlet); and from 4 other Jurisdictions (Ontario, Newfoundland, Quebec and Manitoba). Their requested services and supports varied from one family to another. The desired outcome was achieved as FILU facilitated with the delivery of key information in a culturally responsive and trauma-informed manner which will go a long way in assisting families in their healing journey.

Recruitment

FILU work was supported under the umbrella of Nunavut Victim Services for the first three quarter of 2018/19. The position was filled, and Coordinator received in house training from a Victim Service Staff member who had maintained the portfolio.

Collaborations

RCMP Advisor to Family Information Liaison Unit FILU Contracts and Aboriginal Policing Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls Inquiry (MMIWG) worked with Nunavut FILU to support with outreach and notification to families whose file had been subpoenaed by the MMIWG National Inquiry Commissioners. Supports were put in place for 9 clients who were victimized in Nunavut Communities, who had relocated various locations throughout Canada (in Nunavut -1 client in Arviat, 2 client in Rankin Inlet, 2 clients in Iqaluit; In Ontario - 2 clients in Ottawa, 1 client in Oakville and 1 client in Happy Valley, Goose Bay, NFLD).

FILU continues to work very closely with the RCMP V-Division, Major Crimes Unit, providing services such as

- Facilitating family meetings to provide information and status updates on investigations into murdered women - 2 families in Iqaluit and 1 family in Gjoa Haven;
- Supporting families through video statement taking for minors who have witnessed violent crimes (homicides) or abused minors.

FILU Coordinator referred out and received referrals from indigenous partners namely the Inuit Organization, Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI), Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI).

FILU's interactions with the above-mentioned organisations played an important role in enhancing the friendly and familiar supports to our clients. Many families have been linked to culturally relevant services.

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 and other jurisdictions on 6 occasions during this fiscal year. Nunavut FILU received great support from the FPT working group while working on a complicated missing person case. The group has been a great source sharing best practice tools and the knowledge exchange is remarkable.

Training

The new Information Referral Coordinator was hired on 12 November 2019. She received some in-house training to support her work with MMIWG families. The Essential Skills from Northern Victim Service Workers training included:

- an orientation to the work of the National Inquiry into the MMIWG;
- how Indigenous community partnerships and partnerships with Non-governmental agencies and government agencies are developed, maintained, and strengthened
- communication skills that build trust when engaging with families;
- the importance of cultural safety and how it informs the delivery of culturally responsive practises and services;
- trauma informed approaches when working with families;
- an understanding of vicarious trauma and strategies for self-care;

The Coordinator also attended a 3 days training workshop hosted by the Ottawa Police Victim Services Manager. The training focused on supporting grieving families, the reality of vicarious trauma, the practice of trauma informed client care and debrief & self-care strategies.

CHALLENGES

A delay in securing a FILU Coordinator resulted in less work being accomplished as the program had to rely on Victim Services staff to provide services and the 2018/19 budget was not fully utilized.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Funding received for FILU position expires on March 31, 2019. Community Justice Division, Dept. of Justice GN continues to find and secure funding to continue the position to serve Nunavummiut

APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2018/19 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures, April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

Opening Balance		\$ 165,510.85
Revenue		
Federal Contributions	\$ 2,094.87	
Proceeds of Crime	\$ 0.00	
Interest accumulated (2018/19)	<u>\$ 3,438.16</u>	
	\$ 5,533.03	<u>\$ 5,533.03</u>
		\$ 171,043.88
Expenditures		
Disbursements		
Contribution Agreements	\$ 12,852.00	
Contribution Agreements*	\$ 37,262.50	
Honorarium	<u>\$ 550.00</u>	
	\$ 50,664.50	\$ 50,664.50
Closing Balance		\$ 157,641.88

*Contribution Agreements – represents the cheques that were issued in 2018/19 fiscal **BUT** were not cleared in 2018/19. The Coordinator has been in communication with the recipients and expects a more accurate representation of funds once these cheques have been cleared.