



NUNAVUT VICTIM SERVICES

Annual Report 2016/17

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 sunset on March 31st, 2021.

SECTION 1: NUNAVUT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2016-2017

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; Pamela Anne Hakongak-Gross, 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 2016/17

In the 2016/17 fiscal year, improvements were made to make the application process more user-friendly. 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.

A public service announcement was published inviting applications, from the Kitikmeot and Baffin regions, to the Victim Assistance Committee. On June 20, 2016, Pamela Anne Hakongak-Gross was appointed to represent the Kitikmeot region and Rhoda Ungalaq was reinstated to represent the Baffin region.

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

Women's Counselling and Sewing Program, Arctic Bay - Amount approved: \$10,519

The program offers a safe space for participants to receive traditional Inuit counselling and emotional support from Elders. The Elders combined counselling with a knowledge transferring project, teaching traditional seal skin mitts sewing skills and forging healthy relationships and connections.



Women’s Healing Group, Arviat - Amount approved: \$7,500

Kivalliq Counselling and Support Services developed a project for a women’s counselling and discussion group. This group created a safe space for women who were victims of crime, including domestic abuse to share their personal experiences with the participants and to provide each other with support. The program also included sewing and preparation of traditional Inuit country food.

Women’s Group, Coral Harbour - Approved amount: \$10,575

This program was geared towards helping women regain confidence, self-reliance and to live a healthy lifestyle. Participants learned sewing skills, and were empowered to heal and pursue their journey towards wellness. Guest speakers from the community were brought in to talk about domestic violence and its psychological and physical effects, along with the impact it has on children and families.

Ingutsijit (Bakers’) Group, Cape Dorset - Amount approved: \$12,900

This group designed a program encouraging at-risk youth to learn about healthy nutrition by baking delicious and nutritious snacks. The aim of the project was to provide at-risk youth with a positive experience learning life skills to increase self-esteem, while steering them away from a life of crime.

Naujaat Elder’s Counsellor Training - Amount approved: \$12,636

The project trained local Elders in the community to further strengthen their counselling skills in offering emotional support and guidance. Following the project, the participants would be equipped to provide support to the community members in need. The project was directed with the assistance of two Elder counsellors from Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River.

Peer Leader Mental Health Program, Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk - Amount approved: \$10,811

Arctic Children & Youth Foundation offered an innovative training program for 15 youth ages 14-21 from various communities, to build their capacity as peer leaders. The participants gained knowledge on how to provide emotional support, be conduits to facilitate reporting of disclosures to authorities and to be self-aware of their own mental health.

Patterns of Change, Cambridge Bay - Amount approved: \$15,000

The program taught youth to make healthy life choices through traditional Inuinait Atigi making and an intergenerational sewing program for Elders and youth that promotes Elders’ traditional knowledge, Inuit values, encourages the use of Inuinnaqtun, in order to foster healthy relationships across generations.

Healthy Healing, the Annaumagasutiit Program, Pangnirtung - Amount approved: \$8,700

This program was developed for victims of crime to learn or enhance their sewing skills using seal skin and other furs. Participants also assisted Elders by removing snow from their porches and steps and delivering traditional country foods from local hunters. During their time with the Elders, the participants would receive support, counselling and guidance.

Meals to Pond Inlet, Pond Inlet - Amount approved: \$10,000

A cooking program was developed to create a safe space for high school students who have been victimized or are witnesses to crimes to learn cooking skills, receive emotional support and have a chance to participate in a positive activity. The participants also made a contribution to the community by donating the meals they prepared to the local food bank.



CHALLENGES

The Program experienced some delays in appointing new Victim Assistance Committee Members due to staffing issues in the 2016/2017 fiscal year. However, the Coordinator was able to use this time to review and update program procedures.

FUTURE DIRECTION

The Victim Services Coordinator continues to explore creative communication strategies to encourage participation from all communities.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE FUND - FINANCIAL REPORT 2016-2017

See Appendix A

SECTION 2: NUNAVUT VICTIM TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM 2016-2017

In September 2016, the Government of Nunavut secured a five-year funding agreement from the federal government to continue supporting the Nunavut Victims Travel Support Program. The fund enables those impacted by homicide and other violent crimes in Nunavut to travel and participate in court proceedings that are held outside their home communities. Each year, \$120,000 is allotted for program provisions which include air travel, accommodation and meals for the duration of a court process. The Program provided an opportunity for 47 victims, family members, and support persons to attend court proceedings outside of their home communities.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Program supported families from seven Nunavut Communities - Cape Dorset, Igloolik, Kimmirut, Naujaat, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet and Sanikiluaq.

Victims Services collaborated with the Public Prosecution Services of Canada for the use of close circuit television (CCTV) to present Victim Impact Statements and reducing the number of support persons to one per court proceeding. In three separate instances, the Program Coordinator traveled to the communities to organize the venue and video conferencing logistics as well as support the families attending court.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Victim Services continues to develop educational resources and guidelines for clients to understand their rights and the importance of their participation in the Justice System at various stages of hearings in a criminal case. This initiative has increased the number of clients submitting Victim Impact



Statements during the sentence hearings and victim registrations with Correctional Services of Canada and Parole Board of Canada post-sentencing.

SECTION 3: NUNAVUT VICTIM CARE PROGRAM 2016/17

The Nunavut Victim Care 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.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Training

The training budget was largely invested in the Coordinator, who was then able to train volunteers and Community Justice Outreach Workers (CJOWs). The two main areas of concern in Nunavut are: working with victims of sexual assaults and supporting victims of crime who report suicidal ideation.

Victim Care

The Nunavut Victim Care Program has streamlined the intake process and delivery of services. New tools such as a generic email address and a toll-free telephone number have been implemented so that all three Victim Service Coordinators are able to access and respond to clients' request in a timely fashion. Through collaborations with the RCMP, Victim Service's toll-free number is advertised at the back of the RCMP officer's business cards which have increased self-referral to victim services. In the 2016/17 fiscal year NVS was able to directly assist 41 clients from 12 communities - Qikiqtarjuaq, Cape Dorset, Grise Fiord, Igloodik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, Coral Harbour, Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven.

The video "Understanding the Nunavut Court Process", was officially launched in May 2016. It visually demonstrates, through the lens of the victim and witness, the step by step court process. The video is a collaborative between Victim Services and the Law Society of Nunavut and has been translated in all four languages. NVS continues to use the video as an educational tool for victims and witnesses; family members; and incoming volunteers and frontline services providers who are new to the court system. The video has also been distributed to schools and local libraries.

FUTURE DIRECTION

Moving forward, Nunavut Victim Services Unit envisions stronger partnerships and formal Protocols with RCMP, PPSC and Mental Health as they have proved to be vital partners.



APPENDIX A: VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND 2016/17 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures, April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Revenue

Opening Balance	\$150,443.67
Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial	\$0.00
Victim Fine Surcharge -- Federal	\$31,259.61
Proceeds of Crime	\$0.00
Interest Accumulated (2016-17)	\$1358.80
Total	\$183,062.08

Expenditures

Disbursements – Contribution Agreements	\$60,060.32*
Total	\$60,060.32

CLOSING BALANCE **\$123,001.76**

*A total of \$98,641 was approved for the 10 projects listed form pages 4 to 5 of this report. However, the projects began towards the end of the 2016/17 fiscal year, and as a result, the full \$\$98,641 was not yet paid out or used up before the end of the fiscal year.

The bank balances will differ from the amounts shown in approved projects because of cheques that have not been cleared. The Coordinator has been in communication with the recipients and expects a more accurate representation of funds once these cheques have been cleared.

