



**Part 1- Twentieth Annual Report  
of the Victims Assistance  
Committee of the Northwest  
Territories  
April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009**



May 14, 2009

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty  
Minister of Justice

Dear Mr. Lafferty:

**Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report**

On behalf of the Victims Assistance Committee, I am pleased to present Part 1 of the annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009, and thereby meeting our legislative requirement as per section 10 (1) of the *Victims of Crime Act*.

Part 1 of the Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report details the disbursements from the Victims Assistance Fund (VAF) and the activities supported by these disbursements. Part 2 of the Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report, to be filed at a later date, will detail the activities of the NWT community-based victim services programs between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.

As the Committee chairperson, I would like to thank Committee members Bridget Larocque and Faye Noksana for their commitment to meeting the needs and concerns of victims of crime in the NWT.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nora Wedzin', written in a cursive style.

Nora Wedzin  
Chairperson

# **Victims Assistance Committee**

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## ***VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT***

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

## **VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND**

The VAF is a special-purpose fund maintained with revenue from victim fine surcharges. The VAF does not provide direct financial compensation to individuals but supports community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime through:

- Training to sensitize and inform community resource workers about the needs and circumstances of victims of crime;
- Direct services that assist victims through crisis response, personal support, follow-up assistance, victim information and referrals;
- 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;
- Research into the needs and concerns of victims; and
- Distribution of victim services information.

## **VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

Committee members are appointed for three-year terms to make recommendations to the Minister of Justice on policies regarding the needs and concerns of victims of crime and on distribution of the VAF.

The Committee's objective is to maintain and offer on-going support to comprehensive community services including, but not limited to, victim support and assistance, coordination of criminal justice and community intervention and training of staff and/or volunteers. Where a full-service agency is not feasible, the Committee supports innovative community-based workshops and projects to provide support to victims of crime.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Committee meets monthly or as needed to review proposals and project reports. The Minister approved Committee recommendations for contributions amounting to \$43,298.00 in 2008-09

## Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Balance from 2007-08	\$93,572.59
Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial	\$41,851.10
Victim Fine Surcharges – Federal	\$28,929.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$164,352.86</b>

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Disbursements (see detailed listing below)	\$43,298.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43,298.00</b>

<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>\$121,054.86</b>
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## VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND DISBURSEMENTS

April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

### **YWCA of Yellowknife** **\$20,200.00**

- *Direct Services & Awareness:* Towards the cost of conducting group counselling programs for children about family violence, April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009.

### **YWCA of Yellowknife** **\$10,692.00**

- *Training:* Towards the costs to send 5 delegates from 4 communities (Inuvik, Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith) to the First World Conference on Women's Shelters, September 8 – 11, 2008, in Edmonton, Alberta.

### **Native Women's Association of the NWT** **\$4,006.00**

- *Training:* Towards the costs to send the Yellowknife Victim Services Program Worker to attend the Grief Recovery Certification Training Program, February 20 – 24, 2009 in Edmonton, Alberta.

### **Status of Women Council of the NWT** **\$8,400.00**

- *Information and Awareness:* Towards the costs for media strategy development and production and for advertising airtime to promote the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual NWT Family Violence Awareness Week, October 5 – 11, 2008.