



**Part 1- 23rd Annual Report of the
Victims Assistance Committee
of the Northwest Territories
April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012**



May 8, 2012

The Honourable Glen Abernethy
Minister of Justice

Dear Mr. Abernethy:

Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report

On behalf of the Victims Assistance Committee, I am pleased to present Part 1 of the 23rd annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012, 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, 2011 and March 31, 2012.

As the committee chairperson, I would like to thank fellow committee members Florence Barnaby and Alexandra Smith for their commitment to meeting the needs and concerns of victims of crime in the NWT.

Together, we look forward to continuing to support victims of crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bridget Larocque".

Bridget Larocque
Chairperson

Victims Assistance Committee

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 about policies regarding the needs and concerns of victims of crime and about distribution of the VAF.

The committee's objective is to maintain and offer ongoing 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 \$96,952.00 in 2010-11.

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

| <i>Revenue</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance from 2010-11 | \$143,240.63 |
| Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial | \$65,605.45 |
| Victim Fine Surcharges – Federal | \$77,635.18 |
| Total | \$286,481.26 |

| <i>Expenditures</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|--|--------------------|
| Disbursements (see detailed listing below) | \$96,952.00 |
| Total | \$96,952.00 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| BALANCE FORWARD | \$147,749.97 |
|------------------------|---------------------|

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND DISBURSEMENTS

April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012

Native Women's Association of the NWT **\$67,220.00**

- *Direct services:* Towards the salary costs for the Yellowknife Victim Services Program Worker to provide direct services to victims of crime in Yellowknife and surrounding area.

Status of Women Council of the NWT **\$13,800.00**

- *Information and Awareness:* Towards the costs for promotion, advertising and the media campaign to promote the 10th Annual NWT Family Violence Awareness Week, 2010.

Native Women's Association of the NWT **\$15,932.00**

- *Training:* Towards the costs to hire on short-term contract, a victim services volunteer training coordinator to recruit, screen and train victim services volunteers to provide direct services, after hours and on weekends, to victims of crime in Yellowknife and surrounding area.