



24th Annual Report of the Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories

2012-2013



October 3, 2013

The Honourable Glen Abernethy, Minister of Justice

Dear Mr. Abernethy:

Victims Assistance Committee (VAC) Annual Report

On behalf of the Victims Assistance Committee, I am pleased to present the 24th annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013, thereby meeting our legislative requirement as per section 10 (1) of the *Victims of Crime Act*.

The membership, funding recommendations, and Ministerial approvals for disbursements from the Victims' Assistance Fund (VAF) and resulting activities supported by the disbursements are documented in this report.

As the VAC Chairperson, I would like to thank the other members of the committee whom you have appointed for their knowledge, experience, skill, and commitment in reviewing community proposals to the Victims Assistance Fund (VAF) and in making funding recommendations for your approval. The other members are: Florence Barnaby of Fort Good Hope and Gladys MacPherson of Fort Smith.

The committee members make recommendations to the Minister for disbursement of funding from the VAF. Our shared goal is to make the best use of funds to serve persons harmed by crime in the NWT and to help them to regain trust and hope for their futures through community programs and project initiatives that support their needs.

With your continuing guidance, we look forward to working with you through the GNWT Department of Justice to reduce crime and the long-term negative effects of experiencing crime and to address the needs and priorities of victims of crime and their families.

Sincerely,



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 from territorial and federal courts. The VAF 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, 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 other issues relating to victims of crime;
- Research into the needs and concerns of victims;
- Distribution of victim services information and;
- Promotion of services for victims.

The VAF does not provide direct financial compensation to individual victims or their families. The VAF mandate does not include funding proposals or projects from private businesses. As this is a revolving fund based on victim of crime surcharges from the NWT and Federal Courts, the amounts vary and available funds are limited at times.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

Committee members are appointed for three-year terms to make recommendations to the Minister of Justice about priorities and policies regarding the needs and concerns of victims of crime and about disbursements from the revolving Victims Assistance Fund.

The committee's objective is to support comprehensive community services including, but not limited to, victim support, information and assistance, coordination of criminal justice and community justice interventions, and training in best practices of staff and/or volunteers in how to best meet the needs of victims. Where a full-service agency is not feasible, the committee supports innovative and community-based workshops, events, and projects to provide support to victims of crime and to raise awareness in the community of the impact of crime on victims.

VAC Members and Terms of Office:	Appointed	Expires
Chairperson: Bridget Larocque of Inuvik	01 August 2011	31 July 2014
Member: Florence Barnaby of Fort Good Hope	01 April 2010	31 March 2013
3-year reappointment effective	22 August 2013	21 August 2016
Member: Gladys MacPherson of Fort Smith	11 August 2012	10 August 2015

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings were held in the months of: April, May, June, August, September, January and February. The committee meets by teleconference monthly or as needed to review proposals, plan how to best meet its mandate, and to approve reports on its activities. There are planning meetings with the Minister of Justice as required. Administration is carried out by the Manager, NWT Victim Services, and other staff of the Department of Justice and the Department of Human Resources.

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures represents VAF activity for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year are referenced in Appendix "A"

Appendix "A"

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial – Fund 19	
Opening Balance from 2011-2012	\$91,197.96
Total Revenue	\$62,619.78
Total Disbursements	\$(99,795.00)
Victim Fine Surcharges – Federal – Fund 20	
Opening Balance from 2011-2012	\$56,552.01
Total Revenue	\$39,440.82
Total Disbursements	\$0.00
Total Opening Balance Fund 19 and 20	\$147,749.97
Total Revenue Fund 19 and 20	\$102,060.60
Total Disbursements Fund 19 and 20	\$(99,795.00)
BALANCE FORWARD	\$150,015.57

Appendix “B”

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND PROPOSAL DISBURSEMENTS

For April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013 Fiscal Year

Native Women’s Association of the NWT **\$67,220.00**
Direct services: Towards the salary costs for the Yellowknife Victim Services Program Outreach Worker to provide direct services to victims of crime in Yellowknife and surrounding area including Dettah, Lutsel K’e, N’dilo and to victims from other NWT communities who travel to Yellowknife to receive medical and legal services

Status of Women Council of the NWT **\$19,550.00**
Information and Awareness: Towards the costs for promotion, advertising, and the media campaign to promote the 11th Annual NWT Family Violence Awareness Week, 2012, with the theme “Stand With Us/Stop Family Violence”

Training: Compassion Fatigue **\$3,600.00**
“Walking the Walk: Creative Tools for Transforming Compassion Fatigue and Vicarious Trauma Workshop

K’asho Got’ine Charter Community Council **\$9,425.00**
Information and Awareness: Community awareness activities for Family Violence Awareness Week

TOTAL **\$99,795.00**

INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS

Proposals can be submitted on-line, through Canada Post, or in-person to the Community Justice & Policing Division of the GNWT Department of Justice:

For “Application Guidelines” go the following link:

<http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/VictimServices/documents/VAFFundingGuidelines.pdf>

For “Projects Applications” go to the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/pdf/VictimsServices/victim_project.pdf

For “Training & Development Applications” go to the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/pdf/VictimsServices/victim_training.pdf

Mailing Address:

Community Justice & Policing Division
PO Box 1320, 5th Floor, Court House
4903 – 49th Street
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Contact Person for More Information:

Ruth McKeown, Manager, NWT Victim Services
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OR

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