

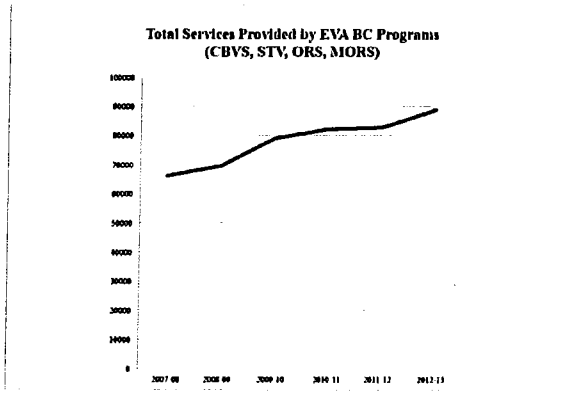
ENDING VIOLENCE

Association of BC

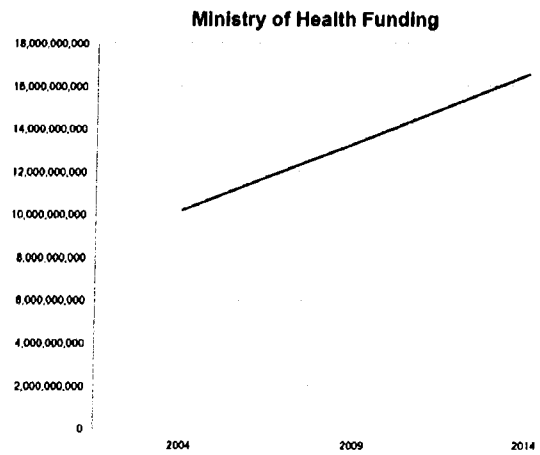
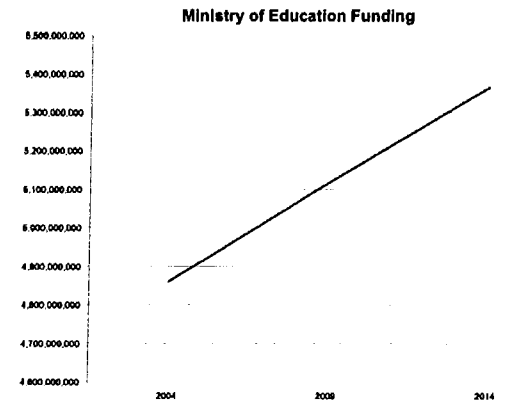
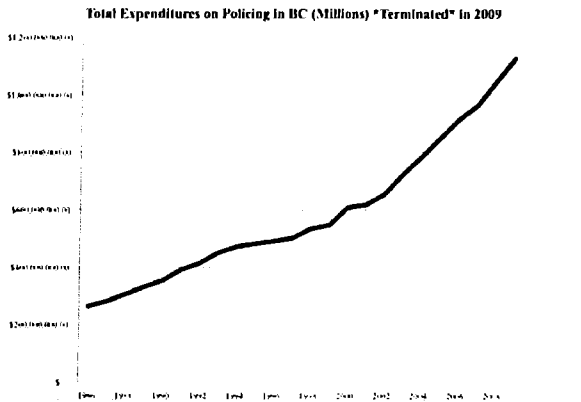
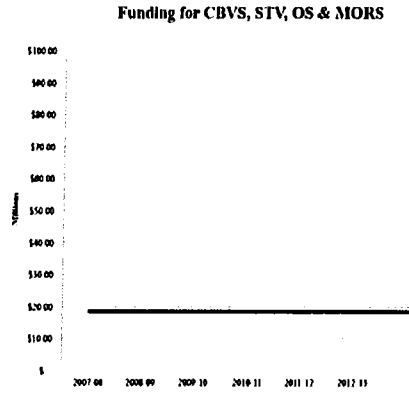
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2017
Violence Against Women in BC:
Urgent Issues and Costing

Overview of Disparity



Stopping the Violence Counselling and Outreach, Community Based Victim Assistance and Multi Cultural Outreach Programs



Needs and Costing Overview

Listed below are some of the most urgent priorities that should be addressed without delay. More information about each of these issues is available from EVA BC. While there are two provincial organizations in BC that provide support to community-based anti-violence programs, this document refers to the funding needs of EVA BC and the programs under its umbrella.

1. Procurement - Cancel large scale RFP procurement plans that stem from a Liberal policy that would require all anti-violence programs to reapply to run the services they have been running successfully for 30+ years.

- It would seem unreasonable, unnecessary and wasteful to instigate an RFP process for programs that are successfully operating effective, accountable programs; have established reputations and referral networks in their communities; and have staff with significant accumulated experience, training and knowledge in this specialized field.
- An RFP requirement in such circumstances will result in unnecessary expenditures of government resources with no discernible benefits and considerable potential losses.
- In order to save money and benefit from the retention of existing programs and staff and the sophisticated coordinated networks in place, current contracts should instead be re-negotiated on a three-five year basis to reduce administrative costs and allow for long-term planning. Such contracts should include cost of living increases.
- Should there be contract compliance issues with any of the current contract holders then those should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

No cost.

2. Hospital Safety - Implement policy at all BC hospitals providing an option for patient anonymity based on the best practice at BC Women's Hospital.

- In the aftermath of the domestic violence deaths of Sherry Herron and her mother Anna Adams at the Mission Hospital in 2003, the Coroner recommended a policy be implemented to attend to patient safety. Ms Herron had a restraining order against her estranged spouse Brian Herron, yet Mr Herron was freely given the room and location of his wife by hospital staff. This resulted in the deaths of Ms Herron and her mom.
- A Best Practice is already in place at BC Women's Hospital that allows any patient staying in the hospital to be registered under a pseudonym to protect their privacy should they have privacy or safety concerns. There is no requirement for a restraining order as the policy is based on all patients being asked if they are concerned for any reason about their privacy. We ask that this practice be made policy at all BC hospitals.

No cost

3. Safety Impacts Analysis - Begin to require that in addition to Environmental Impact Assessments being done on all Pipelines, Oil, Gas, Hydro Electric and Forestry industry projects in BC, that a new Safety Impact Assessment also be conducted focused on the safety of women and children in those communities.

- Concerns have been raised by those working in the anti violence sector that in areas where there are resource extraction that result in temporary, high paying jobs for men - with that employment, in many cases also comes increased use of drugs, alcohol and violence against women.
- We believe a full assessment of the anticipated costs of violence in the location of the new planned job sites be undertaken and a new Safety Fund be set up, funded by these companies so local anti violence programs can access funding to deal with the increases in sexual assault and relationship violence.

No cost

4. Gender Based Violence Prevention - Continue supporting the overwhelmingly successful *Be More Than a Bystander* Gender Based Violence Prevention program.

- The *Be More Than a Bystander* violence prevention program, which is focused on preventing violence against women and girls, is a partnership between EVA BC and the BC Lions Football Club.
- Initiated in 2011, this highly successful, award winning program has already reached over 100,000 people, in-person in BC high schools and communities and as well, the program's message of 'breaking the silence on violence' has been viewed 100's of millions times through TV, radio, social media and transit PSAs.
- It is crucial that concrete actions and strategies are taught to kids and adults alike about the importance of speaking up about violence against women and girls. Our strategy centres on male professional athletes talking to predominantly male audiences.
- Similar to the anti drinking and driving and anti smoking campaigns, this program is working because it peer driven and empowers the positive energy of the masses to take positive action. It is also counter intuitive to have larger than life male men speaking about an issue only women have spoken about for decades.
- It is the most effective gender violence crime prevention program in Canada. We conduct exit surveys of approx. 5% of the people we train to become 'more than bystanders'. 96% tell us that if they saw or heard someone being abusive, disrespectful or violent towards a women or a girl they will say something or do something.

We are therefore requesting MCFD to:

- Continue to provide the same level of funding for the *Be More Than a Bystander* prevention program.

Cost: \$170,000

5. – Funding For Community-Based Victim Services (CBVS)

- CBVS are key to the safety of women and children who are victims of violence. One of the critical issues identified in cases in which women and children have died as a result of domestic violence appears to be their lack of connection to a community-based victim support service.
- CBVS programs have been seriously underfunded for many years.
- While the population of BC is growing in both numbers and diversity, only 69 CBVS programs are funded. The current formula for a community to receive funding for one of these programs requires that they have a population of at least 20,000. This formula has

resulted in a serious service gap in many communities that put women and children at risk.

- While the costs of providing CBVS services have increased significantly over the years (e.g. inflation; cost of living increases; the need to provide fair, competitive salaries, benefits and pensions to retain workers; travel costs, etc), provincial funding has not kept pace. In the past 15 years, per-FTE funding for CBVS programs has increased only once, from \$65,000 to \$75,000 to cover all program costs (wages, benefits, rent, travel, utilities, admin, all other overhead costs). Agencies are therefore forced to subsidize the cost of CBVS programs or cut hours. Valuable time that should be spent on service delivery is spent instead on trying to find money to run the services.
- In addition, many CBVS programs are struggling with only one staff person who often carries an enormous caseload of up to 150 to 200 open cases, many high risk cases. Under these circumstances, workers are unable to provide optimal services to victims of the most heinous and lethal crimes (sexual and domestic violence, child sexual abuse and stalking).
- There is also an urgent need for adequate travel funds for isolated programs that provide the only victim support service in a large geographic area.
- Lack of ability to communicate in English also places many abused immigrant and refugee women at much higher risk as they are unable to access assistance and for themselves and their children.
- Women with communications disabilities may also remain in abusive situations because they are unable to ask for help or access available services, placing themselves and their children at high risk of serious injury or death.
- Violence against women and children cases are high-risk, high stress cases, taking a significant time and emotional toll on support workers and often resulting in turn over and loss of staff. No funds are provided to CBVS programs for critical incident debriefing.

Therefore, funding should be provided on an urgent basis to:

- Increase the funding formula to \$102,000 per FTE to adequately cover all program costs, equivalent to FTE funding provided to Sexual Abuse Intervention Programs (SAIPs).
Cost: 69 x \$27,000 = \$1,863,000
- Add 20 more CBVS programs in communities with populations under 20,000. We have a list of communities who are ready to start such a service.
Cost: 20 x \$102,000 = \$2,040,000
- Increase the number of existing CBVS program FTEs by one FTE per program in order to reduce caseloads, allow the provision of better services to vulnerable clients, and reduce worker stress and staff turnover.
Cost: 69 x \$102,000 = \$7,038,000
- Provide increased travel funds to isolated programs serving wide geographic areas.
Cost: 40 x \$5,000 = \$200,000

- Establish a fund that programs can access to pay for language interpreters for immigrant and refugee women and for women with communication disabilities.

Cost: to be determined by Ministry

- Provide \$2,500 for each CBVS program for critical incident debriefing and high-risk case supervision to alleviate workers' stress, reduce staff turnover, and ensure quality services to clients.

Cost: 89 x \$2,500 = \$222,500

6. Increase funding for Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling.

- STV Counselling programs have also been seriously underfunded for many years. In order to provide this service most agencies across BC hire people with Masters degrees in counselling as facilitating healing for survivors of the most heinous crimes in our country takes a very high degree of skill and training.
- Like CBVS, costs of programs have increased significantly over the years, while provincial funding has not kept pace. Many agencies are forced to subsidize STV Counselling programs as provincial funds are insufficient to cover program costs. Currently, the Province provides \$80,000 per FTE to cover all program costs.
- The number of FTEs funded for many programs is also inadequate, often resulting in long wait-lists for counselling, which put already at-risk women at increased risk.
- Furthermore, while young women aged 14–19 are in the age group at greatest risk of violence, no STV counselling services are mandated/funded for these young women.

Therefore, funding should be provided on an urgent basis to:

- Increase the funding formula to \$102,000 per FTE to better cover all program costs, equivalent to FTE funding provided to SAIP counsellors.

Cost: 100 x \$22,000 = \$2,200,000

- Increase the number of STV Counselling program FTEs by .5 FTE per program in order to eliminate or reduce wait-lists.

Cost: 100 x \$51,000 = \$5,100,000

- Change the mandate of STV Counselling programs to allow the provision of services to those aged 14–19 and provide funding for an additional .5 of an FTE for each of the 102 STV Counselling programs.

Cost: 100 x \$51,000 = \$5,100,000

7. Increase funding to STV Outreach Programs.

- Most STV Outreach and Multicultural Outreach programs are staffed on a part-time basis, some at half-time and some only at quarter-time. This lack of full-time outreach workers places already at-risk and marginalized women at greater risk because it limits their access to services that could increase their safety. Aside from the obvious limitations imposed by services that are delivered on such a part-time basis, many of these at-risk women do not have the flexibility in their jobs to access services during very restricted hours.

- In addition, Outreach programs are not provided with any funded opportunities for critical incident debriefing, which is essential when workers are engaged in such high-risk, stressful work. The lack of critical incident debriefing not only places workers at increased risk of stress and burn-out, it interferes with their ability to provide optimal services to clients.

Funding should be provided on an urgent basis to:

- Increase all Outreach program staffing levels to a minimum of one FTE per program.

Cost: to be determined by Ministry

- Provide \$2,500 for each Outreach program for critical incident debriefing and high-risk case supervision to alleviate workers' stress, reduce staff turnover, and ensure quality services to clients.

Cost: 69 x \$2,500 = \$172,500

8. Fund Community for Indigenous women.

- There is an urgent need for services for Indigenous women who are at risk for sexual and domestic violence. The failure to fund an adequate number of programs for Indigenous women who are victims of domestic or sexual violence constitutes a serious oversight at the time that programs were established.
- It is important that such programs be created by Indigenous women themselves, in collaboration with the allies in the anti-violence/victim-serving community.
- Because of the high-stress nature of this work, critical incident support is essential for these workers.

Funding should be provided on an urgent basis to:

- Establish 20 Aboriginal Survivor Support Services programs for women who are at risk of sexual and domestic violence, each program to consist of one FTE.

Cost: 20 x \$102,000 = \$2,040,000

- Provide \$2,500 for each Survivor Support Services program for critical incident debriefing and high-risk case supervision to alleviate workers' stress, reduce staff turnover, and ensure quality services to clients.

Cost: 20 x \$2,500 = \$50,000

9. Fund coordinated responses to sexual assault.

- Coordinated responses to sexual assault in BC have lagged significantly behind compared to responses to domestic violence.
- There is no system-wide sexual assault policy in BC. In the late 1990's the NDP government was supporting the development of a cross ministry provincial sexual assault policy, however it didn't get quite finished before the Liberals took power in the early 2000's and at that point it was scrapped.
- In addition, all funding for all BC's Sexual Assault/Woman Assault Centres was also scrapped. 23 of these programs existed – many providing 24 hour response.
- More support for sexual assault care is needed across BC as well for survivors on BC campuses since the introduction of the mandatory, stand-alone sexual assault policy for all BC post-secondary institutions.

- There is also an urgent need for more specialized hospital-based services to respond to sexual assault. The absence of specialized health services means that many women who are sexually assaulted do not have access in their own community to a skilled, coordinated medical forensic response, including a trained health care response and collection of medical forensic evidence.
- The lack of a specialized health care response to sexual assault results in a lack of access to justice because most sexual assault cases, especially serious cases, cannot proceed without properly collected and stored medical forensic evidence. Women who have been traumatized by sexual assault and whose needs are not addressed by specially trained medical personnel are also less likely to report their assault to police or to use the court system.

Funding should be provided on an urgent basis to:

- Develop and implement a BC cross ministry *Sexual Assault Policy*, taking into account the particular needs of marginalized women, including especially Indigenous women and sex trade workers.

Cost: to be determined by Ministries

- Ensure that every BC hospital is able to provide a coordinated, specialized health care response to sexual assault, including collection of medical forensic evidence.

○ **Cost: to be determined by Ministries**

- Bring back funds for BC's Sexual Assault/Women Assault Centres and concentrate these services in communities 25 that have college or university campuses and attach them to existing community based or STV Counselling services.

○ **Cost: 25 x \$102,000 = \$2,550,000**

10. Provide funds to support coordination of local responses to domestic and sexual violence.

- Cross-sector coordination at the local level continues to be a troubling issue in all sectors' responses to domestic and sexual violence against women and one that has been the subject of a great many recommendations in government inquiries and coroner reports.
- Coordination is a key issue highlighted in the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Children and Family Development 2010 *Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy* and the *Protocol for Highest Risk Cases*.
- EVA BC's CCWS program is funded to assist communities to coordinate community responses to violence against women, assist with the development of cross-sector protocols, and provide training to communities to assist them in working across many sectors. More recently, the work of CCWS has become very complex as we are working in close partnership with RCMP E Division to assist communities to develop high risk domestic violence Inter-Agency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs) and to integrate their work with Indigenous communities, working to bridge the divide with MCFD practice, establishing cross-sector information sharing procedures and policies and much more.
- A proposed provision to move CCWS's funding to come from the Victims of Crime Surcharge Account will result in Ministry savings of \$320,000 from its current budget and not cost the Ministry for the increase in funding. See below.

Funding should be provided on an urgent basis to:

- Provide \$10,000 to 100 communities to provide cross sector coordination and leadership to maintain effective cross-sector coordination of responses to violence against women.

Cost: $100 \times \$10,000 = \$1,000,000$

- Increase funding to CCWS to \$500,000 per year to meet the increased demands and complexities of maintaining our high risk Inter-Agency Case Assessment Teams across BC, the local VAWIR coordination committees, including implementation of the provincial *Protocol for Highest Risk Cases and sexual assault coordination*.

Cost: \$500,000, or could be taken from the Surcharge Account

11. Training - Restore adequate funding for core training and emerging issues training.

- In the past, core training for 160 victim assistance programs (community based and police based) was funded by MPSSG. In 2008, this budget of \$500,000 per year was cut.
- In addition, core training and emerging issues training for STV Counselling programs, Children Who Witness Abuse (CWWA) Counselling programs and Transition Houses/Shelters was provided by EVA BC for the programs under their umbrella and by the BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH) for the programs under their umbrella. Training funds for the transition houses (\$200,000) was transferred to BC Housing and is still place while the training funds to the other programs (\$200,000) was cut.
- In 2005, 69 new STV Outreach and Multicultural Outreach programs and 20 more STV Counselling programs were funded. No training funds nor no any new program support funds were added to ensure these programs received training and ongoing support.
- Women and children who have been traumatized by violence are being referred to community victim/survivor-serving programs with increasing frequency every year. However, these programs have had no stable core and emerging issues training fund. EVA BC has been doing everything we can to access grant funding to meet the training needs of the sectors however this is not sustainable or an adequate way of ensure a workforce is trained.
- It is essential to establish a well-planned and stable approach to training for this workforce that will ensure that programs receive high quality core and emerging issues training on a regular, on-going basis.
- We propose that funds for training and for program support begin to come from the Victims of Crime Surcharge Account and be provided directly to EVA BC annually just as they are provided to the Risk Hanson fund. This will result in a savings to the Ministry budget.

Funding should be provided to EVA BC on an urgent basis to:

- Provide core and emerging issues training funds to EVA BC for training to Community Based Victim Assistance programs, STV Counselling programs, STV Outreach programs, Multicultural Outreach programs and the new 20 Indigenous Outreach/Survivor Support programs we propose, based on a formula of \$1,000 per program annually (310 programs {see entire document re program numbers} x \$1,000 = \$310,000). Funding should be provided in block, annualized funding so cost efficiencies can be realized, sector-wide

training needs can be met on a regular basis, federal funds can be levered, and planning can be managed on a multi-year basis.

No cost to Ministry, Suggest \$310,000 Annually from Surcharge Account

12. Program Support - Strengthen support provided to community-based anti-violence programs across BC by increasing core funding to EVA BC.

- EVA BC provides the 240 programs under our umbrella with ongoing support in the form of training, best practice development, the creation of province-wide tools and resources, support with complex cases, debriefing and information, analysis and resolution of provincial issues we track; research and assistance to government to ensure decision makers know what are the current issues and proposed solutions in the field.
- While the number of programs EVA BC supports has increased by 100 programs over the past several years and the costs of providing services to these additional 100 programs have increased substantially, there has been no increase in the funding EVA BC receives for providing critical program support to this anti-violence sector.
- Before the increase of 100 new programs, the funding level provided to EVA BC was equivalent to \$1,578 per program per year. Current Ministry funding to EVA BC to support the 240 programs is equivalent to \$921 per program, resulting in a decrease in funding.
- EVA BC proposes a win/win for the Ministry. We propose that the Ministry save the funds they have been providing EVA BC for program support and instead fund EVA BC out of the Victims of Crime Surcharge Account. This will result in MPSSG savings of \$221,000 annually from its current budget and no cost going forward for the increase in funding as the funds will come out of this special account.

We are requesting the Ministry to:

- Increase EVA BC's funding to a more realistic level to provide support to all the programs under our umbrella; CBVAP (70 now + 20 new), Indigenous Survivor Support (20 new) STV Counselling (100), STV Outreach (70). Funding level to \$2,000 per program to more adequately support our programs to provide direct services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and criminal harassment.

○ ***No cost to Ministries, \$560,000 Annually from Surcharge Account***

13. Fund voluntary programs for abusive men.

- Non-court-ordered men who have committed intimate partner violence and who volunteer to go into counselling to address their violent behaviour need access to community-based programs and counselling.
- Such programs have not been available since cuts were made to services in 2002.

Funding should be provided to:

- Establish 25 voluntary treatment programs for non-court-ordered abusive men.

Cost: 25 x \$102,000 = \$2,550,000