



25th Annual Report
Victims Assistance Committee of the
Northwest Territories
2013 - 2014



The Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Justice

Dear Mr. Ramsay:

Victims Assistance Committee (VAC) Annual Report

On behalf of the Victims Assistance Committee, I am pleased to present the 25th Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014, thereby meeting our legislative requirement as per section 10 (1) of the *Victims of Crime Act*.

The membership, funding recommendations, and Ministerial approvals for the activities supported by the disbursements from the Victims' Assistance Fund (VAF) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year are documented in this report.

As the VAC Chairperson, I would like to thank the current two 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). I would also like to thank you for your cooperation in supporting the work of the Victims Assistance Committee.

The current VAC members are:

Member	Appointed	Term End
Bridgette Larocque Inuvik Chair – active	1 August 2008 Reappointed 1 August 2011 Reappointment under consideration for 1 August 2014 for an additional 3 year term	31 July 2011 31 July 2014
Florence Barnaby Fort Good Hope Member - active	1 April 2010 Reappointed 1 April 2013	31 March 2013 31 March 2016
Gladys Macpherson Fort Smith Member - active	12 April 2012	1 April 2015

The shared goal of the VAC committee is to ensure the best use of the Victims Assistance Fund to directly serve victims of crime in the NWT as they try to rebuild their lives through involvements with community programs, training, projects and events that support their diverse needs. Together, we also work to support the Justice Department and community initiatives directed toward preventing and reducing the incidences of crimes by NWT residents who choose to behave illegally. Such behaviours continue to threaten the safety and quality of life of NWT residents in all communities.

The GNWT Victim Service Programs throughout the NWT offer information, assistance and referrals to directly benefit victims of crime.

The Victims Assistance Committee looks forward to working with you and the GNWT Department of Justice to raise public awareness about the needs and rights of victims of crime, to reduce and prevent incidences of crime, especially serious violent crimes, to address the needs and priorities of victims of crime and their families, and to lessen the long-term negative effects on persons who experience crime. We appreciate your continuing guidance in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

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

Bridget Larocque, Chairperson

Victims Assistance Committee

NWT VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT – R.S.N.W.T. 1988, c.9 (Supp.) in force April 1, 1989

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

The definition of “victims” under the *Victims of Crime Act* is:

“victims” means persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including

- (a) physical or mental injury,
- (b) emotional suffering,
- (c) economic loss, or
- (d) substantial impairment of their fundamental rights,

through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws or laws that have penal consequences, regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted or convicted, and includes, persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization and, where appropriate, the immediate family or dependants of the direct victims.
(*victimnes*)

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND (VAF)

The VAF is a special-purpose fund established by the *NWT Victims of Crime Act* (subsection 11(1)) 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. The Minister considers the recommendations of the Committee before authorizing disbursements from the Fund and may authorize disbursements for:

- (a) promotion and delivery of services for victims;
- (b) research into services to victims and needs and concerns of victims;
- (c) distribution of information respecting services to victims and needs and concerns of victims;
- (d) remuneration of members of the Committee for their services and for reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Committee; and
- (e) any other purposed the Minister considers necessary for carrying out the purposes of the *Victims of Crime Act*.

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. Disbursements made from the Fund shall be limited to the amount of money in the Fund.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (VAC)

The Victims Assistance Committee (VAC) is a three-member advisory body appointed by the Minister of Justice under the *Victims of Crime Act* and provides for three-year term appointments of Committee members (section 2(2)), as well as the designation of the Chairperson (section 3). The VAC recommends to the Minister the names of proposed recipients of money from the Fund, the terms and conditions on which the money should be paid and the purposes for which the money should be spent. The VAC may also make recommendations to the Minister relating to:

- (a) the development of policies respecting services to victims; and
- (b) any other matter that the Minister refers to the Committee.

The Committee is responsible to promote:

- a) courteous and compassionate treatment of victims;
- b) prompt redress for victims, through civil and criminal law procedures, for the harm that they have suffered;
- c) the availability of information to a victim about:
- d) the scope, nature, timing and progress of the prosecution of the offence in which he or she was a victim,
- e) the role of the victim in the court proceeding,
- f) the remedies and the social, legal, medical and mental health services available to the victim and the mechanisms to obtain access to them, and
- g) the responsibility of the victim to report the crime and co-operate with law enforcement authorities;
- h) research into, and the distribution of information about, services to victims and the needs and concerns of victims;
- i) assistance to victims in bringing their views and concerns to the attention of the court where their personal interests are affected, and where it is consistent with criminal law and procedure;
- j) measures to minimize inconvenience to victims and to ensure the safety of victims; and
- k) training for police, health, social service and other personnel as to the needs and concerns of victims.

The Committee may work with prosecutors and with law enforcement agencies, courts, social agencies and any organizations established to serve victims in order to assist them in developing programs that promote the purposes of the *Victims of Crime Act*.

The Committee's objective is to support comprehensive community programs, events, projects and services that directly benefit victims including, but not limited to, support for victims through information, assistance, referrals for ongoing services, coordination of criminal justice and community justice interventions, and training in best practices for

victim services workers, volunteers, police, health, social service and other personnel in how to best meet the needs of victims.

Where a full-service agency is not feasible, the committee supports proposals for innovative and community-based workshops, events, and projects and programs in those communities to provide support to victims of crime and to raise awareness in the community of the impact of crime on victims.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings for the 2013/14 fiscal year were held in the months of: April, May, June, December, January, February and March.

The Victims Assistance 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 may also be planning meetings with the Minister of Justice.

Administration is carried out by the Manager, NWT Victim Services, and other staff of the Department of Justice and the Department of Human Resources to process honorarium payments and prepare documentation. Committee members are paid honorariums at the GNWT rate of one half day per meeting for Advisory Board members (\$125.00) and one half day per meeting for the Advisory Board Chair (\$150.00).

Appendix "A"

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

Revenue	<i>Amount</i>
Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial – Fund 19	
Opening Balance from 2012-2013	\$54,022.74
Total Revenue	\$71,420.14
Total Disbursements	(\$57,389.00)
2013- 2014 Total Fund 19	\$68,053.88
Victim Fine Surcharges – Federal – Fund 20	
Opening Balance from 2012-2013	\$95,992.83
Total Revenue	\$53,732.74
Total Disbursements	(\$67,220.00)
2013-2014 Total Fund 20	\$82,505.57
Total Opening Balance Fund 19 and 20	\$150,015.57
Total Revenue Fund 19 and 20	\$125,152.88
Total Disbursements Fund 19 and 20	(\$124,609.00)
BALANCE FORWARD	\$150,559.45

Note:

Fund 19 – Territorial Fine Surcharges
Fund 20 – Federal Fine Surcharges

Appendix "B"

Statement of Victims Assistance Fund Disbursements

April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

Native Women's Association of the NWT

1. Direct services: \$67,220.00

Towards the salary costs for the Yellowknife Victim Services Program Outreach Worker to provide direct services to benefit victims of crime in Yellowknife and surrounding area including Dettah, Lutselk'e, N'Dilo and also to persons harmed by crime from other NWT communities who travel to Yellowknife to receive medical, legal and other services related to experiencing crime.

2. Victim Services Volunteer Coordinator: \$15,932.00
To deliver the volunteer training program of Yellowknife Victim Services Program.

Status of Women Council of the NWT \$13,500.00

Information and Awareness: Towards the costs for promotion, advertising, and the media campaign to promote the 12th Annual NWT Family Violence Awareness Week, 2013, with the theme "Family Violence is Everybody's Business! – What Will You Do?"

To increase community understanding of family violence, its dynamics and effects on individuals, families and to the communities as a whole by providing contact numbers, strengthening knowledge of resources in victims' home communities and providing safe spaces to ask questions around getting help.

To increase participation and commitment of communities across the territories to deliver awareness events, community resources/presentations and activities that deter family violence.

K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council \$ 5,154.00

Information and Awareness: To support community awareness activities for Family Violence Awareness Week (September 30 - October 6, 2013)

YWCA of the NWT \$22,803.00

Training and Development: Workshop to increase awareness and knowledge of individual female victims, other women, staff, and volunteers who work with women, of legal options for women who are experiencing family violence.

TOTAL \$124,609.00

INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS

There are two types of application forms for proposals:

1. For Projects, Events, and Programs
2. For Training and Development

Proposals for either type of proposal can be submitted in fillable documents that are on-line at the links below, mailed through Canada Post, or In-person to the Community Justice & Policing Division of the GNWT Department of Justice:

For “Application Guidelines”:

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

For “Projects Applications”:

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

For “Training & Development Applications”:

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 Information:

Manager, NWT Victim Services, Community Justice & Policing Division
867-920-6911 Tel. or Fax 867-873-0199
Ruth_McKeown@gov.nt.ca

OR

Administrator, Community Justice & Policing Division
867-873-7002 Tel. or Fax 867-873-0199
Teresa_Hayward@gov.nt.ca