



INFORMATION SHEET

Victim Services and Community Programs Division

The Victim Services and Community Programs Division, under the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, is the centre of responsibility for victims' issues and crime prevention in the province.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF CRIME

Victim Service Programs

More than 150 police based and community based victim service programs are funded throughout the province. These programs provide emotional support, information, referrals and practical assistance to victims of crime and trauma. Police based programs serve victims of all crime and assist police and community in situations where there have been multiple injuries/deaths. Community-based programs are provided in communities with a population of 20,000 or more, and include programs that deal with family and sexual violence and child and youth specific issues.

Victim Safety Unit

This unit promotes victim safety by:

- Notifying protected parties about the release of offenders from custody.
- Working with victim service programs to ensure victims are aware of and have access to safety services.
- Administering the cell phone/home and alarm program.
- Administering the victim travel fund.

Crime Victim Assistance Program

This program provides support services and benefits including counselling to victims of crime. The program is governed by the Crime Victim Assistance Act and Regulations. Victims injured as a result of certain crimes, immediate family members of an injured or deceased victim, and some witnesses may be eligible for financial assistance and/or benefits.

Aide to Safety Assessment and Planning (ASAP)

The ASAP manual is a detailed, easy-to-use manual and sample worksheet that incorporates established tools such as the *Spousal Assault Risk Assessment* and *Brief Spousal Assault Form for Evaluating Risk* to develop effective safety plans. A companion guide, *ASAP Protective Measures for Women's Safety: an operational framework for interveners* has been developed for front-line service providers and justice system personnel. The purpose of all safety plans is to reduce the risk that the woman faces and empower her to achieve a safe and rewarding life.

VictimLINK

This is a 24-hour, multilingual, province-wide telephone service that provides information and referral services to victims of crime. It also offers immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence. **Toll-free: 1-800-563-0808.**

CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Community Accountability Programs

Volunteer community-based programs offer family group conferencing or circle remedies when a crime involves a low risk adult or youth offender. These approaches address the needs of the victim, hold the offender accountable, and restore balance in the community. Ongoing funding of up to \$2500 per year is available to support this work.

Safe Streets & Safe Schools Fund

The Safe Streets and Safe Schools Fund provides support to schools and communities for strategies that enhance public safety and local crime prevention efforts. One time grants of up to \$5000 are available to qualified applicants.

Youth Against Violence Line

This 24-hour, multilingual, province-wide telephone service provides a safe, confidential way to prevent and report incidents of youth violence or crime, or seek help from local police. Youth can call or e-mail the line to report incidents of violence before they happen and prevent someone from getting hurt.

Toll-Free: 1-800-680-4264

www.takingastand.com

Sexual Exploitation of Children & Youth, Community Capacity Building Projects Fund

The Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Prostitution and the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth oversees this fund. The money is provided to communities to address prostitution and the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

BC Institute for Safe Schools

The University College of the Fraser Valley operates the BC Institute for Safe Schools on behalf of the Victim Services and Community Programs Division. The Institute helps schools, communities, police, parents and others to deal with issues such as bullying, harassment, intimidation, gangs and sexual exploitation.

Solicitor General Community Safety and Crime Prevention Awards

Each year the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General recognizes individuals, groups and programs that have made outstanding contributions to crime prevention and community safety.

SUPPORT FOR PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

- BC Crime Prevention Association
- Police Victim Services of BC
- BC Block Parent Association
- BC Block Watch Society
- BC CrimeStoppers Association
- Children of the Street Society
- BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs

CONTACT

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