



NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

2018

North Shore Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women in Relationships

- “An integrated response to ending violence on the North Shore”

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2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE	3
YEAR IN REVIEW	4
ACTIVITY	5
ELIZABETH IFE MEMORIAL FUND	5
MEN AS ALLIES FORUM	5
JANUARY — NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING	8
MARCH - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING	8
MAY - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING	8
JULY - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING	8
SEPTEMBER - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING	8
NOVEMBER - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING	8
A WALK TO REMEMBER	9
SUB-COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORT	10
NORTH SHORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT	10
SEXUAL ASSAULT SUB-COMMITTEE	11
MEN AS ALLIES SUB-COMMITTEE	12
STRENGTH AND REMEMBRANCE POLE PROJECT	14
FUTURE DIRECTIONS	16
A WALK THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM	16
NS VAWIR NEWSLETTER	16
STATISTICS ON RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE ON THE NORTH SHORE	16
DONOR RECOGNITION	17
THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 FUNDERS	17
THANK YOU TO OUR MEN AS ALLIES EVENT SPONSORS	17
.....	17
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE MEETING CATERING SPONSOR	17

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

About the Committee

NS VAWIR is a cross-sectoral network of over twenty north shore service agencies working towards an integrated and effective response to ending violence against women in the community. Hosted and administered by the North Shore Women's Centre, the goal of the Committee is to keep women safe by meeting its objectives in the following areas:

Service Delivery: Striving to identify and address community service gaps and safety needs using a strategic planning model. Collaboration and partnerships are emphasized. For example, in 2016 the North Shore Domestic Violence Unit was formed to coordinate and focus on high risk cases.

Education: Working to provide opportunities for networking, training and information sharing to build capacity for both Committee members, as well as North Shore service providers as a whole. The Committee further endeavors to raise public awareness about violence against women through a range of initiatives, such as recognizing the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Dec 6th), organizing information forums like A Walk Through the Justice System and public forum events such as the Men as Allies forum which took place on October 20th, 2018.

Systemic Response: Aiming to understand and address the systemic nature of violence against women including policy and legislation as well as liaise with other response networks/prevention organizations. We currently have a sexual assault sub-committee working toward improving response to sexual assault in our community.

For more information about the Committee, its work and activities visit www.northshorevawir.com.

2018 Active North Shore VAWIR Members

- District of North Vancouver
- Hollyburn Family Services
- North Shore Community Resources
- North Shore Multicultural Society
- North Vancouver Family Justice Centre
- North Vancouver RCMP Crisis Intervention Unit
- West Vancouver Police Department, Victim Services
- West Vancouver Police Department
- Family Services of the North Shore
- North Shore Community Corrections
- North Shore Crisis Services Society
- North Shore Women's Centre
- North Vancouver RCMP
- Tsleil-Waututh Nation
- Victim Services and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

Year in Review

2018 marked the second year that the NS VAWIR Committee had paid coordination, thanks to the ongoing financial support from two North Shore municipalities. Tania Bakas moved on from her position as Coordinator in August 2018 and Kendra Underhill was hired as the new Coordinator, working in an administrative and coordinating capacity for the Committee for five hours a week. Having paid coordination for the Committee continues to be essential in several ways. From providing support to Committee members, all of whom have busy and demanding jobs in the community, to scheduling and administering Committee meetings, coordinating education and training events, providing outreach through our website and social media, assisting with fund development and reporting on important Committee work. Additionally, having paid coordination this year allowed the Committee to organize and host their largest event to date, the Men as Allies forum which took place on October 20th, 2018. This event brought together youth, service providers, decision makers and community members on the North Shore in a conversation about how men can become allies in preventing violence against women. At this juncture of the Committee's evolution, having paid coordination continues to be an essential component, without which the Committee would not have been able to grow and flourish in the way it has done.

As you will read in this report, 2018 saw the continuation of the Committee's regular bi-monthly meetings, which included guest speakers from diverse organizational backgrounds. The critical work of the North Shore Domestic Violence Unit was continued, along with that of the sub-committees which focused on the response to sexual assault on the North Shore, the Strength and Remembrance Pole project and the Men as Allies forum. To cap off the year, the Committee organized A Walk to Remember on December 6th, 2018 to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

2018 was an eventful and engaged year for the Committee and we look forward to continuing our collaborative work to end violence against women in relationships with the on-going support of the community in 2019.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

Activity

ELIZABETH IFE MEMORIAL FUND

On March 20th, 2017 we lost our colleague, Betty Ife. A passionate advocate for women's safety, Betty helped to set up the North Shore ICAT (Interagency Case Assessment Team) and was very active on the NS VAWIR (Violence Against Women in Relationships) committee.

In Betty's memory, the Betty Ife Fund (BIF) is available for women and their children facing immediate financial barriers to getting themselves safe. In 2018, proceeds of the Betty Ife Fund went towards counselling for three women, and to meeting basic needs such as groceries and clothing, for seven women in crisis.



More information on the Elizabeth Ife Memorial Fund may be found on the NS VAWIR website: <https://www.northshorevawir.com/betty-ife-fund>

MEN AS ALLIES FORUM

On Saturday, October 20th, 2018 the NS VAWIR Committee hosted and coordinated a special community forum on the topic of men as allies in ending violence against women. With a strong Indigenous and youth focus, all members of the community were welcomed to join in a discussion on this powerful and timely subject. The day began with a welcome from Squamish minister Eugene Harry and Doris Paul of the Squamish Nation. The keynote speech was delivered by JR LaRose, former BC Lions player, 2011 Grey Cup champion and spokesperson for the Be More Than a Bystander campaign - a partnership between the Ending Violence Association of BC and BC Lions. A proud member of One Arrow First Nation, he is an ambassador for Indigenous peoples and an accomplished speaker - speaking at and facilitating over 400 presentations throughout Canada and the United States since 2008. Our panel included leaders from Warriors Against Violence, Family Services of the North Shore, Ending Violence Association of British Columbia, Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators and youth from the community. The panel forum addressed:

- Community Resources
- Youth Issues
- Healthy Relationships
- Indigenous Voices
- Personal Growth
- Support
- Social Change

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

Following the panel discussion, a catered lunch was provided by Vancouver's first Indigenous Food Truck, Mr. Bannock. To finish off the day, Discreet Da Chosen 1 from the Squamish Nation gave a live performance. The forum also provided a venue for local community service providers to connect with members of the public through information tables and displays.



MEN AS ALLIES

THE UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE
SQUAMISH AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATIONS

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 20TH
2018**

9:30AM-2:30PM

**CARSON GRAHAM
SECONDARY SCHOOL,
NORTH VAN, BC**

**FORUM: HOW MEN CAN BECOME ALLIES IN
ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

Register Here! WWW.NORTHSHOREVAWIR.COM



**LIVE
PERFORMANCE**
**Discreet Da
Chosen 1**



**KEYNOTE BY GREY
CUP CHAMPION**
JR LaRose



LUNCH BY MR. BANNOCK



FREE EVENT | ALL WELCOME | PANEL DISCUSSION

ENDING VIOLENCE
Association of BC

Vancity



city
of north
vancouver



North Shore VAWIR
Coordinating Committee & 2018 Planning Committee

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY – NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee recapped key events of the previous year, including the Walk Through the Justice System. It was announced that \$2,500 in funding had been received from the City of North Vancouver for the Men as Allies forum event in 2018.

MARCH - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Brooke Fairley and Arianna Clarke-Watts from North Shore Crisis Services Society gave a presentation on the “BELIEVE” program called "Creating a Culture of Consent". Discussion was had on the development of the NS VAWIR newsletter. It was announced that \$1,500 in funding had been received from Vancity for the Men as Allies forum event.

MAY - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Amber Phillips, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Laura Biagioni, Family Services and North Shore Domestic Violence Unit gave a presentation on their work.

JULY - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Patti Custance and Maureen Chute of Hollyburn Family Services gave a presentation about their work, which gave rise to a discussion about housing issues. The Committee agreed that there was a need to continue this discussion, and it was proposed to hold a roundtable discussion with local housing advocates at the September Committee meeting about how we can best support women experiencing violence with housing insecurity and challenges.

SEPTEMBER - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

A roundtable discussion on housing insecurity was held with special guests Frances Robinson from North Shore Crisis Services Society, Nadya Jamal from Hollyburn Family Services and James Ebenal from North Shore Lookout Society.

NOVEMBER - NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

A presentation was given by Freda Ens of the Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) which serves the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Michelle Dodds attended EVA BC's community safety teleconference and reported back on the successes and challenges of other VAWIR committees and their communities. The Sexual Assault sub-committee reported on the challenges of obtaining Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) at Lionsgate hospital.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

A WALK TO REMEMBER

A march was organized on December 6th, 2018 by the NS VAWIR Committee to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Dozens of supporters joined the march from the Chief Joe Mathias Centre in North Vancouver to the Welcome Figure in West Vancouver's Ambleside Park where speeches were given by local MLAs, members of the community and the North Vancouver RCMP. The march was led by drummers from the Squamish Nation and the event was covered on CTV News and in the North Shore News later that day: <https://www.nsnews.com/news/national-day-of-remembrance-honoured-on-north-shore-with-commemorative-walk-1.23521624>.



Photo Mike Wakefield North Shore News

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

Sub-Committee Activity Report

NORTH SHORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT



The North Shore Domestic Violence Unit (NSDVU) is a co-located unit that brings together the resources of The North Vancouver RCMP, West Vancouver Police, Hollyburn Family Services, The Ministry of Children of Family Development and the Squamish Nation. The NSDVU is the first domestic violence unit in the Province of British Columbia to have a partnership with an Indigenous Community. The unit continues to grow and develop into a unique and pro-active resource that is involved with High Risk domestic violence cases responded to by the North Vancouver RCMP and West Vancouver Police. The NSDVU works with both victims and offenders from files that are involved in the court system but also assists victims and offenders that have yet to become involved in the court system. In the latter cases, the purpose of the NSDVU involvement is to address the underlying issues to avoid future conflict and subsequent court involvement.

In 2018, the North Shore Domestic Violence Unit worked on 56 high risk domestic violence files from North and West Vancouver. Of the 56 files, 26 involved incidents of Domestic Violence where Children were present or were affected by the violence, that subsequently lead to the involvement of the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

In 2018, referrals to the NSDVU came from the North Vancouver RCMP, West Vancouver Police, Hollyburn Family Services, MCFD as well as Provincial Crown Counsel. In 2018, the NSDVU also accepted referrals from other Domestic Violence Units from within the province where the unit assisted in providing support to victims now residing on the North Shore.

The NSDVU continues to work on its service delivery model to best serve the victims, families and communities affected by domestic violence.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

SEXUAL ASSAULT SUB-COMMITTEE

Active members include representatives from Hollyburn Victim Services, the North Vancouver RCMP Sex Crimes Unit, Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Squamish Nation.

March 2018

The sub-committee met with Lionsgate hospital (LGH) staff who agreed upon the need for a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program at LGH. Barriers discussed included a lack of access to statistics on the number of victims of sexual assault presenting at LGH, as well as a lack of adequate funding and will to implement SANE because of these absent statistics.

June 2018

The need for statistics was raised again and it was noted that the volume of exams has implications for practitioner matters in court. Specifically, it was noted that the issue centred around ensuring that nurse examiners perform enough pelvic exams to ensure their credibility in court, as the nurses would be cross examined quite vigorously about how often they performed pelvic exams to conclude that a sexual assault had occurred. There was discussion about the possibility of having a victim services worker who would be on call to respond and assist victims in getting to VGH or setting up and training a group on the North Shore as part of a broader satellite program.

July 2018

The sub-committee met with a representative from Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW) who highlighted the importance of funding for securing SANE staff at LGH and noted that most women are required to cover the cost of an ambulance from LGH to VGH and that the prospect of getting into a cab with a stranger following sexual assault is a barrier to many. A meeting with committee members, health authorities and First Nations was planned to follow up on this conversation but fell through due to scheduling conflicts.

September 2018

The sub-committee reached out to reschedule the planned meeting and continued to report back to the broader NS VAWIR Committee at meetings.

October 2018

The sub-committee reached out to reschedule the planned meeting and continued to report back to the broader NS VAWIR Committee at meetings.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

November 2018

Relevant parties in the healthcare system were contacted, but there was difficulty in arranging a meeting time due to scheduling and staffing changes with the relevant employees. The sub-committee reported back to the NS VAWIR Committee regarding options for moving forward.

MEN AS ALLIES SUB-COMMITTEE

January 2018

It was announced that \$2,500 in funding had been received from the City of North Vancouver for the Men as Allies forum event.

March 2018

It was announced that \$1,500 in funding had been received from Vancity for the Men as Allies forum event. Key elements of the day were discussed, such as a wall of inspiration to share examples of allyship, a panel of speakers with a question period, volunteers, arts and entertainment. It was suggested that Carson Graham Secondary School would be an ideal venue for the event. Avenues for promoting the event were discussed, including social media and liaising with local schools, social justice groups and youth workers. Eventbrite was decided upon for managing registration.

July 2018

Doris Paul and Eugene Harry of the Squamish Nation were confirmed to welcome guests to the event. JR LaRose was confirmed as the keynote speaker, through Ending Violence Association BC's collaboration with the BC Lions "Be More Than A Bystander" program. Additional key elements to include were discussed such as information tables for service providers to engage with the public, and swag from event sponsors. Discreet Da Chosen 1 was confirmed as the performer and Andrew Van Eden of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation was confirmed as the Emcee.

September 2018

Joe and Joyce Fossella from Warriors Against Violence, a representative from Ending Violence Association of BC, the co-facilitators of the Farsi speaking Men's group at Family Services of the North Shore, and youth community member Joshua Millard, were confirmed as panelists. It was decided to incorporate back-ground videos on the topic of men as allies to be played in breaks throughout the day. The Vice Principal of Carson Graham confirmed that the school could be booked for Men as Allies. Options for seating, sound equipment rental, co-ordinating volunteers and a break-out room were discussed. Promotion of the event through the North Shore's Inter-agency network, postering, local schools and social media continued. \$500 in-kind sponsorship was

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

received from the Water Street Café and Mr. Bannock Indigenous cuisine was confirmed as the caterer. Registration was opened on Eventbrite.

October 2018

Gifts and honoraria were arranged for the panel, emcee, keynote and welcome speakers. The North Shore Women's Centre, Family Justice Services, the BC Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) and Hollyburn Family Services were confirmed for information tables. Ryan Avola from Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators was confirmed as a seventh panelist, and EVA BC confirmed that their Executive Director, Tracey Porteous would be attending as their panel representative. \$500 sponsorship was received from Samuel Osei Law Corporation. Two registered counsellors were confirmed as supports at the event. Students from Carson Graham were confirmed as technical support for the day, along with a youth from the community. Starbucks Coffee confirmed their in-kind donation for the event and breakfast pastries were purchased. The event was held on October 20th, 2018 and was attended by over 80 guests, including youth, local MLAs, service providers, families and community members.

November 2018

A debrief meeting was held to discuss successes of the day and opportunities for future growth. A number of attendees reported that they found the event inspiring in some aspect for their personal or professional lives, and some were motivated to bring it to their workplaces. The sub-committee agreed that the speakers were diverse, and engaging and represented a range of voices on the North Shore. Ideas for engaging youth in the future were discussed, and it was decided that the sub-committee would stay together to work on topics related to men as allies and youth engagement in working to prevent relationship violence.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

STRENGTH AND REMEMBRANCE POLE PROJECT

Background

On December 6th, 2016 members of the Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) committee, Squamish Nation members, and community members walked in remembrance for all women who have been victims of gender-based violence, for the murdered and missing indigenous women, as well as the many women who still suffer in silence living in fear of violence each day. Despite the incredible outpouring of positive feedback surrounding the event and its impact, Cpl. Shostak recognized that the North Shore needs a permanent place where community members can go and reflect on complex personal issues such as gender-based violence. This would also be a place where women who suffer in silence can go to draw strength reflecting on the many lives affected by gender-based violence. On December 6th, 2016 Cpl. Shostak spoke with Squamish Nation Elder Shucks Nahanee about a vision he had of placing a totem pole in the Stella Joe Dean Plaza in front of the North Vancouver RCMP Detachment and hence, the Strength and Remembrance Pole Project was born. Shucks identified the project carver to be Jody Bloomfield for his traditional Coast Salish carving style as well as Jody's connection to the Squamish Nation community. Jody is also a Squamish Nation member and well-known Coast Salish carver. Work was done throughout 2017 on planning and fundraising for this project.

January 2018

On January 11th, 2018 Cpl. Shostak applied to the Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2017 grant for funding to assist with the project. Unfortunately, the project did not meet the mandate of this funding grant.

March 2018

On March 8th, 2018 Cpl. Shostak along with Jody Broomfield and Sgt. Domodossola presented the pole design and base concept to the Arts Advisory Council. On March 19th, 2018 Cpl. Shostak applied to the Family Violence Initiative Fund. Cpl. Shostak was successful in her application and was granted \$25,000.

June 2018

On June 26th, 2018 Cpl. Shostak met with workers from Terraprobe Geoscience Corp. for the workers to perform a scan of the ground area where the Strength and Remembrance Pole will be placed. Cpl. Shostak also met with Eagle West Crane Operations and discussed the project and the ability for a crane to assist in placing the pole.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

September 2018

Cpl. Shostak organized the plaques for the project. One plaque will outline the project, the other will acknowledge the agencies that contributed to its completion. Cpl. Shostak also sent requests for assistance with funding to Seaspans and Neptune Terminals.

December 2018

On December 14th, 2018 the Strength and Remembrance Pole Project was presented to the Arts Advisory Committee with a revision to the height and design concept. The new design and height were approved by the committee. It was announced that North Vancouver RCMP Detachment donated \$5,000 to the project and the North Vancouver District Council donated \$10,000 to the project.

Plans for 2019

The carving of the Strength and Remembrance Pole is scheduled to start in the beginning of February. The projected completion will be approximately 3-4 months after. The sub-committee is planning a ceremony for the unveiling and blessing of the pole.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

Future Directions

A WALK THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Building on the success of the 2017 Walk Through the Justice System event, the Committee plans to host and coordinate this educational initiative again in 2019. As was done in 2017, community members and service providers will receive first-hand insight into the criminal justice system response to relationship violence through visits to the police station and courthouse. The emphasis in 2019 will be on engaging the public more heavily to pass along key messaging and raise awareness.

NS VAWIR NEWSLETTER

To engage and inform the public but also offer valuable resources to a broad range of North Shore front-line service providers, the NS VAWIR Committee launched the www.northshorevawir.com website in 2016. Moving forward in 2019, the Committee plans to continue with the distribution of a quarterly NS VAWIR E-newsletter, which began in 2018, to disseminate information about our projects and events to members the public and other community agency representatives who are not directly and actively involved in the Committee.

STATISTICS ON RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE ON THE NORTH SHORE

In recent Committee discussions it was recognized that current statistics about relationship violence on the North Shore are difficult to report on as local agencies collect information differently. Additionally, much violence remains unreported. It is our goal to organize an annual “statistics sweep” between agencies to best gauge the nature, status and levels of relationship violence in our community. This information will assist us collectively in reporting back to governing agencies and policy makers, media and the public. The Committee has applied for funding for this project through the BC Government’s Civil Forfeiture funds and has plans to implement a month long-data gathering pilot project with a final report and public forum component, should the grant application be successful.

2018 NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

Donor Recognition

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 FUNDERS



THANK YOU TO OUR MEN AS ALLIES EVENT SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE MEETING CATERING SPONSOR

Cobs Park & Tilford

