

NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

2016

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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About NS VAWIR

Since 1989, community organizations and The Province of BC have been involved in the development of violence against women coordination initiatives. These initiatives bring together system and community based representatives to enhance collaboration on local responses to violence against women. In 1989, The Province of BC funded 7 community coordination initiatives modeled on the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention program and coordination projects in Victoria, BC and London, Ontario. More initiatives have been launched across the province since then, but none have been funded. Today there are coordination initiatives in over 50 communities across BC, many of them in rural and isolated areas (content borrowed from the Ending Violence Association of BC, www.endingviolence.org).

About the same time as community coordination initiatives began in BC, the North Shore Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women in Relationships (NS VAWIR Committee) was formed. Since July 2001, the Committee has been hosted and supported through coordination and administration by the North Shore Women's Centre. For a number of years, it was also co-facilitated by the North Shore Family Court and Youth Justice Committee's (NSFCYJC) Domestic Violence Program Coordinator.

The Committee includes representation from a wide range of community service providers involved in areas such as policing, probation, victim's services, crown counsel, health, First Nations, immigrant and multicultural services, counselling, advocacy, women's services, and legal services.

The Committee creates a forum for service providers and representatives from the many sectors involved in preventing and responding to violence against women. The five sub-committees: Steering Committee, Integrated Case Assessment Team (ICAT), Education, Policy, and Diversity, assist members to network and plan in the areas of **service delivery, education, and systemic response**.

Service Delivery: The committee provides opportunities for front line workers and other representatives of member agencies to regularly meet face to face. During meetings, service

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gaps and trends within various sectors are identified; discussions about collaboration and partnerships will ensue.

Education: The focus is primarily on building capacity within the committee, and the community at large. This is done by provision of education and training about justice system processes and issues. The addition of the NS VAWIR website aims to provide resources for the public, as well as information and training for service providers.

Systemic Response: The committee works to collectively understand and address the systemic nature of violence against women. This is partly done by being up-to-date with changes in government and justice system policy and legislation, as well as making recommendations for change when appropriate. Additionally, the committee liaises with other community response networks and violence against women prevention organizations to increase its efforts in systemic change.

North Shore VAWIR Members 2016

- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice
- District of North Vancouver
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Family Services of the North Shore
- GV Counselling & Education Society for Families
- Hollyburn Family Services
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- North Shore Community Corrections
- North Shore Community Resources
- North Shore Crisis Services Society
- North Shore Multicultural Society
- North Shore Women's Centre
- North Vancouver Family Justice Centre
- North Vancouver RCMP
- North Vancouver RCMP Crisis Intervention Unit
- Tsleil-Waututh Nation
- Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services
- Victim Services and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice
- West Vancouver Police Department

Year in Review

2016 was a tremendously eventful year for the NS VAWIR Committee. Several initiatives that had been years in the planning came to fruition and, as a result, strengthened not only the Committee itself, but also anti-violence work across the North Shore as a whole.

The year began with the continuation of a training initiative grant secured by the North Shore Women's Centre and funded through the BC Ministry of Justice, Civil Forfeiture. Many training sessions were organized for service providers generally across the North Shore as well as specifically for the VAWIR Committee. Additionally, a new website, www.northshorevawir.com, was launched to both provide support resources for members of the public and training and education resources for North Shore Service providers.

In July, the North Shore Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) was unveiled by the BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. This partnership between the BC Government, Squamish Nation, police, community-based victim services and child welfare system was developed to respond to complex domestic violence cases. The Unit's opening was facilitated also by a Civil Forfeiture grant received by Hollyburn Family Services. With doors opening officially in the fall of 2016, the DVU marked the culmination of approximately 15 years of recurrent Committee work to establish this integrated response for highest risk intimate partner violence.

At the VAWIR meeting in September of 2016, the Committee came together for a facilitated strategic planning session, at which members set out a plan of action for how to continue moving forward. A few key initiatives were identified and, based on this plan, the Committee rounded out 2016 on December 6th by organizing a public community event to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Starting from the Chief Joe Mathias Centre, a group of service providers and members of the public marched to the welcome figure at Ambleside Park and symbolically released dozens of roses into the ocean to remember those women affected by violence on a daily basis.

While continuing the work of the Committee can be challenging, even at the best of times, 2016 showed precisely what can be accomplished in our community with a commitment of some financial resources and an incredibly dedicated group of service providers. The Committee looks forward to building this work together into 2017, and beyond.

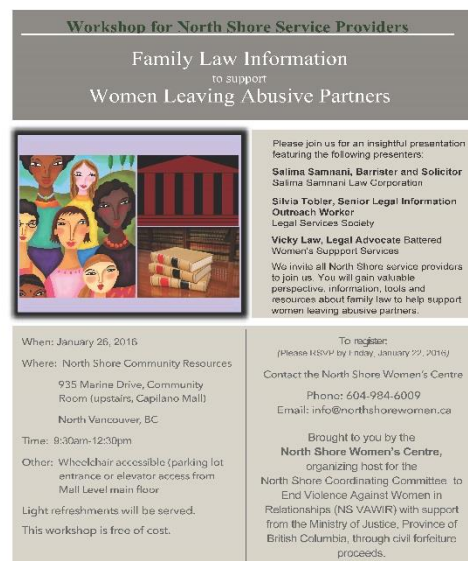
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2016 Activity

JANUARY – FAMILY LAW INFORMATION

On January 26th, 2016 a panel of experts on Family Law led a discussion for North Shore service providers about tools and resources to help support women leaving abusive partners. Included in the discussion was information about parenting responsibilities, parenting time, primary residence, guardianship, best interest of the child, and protection orders. The special guest presenters included:

- Salima Samnani, Barrister and Solicitor, Salima Samnani Law Corporation
- Silvia Tobler, Senior Legal Information, Outreach Worker
- Vicky Law, Legal Advocate Battered Women's Support Services



Workshop for North Shore Service Providers

Family Law Information
to support
Women Leaving Abusive Partners

Please join us for an insightful presentation featuring the following presenters:

Salima Samnani, Barrister and Solicitor
Salima Samnani Law Corporation

Silvia Tobler, Senior Legal Information Outreach Worker
Legal Services Society

Vicky Law, Legal Advocate Battered Women's Support Services
We invite all North Shore service providers to join us. You will gain valuable perspective, information, tools and resources about family law to help support women leaving abusive partners.

When: January 26, 2016
Where: North Shore Community Resources
935 Marine Drive, Community Room (upstairs, Capilano Mall)
North Vancouver, BC
Time: 9:30am-12:30pm
Other: Wheelchair accessible (parking lot entrance or elevator access from Mall Level main floor)
Light refreshments will be served.
This workshop is free of cost.

To register:
(Please RSVP by Friday, January 22, 2016)
Contact the North Shore Women's Centre
Phone: 604-984-6009
Email: info@northshorewomen.ca

Brought to you by the
North Shore Women's Centre,
organizing host for the
North Shore Coordinating Committee to
End Violence Against Women in
Relationships (NS VAWIR) with support
from the Ministry of Justice, Province of
British Columbia, through civil forfeiture
proceeds.

FEBRUARY – NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Discussion led by West Vancouver Police Department Deputy Chief Constable, Shane Barber, about the new North Shore Domestic Violence Unit (DVU). Important points were raised:

- DVU is an entry point but much of the work happens outside of police.
- The importance of collaboration including outreach to diverse communities and immigrant communities.
- The significance of victim services workers being culturally attuned to the needs of First Nations communities.

MARCH – NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

This meeting took place at the North Vancouver Courthouse. The Honourable Judge Joanne Challenger was a special guest addressing how domestic violence impacts women using family law court services. Discussion took place about the viability of designated Crown Counsel for domestic violence cases and interest was expressed by attendees on the need for greater familiarity with family law matters to support women accessing their services. Judge

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Challenger informed the group of a Family Law Basics course that she was offering (which took place on April 15th, 2016).

The new NS VAWIR website was presented to the Committee.

APRIL - DECOLONIZING PRAXIS – WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VANCOUVER

On April 20th, Women Against Violence Against Women Vancouver offered a workshop on decolonizing praxis facilitated by Ariana Barer and Charlene Hellson.

Image below and workshop information is from WAVAW website: <http://www.wavaw.ca/decolonizing-workshops/>



Decolonizing Praxis: Supporting Women Affected by Sexualized Violence

A one-day training session for anti-violence workers, counsellors, and legal system professionals.

WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre offers a one-day training sessions for service providers on decolonizing praxis. The training is designed for Community-based Victim Service Workers, Stopping the Violence Counsellors, Stopping the Violence Outreach and Multi-cultural Outreach Workers, Transition House Workers, Police-based Victim Service Workers, Justice System Personnel (Police, Crown, Probation), Ministry of Children and Families Social Workers, Aboriginal Services and interested community partners, individuals and agencies.

This one day experiential workshop will deepen understandings of colonization and violence for service providers who work with Indigenous women affected by sexualized violence. It is an opportunity to talk about negotiating feelings of helplessness, exploring women's social realities and their resistance to oppression. The workshop is unique as it weaves together film, discussion, and creative planning to make a space where historical trauma and concrete strategies for decolonizing practice can be explored. NOTE: This workshop requires vulnerability and open conversation; please come prepared to share and challenge yourself.

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APRIL - ELDER ABUSE TRAINING SEMINAR

April 25, 2016

13 North Shore service providers attended this seminar, presented by Marnie Stickley of the Elder Abuse Unit (a partnership between the Vancouver Police Department and Family Services of Greater Vancouver). From post-training evaluations, it was determined that participants found the workshop to be successful, useful, relevant, and comprehensive. Topics addressed included:

- Elder abuse in the criminal code
- Safety factors and crime victim assistance
- Processes of adult guardianship

Elder Abuse

A Training Seminar for North Shore Service Providers

Monday, April 25th, 2016
9:30am-12:30pm
Ann MacDonald Hall at Presentation House Theatre
333 Chesterfield Ave., North Vancouver
\$10 Registration Fee; Refreshments Provided



Please join Community Counsellor, Marnie Stickley, from the Elder Abuse Unit, a partnership between the Vancouver Police Department and Family Services of Greater Vancouver, for this special training seminar. All service providers are welcome to attend.

Hosted by the North Shore Women's Centre, the session will include an overview of elder abuse including dynamics and statistics, the role of designated agencies, current practices and recommendations for support based on the work of the Elder Abuse Unit.

For more information and to register, please contact the North Shore Women's Centre at 604.984.6009 or info@northshorewomen.ca

Event made possible thanks to support from the Ministry of Justice, Province of British Columbia

APRIL – INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

April 27, 2016

An educational seminar about intimate partner violence was organized for representatives of religious and faith-based communities. Facilitated by Pastor Karen McAndless-Davis, this training event explored patterns of abuse, the many types of abuse, and the "impacts of abuse". It was designed for spiritual leaders, individuals who provide counsel or pastoral care and work with members in their faith-based community. Statistically, the first person a woman of faith will turn to is her pastor, minister, priest, imam, rabbi, or spiritual leader. As a result, leaders for women in a faith-based community become critical, front line workers in supporting victims of abuse.

Educational Seminar on Intimate Partner Violence for Representatives of Religious & Faith Based Communities

The North Shore Women's Centre welcomes you to join us in a workshop for spiritual leaders, individuals who provide counsel or pastoral care and work with members in their faith-based community.


When: Wed, April 27th, 2016 - 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
* This event is free
* Lunch will be served

Location: North Shore Community Resources
935 Marine Drive, Community Room
(2nd Floor, Capilano Mall), North Vancouver

One in three women will experience physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, and a higher percentage will experience emotional or psychological abuse. Statistically, the first person a woman of faith will turn to is her pastor, minister, priest, imam, rabbi or spiritual leader. As a leader in your church, synagogue, mosque or spiritual community, you are a critical, front line worker in supporting women experiencing abuse.

In this training event, we will explore patterns of abuse and the many types of abuse. We will also discuss the "impacts of abuse". These are normal human reactions that women have to being oppressed and terrorized. We invite you to come and receive the opportunity to strengthen your knowledge, further develop your skills, and learn about other support resources that are available in the community.

For more information and to register, please contact the North Shore Women's Centre at 604.984.6009 or info@northshorewomen.ca



The seminar will be facilitated by Karen McAndless-Davis.

Karen has been providing support, advocacy and counseling for women with experiences of abuse for almost 20 years. She is the co-author of the book, *When Love Hurts: A Women's Guide to Understanding Abuse in Relationships*.

Karen is an experienced trainer and facilitator, has a busy private practice, and has started support groups for women throughout the Lower Mainland.

Karen is a pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Canada and seeks to have her faith shape her support of women who have been abused.

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MAY – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BC CORRECTIONS


Nicolle Binnie, Probation Officer with North Shore Community Corrections and an assistant Deputy Warden from a custody center offered a presentation to inform justice partners with respect to the role and responsibilities of the branch, including the Community Corrections and Custody divisions.

JULY - TAKE BACK THE NET WORKSHOP

Presented by Rhiannon Wong, this workshop made salient the ways in which technology can be used to perpetrate violence against vulnerable women and children. By raising this awareness among front-line service providers, they hoped to better equip them to consider tech safety factors in their day-to-day work.

Attendees of the training learned about a variety of technologies and how they can be incorporated into safety plans, as well as other technologies being used within individual agencies. Ultimately, 98% of participants were “very satisfied” with the overall training, and all of the participants either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the training was conducted in a manner that was both safe and respectful.

Based on evaluations of the training, the primary concern of attendees was that the three-hour training was too short to adequately discuss this pertinent issue. A longer time frame would have allowed for more interactive exercises, and for each topic to be discussed in greater depth. 15 members of the VAWIR committee or colleagues of those on the committee completed technology safety training conducted by the BC Society of Transition Houses.



Take Back the Net!
Technology Training to Enhance Women & Children's Safety

Tuesday, July 12 2016
Community Room of North Shore Community Resources
#201-935 Marine Drive, Capilano Mall
Registration 9am, Training from 9:30am-12:30pm

Technology keeps women and children safe and is used to put them in danger. **Learn How!**

Presenter: Rhiannon Wong

Technology can be used to keep women and children safe. We must also know more about how technology can be misused by perpetrators to commit crimes of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, impersonation and harassment.

Are you working towards increased safety, privacy, accessibility and self-determination of women and children experiencing violence? If so, this workshop is for you!

This training is hosted by the North Shore Women's Centre

To register call **604.984.6009** or email info@northshorewomen.ca

Registration Fee: \$15 (includes refreshments)



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SEPTEMBER - STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

This committee meeting time was used as a strategic planning session. Issues/ideas covered:

- NS VAWIR achievements to date
- Systemic issues or barriers for women experiencing violence in the community
- Factors increasing or decreasing women's risk and safety
- Gaps in community safety net and offender accountability. Six overarching gaps identified through small-group discussion:
 1. Lack of consistency and prioritizing within justice/family systems as well as within agencies.
 2. Lack of resources for women in the community, including: housing, income assistance, childcare, counselling, legal aid, sexual assault response, communication with services on the North Shore, etc., as well as lack of resources for responding agencies.
 3. Particular lack of resources for marginalized communities, including: women with disabilities, immigrants, youth and seniors.
 4. Lack of communication between front-line workers and justice/family systems.
 5. The need to highlight value and role of work and responses at a municipal level (ex: housing possibilities, etc.).
 6. Lack of on-going training for service providers/responders at all levels from a trauma-informed perspective.
- Strategies, actions/activities, campaigns, etc. that the committee could undertake to achieve over the following year
- Four concrete goals were identified:
 1. December 6th Initiative; with possible media attention
 2. Establish a Family Court Users Committee for the North Shore
 3. Delegation to North Shore Municipalities, Re: VAWIR Committee
 4. Committee Training Sessions/Presentations (i.e. Relocation; "Aces Too High")

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NOVEMBER – NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

This meeting predominantly focused on:

- planning and coordination for the December 6th event to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- discussion of the new North Shore Domestic Violence Unit.

December 6th Event

A discussion was held to determine and plan the Committee's 2016 December 6th initiative. Past events in recent years had taken the form of public information tables, and while beneficial, it was felt that this year an activity of a larger scale was needed to reach more people and have a broader impact by attracting media attention. Due to high numbers of missing and murdered First Nations women, partnering with the local Nations was also deemed important.

The Committee began the planning of a public walk in a visible location, with high visibility objects such as balloons and signs. The public education sub-committee would continue organizing the event.

North Shore Domestic Violence Unit

Detective Fred Harding from the West Vancouver Police Department presented some important points about the new DVU:

- Emphasis on connecting with the offenders
- Emphasis that a woman should be able to walk in off of the street into the police department and immediately receive support to address violence
- Detectives are imbedded and building experience in the field
- Reporting to ICAT
- Ideal to have a dedicated sergeant, corporeal, and constable
- Face-to-face contact with partners (of domestic violence survivors)
- Victims are going to family court with their counsellors as a support system
- Victim services are working to capacity
- 30-35% of criminal files at courthouse are of domestic violence
- DVU manages highest risk, followed by ICAT (next highest risk)

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DECEMBER - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A march was organized on December 6th, 2016 by the NS VAWIR Committee to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. 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. The event was covered in the North Shore News the following day: <http://www.nsnews.com/news/national-day-of-remembrance-1.3967165>

NEVER AGAIN!



Join us in a Walk to Commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls

December 6, 2016 11:30am – 1pm

11:30am Meet at the Chief Joe Mathias Centre
100 Capilano Road, North Van
12 Noon Walk together to the Welcome Figure
at Ambleside Park

Join us to take a stand for women!

For more information:
www.northshorevawir.com
or 604-988-2931 (North Shore Multicultural Society)



NORTH SHORE VAWIR COMMITTEE



Participant Feedback

“Wow! Amazing workshop, the facilitator was so effective at painting a realistic picture of what many people experience in their daily lives.”

[Elder Abuse workshop attendee]

“We appreciate all the training and meetings that you offer. It’s very vital to get connected to other agencies on the North Shore.”

[Family Law workshop attendee]

“Just holding workshops like this are invaluable as a packaged experience. I would love it if more people had the opportunity to attend an event like this.”

[WAWAW Decolonizing Praxis workshop attendee]

Sub-Committee Activity Report

INTERAGENCY CASE ASSESSMENT TEAM (ICAT)

The North Shore Integrated Case Assessment Team (NS ICAT) is one of many community ICATs across the province. ICATs are made up of responders to offenders and victims of high risk domestic violence. The team is a subcommittee of the NS VAWIR committee and includes representatives from North Vancouver and West Vancouver community and police-based victim services, police officers, family justice counsellors, Community Corrections, the Ministry of Child and Family Development, Native Court Workers, Vancouver Coastal Health, Aboriginal service providers, the transition house and other agencies that respond to domestic violence. The focus of the NS ICAT is to improve victim safety through risk assessment, safety planning and offender management.

The development of the NS ICAT model is based on the research and Best Practices of the Community Coordination for Women's Safety program at EVA BC. Go on the link below for more information about ICATs across the province <http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/ccws-program/interagency-case-assessment-teams-icats/>. This type of community coordination is mandated in the Provincial government's VAWIR policy (Violence Against Women in Relationships) for highest risk domestic violence situations.

How are we doing on the North Shore?

The NS ICAT started meeting in June 2013 and we have reviewed over 40 high risk domestic violence situations since then. The primary benefit of the ongoing meetings – and what makes the team so effective – is the development of the professional relationships that has happened at the table. Since team members trust and respect each other, ideas and problem-solving can flow freely. We encourage each other to think creatively and to generate effective strategies to ensure that the victim stays safe.

In 2016, the NS ICAT opened and reviewed seven high-risk cases.

The above statement was provided by Connie Bonsteel, NS ICAT Committee Coordinator.

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Future Directions

LAUNCH OF THE NS VAWIR WEBSITE

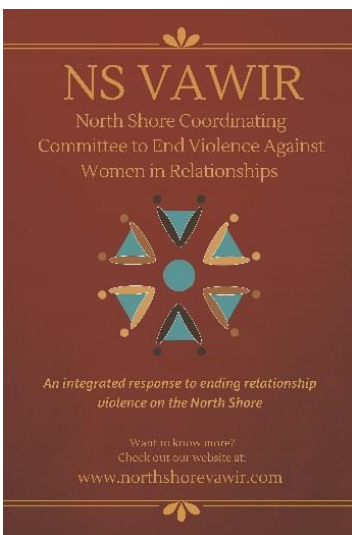
In 2016, the NS VAWIR website www.northshorevawir.com went live. This was an exciting addition to the Committee's work, as it solidified an online presence which is accessible for both the public, committee members, and North Shore other service providers. This website contains valuable information and resources that many individuals will find beneficial to their work and personal lives. Members of NS VAWIR can use the site to find resources and referrals for their clients. Women who are in abusive relationships, survivors of abuse, or in transition are able to gain knowledge and understanding of the services that are available to them – this hopefully eases the difficult circumstances that they are in, or have lived through.

GOOGLE DOCS ACCOUNT

The NS VAWIR Committee has created a Google Docs account to provide convenient access for committee members to resources, meeting minutes and agendas, event posters, and much more.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The Committee is further expanding its public presence through the use of promotional materials. Banners and pamphlets have been produced. Committee members can use these materials when they are at information sessions in the public.



THIS BANNER IS MOUNTED ON A STAND AND USED FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY BOOTHS AT PRESENTATIONS AND MEETINGS.

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North Shore Women's Centre

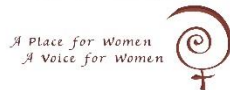
Host Agency

The North Shore Women's Centre (NSWC) has proudly hosted the NS VAWIR committee for over 15 years.

The purpose of the NSWC is to improve the social, economic, and political status of women and to encourage and support self-empowerment by acting as a resource and a catalyst for change from a feminist perspective.

The NSWC provides a variety of resources, programs, and support to women on the North Shore. These include but are not limited to:

- Drop-in resource centre.
- Computer training program.
- Family law clinic.
- Health & wellness program.
- Single Mom's support group.
- Girls empowerment camp.
- Educational workshops.



www.northshorewomen.ca

North Shore VAWIR Committee



c/o NS Women's Centre
131 East 2nd Street
North Vancouver, BC, V7L 1C2
604-984-6009

www.northshorevawir.com
northshorevawir@gmail.com

If you are a service provider interested in joining the committee, contact us at the NSWC:
info@northshorewomen.ca

If you are an individual looking for assistance with relationship violence, call 911 if it is an emergency, or access our service providers through the committee website:
www.northshorevawir.com

North Shore VAWIR

Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women in Relationships



An integrated response to ending relationship violence on the North Shore

Visit us at:
www.northshorevawir.com

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North Shore VAWIR

Committee Background

In the early 1990's, the North Shore Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women in Relationships (NS VAWIR Committee) was formed.

Since July 2001, the Committee has been hosted and supported through coordination and administration by the North Shore Women's Centre.

The Committee includes representation from a wide range of community service providers involved in areas such as policing, probation, victim's services, crown counsel, health, First Nations, immigrant and multicultural services, counseling, advocacy, and legal services.

The committee itself does not provide direct service to members of the community. Rather, it is a way to coordinate information and services amongst various agencies. Individuals who are not service providers can access the committee's website for links to various agencies and their programs.

Committee Membership & Meetings

- New and returning members are welcome.
- There are approximately 6 meetings per year.
- Meetings typically last 2 hours.
- They often include a guest speaker and information sharing.
- Members share relevant information throughout their respective agencies.

The committee is working toward a coordinated response in the following ways:

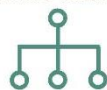
SERVICE DELIVERY



EDUCATION



SYSTEMIC RESPONSE



Service Delivery

- Opportunities for front line workers to meet face-to-face.
- Commitment to providing best practices.
- Meetings allow for communication about services and referral protocols.
- Service gaps and trends within various sectors are identified.
- The Integrated Case Assessment Team sub-committee improves victim safety in the highest risk situations.

Education

- The committee conducts public education via community forums, information tables, etc.
- Capacity is built through training in the following areas: legal systems, tech safety, risk assessment and intervention, collaboration, cultural awareness.
- The NS VAWIR website includes resources for the public, and training for service providers.

Systemic Response

- The committee works to understand and address the systemic nature of violence against women.
- Policies and legislation are reviewed to make recommendations for change when appropriate.
- Liaising with other community response networks, prevention organizations, government, and justice systems.