

NS VAWIR ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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 the Committee

[NS VAWIR](#) is a cross-sectoral network of 20+ NS service agencies working toward 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.

It further endeavours 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 our upcoming Men as Allies event 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.

2017 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
- Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support 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
- West Vancouver Police Department, Victim Services

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Year in Review

This year marked a significant development for the North Shore VAWIR Committee as we were able to hire a paid Coordinator for the first time, thanks to financial support from the three North Shore municipalities. Tania Bakas began this position in August of 2017, and works in an administrative and coordinating capacity for the Committee for five hours a week. Having paid coordination for the Committee has been a substantial development in a number of 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. At this juncture of the Committee's evolution, having paid coordination is an essential component, without which the Committee would not have been able to grow and flourish in the way in has done. Thanks to our financial supporters and Tania's dedicated efforts, the North Shore VAWIR Committee has been able to root itself even deeper into the foundations of the community as we continue our integrated work towards keeping women safe and ending violence against women on the North Shore.

As you will read in this report, 2017 saw the continuation of the Committee's regular bi-monthly meetings, which typically include guest speakers, the critical work of the North Shore's Domestic Violence Unit, as well as the re-development and hosting of a Walk Through the Justice System event, where community members and service providers get a first-hand insight into the criminal justice system response to relationship violence through visits to the police station and courthouse.

Starting in 2017, through the leadership of Cpl Crystal Shostak of the North Vancouver RCMP, the Strength and Remembrance Pole initiative was launched with a public ground blessing ceremony held on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This project will continue into 2018, when the pole is to be carved and raised. Another public initiative, the Men as Allies forum, whose origins began in 2017, will take place in 2018. These two developments point to the Indigenous leadership in the community in working to end violence against women as well as the need for urgent social change to increase the safety and equity of Indigenous women.

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The North Shore VAWIR Committee was hard at work throughout 2017, and with the on-going support of the community was able to create some significant partnerships and develop some innovative and meaningful initiatives that we plan to continue into the year ahead.

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2017 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.



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

MAY- NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

On May 2nd, 2017 Corporal Crystal Shostak from NV RCMP Special Victims Unit presented plans for the Strength & Remembrance Pole Project and December 6th National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Commemoration.

AUGUST – NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

For the August 2017 meeting, we covered our plans to execute the following activities for 2017/2018:

- Day in Court [Renamed to: A Walk Through the Justice System]
- Training Workshop (NS Service Providers)
- Public Event
- NS VAWIR Fundraising Event

SEPTEMBER- NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Doris Paul from Hollyburn Family Services Society Aboriginal Specialized Victim Support offered a presentation on September 19th, 2017 titled "Silence is Violence": An informative presentation to deepen understanding of the layers of trauma experienced by First Nations.

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NOVEMBER – NS VAWIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Presentation by Cpl Crystal Shostak, Special Victims Unit - North Vancouver RCMP:
"Sexual Violence on the North Shore"

DECEMBER- A WALK THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

On December 5th, 2017 NS VAWIR offered "A Walk Through the Justice System". This half-day event was an opportunity for service providers and community members to attend a presentation at the North Vancouver RCMP police station led by Cpl Crystal Shostak and then visit the North Vancouver Courthouse for a discussion with Provincial Court Judge Joanne Challenger, Defense Council, Crown and Sheriff.

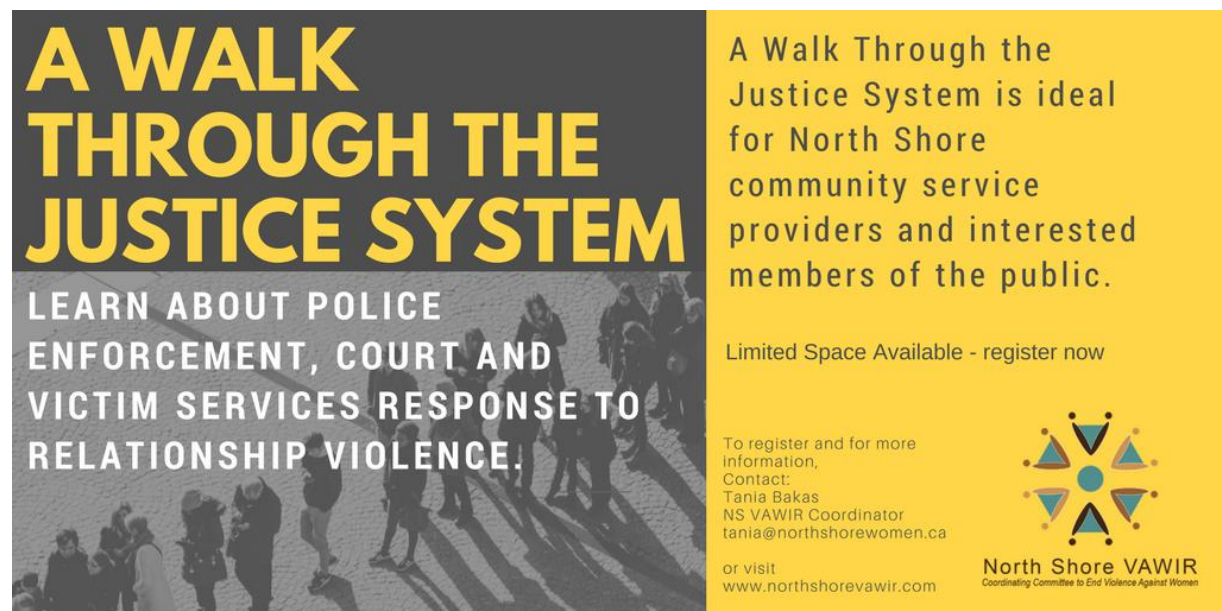
Some feedback from participants:

"The visit to the courthouse and learning about the roles of various people in the courtroom were my favourite"

When asked what they liked about the event, two participants responded with the following:

"The details were explained from the police perspective"

"The opportunity to interact with a Judge, crown and defense lawyer"



A WALK THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

LEARN ABOUT POLICE ENFORCEMENT, COURT AND VICTIM SERVICES RESPONSE TO RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE.

A Walk Through the Justice System is ideal for North Shore community service providers and interested members of the public.

Limited Space Available - register now

To register and for more information, Contact:
Tania Bakas
NS VAWIR Coordinator
tania@northshorewomen.ca

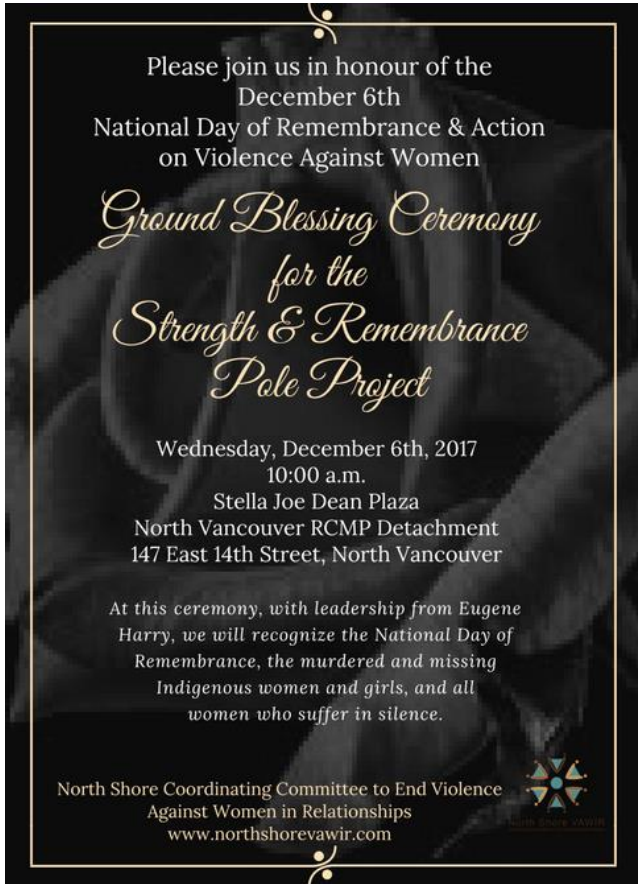
or visit
www.northshorevawir.com

North Shore VAWIR
Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women

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DECEMBER – GROUND BLESSING

On December 6th, 2017 a Ground Blessing at the location of the future Strength & Remembrance Pole took place to recognize the National Day of Remembrance, the murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, and all women who suffer in silence.




Please join us in honour of the
December 6th
National Day of Remembrance & Action
on Violence Against Women

*Ground Blessing Ceremony
for the
Strength & Remembrance
Pole Project*

Wednesday, December 6th, 2017
10:00 a.m.
Stella Joe Dean Plaza
North Vancouver RCMP Detachment
147 East 14th Street, North Vancouver

*At this ceremony, with leadership from Eugene
Harry, we will recognize the National Day of
Remembrance, the murdered and missing
Indigenous women and girls, and all
women who suffer in silence.*

North Shore Coordinating Committee to End Violence
Against Women in Relationships
www.northshorevawir.com



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 June 2017, the unit added the Aboriginal Victim Support Worker position to better serve our aboriginal clients that may become involved with the NSDVU. The Aboriginal Victim Support Worker works with the victims of domestic violence who identify as having aboriginal ancestry and are involved in a high risk domestic violence situation. This position continues to grow and along with the entire NSDVU, is becoming well known on the Squamish Nation.

In 2017 the North Shore Domestic Violence Unit worked on 52 high risk domestic violence files from North and West Vancouver. In 2017, referrals to the NSDVU came from the North Vancouver RCMP, West Vancouver Police, Hollyburn Family Services, MCFD as well as Provincial Crown Counsel.

The NSDVU is continuously improving its service delivery to best serve the victims of domestic violence who reside on the North Shore.



Special Projects

STRENGTH & REMEMBRANCE POLE PROJECT

On December 6th, 2016 members of the VAWIR committee, Squamish Nation members, and community members walked in remembrance for all women who have been victims of 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. The group walked with banners and purple balloons (purple is the national color for violence against women) to the Ambleside Welcome Statue in West Vancouver where we placed roses in the water as a symbol of remembrance.

Cpl Crystal Shostak from North Vancouver RCMP Special Victims Unit recognized that despite the incredible outpouring of positive feedback surrounding the event and its impact, the North Shore lacked a permanent place where community members could go whenever they needed to draw strength or reflect on the many lives affected by gender based violence. This led the project idea.

Sgt. Domodossola shared an idea their guard Shucks (Larry) Nahanee had of putting a totem pole in the Stella Joe Dean Plaza in the front of the North Vancouver RCMP Detachment. Cpl. Shostak spoke with Shucks and the project idea was formed.

The project has received the blessing of the Squamish Nation Council, Tsleil-Waututh Nation Council, and Cpl. Shostak has appeared before the North Vancouver City Council who has given their blessing to proceed, graciously donating \$10,000 to the project fund. She also appeared before the North Vancouver Arts Advisory Committee and received their approval for the project idea and pole design.

Shucks chose a local Squamish artist Jody Bloomfield who has agreed to be the master carver for the project. The pole design will include 3 figures: On top of the pole is the main focal figure - honouring and uplifting the **Women** wrapped in a blanket, whom are our life-givers, care-takers, mothers, grandmothers, aunties and matriarchs. The middle figure is the majestic **Eagle**, representing the soaring guiding spirit, the one that is able to carry prayers to

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the Spirit world. The figure on the bottom is the **Bear**, representing Strength and Family Unity. The pole will also be carved into the log 360 degrees.

The project team includes community partners: Onni Construction Group Ltd, Bryson Markulin Zickmantel Engineers, North Vancouver City Council Park management, Jessica Oakes and Richard Howard, North Vancouver City Councilor Linda Buchanan, and is overseen by the North Shore Violence Against Women in Relationships Committee with Cpl. Shostak as the project lead.

Carving on the pole has yet to begun, but should begin very soon. The construction of the base is set to begin shortly. Cpl. Shostak is working on funding, grants, etc. The pole is set to be in place by approximately November 2018 in preparation for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6th, 2018.

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Future Directions

MEN AS ALLIES FORUM

On Saturday, October 20th, from 9:30am-2:30pm the NS VAWIR Committee is pleased to be hosting and coordinating a special community forum on the topic of men as allies in ending violence against women.

With a strong Indigenous and youth focus, we will welcome all members of the community to join in a discussion on this powerful and timely subject. The keynote address will be given 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 Aboriginal peoples and an accomplished speaker -speaking at and facilitating over 400 presentations throughout Canada and the United States since 2008.

The keynote will be followed by a panel forum comprised of key community representatives addressing relevant issues and highlighting:

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

Following the panel discussion and a catered lunch will be live performances including local hip hop artist, Discreet Da Chosen 1, from the Squamish Nation. Discreet is a talented artist

MEN AS ALLIES

FORUM | NORTH VANCOUVER, BC
THE UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE SQUAMISH AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATIONS

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 20TH
2018

KEYNOTE BY GREY CUP CHAMPION
JR LaRose

HOW MEN CAN BECOME ALLIES IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

RESOURCES, SOCIAL CHANGE, INDIGENOUS VOICES, PERSONAL GROWTH, YOUTH ISSUES, HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, SUPPORT

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY HIP HOP ARTIST
Discreet Da Chosen 1

FREE EVENT | ALL WELCOME
LUNCH | SWAG | PANEL DISCUSSION
WWW.NORTHSHOREVAWIR.COM
MORE EVENT INFORMATION TO BE POSTED SOON

ENDING VIOLENCE Association of BC, Vancity, HSA, city of north Vancouver, North Shore VAWIR

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who has dedicated much of his time educating youth on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. The forum will also provide a venue for local community service providers to connect with members of the public through information tables and displays.

NS VAWIR NEWSLETTER

In an effort 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 2018, the Committee plans to launch a quarterly NS VAWIR E-newsletter 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.

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Donor Recognition

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 FUNDERS



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE MEETING CATERING SPONSOR



Cobs Park & Tilford