

User Report

INVENTORY OF ABORIGINAL POLICING PROGRAMS IN CANADA

PART VII: MEETING THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

NO. 1992-18

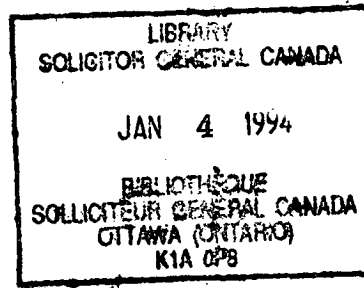
Aboriginal Policing Series

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Julie Jarvis
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**INVENTORY OF ABORIGINAL
POLICING PROGRAMS IN CANADA**

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The views expressed in this working paper are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada. It is made available as submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada. The English version was reviewed and formatted by Tessier Translations Corporation.

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INVENTORY OF ABORIGINAL POLICING PROGRAMS IN CANADA

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

A. Background to the Survey

As part of an ongoing effort to improve policing policies and programs for Aboriginal communities in Canada, the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada surveyed selected federal, provincial and municipal police services in early 1991 to solicit information on their current Aboriginal peoples policing policies and programs. The objective of the survey was to compile and publish an overview of police initiatives targeted at Aboriginal peoples to serve as a resource document for police officials wanting to develop or expand special initiatives. In order to make the results more accessible and readable, the survey has been published as a series of seven reports.

B. Survey Methodology

The survey targeted 430 police services responsible for providing services to Aboriginal communities or to communities with a significant Aboriginal population. The majority of participants were police services providing front-line policing for local communities (including municipal and First Nations forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) detachments). Other participants included units at the divisional and Headquarters level of the O.P.P., Sûreté du Québec and the RCMP.

The survey questionnaires requested information on specific initiatives, including:

- Training and Development Programs for Aboriginal police officers;
- Cultural Awareness Training Programs for non-Aboriginal police officers; and
- Special Programs for Aboriginal communities (i.e., crime prevention, victims assistance, drug and alcohol abuse, family violence, child sexual abuse, youth and others).

The participants completed individual questionnaires for each program and initiative identified.¹

C. Response

Through this survey, 203 respondents identified close to 460 individual initiatives.

Many detachments made reference to the same provincial, divisional or national initiatives. Duplicated references of programs are included in the total number of initiatives identified.

1. In some cases, respondents used one survey questionnaire to describe several programs. Wherever possible, these initiatives have been divided and categorized as separate initiatives.

D. Interpretation of the Findings

A key feature of the survey questionnaire was that it left the definition of what constitutes a "police-based" Aboriginal policing initiative to the discretion of respondents. As a result, this concept was widely interpreted. All divisional, provincial and national police participants identified strictly police-based or operated initiatives, whereas front-line police respondents tended to rely on a broad interpretation of Aboriginal policing, including many examples of inter-agency and police-community partnerships. The overall response included the following types of initiatives:

- general or specific references to nation- or province/division-wide initiatives;
- local- or detachment-level implementation of national or provincial Aboriginal policing initiatives;
- local- or detachment-level implementation of other national or provincial policing initiatives in Aboriginal communities (with or without modifications for Aboriginal communities);
- initiatives developed by police on an individual basis to meet the unique requirements of local communities (including those developed in cooperation with other local agencies and/or community members); and
- information on police involvement in, and contributions to, initiatives initiated by other agencies/organizations or by the community.

E. Highlighted Initiatives

In undertaking the survey, it was found that many programs had shared characteristics. To avoid considerable duplication of descriptions, we selected as highlighted initiatives the 100 most comprehensive program descriptions. These form the major part of the seven reports. In addition, at the end of each report similar initiatives were referenced by providing a contact person. Therefore, those seeking information on a particular initiative could refer to those initiatives highlighted and those found in the additional responses section at the end of each report.

F. Organization of the Reports

The information obtained through the survey has been compiled into a seven-part inventory and published as a series of reports:

- I. Aboriginal Police Officer Development and Policing
- II. Aboriginal Cultural Awareness
- III. Increasing Access to Policing Services
- IV. Police-Community Communication and Liaison
- V. Focus on Youth
- VI. Taking Action Against Substance Abuse
- VII. Meeting the Needs of Victims and Offenders

Additional Information Gathering

To supplement and clarify the information provided through questionnaires, the author held follow-up consultations with more than 100 police services. In addition, and to the extent possible, the national and provincial policing initiatives directing local program development have been identified.

The highlighted initiatives represent a cross-section and an overview of Aboriginal policing as it is currently being implemented in communities across Canada.

The information for each highlighted initiative has been organized to emphasize the following types of information:

Police and Community Profile

This section contains the following information:

- jurisdiction of police service;
- number and size (population) of Aboriginal communities within the jurisdiction;
- location and accessibility of Aboriginal communities within the jurisdiction;
- number of police officers providing service; and
- number of Aboriginal police officers providing service.

The information for these profiles was provided by the respondents. In cases where police services could not provide the information, an effort was made to supplement the profile with information based on 1986 census data. In the cases of the RCMP Divisions, the information was taken from data provided by the RCMP.

History and Development

Wherever possible, this section provides the following information on each initiative:

- who is responsible for initiating the program or policy;
- the date (month and/or year) of implementation;
- the purpose and objective(s) of the program or policy;
- the target group or focus of the program or policy; and
- pertinent background information on the program, policy or process of implementation.

In particular, this section highlights the contributions of police services.

Aboriginal Community Input

This section outlines the following:

- any consultation process with Aboriginal community members prior to program implementation; and
- mechanisms to facilitate Aboriginal community input on an ongoing basis.

Participants and Target Groups

This section specifies the individuals and organizations involved in the development and implementation of the program and the groups for whom the policy or program was developed.

Design and Delivery

Where possible, this section provides the following information:

- individuals and/or organizations responsible for program design;
- individuals and/or organizations responsible for program implementation;
- description of policy or program content; and
- description of policy or program implementation and operation.

Funding

Where possible, this section provides the following information:

- the total budget or cost of the program;
- the sponsor(s) (i.e., funding bodies);
- contributions in kind; and
- status of funding.

Outcomes and Evaluations

This section contains the following information, where available:

- respondents' comments regarding police and/or community response to the initiative;
- specific related developments which have emerged as a result of the policy or program;
- specific accomplishments related to the initiative;
- the status of policy or program development or implementation; and
- the status of program or policy evaluation, both formal and informal.

Contact

Individuals responsible for either completing and returning survey questionnaires and/or providing additional information have been identified in this section. If the respondent was not identified, the contact is shown as the Chief of Police or Detachment Commander. These individuals are not responsible, however, for the final content of the reports.

If a respondent identified a program offered by other police departments or outside agencies involved in the program, these police departments and/or agencies were, where necessary, contacted for supplemental information. They are also included as contacts in the descriptions.

Additional Responses

Each report in the series includes in addition to the highlighted programs a section called Additional Responses. This section groups initiatives similar to those highlighted that were identified by survey respondents but not highlighted in the report.

PART VII: MEETING THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh in a series of seven reports on Aboriginal Policing Programs in Canada. This report highlights police services involvement in the development and delivery of programs designed to assist both victims and offenders in Aboriginal communities. There are four sections: Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Programs and Support Groups; Child Sexual Abuse and Family Violence Education; Victim Assistance Programs and Protocols; and Alternatives for Offenders.

Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Programs and Support Groups

In this area, respondents identified several community-based child sexual abuse treatment initiatives in which police services are working with other agencies and members of the community to develop effective, coordinated responses to the problem, including the implementation of treatment and support groups for victims and offenders.

According to the initiatives identified by the survey, police services have contributed to the following types of programs through their participation in community coordinating and inter-agency committees:

- a community-based treatment program for victims;
- a self-help support group for victims; and
- a community-based diversion program for offenders.

Child Sexual Abuse and Family Violence Education

This section highlights police services involvement in the development and delivery of community education and awareness programs dealing with child sexual abuse and family violence. The following types of initiatives are highlighted:

- police services contributions to workshops on child sexual abuse or family violence which form part of larger initiatives organized by other agencies or the community; and
- police-initiated workshops, including an example of a province-wide public education and awareness campaign for Aboriginal communities and police officers.

Victim Assistance Programs and Protocols

This section highlights police services involvement in initiatives designed to address the needs of victims in Aboriginal communities. Highlighted initiatives include:

- a victim assistance program developed in conjunction with the community to meet the needs of Aboriginal victims; and
- the development and implementation of police community agency protocols to deal with victims of crime and incidents of domestic violence in an Aboriginal community.

Alternatives for Offenders

In this area, respondents identified several initiatives in which police services are working with other agencies and members of the community to develop community-based alternatives for offenders in Aboriginal communities. These initiatives seek to involve the community in the development of appropriate alternative justice mechanisms. Highlighted initiatives include the following:

- community-based general diversion program for offenders;
- Aboriginal Justice Committee; and
- community-based Bail Supervision Committees.

2. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT GROUPS

2.1 Child Sexual Abuse Program RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment Prince Rupert, British Columbia

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment provides policing services for the city of Prince Rupert, which has a permanent population of 16,000 people, of which approximately 4,800 are of Aboriginal ancestry. As Prince Rupert is the centre of commercial activity in the region, First Nations members are regularly in the city. There are also five main Aboriginal communities and other smaller settlements along the North Shore. All these communities are accessible by boat and helicopter. It takes approximately 45 minutes by helicopter to reach most of the communities and four to five hours by boat.

RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment has a municipal contract for 34 RCMP members and a rural contract for eight members, four of whom are Aboriginal members. Three of the four Aboriginal members are permanently stationed on the First Nations in storefront offices, the fourth rotates from one First Nation to another.

History and Development¹

RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment and other agencies serving the community of Port Simpson are participating in the development of the Child Sexual Abuse Program.

The Child Sexual Abuse Program is reported to be the first program of its kind to be established on a First Nation in Canada. The program is being developed by the community of Port Simpson in consultation with a private agency, Martens, Smith & Associates, which provides treatment, training and education in the field of incest and child sexual abuse.

Based on the Yellowhead Family Sexual Assault Treatment Program introduced in Hinton, Alberta in 1983, the program will offer treatment to victims, offenders and families in cases of incest and child sexual abuse. Clinical staff will work with all members of immediate and extended families, using individual, family, couple and group therapy.

1. This program was identified by RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment. Further information and materials were provided by Martens, Smith & Associates: a private agency involved in the project. T. Martens and B. Daily, "The Spirit Weeps: Characteristics and Dynamics of Incest and Child Sexual Abuse with a Native Perspective", Edmonton, Alberta: Nechi Institute, 1988.

The treatment model was developed initially by Martens & Associates. This group was responsible for the operation of the Yellowhead Family Sexual Assault Treatment Program until Martens & Associates relocated to Surrey, British Columbia, in 1988. At this time, Martens & Associates joined forces with H.G. Smith and Associates, forming Martens, Smith & Associates.

The program has been in development for more than a year and is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1991. Martens, Smith & Associates assisted with the hiring process for program staff. The process took almost a year and took in candidates from across North America.

Aboriginal Community Input

The community of Port Simpson identified the need for this treatment program as the result of a community workshop conducted by Martens, Smith & Associates. Since that time, the First Nations have been moving towards full implementation of the treatment program.

It was noted that the First Nations have originally asked Martens, Smith & Associates to set up the full-scale treatment clinic in Port Simpson. However, Martens, Smith & Associates insisted that the process must be primarily community-based to create a sense of community responsibility and ownership of the process. Although Martens, Smith & Associates are assisting with the development process, the focus is on community ownership and operation of the program.

Participants

The program will be available to members of the Port Simpson community.

Design and Delivery

Personnel from RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment and other local agencies have participated in workshops to prepare for program implementation. The workshops are designed to:

- prepare the community and local practitioners for the program; and
- set up program operation protocols to facilitate cooperation between police services, schools, local agencies and First Nations.

In addition, discussions have been initiated with regard to the "diversion" aspect of this program. The local Court judge is currently considering a system of "categorizing offenses" which would allow certain individuals to be diverted directly into the treatment program.

Four personnel members will staff a clinic to be located in Port Simpson. Staff members will spend two months training with Martens, Smith & Associates before the program is initiated in Port Simpson.

For one year following implementation, Martens, Smith & Associates will conduct an intensive follow-up program (the clinic will be linked by fax, telephone and computer lines with the agency). In addition, Martens, Smith & Associates will make biweekly visits to the clinic to ensure that staff are healthy and the process is functioning.

Workshops for community professionals, such as Child Sexual Abuse Investigation Techniques for Police Officers, will be offered in conjunction with this initiative.

Funding

The First Nations hired Martens, Smith & Associates to work with the community to establish the program and set up the clinic. The First Nations committed \$120,000 to \$140,000 to develop the program. Additional funds have been requested to cover the cost of salaries and specialized training and support for the program staff.

Outcomes and Evaluations

Due to a problem with funding, the program will be introduced in phases. As of August 1, 1991, a staff person has been hired and will provide a general counselling service in September 1991.

Contacts

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2.2 Child Sexual Abuse Committee RCMP Pangnirtung Detachment Pangnirtung, Northwest Territories

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Pangnirtung Detachment provides policing services in a region encompassing the Aboriginal community of Pangnirtung (population: approximately 1,100), and several outposts (each inhabited by two or three families).

RCMP Pangnirtung Detachment has three police officers. One police officer is of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

RCMP Pangnirtung Detachment established the Child Sexual Abuse Committee in Pangnirtung in June 1989. The goal of the initiative is to establish a system through which police services, and other practitioners who share responsibility for dealing with cases of child sexual abuse, could coordinate their efforts.

The goals of the committee include the following:

- to coordinate services and agency responses to the problem; and
- to maintain communication between all local agencies, committees and the community. Respondents note that, given the high personnel turnover in northern postings, it is even more important that such mechanisms be in place to coordinate agency responses in the community.

The committee also provides an ongoing program of community education and awareness. The purpose of the program is two-fold:

- to educate practitioners who are in contact with young people to identify symptoms of sexual or physical abuse; and
- to educate young people about child sexual abuse and make them aware of the "good touch, bad touch" approach.

The committee operates in accordance with the Child Sexual Abuse Protocol implemented by the government of the Northwest Territories. The Protocol was signed September 4, 1990, by the Deputy Minister, Social Services (Northwest Territories); the Commanding Officer, RCMP "G" Division; the General Counsel, Justice Canada; the Deputy Minister, Health (Northwest Territories); and the Deputy Minister, Justice (Northwest Territories). A copy of the protocol is kept on file at the Detachment.

Aboriginal Community Input

The community of Pangnirtung has provided input into all phases of this program.

Participants

The Child Sexual Abuse Committee includes:

- representatives of local community agencies;
- members of other local committees; and
- RCMP personnel.

In total, there are 20 volunteers associated with the program, including three RCMP police officers. Eight volunteers are of Aboriginal ancestry.

The target groups for the committee's education programs are local practitioners and young people in the community.

Design and Delivery

The committee meets once every two months. Additional meetings are held as required.

Funding

The Mental Health Board and the Board of Education support the committee and its activities.

Outcomes and Evaluations

The committee is distributing videos, manuals and other related materials provided by the Government of Northwest Territories and the Department of Education to all mandated agencies in the community.

Contact

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2.3 The Healing Circle RCMP Shellbrook Detachment Shellbrook, Saskatchewan

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Shellbrook Detachment provides policing services in a region encompassing the community of Shellbrook, several other smaller communities and two First Nations: Sandy Lake/Ahtahkakoop (estimated population: approximately 1,300) and Mistawasis (estimated population: approximately 1,000). Both First Nations are located within 50 kilometres of RCMP Shellbrook Detachment.

RCMP Shellbrook Detachment has seven police officers. A satellite Detachment located at the Sandy Lake First Nation has two police officers, both of whom are of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

In 1990-91, there was a dramatic increase in the number of disclosures of child sexual abuse in the community of Sandy Lake. As part of an overall response, RCMP Shellbrook Detachment personnel, together with other practitioners and members of the community, participated in the development of a support group for women victims of sexual abuse.

In November 1990, The Healing Circle support group held its first meeting at the home of a local teacher. Although the First Nations Council gave the group permission to use the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) Centre for the first meeting, the group decided that they would feel more comfortable holding the meeting in a private home. Fifteen people attended the meeting: 10 staff members of local agencies (including RCMP Shellbrook Detachment personnel and counsellors from the Sexual Assault Centre in Prince Albert) and five women from the Sandy Lake community.

The Healing Circle is now an entirely community-based group, although local practitioners act as resource persons for the group.

Following the establishment of The Healing Circle, a support group for children was established.

RCMP Shellbrook Detachment makes referrals to The Healing Circle group. In the case of the Children Support Group, Detachment personnel attend meetings to answer questions about the investigation and prosecution process.

Aboriginal Community Input

The Healing Circle and subsequent initiatives have been implemented in cooperation with the First Nations Council and the local community.

Residents and practitioners from the community have been involved in the support groups from the outset.

Participants

Women of all ages who are victims of sexual abuse participate in The Healing Circle.

Young people (6 to 14 years of age) participate in the Children Support Group. Respondents note that, although it is known that both boys and girls have been sexually abused, it has been very difficult to get the boys and men involved in the support groups.

Design and Delivery

The Healing Circle

The Healing Circle meets once every two weeks. Members of the community (either victims of abuse or people who just want to offer their help) offer support to individuals in the group.

Various community representatives also attend the group, including:

- a local Education Coordinator;
- a nurse from the Sandy Lake Health Clinic;
- a representative of adult women in the community; and
- a student from the local school.

Through the group, victims are put in touch (on an informal basis) with the various agencies and services available to them.

The Healing Circle is based on the concept of "people helping people". Professionals may be brought in to assist with the healing process. For example, representatives of the Sexual Assault Centre in Prince Albert have shown films and led discussions on various topics. In addition, representatives from the Department of Social Services have attended to discuss their involvement in cases of sexual abuse and the support services they offer.

Children Support Group

The Children Support Group meets at the local school in Sandy Lake twice per week. A counsellor from the Mental Health Association of Prince Albert leads the group meetings and conducts individual sessions with the children. Guest speakers, including RCMP personnel and counsellors from the Mental Health Association, speak to the group on a regular basis.

Children are allowed to bring friends to the group for support. In many cases, the friends have also made disclosures.

Funding

The Healing Circle began as a voluntary support group and meetings were held in the participants homes.

Other agencies and organizations, such as the Department of Social Services and the Sexual Assault Centre in Prince Albert provide information and resource materials.

The Children Support Group was formed after The Healing Circle and operates through the local school.

In 1991, the Sandy Lake First Nation Council passed a resolution to take full responsibility for dealing with the problem of sexual abuse in the community. The First Nation now provides the funding for counsellors and support programs.

Outcomes and Evaluations

The investigations of sexual abuse in Sandy Lake and the establishment of local support groups have led to a community-wide commitment to deal with the issue.

The Sandy Lake First Nation has supported the information meetings and the establishment of new programs. For example, since the spring of 1991, a local NNADAP counsellor has been leading a support group for the men who have sexually abused children. The First Nation is also conducting public education on various topics related to sexual abuse.

In the spring of 1991, school teachers, health care workers, other practitioners and community members from three local First Nations came together to address the issue of sexual abuse in their communities.

In May 1991, the community of Mistawasis held a well attended information meeting on the problem of child sexual abuse. This community has just begun to establish local support groups based on the concept of "people helping people".

Contact

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2.4 Community Holistic Healing Circle: An Approach RCMP Powerview Detachment Powerview, Manitoba

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Powerview Detachment provides policing services in a region encompassing the community of Powerview (population: approximately 3,500) and several Aboriginal communities, including the Little Black River First Nation (population: approximately 300), the Fort Alexander First Nation, the Hollow Water First Nation and three Metis communities: Manigotagan, Seymourville and Aghaming.

Fort Alexander First Nation is located on the outskirts of Powerview. Little Black River First Nation is located approximately 45 kilometres from the Detachment. Hollow Water First Nation and the communities of Manigotagan, Seymourville and Aghaming are 72 kilometres north of Powerview.

The Hollow Water First Nation and the communities of Manigotagan, Seymourville and Aghaming are in such close proximity to one another that, geographically, they are one community. The combined population of the Hollow Water First Nation and the three Metis settlements is estimated to be 1,000.

RCMP Powerview Detachment has 14 police officers.

History and Development

In 1987, the Detachment Commander, RCMP Powerview Detachment, and representatives of other local agencies, participated in the development of the Community Holistic Healing Circle in the communities of Hollow Water, Manigotagan, Seymourville and Aghaming. The RCMP and other agencies participated in this initiative at the request of community members who initiated the project in 1988.

The impetus for this initiative was a series of sexuality workshops in 1986 which led members of the four communities to identify the extent of child sexual abuse in their communities (i.e., two out of three people in the group had been sexually abused and one out of three had abused others). Consequently, a group of concerned residents decided to break the chain of sexual abuse in the community. The group invited local community members and practitioners to form an assessment team. The group included:

- local residents;
- a member of Manitoba Child and Family Services;
- a member of Southeast Child and Family Services;
- a local NNADAP worker;

- councillors from each community;
- a local high school principal;
- a local Public Health Nurse; and
- the RCMP Powerview Detachment Commander.

It was noted that prior to establishing the team, several community residents received specialized training in New Mexico.

The team introduced the Community Holistic Healing Circle in the community as a diversion program intended to divert child sexual abuse offenders² away from the court system. The community wanted an alternative to incarceration for offenders. The community did not believe incarcerating offenders would result in any positive changes in their behaviour.

Since the inception of the program, however, the structure has changed and it is now offered as a probation program. The group decided that the courts could be used to compel individuals to participate in the program for sufficient duration to achieve some positive outcome. The earlier version of the program allowed individuals to leave the program once the prospect of a court appearance had been avoided.

Offenders are no longer diverted from the court process. The RCMP investigates cases of child sexual assault, and, where warranted, lays charges. Convicted offenders participate in the Community Holistic Healing Circle prior to being sentenced and the group makes a report to the court to be considered in sentencing.

The Community Holistic Healing Circle is based on the premise that both victims and offenders may be healed through a traditional Aboriginal holistic approach. The program includes counselling for victims and perpetrators and their extended families.³

Aboriginal Community Input

Residents of the Hollow Water First Nation and the communities of Manigotagan, Seymourville and Aghaming designed and implemented the initiative. These communities requested the involvement of the RCMP and other agencies. Respondents note that members of the communities have been concerned initially that their approach would be met with resistance by practitioners. From the outset, however, the response has been positive.

2. The term victimizer rather than offender is used for this program.

3. A summary of the program "Community Holistic Healing Circle: An Approach", March 30, 1989, was forwarded with this questionnaire. Prepared by the community, this summary gives an overview of the history, rationale and approach which has been used in the development and delivery of this program. This and other documents outlining the rationale and the approach for this project can be obtained from: RCMP Powerview Detachment.

Participants

This program is available to residents of the communities of Hollow Water, Manigotagan, Seymourville and Aghaming.

Design and Delivery

The Community Holistic Healing Circle is overseen by the 12 members of a volunteer team. The committee meets formally every two or three weeks. There are also many informal meetings in the communities and at RCMP Powerview Detachment. RCMP personnel serve on the committee. The primary role of the RCMP is to act as liaison between the Detachment and the program team.

An ex-NNADAP worker coordinates the program.

Process

After a disclosure is made (usually to a team or committee member), the following steps are taken:

- the committee members meet;
- the RCMP is alerted; and
- an investigation is held and, where warranted, charges are laid.

The committee or program team then proceeds to:

- develop an offender profile;
- select a team leader to take charge of the case; and
- select a team of support workers.

Support team members are selected from a list of eight trainees, plus a list of trained community volunteers. RCMP personnel do not participate in support team activity.

Offenders, victims and family members are then matched with a member of the support team. The team members support them throughout the investigation, the court process and treatment period. For example, when an offender receives a jail term, the support person continues to visit. This ensures continuity in the program.

Only offenders who plead guilty qualify for participation in the probation program.

Prior to being accepted into the program, offenders are required to:

- publicly disclose what they have done; and
- enter into a healing contract.

Offenders must attend victimizer groups and parenting groups on a weekly basis.

Victims and family members also participate in weekly group sessions. The purpose of the sessions is two-fold:

- to provide an opportunity to discuss openly what has occurred; and
- to come to grips with their own sexuality.

A number of additional support groups and programs have been set to complement the work of the program.

Funding

Members of the team currently work on a voluntary basis. The Provincial Career Start Program is providing funding for the training of eight full-time resource people for the program.

Outcomes and Evaluations

RCMP Powerview Detachment reports this program has been very successful. In particular, many disclosures that may not have occurred otherwise, have been made as a result of this initiative. In some cases, offenders have also made confessions.

The program has led to the following:

- frequent, informal liaison between RCMP personnel and members of the community; and
- improved RCMP and community relations which have resulted in increased communication cooperation and assistance with investigations.

Respondents note that the Aboriginal members of the committee initially experienced problems in the community as a result of the implementation of the program. These committee members (rather than the RCMP or agency personnel) had to withstand a lot of hate and anger directed at them because of the painful experiences they were dealing with.

In the future, the communities involved hope to establish a training centre for representatives from other Aboriginal communities. Groups from Saskatchewan and Manitoba have travelled to examine the program firsthand.

Although several northern Aboriginal television stations have been interested in covering the Community Holistic Healing Circle Program, this has been discouraged, because the communities want to complete the healing process before they are exposed to other communities.

RCMP Powerview Detachment emphasizes that the process of breaking the cycle of abuse will have long term benefits for the community.

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3. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE EDUCATION

3.1 Family Violence Seminars RCMP Chase Detachment Chase, British Columbia

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Chase Detachment territory has a year-round population of 12,000. The population increases to 50,000 during the summer months.

There are three First Nations on the Detachment territory: Neskainlith, Adams Lake, and Squilax/Little Shuswap. These communities have a combined population of approximately 900.

There are currently nine members posted to the Detachment, one of whom is of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

In the summer of 1990, the Aboriginal police officer at RCMP Chase Detachment acted as a facilitator for a series of Family Violence Seminars held at the communities of Adams Lake, Neskainlith and Little Shuswap.

Each three-day seminar focused on developing awareness of the issues and challenges of family violence.

The Community Social Development Worker (a community member) developed the seminars with the assistance of a student from the community of Neskainlith.

Aboriginal Community Input

Members of local Aboriginal communities requested that the seminars be held and provided input into the process of development.

Facilitators from each community participated in the seminars.

Participants

Members of Adams Lake, Neskainlith and Little Shuswap communities participated in the seminars. Participants included Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal¹ residents.

Target groups for the seminars included:

- community members of all ages;
- parents; and
- First Nations social workers.

Design and Delivery

In each community, organizers used posters and flyers to announce the seminars.

Each three-day seminar offered one-day sessions in the following areas:

- Child Abuse and Neglect;
- Child Sexual Abuse; and
- Family Violence.

Sessions on Child Abuse, for example, dealt with the following topics from an Aboriginal perspective:

- Definition of the Needs of Children;
- Reporting Abuse (including how to report);
- Impact of Disclosures on the Community;
- Public Education;
- Resources;
- Healing; and
- Treatment for Offenders.

Participants were provided with written resource materials at the seminars.

Funding

There were no special costs associated with these seminars.

First Nations social workers from Adams Lake, Neskainlith and Little Shuswap provided assistance. The Ministry of Social Services and Housing (Kamloops, British Columbia) and the Ministry of Health and Welfare (Salmon Arm, British Columbia) also provided assistance.

Outcomes and Evaluations

The seminars received positive feedback from members of all three communities. The results of the Family Violence Seminars include:

- an increased level of understanding with respect to family violence and child abuse; and
- several referrals were made as a result of the seminars.

The seminars were offered as a short-term project, but respondents note the program should be continued.

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3.2 Cape Mudge Community Workshop RCMP Quadra Island Detachment Quathiaski Cove, British Columbia

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Quadra Island Detachment provides policing services for three islands: Quadra Island (estimated population: 4,000); Cortez Island (estimated population: 1,000); and Reed Island (estimated population: 100). There are two First Nations within the Detachment area. Cape Mudge First Nation (Kwakiutl Band) is located on Quadra Island and has a fluctuating population of 500 to 750. Squirrel Cove First Nation (Klahoose Band) is located on Cortez Island and has a population of about 85. Members of the Detachment make weekly visits to Cortez Island and the Squirrel Cove First Nation, a trip which is approximately 45 minutes by boat from the Detachment.

Three police officers staff RCMP Quadra Island Detachment.

History and Development

In 1990, the Community Health Care Worker, Cape Mudge First Nation, asked RCMP Quadra Island Detachment to organize a community workshop on family violence for women in the community. The Cape Mudge First Nation sponsored the workshop held on July 30, 1990.

Aboriginal Community Input

To identify issues to be addressed by the Cape Mudge Community Workshop, the Community Health Care Worker, Cape Mudge First Nation, canvassed women in the community and submitted a list of their questions to RCMP personnel.

Participants

Women from the Cape Mudge First Nation.

Design and Delivery

Prior to delivering the workshop, RCMP personnel prepared a lesson plan and obtained resource material from the following sources:

- Department of Social Services;
- Drug and Alcohol Counselling;
- Family Services; and
- Victim Assistance Program, Crime Prevention Unit, RCMP Campbell River Detachment.

The workshop dealt with the following topics:

- Drug Abuse Awareness;
- Spousal Assault;
- Child Sexual Abuse;
- Child Abuse;
- Break-ins;
- Victim Assistance; and
- other local concerns.

The workshop also dealt with specific questions raised by women in the community. The questions included:

- If I am a victim of crime, what are my options? And how do I report?
- What types of questions will I be expected to answer and how can I be better prepared?
- What type of help or treatment is available to me as a victim?
- What help or treatment is available for the offender?
- If I was the victim of a crime that happened over two years ago, or maybe even five years ago, can I still make a report?

funding

The RCMP and the Cape Mudge First Nation provided funding for the workshop.

Outcomes and Evaluations

The workshop was the first such initiative undertaken in this community. It was extremely successful and resulted in extensive discussion and several disclosures from participants. Feedback from the community has been very positive.

Due to the success of the first workshop, another workshop is being planned.

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3.3 Family Violence Workshops RCMP Battleford Detachment North Battleford, Saskatchewan

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Battleford Detachment provides policing services in a region encompassing both the city of North Battleford and the town of Battleford (combined population: approximately 10,000). The town of Battleford is located across the river from the city of North Battleford. For the purposes of this program description, both communities will be referred to, together, as: the community of North Battleford.

In addition, the Detachment serves five First Nations: Saulteaux (estimated population: 800); Moosomin (estimated population: 500); Sweet Grass (estimated population: 500 to 600); Red Pheasant and Mosquito (estimated population: 300 to 400). The five First Nations on the Detachment territory are each located within 20 minutes of the Detachment by road.

The Aboriginal population on the Detachment territory includes the residents of the First Nations and approximately 5,000 residents of the community of North Battleford.

RCMP Battleford Detachment has 43 police officers. They divide responsibility for three separate policing contracts: 26 police officers serve the city of North Battleford, five others provide policing services for the town of Battleford and the remaining 12 are responsible for rural policing on the Detachment territory. Six police officers are of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

At the request of community members, RCMP Battleford Detachment holds Family Violence Workshops in communities throughout the Detachment territory.

Although the workshops were not originally developed for Aboriginal communities, approximately two workshops are now held in Aboriginal communities each month. All workshops are tailored to meet the particular needs of the host community.

Aboriginal Community Input

Community members who participate in the workshops provide input via critiques completed at the end of each workshop.

Participants

Members of the host communities.

Design and Delivery

The workshops are conducted by a female police officer of RCMP Battleford Detachment who developed the format in 1983 while stationed at RCMP Warman Detachment. Since transferring to RCMP Battleford Detachment in 1985, she has been offering the workshops throughout the Detachment territory. In addition, she travels across the province to give talks to groups of professionals and training sessions for police officers. She has held workshops in local Aboriginal communities since 1987.

Family Violence Workshops include talks given by resource persons and guest speakers (including, for example, victims or batterers). If the participants are members of an Aboriginal community, an Aboriginal resource person is invited to speak.

Workshop participants discuss the following topics:

- Characteristics, Causes and Cyclical Nature of Violence; and
- Alcoholism and Information on the Link between Alcohol Abuse and Violence.

Family Violence Workshops are generally two and a half to three hours long. Each workshop is tailored to meet the needs of the participants.

Funding

There is no funding directly associated with this program. The RCMP has provided funding for the education of the RCMP police officer who offers the workshops. She has received special training in the areas of family violence, child sexual abuse, and alcohol and substance abuse.

Outcomes and Evaluations

To date, the program has been very effective. The post-workshop critiques indicate a positive response from participants.

In addition, the workshops have had the following results:

- referrals have been made to support groups and self-help groups; and
- an increased demand for the workshops is developing in local Aboriginal communities.

Respondents note that when the police officer gave her first talk in a local Aboriginal community, only one person (the janitor at the facility) showed up to listen. Three years later, a workshop in a local Aboriginal community drew 30 participants.

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**3.4 Family Violence and Child Sexual Abuse Program
Amerindian Police Council
Pointe-Bleue, Quebec**

Police and Community Profile

The Amerindian Police Council operates a police force comprising 73 police officers of Aboriginal ancestry. These police officers provide policing services for 23 Aboriginal communities in Quebec.

Established in 1978, this program is funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.⁴

History and Development

In 1989, the Amerindian Police Council introduced family violence and the child sexual abuse awareness campaigns in Aboriginal communities throughout the province. The awareness programs focused on:

- encouraging community members to report incidents of abuse and violence; and
- providing victims with information on assistance available to them.

Aboriginal Community Input

All members of the Amerindian Police Council are of Aboriginal ancestry.

Target Groups

The Amerindian Police Council designed the awareness campaigns for the following groups:

- police officers;
- children in schools; and
- the general public.

4. The information used in the Police and Community profile is taken from: "Indian Policing Policy Review: Task Force Report", January 1990. Ottawa: Indian and Northern Affairs, Ottawa, 1990, pages 32 and 33.

Design and Delivery

The campaigns are based on several components including:

- meetings with the general public;
- video presentations;
- distribution of flyers and advertisements on local community radio stations; and
- classroom presentations where a large mascot is used to convey the message to children.

Available reference materials are listed in brochures produced for this initiative. The following videos are used in the programs:

On family violence

- "I Denounce Violence" for the general public (15 minutes); and
- "S.O.S. Violence" for police officers (15 minutes).

On Child Sexual Abuse

- "Heart and Soul" for the general public (15 minutes); and
- "S.O.S. Sexual Abuse" for police officers (15 minutes).

Videos and cassette tapes for broadcasting are produced in English, French, Montagnais, Atikamekw and Algonquin.

Funding

The Family Violence Program cost \$117,485. The Child Sexual Abuse Program cost \$126,249. Justice Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada co-fund the programs.

The Amerindian Police Council designs and implements both programs and provides program personnel.

Outcomes and Evaluations

Forthcoming.

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4. VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND PROTOCOLS

4.1 Native Victim Advocates Program RCMP Lillooet Detachment Lillooet, British Columbia

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Lillooet Detachment provides policing services for the village of Lillooet (population: approximately 2,500), three other small towns and six First Nations (estimated combined population: 2,500). Four of the First Nations are located within nine kilometres of RCMP Lillooet Detachment and the remaining two First Nations are within 60 kilometres of the Detachment.

The Aboriginal population on the Detachment territory includes the residents of the six First Nations and an estimated 1,250 residents of Lillooet.

RCMP Lillooet Detachment has eight police officers. Two police officers are of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

In December 1989, RCMP Lillooet Detachment initiated discussions with local Aboriginal communities concerning the development of a Victim Assistance Program to be designed and delivered by members of the Aboriginal community. The consultations indicated a lack of services for Aboriginal victims, particularly victims of sexual and spousal assaults.

It was noted that although there is a Victim Services Program in nearby Ashcroft (served by RCMP Ashcroft Detachment), members of the Aboriginal community were not accessing the program.

RCMP Lillooet Detachment launched the Native Victim Advocates Program in Lillooet in May 1990.

The program has been implemented by a committee of 12 members with responsibility for the following:

- overall direction and administration of the program; and
- the provision of direct services for victims.

The committee includes RCMP police officers and community volunteers who act as victim advocates. Each of the six First Nations is represented on the committee.

The Native Victim Advocates Program is based, in part, on the Victim Assistance Program operated by police services detachments throughout the province. The Native Victim Advocates Program differs, however, in that a volunteer committee determines the direction of the program and makes decisions regarding action to be taken.

The program is reported to be the first Native Victim Services Program in the province of British Columbia.

Aboriginal Community Input

Native Friendship Centre personnel and members of the local First Nations serve on the committee and coordinate the program.

To organize the committee, RCMP Lillooet Detachment approached a community member who leads a support group for victims of abuse (Wounded Children). This woman helped to enlist volunteers from the local community to serve on the committee.

Participants

The program serves community members who are victims of spousal abuse, child sexual abuse, and sexual assault.

Design and Delivery⁵

As of June 1991, committee membership included eight volunteers from Aboriginal communities, plus members of RCMP Lillooet Detachment. Respondents note that the nature of the work results in a high turnover of committee members. The group is seeking funding to train new volunteers.

Committee members are drawn from the six local First Nations to ensure that the needs of each community are addressed. Respondents note that representation from each community has an additional advantage: committee members can sometimes provide assistance to members of other communities in situations where they either know or are related to the victim or offender in particular cases.

5. Respondents note that there is no material available specific to this program. Manuals and other materials are obtained from the provincial Victim Assistance Programs and utilized.

To be eligible to serve on the committee, volunteers must be:

- members of an Aboriginal community;
- willing to assist victims; and
- willing to participate in training.

Eligibility requirements have been kept to a minimum to encourage community participation. This has posed no problems to date.

RCMP Lillooet Detachment passes information on victims, offenders and the circumstances of each case to the Native Victim Advocates Committee Coordinator. The coordinator pairs each victim with a volunteer advocate.

It was noted that the majority of cases involve victims of child sexual abuse. More than half of the victims make disclosures of abuse experienced several years prior to the time of disclosure.

The Native Victim Advocates Committee provides the following services:

- prepares victims for court;
- submits forms for criminal injury compensation;
- arranges counselling;
- liaises with agencies to keep track of cases in progress; and
- assists victims to complete victim impact statements.

The committee meets once a month to discuss specific cases and review the progress of each case.

Funding

At present, this initiative does not receive funding.

The provincial police services provided \$2,500 to train the original eight members of the committee. The training was conducted by the Victim Assistance Coordinator from Merrit, British Columbia.

RCMP Lillooet Detachment recently provided office space for the committee at the Detachment.

Outcomes and Evaluations

Prior to the establishment of this program, victims in local Aboriginal communities had no formal support services designed specifically to meet their needs. To date, the program has accomplished the following:

- all identified victims are obtaining counselling, or are in the process of obtaining it;
- victims who have been involved in the program have given very good evidence during court appearances (this appears to be a direct result of the assistance given); and
- the rapport between local agencies and First Nations has improved.

Although no formal evaluation has been conducted, the Chiefs and Councils of communities served by the program have expressed satisfaction with the progress of the program (through informal discussions).

Respondents note that the Detachment feels that a program should be judged by the people it serves, not the agencies involved. Consequently, although RCMP personnel felt the program was proceeding rather slowly, the Aboriginal community and volunteers reported that they were quite satisfied with the progress.

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4.2 Victim Services and Domestic Violence Program Plans RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment Fort Franklin, Northwest Territories

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment provides policing services for the hamlet of Fort Franklin (population: approximately 650). An estimated 630 residents in Fort Franklin are of Aboriginal ancestry.

RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment has two police officers. One police officer is of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment developed an overall approach to the provision of victim services in 1989. The approach is outlined in two program plans developed locally by the RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment:

- Victim Services Program Plan; and
- Domestic Violence Program Plan.

In developing the plans, the Detachment sought to accomplish the following:

- to give victims an opportunity to provide input in the justice system; and
- to provide victims and offenders with referrals to appropriate agencies (i.e., with services best suited to their needs).

According to information supplied by RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment and RCMP Fort Smith Detachment, there is a policy supported by the RCMP "G" Division and the Government of the Northwest Territories, which encourages the development of Victim Services Programs via Crime Prevention and Victim Services Units at the Detachment level.

Aboriginal Community Input

Many of the referral agencies in the community are staffed by Aboriginal members of the Fort Franklin community.

Participants

Local referral agencies include:

- RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment;
- Dene First Nation;
- Basic Awareness Committee;
- Department of Social Services;
- Nursing Station;
- Roman Catholic Mission;
- By-laws Police Officer; and
- Family Counselling.

The target group for the program plans includes all victims of crime in the community of Fort Franklin.

Design and Delivery

In general, RCMP personnel have the following responsibilities:

- making referrals; and
- meeting with other agency personnel to ensure that the needs of the community are being met.

While formal "think tank" sessions are held with other local agencies to address mutual concerns and areas of need, most liaison is conducted on an informal basis. Officials rely on telephone calls to arrange the appropriate services for victims and offenders.

Victim Services Program Plan

The program objectives include the following:

- to provide victims and complainants with up-to-date progress reports on cases and the results of investigations;
- to maintain a directory of services for victims of crime;
- to refer victims to hamlet agencies and/or other services;
- to maintain updated information on referral agencies;
- to provide victims of crime with information and referral concerning compensation for injury or loss of property;
- to supply Department of Social Services personnel and the Crown Attorney with pertinent information related to sentencing;
- to ensure that victims are aware of victim impact statements; and
- to develop a coordinated approach to work with other agencies on serious cases.

Procedures have been implemented to keep and monitor files in order to ensure these objectives are met.

The following steps are taken to ensure that the goals are reached:

- the first investigator provides on-the-spot services;
- the police officers make follow-up contact via telephone or in person;
- the police officers contact community volunteers or outside agencies if the victim requires further assistance;
- the police officers ensure that the victim is kept informed about the investigation and take proper precautions to handle with care the victim's articles seized through the investigation;
- in cases of spousal assault, the police officers ensure that the victim or the guardian is aware of the financial support and services offered by the Department of Social Services;
- the police officers ensure that the victim has input to police services and Crown Attorney's office; and
- the police officers maintain full cooperation with the Department of Social Services personnel.

All members of RCMP Fort Franklin Detachment are responsible for implementing this program.

Domestic Violence Program Plan

The program plan includes the following objectives:

- to help do away with the family or personal problem(s) that give rise to violence;
- to help find alternatives to release stress causing violence;
- to maintain peace and protect the victims;
- to investigate statute and *Criminal Code* violations;
- to respond to court orders; and
- to remain neutral and display a high degree of patience and professionalism.

To achieve these goals, police officers will do the following:

- work closely with other agencies in the community;
- provide initial emotional support, counselling and meet other needs of the victim; and
- make victims aware of the Victim Services Program.

The responsibilities of the Detachment include:

- coordinating activities with other support agencies; and
- investigating all *Criminal Code* and other statute violations.

Funding

Agencies are responsible for their own costs.

Outcomes and Evaluations

The implementation of the program plans has led to the following:

- an increased sharing of information between local groups and agencies; and
- RCMP Fort Franklin has made a number of referrals to agencies outside of Fort Franklin.

All referrals are documented and kept on file in order to conduct follow-up measures as necessary.

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5. ALTERNATIVES FOR OFFENDERS

5.1 Haisla Diversion Project RCMP Kitimat Detachment Kitimat, British Columbia

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Kitimat Detachment provides policing services for the community of Kitimat (population: approximately 11,000) as well as the village of Kitimaat, an Aboriginal community (population: approximately 700).

The village of Kitimaat is located approximately 20 kilometres from the Detachment and is accessible by road.

RCMP Kitimat Detachment has 17 police officers.

History and Development

RCMP Kitimat Detachment, through its participation in the Haisla Peacekeeping Commission, is actively supporting the development of the Haisla Diversion Project.

Proposed in 1990 by the Kitimaat Band Council, the purpose of the Haisla Diversion Project is to resolve certain criminal matters and local by-laws infractions in a way which is meaningful to the community.

The objectives of the project include the following:

- creating a sense of ownership among community members regarding the maintenance of peace and order;
- improving the delivery of justice in the village of Kitimaat;
- providing an opportunity for community input in the methods of dealing with offender in the community;
- providing education for members of the community on justice issues; and
- providing liaison between the community and the justice system.

The Haisla Diversion Project will include various project activities such as:

- the operation of a tribunal composed of Elders or other respected community members appointed by the Band to hear complaints and impose sanctions for certain criminal activities and/or by-laws infractions in the community;
- community awareness and education activities; and
- follow-up and evaluation of the project.

Aboriginal Community Input

Members of the community have been involved in the development of the project from the outset.

Target Group

The Haisla Diversion Project is being developed for the residents of the village of Kitimaat. Local criminal justice agencies will be the focus of the project liaison activities.

Design and Delivery

The Haisla Diversion Project is being implemented by a Project Coordinator. This individual is employed by and responsible to the Kitimaat Band Council.

The Project Coordinator began working in January 1991. Since being hired, she has participated in a three-month Aboriginal Justice Worker Training Program. The Coordinator has similar responsibilities to an Aboriginal justice worker, including Aboriginal justice development and program and services development.

Aboriginal justice development involves working with Elders, Chiefs and local administrators to accomplish the following:

- developing programs, services and resources to assist the Aboriginal community with the prevention of crime, the provision of assistance to victims and the management of offenders;
- re-establishing traditional Aboriginal justice responses;
- establishing adult diversion (i.e., the Haisla Diversion Project) and alternative measures initiatives;
- organizing the input of community leaders into sentencing and parole hearings for community members.

In the area of program and services development, the Project Coordinator becomes involved in the supervision (or assisting in the supervision of) bail, probation, community services or parole provisions as designated by the courts, the Parole Board or Probation Services.

Funding

The Ministry of the Attorney General of British Columbia, provides \$40,000 per year to fund the project. The Kitimaat Band Council is responsible for the following:

- providing office space for the Project Coordinator;
- hiring, training, supervising, evaluating and paying the Project Coordinator;
- providing monthly reports to the Ministry of the Attorney General; and
- participating in any evaluation of the project and providing an audited financial statement and summary report on the project.

Outcomes and Evaluations

The project is still in the developmental stage.

Since the inception of the project, a one-day Cultural Awareness Workshop has been held for RCMP and other criminal justice agency personnel and their spouses. The workshop was held in the village and was conducted by local Elders and other community facilitators. The event concluded with a traditional banquet.

The Project Coordinator is currently working on the following:

- the establishment of a tribunal (as part of the Haisla Diversion Project); and
- the establishment of a Community Advisory Group.

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5.2 Bail Supervision Groups in Aboriginal Communities RCMP Lillooet Detachment Lillooet, British Columbia

Police and Community Profile

RCMP Lillooet Detachment provides policing services for the village of Lillooet (population: approximately 2,500), three other small towns and six First Nations (estimated combined population: 2,500). Four of the First Nations communities are located within nine kilometres of RCMP Lillooet Detachment and the remaining two First Nations are within 60 kilometres of the Detachment.

The Aboriginal population on the Detachment territory includes the residents of the six First Nations and an estimated 1,250 residents of Lillooet.

RCMP Lillooet Detachment has eight police officers. Two police officers are of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

In the spring of 1990, RCMP Lillooet Detachment initiated the development of Bail Supervision Groups in each Aboriginal community on the Detachment territory. As a pre-court program, the Bail Supervision Groups will be responsible for setting the conditions and terms of bail, and supervising individuals released on bail.

The first two groups were to begin functioning at the end of June 1991.

Aboriginal Community Input

RCMP Lillooet Detachment has consulted with members of all six First Nations on the Detachment territory regarding the implementation of the program. Members of these communities will be part of the Bail Supervision Groups and will have direct input into the direction of the program.

Participants

Bail Supervision Groups will include the following representatives:

- a counsellor;
- a member of the First Nations Council;
- an Elder;
- an RCMP police officer; and
- a First Nations police officer.

Design and Delivery

Bail Supervision Groups will meet to consider the circumstances of each case and will determine the conditions of bail. When the offender is released, the Bail Supervision Group will be responsible for supervising the conditions of bail.

Funding

There are no costs associated with this program.

Outcomes and Evaluations

This is the first program of its kind in British Columbia. Consequently, it has generated a great deal of interest. It is not yet known whether the courts will uphold the conditions of bail established by the groups.

RCMP Lillooet Detachment has expressed interest in talking to any Detachment involved in similar programs.

Contact

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5.3 Nishga Justice Committee RCMP New Aiyansh Detachment New Aiyansh, British Columbia

Police and Community Profile

RCMP New Aiyansh Detachment territory encompasses three First Nations: New Aiyansh/Gitlakdamix First Nation (population: approximately 800); Greenville/Lakalzap First Nation (population: approximately 500); and Canyon City/Gitwinksihlkw First Nation. The Aboriginal population in the region includes members from four different First Nations.

The community of New Aiyansh is one kilometre from the Detachment and Greenville/Lakalzap is 45 kilometres from the Detachment. Canyon City/Gitwinksihlkw is a 20-minute drive from the Detachment and can only be accessed via a footbridge which crosses a canyon.

Originally located on the community of New Aiyansh, the Detachment moved to a new location outside the community three years ago.

RCMP New Aiyansh Detachment has three police officers. One of the police officers is of Aboriginal ancestry.

History and Development

RCMP New Aiyansh Detachment is currently setting up a new Nishga Justice Committee. This committee will continue the work of a previous committee now dissolved. RCMP New Aiyansh Detachment initiated the original Nishga Justice Committee in 1989. The committee did not, however, gain the support of local First Nations leaders and was dissolved. Detachment personnel later re-evaluated the concept and decided to implement a new initiative.

The objectives of the new committee, like those of the previous committee, will include:

- finding ways to combine traditional Nishga laws with the established laws and practices in Canada;
- providing an opportunity for local communities to deal with offenders in traditional ways; and
- allowing communities to input in court depositions.

Through this initiative, the Detachment hopes to re-establish community involvement in the maintenance of peace, order and discipline.

Aboriginal Community Input

As with the previous committee, the Detachment will seek the involvement and input of Aboriginal community members.

Participants

Members of the community and RCMP personnel will work together on the committee.

Design and Delivery

RCMP New Aiyansh is considering the following strategies to develop support for the committee and its mandate:

- meeting with the Chief of each First Nation and asking them to identify individuals that can assist the RCMP in dealing with offenders from their First Nations;
- encouraging each First Nation to hold meetings to discuss ways of dealing with offenders from the First Nation;
- asking Chiefs to appear with the accused in court in order to inform the court of the First Nation recommendations to deal with the offender; and
- meeting with First Nations members on a regular basis to obtain feedback and recommendations on how to improve policing services for the community.

Respondents note that these meetings will also be an opportunity for the RCMP to advise Chiefs about individuals in the community who are disrupting the peace and order of the community.

Funding

The program will be funded by RCMP New Aiyansh Detachment from its current operating budget.

Outcomes and Evaluations

To be determined.

Contact

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6. ADDITIONAL RESPONSES

Family Violence Prevention and Education Programs

The following respondents identified Family Violence Prevention and Education Programs and support initiatives (workshops, seminars and others) which involve police services (and, in some cases, other agencies) serving Aboriginal communities:

Constable Joe Havixbeck,
Constable Wade MacDonald
RCMP Fort St. John Detachment
10648-100th Street
Fort St. John, British Columbia
V1J 3Z6
Tel: (604) 785-6610 ext. 110

Constable M.P. Grunerud
RCMP Tisdale Detachment
Box 99
Tisdale, Saskatchewan
S0E 1T0
Tel: (306) 873-2661

Staff Sergeant R.D. Beckwith
RCMP Grand Centre Detachment
Box 1229
Grand Centre, Alberta
T0A 1T0
Tel: (403) 594-3302
Fax: (403) 594-4900

Sergeant M.R. Devaney
RCMP Rosthern Detachment
Box 969
Rosthern, Saskatchewan
S0K 3R0
Tel: (306) 232-4844

Sergeant K.G. Morrison
RCMP Winnipegosis Detachment
Box 369
Winnipegosis, Manitoba
R0L 1S0
Tel: (204) 656-4421

Corporal F.D. Simmons
RCMP Yarmouth Municipal Detachment
Box 5050
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
B5A 4K6
Tel: (902) 742-9106

Corporal R.J. Marlin
RCMP Crystal City Detachment
Box 430
Crystal City, Manitoba
R0K 0N0
Tel: (204) 873-2413

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Programs

The following respondent identified a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program implemented by police services in the community:

Constable G. Stevens
RCMP Merrit Detachment
R.R. #1
Merrit, British Columbia
V0K 2B0
Tel: (604) 378-4262

Inter-Agency Coordinating Committees - Child Sexual Abuse

The following respondents identified police services involvement in local Inter-Agency Coordinating Committees dealing with child abuse and child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities:

Sergeant Jack Drisdelle
RCMP Port Hardy Detachment
7355 Columbia Street
Box 86
Port Hardy, British Columbia
V0N 2P0
Tel: (604) 949-6336

Sergeant Bert Clarke
RCMP Amaranth Detachment
Box 118
Amaranth, Manitoba
R0H 0B0
Tel: (204) 843-2691

Chief John L. Toney
Eskasoni Police Department
Eskasoni First Nation
Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
B0A 1J0
Tel: (902) 379-2822
fax: (902) 379-2172

Victim Assistance Programs and Protocols

The following respondents identified Victim Assistance Programs offered by police services to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members of the community:

Sergeant B.S. Sarnecki
RCMP Ashcroft Detachment
Box 100
Ashcroft, British Columbia
V0K 1A0
Tel: (604) 453-2216

Sergeant W.O. Manchak
RCMP Ladysmith Detachment
Box 280
Ladysmith, British Columbia
V0R 2E0
Tel: (604) 245-2215

Constable J.R.B. (Ben) Roy
RCMP Mission Detachment
7171 Oliver Street
Mission, British Columbia
Tel: (604) 826-7161

Sergeant R.E. Johnston
RCMP Sooke Detachment
Box 40
Sooke, British Columbia
V0S 1N0
Tel: (604) 642-5241

Constable Beaudoin
RCMP Inuvik Detachment
Box 1300
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
Tel: (403) 979-2935
Fax: (403) 979-3691

Corporal L.I. Flath
RCMP Granisle Detachment
Box 370
Granisle, British Columbia
V0J 1W0
Tel: (604) 697-2333

Sergeant J.W. Barr
RCMP Fort Smith Detachment
Box 26
Fort Smith, Northwest Territories
X0E 0P0
Tel: (403) 872-2107

Constable A.J. Bodden
RCMP Hope Detachment
Box 40
Hope, British Columbia
V0X 1L0
Tel: (604) 869-2433
Fax: (604) 869-7455

Staff Sergeant N.B. McCombe
RCMP Colwood Detachment
2785 Millstream Road
Victoria, British Columbia
V9B 3S5
Tel: (604) 474-2264
Fax: (604) 474-3719

Staff Sergeant R.A. Baker
RCMP Smithers Detachment
Box 2020
Smithers, British Columbia
V0J 2N0
Tel: (604) 847-3233

Victim Assistance Programs for Aboriginal Communities

The following respondents identified the development of a Victim Assistance Program specifically for the local Aboriginal communities. The program will involve Aboriginal community members providing services for victims in the community:

Sergeant Jack Drisdelle
RCMP Port Hardy Detachment
7355 Columbia Street
Box 86
Port Hardy, British Columbia
V0N 2P0
Tel: (604) 949-6336

Inspector L.J. Baker
RCMP Prince Rupert Detachment
100-6th Avenue West
Prince Rupert, British Columbia
V8J 3Z3
Tel: (604) 624-2136
Fax: (604) 627-3013

Alternative Measures Programs

Staff Sergeant Gorden Wet
RCMP Summerside Detachment
137 Central Street
Summerside, Prince Edward Island
C1N 3N2
Tel: (902) 436-9244

Staff Sergeant R.A. Nahrgang
RCMP Charlottetown Detachment
153 Maypoint Road
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
C1E 1X5
Tel: (902) 566-7100
Fax: (902) 566-7119

The seven reports included in the Aboriginal Policing Programs in Canada series are:

I. Aboriginal Police Officer Development and Policing

This report highlights examples of current Aboriginal policing arrangements which employ Aboriginal police officers as well as training initiatives for Aboriginal police officers and strategies for recruiting personnel. This includes Aboriginal Policing Arrangements; Aboriginal Police Officer Training; Recruiting: Policies and Practices; and Pre-Employment Training and Education Programs.

II. Aboriginal Cultural Awareness

This report highlights initiatives intended to increase the level of mutual understanding and respect between non-Aboriginal police officers and the members of the Aboriginal communities they serve. This includes Aboriginal Policing Conferences; and Cultural Awareness Training Programs.

III. Increasing Access to Policing Services

This report highlights Special Programs that are being used to increase police presence in Aboriginal communities. This includes Community Patrols; Storefront Offices; Community-Based Work Stations; and Satellite Detachments.

IV. Police-Community Communication and Liaison

This report highlights initiatives in which police and community members work together to improve policing services and address issues of mutual concern. This includes Public Education and Liaison Strategies; Police-Community Advisory Groups; and Inter-Agency Cooperation.

V. Focus on Youth

This report describes the involvement of police services in Crime Prevention and Community Relations Programs aimed primarily at young people in Aboriginal communities. In addition, it illustrates examples of police involvement in services for young offenders and youth at risk. This includes Recreational, Educational and Skills Development Programs; and Services for Young Offenders and Youth at Risk.

VI. Taking Action Against Substance Abuse

This report highlights police involvement in the development and delivery of Alcohol, Drug and Solvent Abuse Awareness Programs in Aboriginal communities. This includes Substance Abuse Education/Awareness and Prevention Programs.

