



# **NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE**

## **2007 Annual Report Victim Assistance & Domestic Violence Coordinator**

---

**Report Date: January 15, 2008**  
**Author: Constable S. Cotgreave**

## **A. Mandate of the Unit**

The Victim Assistance/Domestic Violence Coordinator's mandate is to implement and maintain programs to ensure that the North Bay Police Service provides comprehensive and efficient services to victims of crime.

This unit also provides follow-up assistance to victims by coordinating the response of all service sections with involved community agencies.

The Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the response to domestic violence occurrences as well as the ensuing investigation in order to ensure that all officers are compliant with the service's Standard Operating Procedures.

## **B. Executive Summary**

The past year has been a very interesting and educational one whereby the section continued to develop appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities associated to the mandate while still providing assistance to victims, officers, Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP), Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS), SupportLink and other agencies.

The Coordinator continued strong partnerships with local Women's Shelters, Community Counselling Centres, the Crisis Centre, the Office of the Crown Attorney, Amelia Rising, the Indian Friendship Centre, the Children's Aid Society, the National Parole Board, the North Bay General Hospital and others.

## **C. Activities**

### Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee

The mandate of the Committee is to bring Ministry staff working with the Domestic Violence Court Project and other community partners together to identify issues that have an impact on the process and conduct education awareness around the issues of domestic violence.

The Committee has an Education Sub-committee that is comprised of a small enthusiastic working group, which the Coordinator is part of. The Education Sub-Committee was successful with receiving funds from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to continue the Domestic Violence Response Project from 2006. A Project Manager was hired. The project is progressing well with the start up of the White Ribbon Campaign, which is Men Against Violence and the Neighbours, Friends and Family Campaign, which assists the above in recognizing domestic violence and how they can assist. There has been ongoing training with other professionals. A 2-day conference is planned in February of 2008 for agencies outside the Violence Against Women sector, who have contact with women who are, or may be in violent relationships. Work is being done on developing protocols between community agencies and other organizations, as well as developing and completing an Annual Report Card on how the community is working on domestic violence.

This Committee is comprised of members representing community agencies which include: the North Bay Police Service, the Judiciary, the Office of the Crown Attorney, Victim Witness Assistance Program, the Ojibway Family Resource Centre, the Sturgeon Falls Family Resource Centre, the Nipissing Transition House, the North Bay General Hospital, Amelia Rising Sexual Assault Centre, Victim Support Line, VCARS, Community Counselling Centre, Partner Assault Response Program (PARS) and Probation and Parole.

#### SupportLink Review Committee

This Committee is comprised of members from the North Bay Police Service, Community Counselling Centre, the Office of the Crown Attorney, VCARS, the Nipissing Transition House, the Ontario Provincial Police and SupportLink.

The purpose of the Committee is to operate in an advisory capacity to promote the growth of the program. The Committee would also conduct case reviews should a client not fall within the eligibility criteria for a pre-programmed 9-1-1 cell phone.

#### Ministry Domestic Violence Meetings

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services - Policing Services Division held meetings in Toronto during this past year with members from several police services including the North Bay Police Service. The purpose of these meetings was to keep stakeholders updated in relation to any new policies and/or procedures relating to domestic violence. These meetings also provided a venue to share policing concerns and possible resolutions from around the province. The Ministry held its second three-day conference in the spring of 2007 for all Domestic Violence Coordinators in Ontario. The conference was an overwhelming success and the Ministry is continuing this educational and worthwhile conference again in the spring of 2008.

#### Other

The Coordinator had ongoing contact with victims regarding court procedures, assisted with updates reference court and investigations, answered questions, relayed information to the investigating officer(s) and also provided referrals to other agencies for assistance.

The Coordinator also conducted court preparation and attended court as support for victims. Furthermore, the Coordinator assisted victims with obtaining information for Criminal Injuries Compensation claims and assisted with the completion of the necessary forms.

A media launch for the distribution of the 150 Community Response Manuals was held at North Bay Police Service headquarters with the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee and their community partners. The Victim Assistance Domestic Violence Coordinator welcomed Monique Smith, MPP, the Ministry representative, along with fifty (50) community partners and provided background regarding the committee.

The 12-page newspaper insert was distributed to over 48,000 homes in the North Bay area, as well as hospital waiting rooms, doctors' offices and other locations. This education component of the Domestic Violence Community Response Project was to

facilitate connections between the general public and local service providers and experts in the District of Nipissing.

A report on recommendations on the way to address gaps in services for domestic violence was given to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee.

The Victim Assistance Domestic Violence Coordinator assisted the Crown Attorney's office with court preparations with two (2) victims of sexual assault, which involved a teacher and a well-known business man. Support was also provided to the victim and her family at the Preliminary Hearing involving the latter case.

The Victim Assistance Domestic Violence Coordinator provided support and assistance to a victim and her family at a court hearing where the accused was found not criminally responsible for a horrific attack on the victim. This attack left the victim with multiple scars on her face, neck, etc and without sight in one eye. As a result of the son's quick actions to notify the police and assist with their response to save his mother, the Police Services Board recognized this young man and presented him with a plaque.

The North Bay Police Service partnered with the Nipissing Transition House and the Awareness Campaign on domestic violence was launched. The Awareness Campaign for Senior Women involved transit boards, bus benches, bus boards and posters with tear-off information being distributed at various locations in the community. The full Community Awareness Campaign consisted of "cut outs of women" placed in high traffic areas, along with a silent demonstration and a media launch. A direct mail-out was sent to 30,000 homes and bracelets promoting the new website [www.endthecycleofabuse.com](http://www.endthecycleofabuse.com) were distributed.

The North Bay Police Service continues to be the main referral agency to the SupportLink Program. The SupportLink Program is administered by Near North VCARS and is designed as an intervention strategy to address the need to enhance safety of individuals identified at risk of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking. The components to the SupportLink Program include safety planning, a pre-programmed 9-1-1 cell phone for emergency assistance, and regular follow-up contact for ongoing support for clients and safety plan updating.

#### Training Received

The Coordinator attended the Victim Crisis and Referral Services (VCARS) Victims Conference held at Nipissing University and listened to a father of a victim of a horrific assault speak and observed a presentation provided by a member of Project "P" from the Ontario Provincial Police. As part of the Domestic Violence Education Sub-Committee I attended the Pilot Project on Domestic Violence Training which was sponsored by True-Self and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee for training other professionals. The Coordinator along with others attended at the Pilot Project, submitted recommendations on what was effective and how to improve the training.

#### Training Given

The Coordinator along with the SupportLink Coordinator conducted several information sessions to the ladies involved in the Women's Program at the Community Counselling Centre.

Training was conducted with regards to Elder Abuse for new volunteers with the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services.

A presentation on Elder Abuse was given to the over 50 club in Callander, at the Legion during one of their potluck dinners.

The Coordinator also took part in a display for Elder Abuse at the Community Centre in Callander.

Two classes in the Police Foundations Course at Canadore College were provided with a presentation on "How Women in Policing has changed".

A few classes of Grade 11 and 12 students involved in the "Party's Over" Program held at the North Bay General Hospital, Scollard site, received training on the police portion of this program.

Domestic Violence front line training was provided to our new recruits; as well as a presentation provided to the Advance Patrol Training Course, which was held downstairs at North Bay Police Service headquarters.

**D. Performance Indicators**

Referrals to partner agencies - 401

Number of new partnerships and sustained partnerships – 19

Number of new initiatives - 2

**E. Anticipated Issues for the Future**

None

**F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year**

To conduct a Domestic Violence Investigators' course for all new Sergeants and Staff Sergeants.

To host a Domestic Violence Conference in February of 2008 with community partners on Domestic Violence.

**G. Other**

None

**H. Appendices**

None