



Annual Report 2016 – 2017: Impacts and Outcomes

Since the Together for Safety Protocol was signed in May of 2015, the signatories have met on a bi-monthly basis. In July 2015, the signatories worked with a consultant to create a Together for Safety Implementation Plan. The implementation plan was used to apply for funding to carry out the objectives identified. Yukon Women’s Transition Home Society – Kaushee’s Place and Betty’s Haven received funding from Justice Canada to carry out the following objectives from September 2016 to September 2017:

- External and Internal Communications
- Video series for victims of violence
- Training
- Research
- Monitoring and Evaluation of the project

External and Internal Communications

The signatories collaborated on several press releases regarding Together for Safety initiatives including the safety survey results and video series project. RCMP provided the assistance of the Director of Strategic Communications, to assist with distributing the press releases to local media.

Each signatory agency worked to ensure that the staff were aware of and knowledgeable about Together for Safety, and this was measured through a pre and post project survey. The surveys showed that although many staff of the signatory agencies were aware of Together for Safety, some were not. Based on these findings, the signatories decided to continue internal communications especially to new staff and look at other means of informing staff about Together for Safety initiatives like newsletters and meeting summaries.

The Together for Safety Coordinator created binders for each of the four Whitehorse RCMP Watches with information on services for women who have experienced violence. Also, 3 of the 6 women’s groups in Together for Safety presented to each RCMP Watch about their services.

Video series for victims of violence

During the development of the Together for Safety Implementation Plan, RCMP put forward an idea to produce videos for victims of violence. RCMP shared that criminal justice processes often intimidate victims and they wanted to create a snapshot of the process in hopes of reducing apprehension. The women's groups wanted to create additional videos that would outline options for victims of sexualized assault and domestic violence in Whitehorse Yukon. GBP Creative produced the videos and they featured local agencies that work with victims of violence. The videos include *Reporting Sexualized Assault and Domestic Violence in Whitehorse, Yukon*, *Options for Victims of Sexualized Assault* and *Options for Victims of Domestic Violence* and they can be viewed at the link below: <http://yukontransitionhome.ca/together-for-safety/together-for-safety-videos/>

RCMP funded both the translation of the videos to French and the translation of the video advertising in French.

Training

Two training sessions were offered for signatory organizations. The first was on Responding to Women who have Experienced Violence with Doctor Allan Wade with the Centre for Response-Based Practice. The second was on Best Practices when working with People with Mental Health Issues with Doctor Shelly Bonnah with the Centre for Response-Based Practice along with presentations by Emily Jones with Blood Ties, Rachel de Queiroz with Taiga Medical Clinic and Louise Hardy with Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

The idea for these training sessions came out of recommendation 3.2 in *Sharing Common Ground* (review of the Yukon's Police Force), which was to develop a training and development framework for RCMP members policing in Yukon. The framework was created through Yukon-wide consultation and finalized in May 2016. Together for Safety chose to focus on two of the eight training priorities in the framework: Responding to domestic violence and sexualized assault and dealing with vulnerable persons, including those who are acutely intoxicated, those with mental illness and those with FASD.

63 participants attended Responding to Women who have Experienced Violence Training and 45 attended Best Practices when working with People with Mental Health Issues. Both training sessions were offered twice to accommodate the shift work schedule of the RCMP Watches.

Research

Several research initiatives were completed including the following:

- Pre and Post survey for TFS signatory organizations
- Safety survey for women in Whitehorse
- Literature review on Alternative Justice program options for women who have Experience Violence

- Statistics collection on violence against women in Whitehorse between April 2015 and March 2016
- A list of services, resources and gaps pertaining to domestic violence, sexualized assault, housing, counselling, justice and social assistance

What we learned from the Research Initiatives:

- **Pre and Post survey for TFS signatory organizations:**
 - ♦ Respondents expressed more uncertainty on what TFS is in Post survey and there were respondents in both the pre and post who didn't know what TFS was
 - ♦ A similar number of respondents from women's groups and RCMP completed the Pre and Post survey
 - ♦ In the Pre survey, respondents called for more information on actions associated with TFS initiatives
 - ♦ There was division in the responses on to what extent TFS initiatives have been effective at enhancing responses to women who have experience violence, what would have made TFS initiatives more effective and on thoughts about TFS
 - ♦ In the Post survey, respondents identified more training, a wider reach, more RCMP buy-in and input as ways to make TFS initiatives more effective
 - ♦ In the post survey, respondents identified creating programming for young men especially in schools and for men who are not in the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court as ways to provide education and prevent violence
 - ♦ Training was a theme in the answers on initiatives respondents would like to see in the future
 - ♦ Feedback on future initiatives from the staff of Together for Safety organizations included:
 - A continuing education program for new RCMP members to Whitehorse
 - Involve more organizations like Yukon schools, Department of Education, EMS, and public health to gain a wider reach
 - Look at Criminal Justice system responses to women who have experienced violence as a whole as RCMP are only one component
- **Safety survey for women in Whitehorse:**
 - ♦ 147 women and girls completed the survey
 - ♦ Public buildings and facilities and women-focused agencies were considered safe places by respondents
 - ♦ Drinking establishments, the Millennium Trail and the waterfront were considered unsafe by respondents
 - ♦ Things that made respondents feel safe:
 - good lighting
 - emergency responders
 - neighbors

- being with other people
 - having a cellphone
 - ♦ Things that made respondents feel unsafe:
 - dark, empty areas
 - inebriation and substance use
 - aggressive behavior
 - crime
 - RCMP response time
 - access to transit and phones
 - ♦ Of the 147 respondents, 63 stated they had been a victim of a crime
 - ♦ 44 of the 63 respondents indicated that they had reported the crime to the Whitehorse RCMP
 - ♦ Victims of crime who reported the crime to Whitehorse RCMP stated a 5.6 comfort level out of 10 when they reported
 - ♦ Those who had not identified as a victim of crime anticipated a comfort level of 7 out of 10 should they report to RCMP in the future.
 - ♦ When asked what would make them feel more comfortable in reporting a crime to the police, respondents indicated they would like to see better feedback on the outcome of reporting, access to female officers, empathetic officers, knowing that victims would be taken seriously, anonymity, and being accompanied by a friend or support service.
 - ♦ To help address safety, respondents also called for education to prevent violence and abuse in Whitehorse.
- **Literature review on Alternative Justice program options for women who have Experience Violence:**
 - ♦ Different models are being applied to respond to domestic violence in Australia that allow victims to stay in their homes and require abusers to leave and stay at a shelter
 - ♦ Several studies have outlined issues in the prosecution of sexualized assault cases
 - ♦ Different models are being applied to respond to sexualized assault cases in the US like the Philadelphia model where women's groups review police files deemed unfounded and provide recommendations
 - ♦ Research on domestic violence has focused on impacts of violence on the victim. Social responses to violence need to be researched and understood by anyone in a position who may respond to a victim of domestic violence (i.e. police, judges, social workers, child protection services, transition home workers)
 - ♦ Sexualized assault is also vastly underreported in New Zealand
 - ♦ Sweden reformed how the legal system responds to victims of violence. Victims now have their own lawyer and can make claims to be compensated for their victimization
 - **Statistics collection on domestic violence and sexualized assault in Whitehorse between April 2015 and March 2016:**

- ♦ The following agencies provided statistics:
 - Kona's Coalition - Safe Haven for Pets
 - Victim Services
 - Kwanlin Dun Health Centre
 - Whitehorse General Hospital
 - Whitehorse RCMP
 - Yukon College
 - Yukon Sexual Health Clinic
 - Yukon Women's Transition Home Society
 - Many Rivers Counselling Yukon Distress and Support Line
 - Yukon Human Rights Commission
- ♦ Between April 2015 and March 2016, there were 1375 cases of domestic violence and 430 of sexualized assault although Victim Services statistics reflect open files and not just files opened between April 2015 and March 2016
- ♦ Of 120 reports of sexualized assault to RCMP only 32 accessed health services (23 at Whitehorse General Hospital, 6 at the Yukon Sexual Health Clinic and 3 at the Kwanlin Dün Health Centre). 8 of the 23 were kits on ice, which is a rape kit that is stored should the victim later decide to report the crime.
- ♦ Several agencies who work with victims of violence against women do not collect statistics on violence against women. These agencies are predominantly with Yukon Government and include:
 - Communicable Diseases with Health and Social Services, which provides STI testing, and although they work with victims of sexualized assault, they do not collect stats on the number of victims of sexualized assault who access their services
 - Health and Social Services replied to our ATIPP request that they found no records. Health and Social Services includes Family and Children's Services, Alcohol and Drug Services as well as various other agencies who work with women who have experienced violence
 - Yukon Housing who manages social housing and gives priority to women fleeing violence replied to our ATIPP request that they found no records
 - The Department of Justice replied to our ATIPP request that they found no records although Victim Services statistics were provided by the Director
 - Department of Education replied to our ATIPP request that they found no records
 - The Salvation Army does not collect statistics on women who access their services due to having domestic experienced violence
- ♦ There is a need to ensure that all agencies working with women who have experienced violence collect and make accessible statistics

- List of services, resources and gaps pertaining to domestic violence, sexualized assault, housing, counselling, justice and social assistance:
 - ♦ Most gaps seen in domestic violence, housing, services for victims of sexualized assault and justice
 - ♦ The statistics collected on violence against women and girls also outline gaps in services for women who have experienced violence

Monitoring and Evaluation of the project

Before beginning the Together for Safety Implementation Plan, the Together for Safety organizations created impact and compliance monitors for each of the areas of focus (external/internal communications, videos, training, research and monitoring and evaluation).

For external communications we looked at the following:










- The number of news stories and radio interviews
 - In total there were 5 news stories, 3 radio interviews and 1 TV interview pertaining to the project
- The number of social media shares

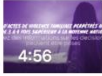


Safety survey:

The posting that Victoria Faulkner Women’s Centre did about the safety survey during 12 Days last year garnered the following results:

- Reach - 561
- Shares - 5
- Likes - 4
- Comments - 1
- Post clicks - 32

Video advertising on facebook:

| Video | Published | Minutes view... ^ | Video views |
|--|-----------------------|---|--|
|  Options for Victims of Domestic Violence in Whitehorse, Yukon The rate of... | ● 15/09/2017 13:38 | 100  | 169  |
|  Options for Victims of Sexualized Assaults in Whitehorse, Yukon A... | ● 15/09/2017 13:38 | 69  | 81  |
|  Reporting Sexualized Assault and Domestic Violence in Whitehor... What... | ● 15/09/2017 13:38 | 51  | 92  |

| Video | Published | Minutes view... ^ | Video views |
|--|---|---------------------|-------------|
|  4:56 | Options pour les victimes de violence familiale à Whitehorse, ... Le taux d'acte... | 18/09/2017 13:05 | 53 108 |
|  6:52 | Options pour les victimes d'agression sexualisée à Whitehorse, ... Une... | 15/09/2017 14:35 | 11 15 |
|  4:59 | Signaler des actes de violence familiale et une agression sexu... Que se passe-t... | 15/09/2017 13:49 | 4 7 |

For internal communications, we looked at the following:

- Survey before and after TFS project:
 - 13 RCMP and 18 staff of women's groups completed the pre survey
 - 12 RCMP and 17 staff of women's groups completed the post survey
- Evaluations from training sessions
 - 4 training attendees completed the evaluation from *Responding to Women who have Experienced Violence*
 - 7 training attendees completed the evaluation from *Best Practices when working with People with Mental Health Issues*
- TFS attendance
 - The signatories met October 2016, December 2016, January 2017, April 2017, July 2017 and September 2017
 - Meetings were well attended with one signatory not able to attend a meeting
- TFS discussed at Annual General Meetings
 - TFS was discussed at 4 of the 6 women's groups Annual General Meetings
- Anniversary of signing target date – tie into Sexual Assault Prevention Month
 - In the works for 2018
- Complete training
 - Both of the training sessions identified in the Together for Safety Implementation Plan were completed
- Complete survey
 - Both a pre and post survey were completed by signatory staff
- Include TFS in job descriptions, work plans, AGMs and orientation packages
 - Most of the signatory organizations integrated Together for Safety into job descriptions, work plans, AGMs and orientation packages

For Training, we looked at the following:

- Evaluations

- A small portion of the attendees at both training sessions completed evaluations
- Collaborations
 - RCMP and the Coordinator of Together for Safety worked together to create training sessions content and book presentations
 - RCMP consulted with RCMP members on the content of the training sessions
- Numbers who attended the training sessions
 - 63 participants attended Responding to Women who have Experienced Violence Training
 - 45 attended Best Practices when working with People with Mental Health Issues

For Research and Information Gathering, we looked at the following:

- Findings and recommendations
 - The signatories looked at the safety survey and pre and post surveys and deciphered next steps for Together for Safety
- Answered survey and demographic who answered
 - 147 women and girls completed the survey
 - 21% of respondents were First Nations and 79% were non-First Nations
 - 66% of respondents were 40 or younger
 - The majority of respondents, 55% owned their own home, 32% rented and 5% resided in a shelter, and 1% were homeless
- Number of survey participants referred by each agency
 - 16 organizations provided paper copies
 - 3 TFS signatory agencies had paper-based copies on site
 - 47 respondents completed paper-based surveys
 - 100 respondents completed the survey online

For Monitoring and Evaluation we looked at the following:

- Findings released
 - Annual report published on Yukon Women's Transition Home website
 - Press release put out regarding the annual report
- Participate and back findings
 - All of the signatory agencies were sent a copy of the annual report for their review before it was released to the public

Next Steps:

- Incorporate feedback from Together for Safety staff in post survey in future initiatives
- Continue to meet on a quarterly basis
- Create a newsletter to keep staff of signatory agencies informed of Together for Safety initiatives
- Officer in Charge of Whitehorse RCMP is reviewing training at Depot on responding to domestic violence and sexualized assault provided to members to training offered through Together for Safety
- Continue to work with Whitehorse RCMP to explore opportunities to provide enhanced training on how to respond to victims of sexualized assault and domestic violence
- Groups will continue to coordinate presentations with the RCMP watches on the signatory agencies and Together for Safety binders
- Together for Safety to meet with By-Law to discuss findings from the safety survey
- Some of the women's groups are exploring funding to continue collaborative projects with Whitehorse RCMP

Appendix

- Pre and post survey results
- Training surveys results
- Statistics on Violence against Women and Girls in Whitehorse
- Information sheet on resources and gaps
- Literature Review on Alternative Justice Options
- Safety Perception survey results