



**Part 1- Nineteenth Annual
Report of the Victims
Assistance Committee of the
Northwest Territories**



May 12, 2008

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty
Minister of Justice

Dear Mr. Lafferty:

Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report

On behalf of the Victims Assistance Committee, I am pleased to present Part 1 of the annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008, and thereby meeting our legislative requirement as per section 10 (1) of the *Victims of Crime Act*.

Part 1 of the Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report details the disbursements from the Victims Assistance Fund (VAF) and the activities supported by these disbursements. Part 2 of the Victims Assistance Committee Annual Report, to be filed at a later date, will detail the activities of the NWT community-based victim services programs between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank the Department for making it possible for us to meet face-to-face in Yellowknife, December 15 and 16th, 2007, where:

- Department of Justice Canada presented their research findings on the Application of the Federal Victim Surcharge in the NWT; and,
- We conducted a section-by-section review of the *Victims of Crime Act*, comparing its provisions with those of another jurisdiction; and,
- We were updated on new NWT victim of crime initiatives, supported with federal victim funds, including: the purchase of new vulnerable witness screens; enhancing victim services in the Beaufort Delta; the development of an emergency financial assistance program for victims of crime; and the victim impact statement travel fund feasibility study.

As the Committee chairperson, I would like to thank Committee members Bridgette Larocque and Faye Noksana for their commitment to meeting the needs and concerns of victims of crime in the NWT.

Sincerely,

Nora Wedzin
Chairperson

Victims Assistance Committee

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

The *Victims of Crime Act* establishes the Victims Assistance Fund (VAF) and provides for the appointment of a Victims Assistance Committee.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND

The VAF is a special-purpose fund maintained with revenue from victim fine surcharges. The VAF does not provide direct financial compensation to individuals but supports community-based projects and activities that provide services and assistance to victims of crime through:

- Training to sensitize and inform community resource workers about the needs and circumstances of victims of crime;
- Direct services that assist victims through crisis response, personal support, follow-up assistance, victim information and referrals;
- Public awareness and information on the rights and responsibilities of victims, available services, the criminal justice system and its procedures and any issues relating to victims of crime;
- Research into the needs and concerns of victims; and
- Distribution of victim services information.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

Committee members are appointed for three-year terms to make recommendations to the Minister of Justice on policies regarding the needs and concerns of victims of crime and on distribution of the VAF.

The Committee's objective is to maintain and offer on-going support to comprehensive community services including, but not limited to, victim support and assistance, coordination of criminal justice and community intervention and training of staff and/or volunteers. Where a full-service agency is not feasible, the Committee supports innovative community-based workshops and projects to provide support to victims of crime.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee meets monthly or as needed to review proposals and project reports. The Minister approved Committee recommendations for contributions amounting to \$34,805.00 in 2007-08

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Balance from 2006-07	\$54,225.72
Victim Fine Surcharges – Territorial	\$45,245.61
Victim Fine Surcharges – Federal	\$28,906.26
Total	\$128,377.59

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Disbursements (see detailed listing below)	\$34,805.00
Total	\$34,805.00

BALANCE FORWARD	\$93,572.59
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VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND DISBURSEMENTS

April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

YWCA of Yellowknife **\$20,200.00**

- *Direct Services & Awareness:* Towards the cost of conducting group counselling programs for children about family violence, April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008.

Inuvik Youth Centre **\$8,805.00**

- *Awareness:* Towards the cost to take the Developing Healthy relationships workshops to high schools in Inuvik, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk and Fort MacPherson, NT.

Hay River Health and Social Services Authority **\$2,700.00**

- *Awareness:* Towards the costs for the Hay River Bike Rally to raise awareness about Hay River Victim Services Program and to raise funds for the Hay River Family Support Centre, June 23, 2007.

Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority **\$3,100.00**

- *Information:* Towards the costs to hold Elder Abuse Workshops in the Sahtu communities (Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tulita and Deline) during the fall of 2007.