

Award Nomination

This form is set up to allow you to complete from your computer. You may also print and complete by hand.
Completed nomination forms must be submitted by June 28, 2013.

Please MAIL, FAX or E-Mail To:
Victim Services and Crime Prevention
#302 - 815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E6
Tel: 604 660-5199 Toll-free: 1-800-663-7867
Fax: 604 775-2674 E-mail: crimeprevention@gov.bc.ca

ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL, GROUP OR PROGRAM BEING NOMINATED

First Name	Team Victoria	Last Name	
Title			
Organization	VIHA Victoria General Hospital, Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre: Policing Divisions; Crown Counsel		
Address			
City		Postal Code	
Phone	()	Fax	()

ABOUT YOU, THE NOMINATOR

First Name	Makenna	Last Name	Rielly
Title	Executive Director		
Organization	Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre		
Address	#511 - 620 View Street		
City	Victoria, BC	Postal Code	V8W1J6
Phone	() 250-383-3232	Fax	() 250-383-6112

Justification For Nomination

Please complete this page and attach to the Award Nomination Form.

Please describe the nominee's accomplishments in crime prevention and community safety. Selection will be based on the level of commitment, perseverance, innovation and contribution illustrated in your submission below. Do not assume that the panel will know anything about the nominee. Include any attributes/accomplishments of the nominee. Description should not exceed 1000 words.

NAME OF AWARD (OPTIONAL) CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARD

DESCRIPTION

Team Victoria is a collaborative community group including Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) – Victoria General Hospital (VGH); Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre (VWSAC); Crown Counsel; and Policing agencies. Since 1997, VGH and VWSAC partnered in providing a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), using a SART Protocol, with policing agencies following this protocol to ensure a coordinated and effective response for victims of sexual assault, within the Capital Regional District.

SART is a 24/7 response that provides victims of sexual assault with support at any point where they disclose their assault, i.e., through a crisis line, at the hospital or at a police station. At this point the SART Protocol is enacted by the personnel speaking with the victim in order to facilitate medical intervention, emotional support and/or justice support.

Through the VWSAC Support Workers, victims are provided emotional support, informed about their options (e.g., medical, justice and counselling assistance) and supported with information about the trauma response. Research has shown that such support immediately after an assault helps to mitigate the effects of trauma. Through the Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNE) at VGH, victims may be provided the following medical care: medication only, medical exam and/or forensic exam (with or without police reporting). Policing agencies further provide assistance to victims who wish to report the perpetrator, while recognizing the needs of the victim for timely medical and emotional support.

Through the Team Victoria approach, victims are supported with recognition that they must be empowered to make the choices that are best for them. Research also demonstrates that the subsequent outcomes are greater engagement with the criminal justice system, reduced levels of post-traumatic effects and greater accessing of follow-up medical and counselling services. VWSAC further provides follow-up services through: crisis counselling, Victim Services support and, potentially, longer term therapy while working collaboratively with the police, Crown Counsel and medical personnel to provide a comprehensive and consistent support service.

Training for the SART Volunteers is provided twice a year. SART volunteers receive 60 hours of training and the program trains approximately 30 SART volunteers per year. This is an intensive training process that covers information on the local SART Protocol and procedures, the effects of sexual trauma, information on the medical and legal systems, child protection issues and suicidal ideation. The training also focuses on skill development particularly in the areas of active listening, emotional support and crisis intervention. Before SART volunteers are accepted into training they must go through a comprehensive selection process, which includes an application, interview and reference check. SART training is, primarily, facilitated by the Coordinator of Volunteers, who works throughout the year to supervise volunteers, including additional practice sessions, and updates the training manual as necessary.

Policing agencies provide Roll-call training and/or New Recruit training to acquaint members with the SART Protocol and procedures when attending a sexual assault call. This ensures that all members are aware of the services VSAC and VGH offer and how to respond to a sexual assault, minimizing delays or confusion for victims. This process also increases trust and gives an opportunity for police and support workers to build greater understanding of each other's roles.

Team Victoria meets on a monthly basis to facilitate collaboration, deal with issues as they arise and provide updates to what is considered to be a best practices model for the region. This collaboration between a diverse group of agencies is innovative and promotes safety in the community by ensuring that no one falls through the system and receives fluid service delivery. It is anticipated that this model will be shared with other Provincial Policing agencies and has previously been recognized by Making a Difference Canada.

The positive impact of this collaborative support for victims of sexual assault is immense. In the words of VSAC's Crisis and Information Line Support Worker, "My work helps clients find a choice that feels comfortable for them going forward. I'm rewarded when I see someone come out of the process, whatever their choice, with greater reassurance, confidence and strength. Within everyone, even someone who has experienced massive trauma, there's always this kernel of resilience. It's an honour and a privilege to help nurture that resilience and help it flower in each individual."



Team Victoria is a collaborative community group including Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) – Victoria General Hospital (VGH); Victoria Women’s Sexual Assault Centre (VWSAC); Crown Counsel; and Policing agencies. Since 1997, VGH and VWSAC partnered in providing a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), using a SART Protocol, with policing agencies following this protocol to ensure a coordinated and effective response for victims of sexual assault, within the Capital Regional District.

SART is a 24/7 response that provides victims of sexual assault with support at any point where they disclose their assault, i.e., through a crisis line, at the hospital or at a police station. At this point the SART Protocol is enacted by the personnel speaking with the victim in order to facilitate medical intervention, emotional support and/or justice support.

Through the VWSAC Support Workers, victims are provided emotional support, informed about their options (e.g., medical, justice and counselling assistance) and supported with information about the trauma response. Research has shown that such support immediately after an assault helps to mitigate the effects of trauma. Through the Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNE) at VGH, victims may be provided the following medical care: medication only, medical exam and/or forensic exam (with or without police reporting). Policing agencies further provide assistance to victims who wish to report the perpetrator, while recognizing the needs of the victim for timely medical and emotional support.

Through the Team Victoria approach, victims are supported with recognition that they must be empowered to make the choices that are best for them. Research also demonstrates that the subsequent outcomes are greater engagement with the criminal justice system, reduced levels of post-traumatic effects and greater accessing of follow-up medical and counselling services. VWSAC further provides follow-up services through: crisis counselling, Victim Services support and, potentially, longer term therapy while working collaboratively with the police, Crown Counsel and medical personnel to provide a comprehensive and consistent support service.

Training for the SART Volunteers is provided twice a year. SART volunteers receive 60 hours of training and the program trains approximately 30 SART volunteers per year. This is an intensive training process that covers information on the local SART Protocol and procedures, the effects of sexual trauma, information on the medical and legal systems, child protection issues and suicidal ideation. The training also focuses on skill development particularly in the areas of active listening, emotional support and crisis intervention. Before SART volunteers are accepted into training they must go through a comprehensive selection process, which includes an application, interview and reference check. SART training is, primarily, facilitated by the Coordinator of Volunteers, who works throughout the year to

supervise volunteers, including additional practice sessions, and updates the training manual as necessary.

Policing agencies provide Roll-call training and/or New Recruit training to acquaint members with the SART Protocol and procedures when attending a sexual assault call. This ensures that all members are aware of the services VSAC and VGH offer and how to respond to a sexual assault, minimizing delays or confusion for victims. This process also increases trust and gives an opportunity for police and support workers to build greater understanding of each other's roles.

Team Victoria meets on a monthly basis to facilitate collaboration, deal with issues as they arise and provide updates to what is considered to be a best practices model for the region. This collaboration between a diverse group of agencies is innovative and promotes safety in the community by ensuring that no one falls through the system and receives fluid service delivery. It is anticipated that this model will be shared with other Provincial Policing agencies and has previously been recognized by Making a Difference Canada.

The positive impact of this collaborative support for victims of sexual assault is immense. In the words of VSAC's Crisis and Information Line Support Worker, "My work helps clients find a choice that feels comfortable for them going forward. I'm rewarded when I see someone come out of the process, whatever their choice, with greater reassurance, confidence and strength. Within everyone, even someone who has experienced massive trauma, there's always this kernel of resilience. It's an honour and a privilege to help nurture that resilience and help it flower in each individual."

In the Capital Regional District, victims of sexual assault are most fortunate to have the collaborative support and exemplary leadership of Team Victoria and, therefore, we wish to nominate this team, under the CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARD as a Community Group/Organization category, to provide them with the recognition they deserve for their dedicated work toward community safety and crime prevention.