

2017/18 ESTIMATES NOTE

Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

Suggested Response:

- Government recognizes the devastating impacts of domestic violence on women, families and communities and has a number of initiatives underway to address domestic violence in British Columbia.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General continues to work closely with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) to ensure a coordinated response.
- The three year Domestic Violence Plan concluded in March 2017 and funding for services was extended for one year.
- Government is currently considering options on how best to continue strengthening our response to domestic violence going forward and we are exploring options for strategic investments that will build on work underway to strengthen the services and supports currently provided and address service demands.

Background:

- The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) was established in 2012 by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to better coordinate cross-government responses to issues related to domestic violence.
- PODV is responsible for ensuring a coordinated, systematic government approach to domestic violence through monitoring, evaluation, reporting and consultation with stakeholders.
- In February 2014, PODV released a three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan. The Plan was developed in collaboration with ministries from across government and included \$5.5 million in new funding over three years to strengthen approaches to addressing domestic violence, including:
 - \$1 million to help with the development and implementation of additional specialized domestic violence units, which will provide direct services to high-risk families;
 - \$2 million to develop and deliver programs specifically for Aboriginal women, men and children affected by domestic violence;

- \$1 million to provide support and intervention for perpetrators to hold them accountable and support changes in behaviour and attitude prior to involvement in the criminal justice system; and
- \$1.5 million in direct supports to women and children for housing and transportation in rural and remote communities.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General works closely with the PODV to ensure a coordinated response. This includes regular reporting on our progress as we work toward completing our specific commitments.
- An independent evaluation of the first two years of the Plan showed that the actions in the Plan have improved engagement and information sharing across sectors, and that there is now a collaborative approach in aligning policies and legislation across government.
- The evaluation also pointed out some concerns with the current structure of the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence to continue its work.
- March 2017 marked the end of the three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan. PODV is in the process of completing its third Annual Report. PODV received an additional year of grant funding to extend the plan through 2017/18.
- Government is currently considering options on how best to continue strengthening our response to domestic violence going forward.

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2018/19 ESTIMATES NOTE

Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

Suggested Response:

- Both the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) have held long-standing and important roles in addressing domestic violence.
- Since it was established in 2012, PODV has worked to bring greater collaboration across government and leadership throughout the implementation of the 3-Year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan, which ended in 2016/2017.
- The Ministry continues to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs across the Province.
- Addressing violence against women – including domestic violence remains a priority for this government.
- We're delivering on this commitment - Budget 2018 provides \$18 million over the next three years to better meet the demand for programs and services such as counselling, outreach, and crisis support for women and children who experience domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes.
- Given these new investments and that the 3-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan is completed, we are taking this opportunity to move coordination and responsibility for addressing domestic violence to PSSG's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch. As a result of this change the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence will be disbanded at the end of fiscal year 2017/18.
- Placing the responsibility for addressing domestic violence with PSSG will allow for a more harmonized approach that aligns service delivery with broader coordination efforts.
- Going forward we will continue to leverage our collective expertise and build off of the work done to date to help ensure the safety of women, children and anyone affected by domestic and other forms of violence.
- Over the coming weeks, PSSG staff will continue to work closely with staff from PODV to ensure a thoughtful and planned approach to this transition.

New Provincial Plan on Domestic Violence/Violence Against Women

- The three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan and the Vision for a Violence Free BC Strategy identified important priority areas with respect to addressing violence against women, such as: challenging beliefs and behaviours; ensuring services are responsive, innovative and coordinated; supporting women to rebuild their lives; addressing violence against Indigenous women; and fostering strong relationships and new partnerships.
- Going forward, we will be looking to build off of progress achieved through previous action plans as we continue to strengthen our response to violence against women. We will continue to work collaboratively to achieve our long-term vision of addressing violence against women and children.

Coordination Around Domestic Violence

- Going forward the Ministry will support coordination as we work collaboratively across government to address all types of violence against women.
- The Ministry has established strong relationships with anti-violence stakeholders and organizations, as do other government ministries. Maintaining strong relationships with stakeholders will continue to be a priority across government going forward.
- Organizations can continue to reach out to government by contacting the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- In addition, organizations can continue to connect with the Ministry of Children and Family Development for any concerns related to child protection and where domestic violence exists within families.

PODV Evaluation and Third Annual Report

- The evaluation of years one and two of the plan were a commitment made by a previous government. While the evaluation provided great insight into the work of the anti-violence sector and PODV it became less relevant given the shift in mandate for domestic violence.
- The third annual report remains in draft given the change in government and mandate shift on domestic violence from MCFD to PSSG, and the work that has had to be undertaken to provide for a well planned and seamless transition.

PODV Budget

- The \$ 878,000 budget for PODV will be transferred to the Ministry and funding will continue to go towards supporting government priorities for addressing violence against women. This will include awareness campaigns and inter-agency coordination.

PODV Staff

- MCFD will embed the subject matter experts from PODV into the internal work that is done with families experiencing domestic violence.

Background:

- The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) was established in 2012 by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to better coordinate cross-government responses to issues related to domestic violence.
- PODV was responsible for ensuring a coordinated, systematic government approach to domestic violence through monitoring, evaluation, reporting and consultation with stakeholders.
- In February 2014, PODV released a three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan. The Plan was developed in collaboration with ministries from across government and included \$5.5 million in new funding over three years to strengthen approaches to addressing domestic violence, including:
 - \$1 million to help with the development and implementation of additional specialized domestic violence units, which will provide direct services to high-risk families;
 - \$2 million to develop and deliver programs specifically for Aboriginal women, men and children affected by domestic violence;
 - \$1 million to provide support and intervention for perpetrators to hold them accountable and support changes in behaviour and attitude prior to involvement in the criminal justice system; and
 - \$1.5 million in direct supports to women and children for housing and transportation in rural and remote communities.
- Historically, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General worked closely with the PODV to ensure a coordinated response.
- An independent evaluation of the first two years of the Plan showed that the actions in the Plan have improved engagement and information sharing across sectors, and that there is now a collaborative approach in aligning policies and legislation across government.

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- The evaluation also pointed out some concerns with the current structure of the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence to continue its work.
- March 2017 marked the end of the three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan. PODV received an additional year of grant funding to extend the plan through 2017/18.

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**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION BRANCH
BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For DECISION of Deputy Minister, Mark Sieben.

ISSUE:

Allocation of grant funding from the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence budget for 2018/19.

DECISION REQUIRED/ RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of proposed grant allocation.

SUMMARY:

- With the transition of responsibility for coordination of domestic violence from the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) to Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch (CSCP), PODV's \$878,000 budget was transferred to the branch.
- At the time of the transition, it was expressed that the budget would be dedicated to supporting government priorities for addressing violence against women.
- Approximately \$180,000 of the budget has been allocated to branch staffing, travel and administrative costs and \$220,000 has been provided to the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) for the Be More than a Bystander (BMTB) awareness campaign (transfer under agreement).
- Decisions need to be made on how to allocate the remainder of the funds in the form of grants to address domestic violence and support coordination and awareness efforts (\$478,000).
- CSCP recommends allocating one-time grants to:
 - 10 intervention programs for perpetrators of domestic violence (\$300,000 through a call for proposals);
 - EVA BC to support Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICATs) coordination and training (\$100,000 direct grant); and
 - BC Society for Transition Houses (BCSTH) to support the Violence is Preventable (VIP) awareness program (\$75,000 direct grant).

BACKGROUND:

- Through the three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan (2014/15 – 2016/17), one time funding of \$5.5 million was provided to strengthen approaches to addressing domestic violence including:
 - \$1 million for development and implementation of additional specialized domestic violence units (DVUs);

- \$2 million to develop and deliver programs specifically for indigenous women, men and children affected by domestic violence;
 - \$1 million to provide support and intervention for perpetrators to hold them accountable and support changes in behaviour and attitude prior to involvement in the criminal justice system; and
 - \$1.5 million in direct supports to women and children for housing and transportation in rural and remote communities.
- March 2017 marked the end of the three-year Plan, however, PODV received an additional year of grant funding through 2017/18.
- The grant funding was provided to extend 24 projects for indigenous women, men and children affected by domestic violence funded as part of the three-year plan for an additional year (\$850,000). The funding has now concluded. Projects seeking additional funding to continue their work beyond 2017/18 were encouraged to apply for Civil Forfeiture grant funding.
- In addition to the \$5.5 million outlined above, in spring 2017 PODV provided one-time grant funding to:
 - EVA BC to provide training and support to ICATs over two years (\$350,000);
 - EVA BC to support the BMTB campaign (\$160,000);
 - BCSTH to support the VIP awareness program (amount still to be confirmed).
- In December 2017, PSSG provided \$5 million in one-time grant funding to existing victim service and violence against women programs and other priority areas to address service pressures. The other priority areas included:
 - \$100,000 to EVA BC to provide training and support to ICATs;
 - \$100,000 to EVA BC for the BMTB campaign;
 - \$100,000 to BCSTH for the VIP program; and
 - \$700,000 directly to ICAT Committees to support coordination efforts over two years.

DISCUSSION:

- Some of the priority areas funded in relation to the three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan continue to receive funding, or new initiatives are now underway.
- For example, as part of Budget 2018, CSCP now provides ongoing funding to support DVUs. Annual funding is also being provided to support the BMTB campaign.
- Additionally, in Budget 2018, BC Housing received \$141 million over 3 years to support transition houses including 1,500 new units for women and children fleeing abusive relationships.

- There are some funding gaps that continue to remain^{s.13}

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- Funding for the Supporting Healthy Relationship project to support programming for perpetrators of domestic violence is concluding at the end of October 2018. Providing additional grant funding in 2018/19 would allow CSCP to be responsive to a known gap in services to address domestic violence.
- Additionally, funding to support coordination and awareness to address domestic violence has been prioritized over the past few years. Providing additional grant funding to the Branch's provincial associations, EVA BC and BCSTH, will enable: (1) continued training and support for ICATs to respond to high-risk domestic violence cases and (2) support VIP to continue linking schools with PEACE programs (children who witness abuse programs) to ensure that children and youth who have been impacted by domestic violence receive the support services they need.

RECOMMENDATION:

- CSCP recommends funding the following programs with the \$478,000 available for grants:
 - \$300,000 in one-time grants for perpetrator programs (10 grants at \$30,000 each, total of \$300,000 through a call for proposals);
 - \$100,000 in a one-time direct grant to EVA BC for CCWS to support ICAT coordination and training; and
 - \$75,000 in a one-time direct grant to BCSTH to support the VIP program.
- One-time grants for these programs will provide CSCP with the opportunity to continue to fund these priority programs and services in 2018/19.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- none



Mark Sieben
Deputy Solicitor General

DATE: September 25, 2018

RECOMMENDED OPTION APPROVED

Cliff: 547602

Date Prepared: September 18, 2018

Date Decision Required: September 30, 2018

Prepared by:

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Approved on September 25, 2018 by:

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