

British Columbia  
**JUSTICE SUMMIT**

**FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT**

**BETTER RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN**

**NOVEMBER 28-29, 2014**

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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## PREPARATION OF REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

This Report of Proceedings was prepared for the Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice; the Honourable Chief Justice Robert Bauman, Chief Justice of British Columbia; the Honourable Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson, Supreme Court of British Columbia; and the Honourable Chief Judge Thomas Crabtree, Provincial Court of British Columbia.



*A snowy UBC played host to the Fourth BC Justice Summit*

## BRITISH COLUMBIA JUSTICE SUMMITS

Justice Summits are convened by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of British Columbia at least once a year to facilitate innovation in, and collaboration across, the justice and public safety sector. As indicated in s. 9 of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, a Summit may:

- a. review and consider initiatives and procedures undertaken in other jurisdictions in relation to the justice system in those jurisdictions;
- b. provide input to assist the Justice and Public Safety Council of British Columbia in creating a strategic vision for the justice and public safety sector;
- c. make recommendations relating to priorities, strategies, performance measures, procedures and new initiatives related to the justice and public safety sector;
- d. assess the progress being made in justice reform in British Columbia; and
- e. engage in any other deliberations that the Justice Summit considers appropriate.

On the conclusion of its deliberations, the Summit must report to the Minister on the outcome of those deliberations. By agreement between the executive and judicial branches of government, the Summit report is simultaneously submitted to the Chief Justice of British Columbia, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

## BACKGROUND TO THE FOURTH BC JUSTICE SUMMIT

The *Justice Reform and Transparency Act* provides for the Minister of Justice to convene a British Columbia Justice Summit by invitation at least annually. Four Summits have now been held since the Act was passed in early 2013. Summits are intended to encourage innovation and facilitate collaboration across the sector by providing a forum for frank discussion between sector leaders and participants about how the system is performing and how it may be improved. As the Act also established a Justice and Public Safety Council, appointed by the Minister, to develop a Vision and an annual plan for the sector across the province, Summits represent a key source of input and recommendations into the Council's planning process, and are a forum to assess the plans and the progress made under them.

The first two Justice Summits, held in March and November 2013, were based on the theme of criminal justice and focused primarily on consideration of the basic values of the criminal justice system as a foundational element of future discussions around planning and system performance. The third Summit was held in May 2014, and focused on family law, primarily issues for families arising from separation and divorce. The Summits' deliberations were summarized in publicly available Reports of Proceedings.



*Bev Jacobs, of Ending Violence Association BC, addresses the Summit in plenary*

This Summit, the fourth to be held, focused on better responses to violence against women, particularly issues related to domestic and sexual violence.

### **Governance and planning**

The Justice Summit saw the establishment of a Steering Committee with representation from the executive and judicial branches of government, as well as other independent organizations and senior subject-matter experts. The Steering Committee was supported by a Working Group of government and non-government personnel (see Appendix 3).

The Steering Committee met between August and November 2014. Its principal tasks were to develop an agenda for the Summit; settle on a representative list of participants; and reach agreement on facilitation, location, and other planning matters. Violence against women, specifically domestic and sexual violence, was confirmed by the Committee as the broad-based topic, and as an organizing principle to determine participation.

As was the case in the first three Summits, the Committee agreed that, consistent with protocol in similar gatherings in other jurisdictions to encourage free expression, no comments made by participants during the Summit would be attributed to those individuals or to their organizations in the Summit report, without explicit consent being granted to the Committee to make such attribution.

### **Agenda development**

The agenda for this Summit built, in part, on a dialogue which began with the first three Summits. As identified by the Steering Committee, the main goals of this Summit were to:

- deliberate and make recommendations concerning the most necessary and viable practice improvements in addressing domestic violence, and in alignment of domestic violence proceedings with family justice and child protection;



- identify and raise senior practitioner awareness of promising practices in addressing sexual violence, and make recommendations regarding improved practice and response;
- ensure the Summit considers or recommends any changes in light of significantly greater risk to women and their families in the Aboriginal community and other at-risk communities; and
- Identify necessary and potential next steps in the immediate, medium and longer terms, and the means of following up on the Summit's dialogue.

## SUMMIT PROCEEDINGS

### Summit opening

The Summit was brought to order by the Summit Moderator. Participants were welcomed to Musqueam territory by Elder Jewel Thomas, of the Musqueam Indian Band, who offered a prayer for the success of the Summit, and were welcomed to the University of British Columbia by Mary Anne Bobinski, Dean of the Faculty of Law.

The Summit was officially opened by the Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, who gave a welcoming address to participants.

### Sessions 1, 2 and 3: Understanding the impact of domestic violence and sexual violence

Given the nature of this Summit – the breadth of the Summit theme, the diversity of participants, the variation in those communities in which women are at greatest risk of violence, and the relevance of recent scientific research into violent trauma – distinct from the approach at previous Summits the Steering Committee felt it important to provide participants with important contextual information before turning to participant discussion of specific policy and operational areas. The first morning of the Summit was therefore reserved for a series of informational presentations related to impacts of, and systemic responses to, domestic violence and sexual violence against women in British Columbia.

#### Complexity of trauma responses

Participants heard an invited presentation from Dr. Lori Haskell of the University of Toronto on the impacts of complex trauma in cases of violence against women. The theme of the presentation was that responses should be ‘trauma-informed,’ based on current scientific understanding of how the impacts of trauma are manifested in the nervous system and in physical, social and psychological terms, so that the people who make up the justice system share a philosophy about trauma, services, effective responses, and trauma clients. Key scientific findings include:

- The *neurobiology of traumatic experience*, in which trauma forces us to make profound biological adaptations in how our brain operates, interfering with victims' memory and capacity to provide a linear account of an assault.
- *Tonic immobility*, or rape-induced paralysis, is frequently exhibited by adult and child victims of sexual assault, confounding social expectation that cases of 'real' sexual violence should show resistance by the victim.
- *Nervous system effects of trauma*, including hyperarousal, relate to changes in brain function altering context for memories and distinction between past and present.

The presenter noted that the relevance of these and other findings to justice system responses to violence against women are several. Neurobiological and psychological effects of violence can last many years and can create additional barriers and difficulties, change and affect personality, and create hyper-vigilance, anxiety and agitation, amongst other effects. These effects can also interfere with the ways in which domestic and sexual violence victims access safety, make self-protective decisions, process information, and remember details, as well as increasing the risk of re-victimization and interfering with care.

## FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



### ***The first morning included presentations about the facts on violence against women***

Participants were informed that in cases of sexual violence, victims may ‘blank out,’ dissociate and/or exhibit behaviour which may seem inconsistent with having been assaulted, including nonresistance. Victims may not describe the incident as rape if they lack the language to articulate such aggression. In addition, victims may have trouble recalling the sequence of events, and may exhibit emotions which may seem inconsistent with common expectations of victim behaviour. Furthermore, victims may have little understanding of their own reaction and impacts.

Participants heard that if not properly understood, the impacts of trauma can contribute to police or others failing to give credence to allegations of assault. Additionally, well-meaning and otherwise effective police interview techniques and styles designed to assess the consistency of victims’ statements and target inconsistencies, if uninformed by an understanding of the psychological effects of trauma and of how to recognize trauma responses, may antagonize victims, cause information to be withheld, and/or lead to the victim experiencing further psychological distress unnecessarily. Specialized training in engaging and responding to traumatized women is required.

Dr. Haskell noted that education of justice system professionals (police, prosecutors and judiciary) on the ways in which the experience of trauma may confound traditional system expectations regarding victim behaviour, and incorporation of this knowledge into practice and procedure – in other words, a *trauma-informed approach* – is necessary to ensure improved responses to women who are victims of violence.

### The impact of violence against Aboriginal women

Participants' attention then turned to two consecutive sessions of invited presentations which highlighted the distinct impacts of violence against women at elevated risk of being assaulted.

The first presentation, by Beverley Jacobs of Ending Violence Association BC, focused on the experience of Aboriginal women; the key points are summarized here.

#### *Damage done to Aboriginal women's role in community*

The presentation by Ms. Jacobs placed the high level of harm and risk suffered by Aboriginal women in the context of forced historical changes in the role and status of women in the community, in family and in law. It was outlined that these changes eroded cultural, social, economic and political processes and institutions, and replaced the previous worldview (that women have a respected, valued and equal role to men) with European patriarchal norms, resulting in a significant and negative impact on Aboriginal women and their role with family and community.

#### *Vulnerability caused by marginalization and displacement*

Participants heard that the net effect of these developments, exacerbated by the terrible legacy of residential schools, has been mass trauma resulting in a multi-generational legacy of physical, psychological, social and economic disparity. Within and flowing from this context, Aboriginal women face severe and enduring risks and harm to a degree far exceeding the rest of the population of the province. Detachment from community and marginalization has led to the targeted victimization of Aboriginal women, often horrifically and brutally, in exploitation of their lack of connection and social support. There exists a lack of trust between those who are at great risk and those who are meant to protect and pursue justice, leading to significant underreporting of violence. In rural

settings, a lack of accessible support and protective resources further increases the level of risk.

### *Systemic factors create individual risk*

At the individual level, participants heard that the reality and backdrop of inequality frequently appear in the personal histories of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls. In most cases, parents, grandparents or the women themselves had attended residential school. Family dysfunction, community displacement, poverty, prior contact with the criminal justice system and child protection experience (including “adoption out”) rendered many women even more vulnerable to violence and disconnected from their community. The women often had unresolved personal, emotional or health issues leading in some cases to addiction or other challenges. These traumas are replicated across generations, interacting with the child protection system to negative effect, and perhaps replicating outcomes associated with residential schools.

### *Mainstream and indigenous solutions*

Ms. Jacobs noted that potential mainstream society solutions include: greater cultural competency and cultural safety; a better understanding of historical trauma as it impacts victims of violence; support for families of murdered and missing women and for victims of violence; a national inquiry and plan of action regarding violence against Aboriginal women; and sufficient resources to assist in the investigation of unsolved murders.

Indigenous solutions include: building resilience, revitalization, and reclamation; healing the self and a greater awareness of self within community; bringing back the balance and traditional teaching; a focus on family and community; building trust and preventing violence; and revitalization of a strong nationhood for Aboriginal people with traditional forms, legal traditions, peaceful relationships, spirituality, and other essential elements of Aboriginal traditional culture in which women had enjoyed safety and respect.

### **The impact of violence against women in other vulnerable populations**

The Summit then turned to a panel comprising three invited presentations dealing with the issue of violence as experienced by women in sex work, with disabilities, and in immigrant communities.

### *Violence against women in sex work*

Participants heard a presentation from Sheri Kiselbach of Prostitution Alternatives Counselling and Education Society on the effects of prostitution legislation on the safety of women engaged in sex work. Key points of Ms. Kiselbach's presentation included the following:

- The criminal status and stigma associated to sex work contribute to extremely high rates of physical, sexual and economic exploitation, and violence against sex workers who are at greatest risk of sexual assault and are least likely to access care. Within this group, Aboriginal women are disproportionately impacted. Attempts to alter this situation are hampered by a dialogue which exhibits extreme perspectives that deny the humanity or autonomy of sex workers.
- While the Supreme Court has struck down key provisions of prior laws, new legislation may recreate previous harms and prevent women from accessing important services and protection. Prohibition of advertising will hamper options to work indoors or collectively. Meanwhile, safety-enhancing relationships with third parties (e.g., drivers, security people, managers), though not well-understood, remain criminalized.
- Conflating sex work with trafficking damages efforts to create a safer industry for women who do sex work but who are not trafficked. Decriminalization would refocus the justice system's engagement with sex work towards preventing violence and ensuring safety.

### *Violence against women with disabilities*

Participants heard a presentation from Karen Martin of the Disability Alliance BC and Disabled Women's Network Canada on violence against women with disabilities, who are at disproportionate risk of violence – for example, being four times more likely to experience sexual assault than women without disabilities. The continuum of violence against women with disabilities in our society includes a history of institutionalization, abuse and forced sterilization. Key points outlined by Ms. Martin included the following:

- High levels of risk of violence are based in structural and practical factors: economic vulnerability, discrimination, inaccessibility of and exclusion from facilities and transportation, and social isolation. Disability increases vulnerability already experienced by women, and most women with disabilities report more than one type of abuse, including threats associated to care, or sexual abuse by those in positions of trust. They may depend on intermediaries for support to disclose, and may be dependent on their abuser for support and services.
- There are significant barriers to justice in cases of violence. Disabled women may lack accessible information and may be disbelieved about abuse or not viewed as credible witnesses when they do disclose (or are asked to complete competency tests). The Supreme Court has recently confirmed the importance of access to justice for survivors of sexual assault with intellectual and other disabilities. But lack of accommodations and supports in the court process continues.
- A coordinated, collaborative, community response is required, including training for justice professionals to increase understanding of access to justice issues.

### *Violence against women in immigrant communities*

The final presentation of the panel, from Shashi Assanand of Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services, addressed violence against immigrant women (more specifically, immigrants, refugee women, women without status, visitor women, women on student visas, mail order brides and trafficked women) who are disproportionately victims of violence. Key points of Ms. Assanand's presentation were as follows:

- Immigration may involve value clash and culture shock. Families may be deeply affected by changes and become vulnerable to violence. In highly patriarchal cultures, women and children bear the brunt of victimization. Vulnerability for women is increased when dependent on a male entry applicant who may also subject them to violence. Victimization may relate to a woman's economic standing or expectation, or prior experience of violence or abuse.



- Cultural competency is required for access to justice and preventing dual victimization. Women may be persecuted if they report violence, but may encounter system assumptions that violence is accepted in immigrant cultures. Immigrant and refugee women can be reluctant to access services; in addition, religion and culture can play a very significant role in a woman's decision to leave the abusive situation and these are not well understood or anticipated by our system.
- Legal and structural barriers to justice increase risk. Cuts to services providing accessibility, including legal aid, and trends towards self-representation have worsened the challenge of leaving violent relationships, especially for those women whose first language is not English. Immigration law hinders efforts to break away from violence. Key supports such as welfare or housing are directly related to immigration status, and requirements for permanent residency leave women fearful of abandoning relationships.

### Discussion and plenary comment (Sessions 1 to 3)

Plenary discussion and comment were combined for Sessions 1, 2 and 3. Three questions were posed to participants for small group discussion:

1. *Has violence against women been appropriately treated as a priority by our sector? If not, how should we adjust our thinking about this challenge? Are there examples of times when efforts to raise it as a priority have been successful?*
2. *Given the broad range of discussion this morning, what are the key considerations that we should keep in mind as we work towards improving justice system responses to violence against women?*
3. *Aboriginal women, in both urban and rural settings, remain at greatest risk of violence. Identify up to three significant actions which in your opinion are required in order to see meaningful, positive change in the current situation.*

The following points emerged in the small group discussions and were reported in plenary on behalf of the groups. Common themes are summarized in the sub-headings below;

reporting of any particular point should not be taken as necessarily reflecting consensus among the participants.

### *Professional and community education on violence against women is vital*

- Too little is known or incorporated by sector professionals about the practical effects of trauma on the reporting, investigation and prosecution of violence against women. Our work must be trauma-informed via professional education.
- We need to understand how societal shifts in the Aboriginal community have made women vulnerable to violence. Education and other communication should assist in elevating Elders to their rightful position in society and in creating understanding of the context of valuing (and devaluing) women.
- In the community and within the education system a collective response is required. Education and prevention are critical in teaching respect at an early age. Men and boys must be engaged in education around safe and healthy relationships.
- Cultural competency training is a priority area for sector professionals, including front-line responders, regarding Aboriginal and immigrant communities (e.g., understanding diversity, inter-family dynamics, current realities of poverty and inequality). It is important for justice professionals to understand the amount of secrecy that occurs around domestic and sexual violence.
- Greater competency is also required with respect to understanding and responding to violence against women with disabilities, and against women in sex work.
- Many participants felt that a national inquiry on violence against Aboriginal women would be beneficial to increasing collective understanding of the complexity of violence against women, leading to more effective action. Other participants were less certain of the value of an inquiry.

### *Key, integrated policy changes are necessary*

- We require an integrated and accountable provincial framework and action plan to address violence against women for B.C., which would include not only the justice and public safety sector and those responsible for children and families and for Aboriginal family services, but also the education and health sectors, community and victim services, and federal, provincial, and Aboriginal leadership. This will require greater coherence and alignment of policy across ministries, and between the policy and local practice levels. Such a framework would encompass:
  - domestic violence, where there is a need for alignment of policy and practice; and
  - sexual violence, where there is a need for basic development of an integrated provincial, cross-sectoral policy or protocol.
- We should avoid policy and/or legislation which creates unintended collateral harm or otherwise jeopardizes women.
- Nuanced understanding of implications of the *Gladue* decision should be applied when addressing the situation of victims, particularly in situations of release of offenders into communities that are in close proximity to their victims.
- We must measure progress via a range of concrete goals and benchmarks for successes and best practices in addressing violence against women. We require ongoing evaluation, monitoring, and public reporting that outlines progress. To track progress over time, we require a sustained, long-term, consistent approach to ensure sufficient time for measures to be implemented and impacts to be understood.
- A trauma-informed approach for responding to victims, in policy and practice terms, as well as education, is required throughout the criminal justice system to provide better support and obtain better evidence.

### *Key service changes are necessary*

- Services should better meet the needs of victims, including community-led, victim-informed services; alternate entry points to reporting violence apart from engaging with police; adapting services to reflect remote and rural realities, such as lack of anonymity, and the need for a safe place to report; and a more robust role for victim services. There should be greater overall use of mobile services and 24/7 access.
- Prevention is less costly than responding. When we must respond, we need to build on established best practice such as domestic violence courts, domestic violence units, designated Crown Counsel, and interagency case assessment teams (ICATs), using technology to extend service wherever appropriate.
- Justice and safety are increased when the system is culturally competent and relevant. We should increase the amount of community-led and community-delivered programs and services in Aboriginal communities, including broader awareness and enhancing the role of Elders. We also need better representation of our cultural communities in criminal justice policy and practice. Finally, we need to ensure that language is not a barrier to access.
- Alternative processes deserve greater consideration, including options for victims beyond the adversarial process but which remain safe and victim-centered. We should also consider other ways to hold offenders accountable, such as restorative justice approaches to address community need for healing, while also addressing the risk of power imbalance and questions of victim safety and consent.
- Access to voluntary self-referred treatment programs for men is an important part of ending the cycle of violence.

### *Chronic resource shortfalls exist in response to violence against women*

- Participants frequently referred to the need to increase and sustain overall funding in the long term to combat sexual violence and domestic violence against women, for community supports, to implement and/or support action plans, and to implement identified priorities.

- Funding is required for services for Aboriginal women, including but not limited to federal-provincial partnership options to fund more on-reserve services and programs for victims (e.g., community victim services, transition houses).
- Funding is required to increase services to rural or remote communities to improve access and safety.
- Funding is required for police. Lack of police resources in rural communities was felt by some to affect response time and to cause police to prioritize other offences first. Other participants did not feel that this was true regarding prioritization and response, being of the view that incidents of violence against women are treated as priority matters in all communities.
- Funding is required for men's programs, including prevention and early intervention, effective offender treatment, including voluntary self-referred treatment programs, and for programs specific to Aboriginal men.
- Funding is required for services tailored to meet the needs of immigrant and women with disabilities, to ensure a more accessible and effective system response.

### **Luncheon address: Representative for Children and Youth**

Participants heard an invited address on the themes of the Summit from Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, British Columbia's Representative for Children and Youth.



*The Representative for Children and Youth delivers an invited address to the Summit*

### **Session 4: First responses to domestic violence (including partner sexual violence) which empower**

With the conclusion of the informational sessions, the Summit then turned to a series of sessions in which participants discussed more detailed policy and operational questions.

On the afternoon of the first day, participants focused on the question of first responses to violence against women which empower victims, or which have the potential to do so. The first afternoon session examined first responses to domestic violence. This topic was taken to include sexual violence when committed by a woman's intimate partner, given the similarity of personal, emotional and procedural challenges in those circumstances to

those in cases of domestic violence. Two short presentations by participants preceded a discussion of the topic in small groups.

### Discussion

Two questions were posed to participants for small group discussion:

1. *Identify an aspect of your organization's first response work (where applicable) that is critical to support empowerment of victims.*
2. *What promising first response practices have you seen or employed that empower victims of domestic violence? What made the practice empowering?*

### Session 5: First responses to sexual violence which empower

The concluding session of day one retained a focus on first responses, but moved to the question of responding to sexual violence. Two short presentations by participants preceded a discussion of the topic in small groups.

### Discussion

Two questions were posed to participants for small group discussion:

1. *What promising first response practices have you seen, heard of or employed that empower victims of sexual violence? What made the approach empowering?*
2. *What aspects of your organization/service can be strengthened to support empowerment of victims?*

### Plenary comment (Sessions 4 and 5)

Plenary comment was combined for Sessions 4 and 5. The following points emerged in the small group discussions and were reported in plenary on behalf of the groups. Common themes are summarized in the sub-headings below; reporting of any particular point should not be taken as necessarily reflecting consensus among the participants.

#### *Defining empowerment*

- The following definition was offered in plenary: empowerment means that women are provided with

- tools,
  - a safe environment,
  - information on process so they can make decisions on where to go and services to access, and
  - service providers who meet them where they are.
- It was cautioned that empowerment may have a ‘bootstrap’ connotation, implying that women are not capable of empowering themselves.

### *The need to enhance and tailor services for victims of violence*

- Community-based victim services, coordinated with police and Crown, are important in building trust and confidence. Services to victims are enhanced when first responders know and understand the range of services available in the community, and where there is effective collaboration across providers and with health services, housing and income assistance.
- Services to victims should be culturally competent and available in appropriate languages (without reliance on family members to translate). Multicultural family support services are a key part of response to critical incidents.
- Timely and proactive referrals to appropriate services and supports are crucial. Round-the-clock crisis lines are important to ensure those victimized can get to safe places and be referred for support. Outreach services need to meet victims where they are and support them actively in accessing services.
- The gap between urban and rural service levels needs to be acknowledged and narrowed. Specialized and specific victim services and support in Aboriginal communities are needed. In the North, we must focus on putting the right resources in the right place.
- Victims need support without stigma, including within Aboriginal, rural, and immigrant communities. If the victim feels heard and believed, this trust improves the woman’s ability to deal with her trauma and to participate in the criminal



justice process, and increases the likelihood that perpetrators will be held accountable and will engage with services directed towards reducing reoffending.

- Specialized training is required for first responders on trauma-informed practice, cultural awareness and competency, needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations, including Aboriginal women, immigrant and refugee women, women with disabilities, and sex trade workers. Trauma-specific counselling should be available for victims of violence.
- First response practice requires coordination with education, advocacy, and delivery of support with a feminist lens.

### *More work required to promote public awareness and provide training*

- This is a challenge for which communities and society in general must take responsibility in educating and raising awareness. In the schools we require gender-based violence-free programming and education of children around foundations for healthy and respectful relationships (such as Seeds and Roots of Empathy). In the workplace, employers need to be aware of domestic violence, sexual harassment, and sexual violence, and given tools to respond appropriately.
- There are many good examples of public awareness campaigns (e.g., Be More Than a Bystander; Yes Means Yes; Don't Be That Guy) and we should look at more opportunities in this area, such as education for bystanders with regard to violence and safe interventions.

### *Improvements to policy and/or legislation*

- We require consistent policy and protocol for managing our response to sexual violence. Acknowledging that many parts of our system (e.g., Crown, police) have existing in-service policy, key aspects of this requirement could include:
  - The need for a Provincial Sexual Assault Policy to ensure consistent handling of disclosure or formal reporting by victims about an offence and other practices in responding to sexual violence, similar to the intent and development of the Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy, and

coordinated across government and between the provincial and community levels.

- Reviewing policy on adolescent reports of sexual violence to counsellors or service providers, with respect to duty to report the offence balanced with empowerment of the victim.
- Standardization of hospital protocols for collection and storage of evidence in sexual assault cases, with requirement for round-the-clock sexual assault nurse examiners and tools for collection and storage that allow evidence to be maintained if/until a woman is ready to report.
- Ensuring that sexual assault against minors is addressed in the Ministry of Children and Family Development's best practices manual.

### *Enhancing system accountability, enforcement and protection*

- We need to improve communication with victims regarding the criminal justice process, including how charges are approved (the responsibility of Crown Counsel for charge assessment) and evidence is introduced in cases of domestic or sexual violence.
- Given the difficulty of obtaining convictions in cases of sexual violence, sexual assault charges are often pled out to a lesser offence. Videotaping victims' statements in all sexual assault cases should be explored.
- Part 9 of the *Family Law Act* is a good foundation for protection orders, but we need more training and education across the system on how to obtain, serve and enforce orders with protective conditions. Integrated approaches are needed for orders with protective conditions under the Act throughout the system. Moreover, as the effectiveness of protection orders may decline in areas with sparse law enforcement presence, we should explore the opportunity to use GPS monitoring for improved enforcement.

### *Best and promising practices*

- Recent innovations, particularly Integrated Case Assessment Teams (ICATs) and Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) have shown promising results in helping victims to navigate the justice system and access practical resources like financial support, and should be expanded to areas where they are not available.
- Other good practices which should be explored or expanded include:
  - Forensic/sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) and mobile sexual assault response teams (SARTs).
  - Within court processes, the use of designated Crown Counsel in cases of domestic violence, the use of testimonial accommodations to support victims to testify in court, and consideration of a designation for sexual violence cases (similar to “K” files) to promote consistent handling by the criminal justice system.
  - Allowing victims to become involved in decision-making over sharing of information to make informed choices in their own best interests.
  - Mobile Access Programs (MAPs) which deliver accessible outreach during key hours to vulnerable women.
  - “Ringing the doorbell” or the practice of asking benign questions to interrupt abusive situations.
  - Third-party reporting allowing adult victims to make reports of sexual assaults directly to community based services who then can report to police. This practice assists in determining trends and offence patterns in the community and creates an opportunity for the victim to access support.
  - In child protection matters, ensuring protection of the mother through wraparound services so she is safe and without fear of consequences, thus altering understanding and experience of what it means to have child protection involvement.

- Learning from the experience of other jurisdictions, such as Alberta (training courses on communication after domestic violence occurs) and Manitoba (child visitation centres).

### **Session 6: Improving and coordinating agency and community support, and culturally relevant and culturally safe services**

To begin the second day of the Summit, participants focused their attention on identifying improvements in community and agency coordination to better respond to domestic and sexual violence, and on exploring how services can be made more culturally relevant and safe. Two short presentations by participants preceded a discussion of the topic in small groups.

#### **Discussion and plenary comment**

Three questions were posed to participants for small group discussion:

- 1. What does improving agency and community coordination look like?*
- 2. In terms of coordination, what have you seen that works/is effective in your community or elsewhere?*
- 3. How can services be made more culturally relevant and safe for victims? Are there any promising practices here or in other jurisdictions that you would identify?*

The following points emerged in the small group discussions and were reported in plenary on behalf of the group. Common themes are summarized in the sub-headings below; reporting of any particular point should not be taken as necessarily reflecting consensus among the participants.



their awareness and understanding about relevant domestic and sexual violence initiatives.

- Participatory planning is an integral part of building community capacity. When a community starts with needs and problems, solutions come from outside. When a community starts with assets and strengths, mobilization is led from within.
- Commitment for resources is needed. Coordination is not resource neutral but small investments generate significant benefit. Collaboration should be community-driven, and supported by evaluation resources to ensure practices are evidence-based and effective.
- All parties must have a clear and common understanding of information sharing, including memoranda of understanding. Information sharing must remain a standing item, not only to share information about what everyone is doing, but also to inform newcomers to the table and to support continued innovation.

### *Best and promising practices*

- Best practices in terms of community coordination include: SisterWatch; Integrated Case Assessment Teams (ICATs); Domestic Violence Units (DVUs); domestic violence courts; Violence against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) coordinating committees; East Fraser Valley public awareness sessions, which have been used to inform the whole community of the resources available; intervention teams that work with low-risk families to introduce resources to prevent escalation and further incidents; First Nations Courts; and the Prince Albert Hub concept.

### *More culturally relevant and culturally safe services*

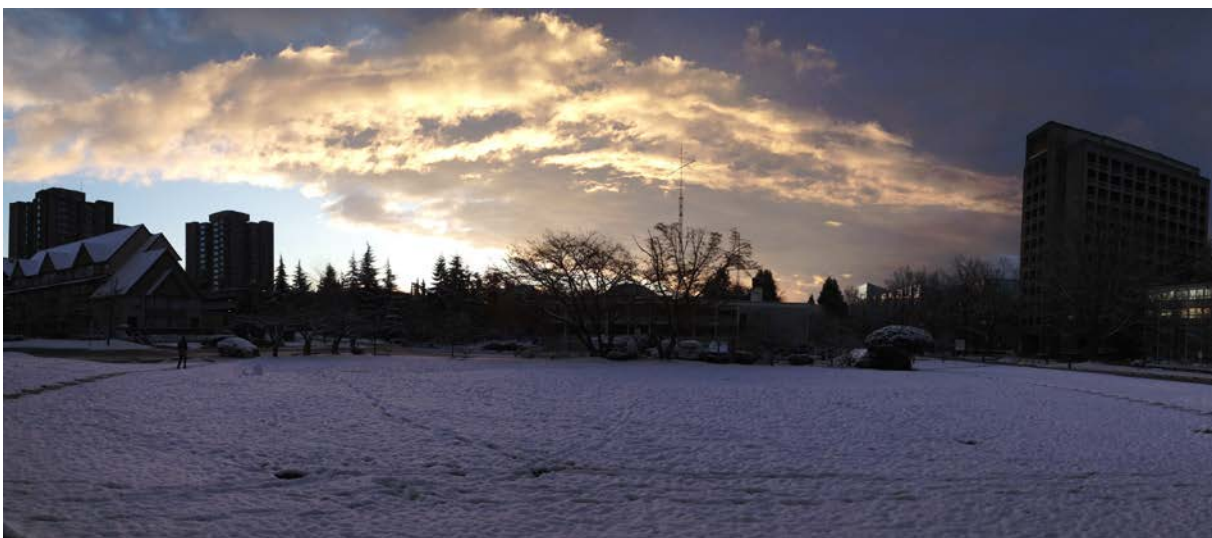
- Cultural competency can be a superficial term without an understanding of the characteristics and traditions of our distinct communities, particularly in remote areas. This understanding requires partnership with communities to understand what they need.
- Programs and services need to be adaptable to different community size. Where sheer distance and population density preclude localized service, we should do a

better job of utilizing video, satellite and mobile technology, and in some cases recognize the need to pay for travel. Committee composition (for example, VAWIR coordinating committees) needs to reflect the community. We need to develop, implement and model culturally safe policies in all public institutions. If we do it in our agencies, our workers will do it, too.

- Providing information to those who need it most can often carry risk to the individual. We need to find discreet and effective ways to get information and resources to those who need them; for example, through businesses, venues or products which cater to women.

### **Session 7: Offender accountability, management and reintegration**

Participants then discussed the most effective means of reducing repeat offending, whether through supervision and conditions, through offender-targeted education and skills development, or through community-based efforts to support offenders' acceptance of responsibility and accountability. Two short presentations by participants preceded a discussion of the topic in small groups.



*Dawn of the second day of the Summit*

## Discussion and plenary comment

Two questions were posed to participants for small group discussion:

1. *Are there known approaches to reducing offending and reintegrating offenders which show promise (in terms of cost, effectiveness, or both) but which are underutilized in B.C.?*
2. *Do we currently have the right balance between controlling strategies and rehabilitative/reintegrating strategies?*

The following points emerged in the small group discussions and were reported in plenary on behalf of the group. Common themes are summarized in the sub-headings below; reporting of any particular point should not be taken as necessarily reflecting consensus among the participants.

### *Exploiting a range of approaches*

- There are several community-based or school-based models aimed at men accepting responsibility for ending violence against women and/or preventing future violence, including adult male programs (e.g., Moose Hide, Awakening the Warrior Within), which require more stable funding to achieve their full potential.
- There is a need for broader school programming and other preventative measures to address problems manifesting at an early age.
- There is promise in the implementation of domestic violence court models and response-based approaches (e.g., in Duncan) built on the recognition of underlying drivers leading to violence.
- We should acknowledge that gains can be made while in custody and that we need to support transition into community to avoid recidivism. Provincial corrections institutional and partnership programs continue to expand the reach of intense and multidisciplinary programming for offenders, as well as informed-decision making programs in custodial and community settings. Examples of such programs include:



- Nanaimo Therapeutic Community – reintegration program through partnership between Nanaimo Correctional Institution and John Howard Society;
- Integrated Offender Management Program – current limits: 135 day minimum sentence for eligibility;
- Integrated Offender Management Homelessness Intervention Program (IOM-HIP);
- Respectful Relationships programming (requiring at least a one-year probation order);
- Partners in Change project looking at effective discharge plans for offenders with mental health and/or substance use issues being released into the community;
- Restorative justice programs, with the acknowledgement that their use in cases of domestic or sexual violence is controversial and may be inappropriate even with safeguards.

### *Recognizing the need for balance (victim and offender; control and rehabilitation)*

- While control is obviously important, its pursuit is sometimes undertaken at the expense of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation programs that do exist are often underutilized despite demonstrated effectiveness (e.g., the Relationship Violence Prevention Program).
- Gaps or shortfalls include low- and medium-risk offender programs, preventative programs, reintegration programs, early-stage counselling/pre-assaultive behaviour programs and voluntary men's programs.
- From the community perspective, we require community-based programs especially for isolated First Nations communities having distinct needs and where effective release, reintegration and supervision are vital. Accountability within communities needs to be supported by all levels of government.

- Bail conditions could be more effectively used to manage behaviour and/or problems like drugs, alcohol, mental health issues, etc.
- More funds and resources for the Ministry of Children and Family Development would provide options for working with families as alternatives to removing children.

### **Session 8: Better coordination of criminal justice, family justice and child protection matters**

In the final substantive session, participants addressed the question of coordination between the criminal, family and child protection systems as it relates to effective response to violence against women. A presentation preceded a discussion of the topic in small groups.

#### **Discussion and plenary comment**

One question was posed to participants as a whole in their small group discussion:

1. *What opportunities are there in B.C. to better support coordination of criminal justice, family justice and child protection matters from a:*
  - a. *Court process perspective, including communication between judges;*
  - b. *Policy perspective; and*
  - c. *Service delivery perspective.*

The following points emerged in the small group discussions and were reported in plenary on behalf of the group. Common themes are summarized in the sub-headings below; reporting of any particular point should not be taken as necessarily reflecting consensus among the participants.

#### ***Improving non-prejudicial information sharing while respecting privacy***

- The degree of information sharing (between proceedings; between courts; between system participants; involving the police; and across jurisdictions) requires significant improvement in the interests of just outcomes.

- Solutions may include: identification of a “keystone player” with responsibility for facilitation and/or oversight of information sharing between various parties with a need or right to know; exploration of other mechanisms to better share information across various processes, including fuller exploitation of technology; addressing IT system incompatibility or “silos”; and designated Crown Counsel with enhanced file ownership to improve file continuity and as appropriate, information sharing.
- Improved information sharing will require prior review and thorough understanding of privacy laws. When can information be shared, and with what conditions? How can information be shared without it being prejudicial in related proceedings? What other constitutional and privacy parameters apply? A working group may be required to address these issues.

### *Making realistic efforts to achieve a more holistic approach*

- Participants reflected generally that family, criminal and child protection proceedings were insufficiently coordinated – particularly as regards criminal matters – resulting in various outcomes which might prove irreconcilable, unjust and/or create unintended harms and should be managed more holistically. Victims are often drawn, perhaps unnecessarily, through multiple processes and require an advocate to navigate these multiple layers.
- A problem-solving approach would require policy on coordination of family, criminal, and child protection processes, with clearly specified goals/intended outcomes and associated evaluative procedures.
- Beyond policy, a move towards greater coordination would require substantial awareness and practical training (and specialization) of judges, Crown Counsel, defence bar and other participants to become viable as a consistent practice.
- Prior to court processes, there is a need for integrated front-line service and coordination of sector service delivery; this may assist in tackling existing issues regarding thoroughness of screening by agencies.

- Regarding attempts to coordinate related processes, there may be lessons for British Columbia in terms of indigenous law within the context of family and civil law in Quebec. Articulation of indigenous law within the court system in this manner would require additional cultural (and possibly linguistic) competence.

### *Important caveats to coordination exist which must be addressed*

- For many Aboriginal people, the question of coordination of matters is problematic because it presupposes consideration under formal processes in the first place. Many issues do not actually reach that stage of system engagement.
- Full coordination of proceedings is a highly complex project; not insurmountable but requiring a great deal of analysis and thought as it would potentially integrate two different analytical frameworks (and sets of constitutional issues).<sup>1</sup>
- Court rules, processes, functions and integration of data systems, coordination of appearances, involvement of counsel, case sequencing, and communication practices would need to change. Many of the elements restricting coordination are, or contain elements of, important safeguards and are derived from guiding legal principles which should be reviewed. Care would be required to ensure that in avoiding undesirable outcomes we do not create new injustices or otherwise compromise the integrity of court processes.
- Consideration would also need to be given to scope – i.e., would this approach be applied only in specific court settings and/or on designated days?
- If coordinated too much, some participants felt domestic violence could be turned unintentionally into a private matter when it should be a societal issue.

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<sup>1</sup> On the matter of *coordination* (as opposed to *integration*) of proceedings, the reader is invited to consider the discussion in Margaret Jackson and Donna Martinson (2015), [Risk of Future Harm: Family Violence and Information Sharing between Family and Criminal Courts](#).

## Session 9: Key themes of the Summit and next steps

In the closing session, participants reflected on the proceedings of the Summit in consideration of its statutory mandate to facilitate innovation in, and collaboration across, the justice and public safety sector. Participants considered in small groups and in plenary how these discussions might lead to innovation and collaboration which contribute to positive change and a better response to violence against women.

### Discussion and plenary comment

Three questions were posed to participants for small group discussion:

- 1. Of the proposed changes and solutions discussed so far – which of them could be done right away and which would take time? Which ones require new money, and which can be done by refocusing existing resources?*
- 2. Can we identify a way to organize, promote and/or implement the changes we have discussed? Who would lead and contribute to this work?*
- 3. Is there a clear way for us to measure progress? How and when could we or others reconvene to assess progress made in the areas we have discussed?*

The following points emerged in the small group discussions and were reported in plenary on behalf of the group. Common themes are summarized in the sub-headings below; reporting of any particular point should not be taken as necessarily reflecting consensus among the participants.

### *Ongoing structure to maintain focus and accountability and report on progress*

- Participants expressed considerable support for the idea that a structure be identified to carry forward the ideas of the Summit: having had a real dialogue involving a cross-section of the system, there is now a need to get to concrete actions.
- Frustration was expressed by numerous participants at the existing pace of change. To create the momentum sought, more frequent cross disciplinary meetings and other ways of communicating more regularly outside of Summits are

necessary. While the Summit dialogue was productive, it was felt that many innovative ideas may be identified through further dialogue.

- To have a means of accounting for and reporting on progress, and to ensure accountability, several models were suggested by participants:
  - The Steering Committee or a similar group could play an ongoing role in carrying forward the ideas of the Summit.
  - The *Justice Reform and Transparency Act* provides for the creation of advisory boards to provide guidance to the Minister and the Council. The creation of an Advisory Board on Violence against Women would assist in maintaining the momentum of the Summit.
  - A cross-government Assistant Deputy Ministers committee, with funding, and including participation by community partners, could be created.
  - To support any of these structures, the various constituents of the Summit could recommit to form a working group.
  - The structure which is created could report back on progress to this (or a similar) group of attendees, and could oversee the generation of business cases or position papers to support reporting out.

### *Statement(s) of high-level policy direction and awareness to sustain momentum*

- Participants felt that, while the Summit has identified a large number of promising avenues of work, there would be real advantage in clarifying a limited number of clear objectives and seeing them implemented. This approach could include an overarching government White Paper on Violence against Women to clarify intent and policy objectives, and/or a provincial statement and policy on sexual violence.
- Some participants felt that efforts to set a course for action could be combined with and supported by mobilization of public support and awareness via a provincial awareness campaign, linked to the work of the legislature and individual MLAs and also to the work of the Council. Victims of violence, other users of the system and other citizens should also be invited into the dialogue.

### *B.C. strategy on sexual violence to improve women's safety and service consistency*

- Many participants felt that overall response to sexual violence was insufficiently coordinated and inconsistent from a system perspective, and as experienced by victims of violence. Much as has been done in the area of domestic violence, a coordinated provincial policy on sexual violence would represent solid progress.
- Participants variously suggested that a provincial sexual violence policy could have numerous components, including training, prevention, offender management, elements of relevance to the courts, and other aspects.
- On this subject, some participants felt that the Independent Investigations Office's mandate should be revisited to encompass cases of police-occasioned sexual assault.

### *Aboriginal engagement vital in addressing violence against women and sector reform*

- Many participants felt that the Summit dialogue had benefited from a range of genuinely diverse perspectives, including substantial representation from Aboriginal organizations and from other organizations serving Aboriginal people. It was felt strongly that indigenous voices need to continue to be integrated into dialogue about violence against women, and on questions of justice and public safety more generally.
- The range of issues associated specifically to justice and safety in the Aboriginal community, including service gaps noted during discussions of Aboriginal women's safety, child protection, and offender management and reintegration, led some participants to call for a Summit to be held specifically on Aboriginal justice issues.

### *Ensuring cultural competency to improve service provision; importance of diversity*

- The diversity of the group was felt by participants in general to be a positive aspect of the Summit, and should be continued as an approach to help to inform government processes and delivery of services to people who are victims of violence.

- Many participants noted that cultural competency with respect to service delivery in the Aboriginal community was raised frequently during the Summit, and should be incorporated directly in future service development and training. The legacy of the residential school system includes widespread mistrust of authority amongst Aboriginal peoples, and the sector needs to do more to ensure that services are delivered in an atmosphere of trust.
- Cultural competency with respect to service delivery and women's safety in immigrant and refugee communities and in other vulnerable populations was also identified by participants as important, and should be incorporated directly in future service development and training.

### *Expanding effective models of community mobilization to keep women safe*

- Participants reflected generally that much had been done in recent years to innovate effective models of community collaboration and coordination, particularly Integrated Community Assessment Teams (ICATs). However, much more is required to improve coordination and awareness of services.
- Some participants identified a need to bridge the gap between high-level policy aspirations about community organization and the reality of service provision on the ground. There is a role for government to play in this “middle space” to steward the work of others in creating collective impact. Victim Services is a fundamental lynchpin in bringing together players.
- Participants frequently underscored the value of multidisciplinary teams. The ICAT model has shown itself to be successful and requires additional investment for training and expansion, to consolidate success of ICATs and potentially to expand the ICAT mandate.
- Some participants noted that continuing realignment of resources should yield more services to victims.



### *Improve alignment and coordination of court processes, and improve access*

- Participants expressed support for efforts to streamline and/or coordinate multiple court proceedings in situations where criminal proceedings, family law proceedings and/or child protection proceedings occurred simultaneously, recognizing the caveats and challenges associated with such a change.
- Numerous participants expressed support for changes to increase access to justice in family court proceedings, including expansion of legal aid eligibility to family court matters.

### *Responses to violence against women should be trauma-informed*

- Participants were broadly supportive of incorporating findings from health and psychological research on the effects of trauma into training of first responders and other justice and public safety professionals who work with victims of violence. Training and practice should be trauma-informed across the sector, and criminal law needs to catch up with scientific understanding of victims' behaviour in cases of sexual violence and domestic violence.

### *We must do more to implement effective approaches and exploit technology*

- Many participants identified a gap between the ease of learning about promising practices at the Summit, and the greater challenge of establishing and disseminating “what works” across the sector more broadly. The importance of a commitment to learning is clear; new policies and practices should be informed by recent learning and with effective information sharing about what works.
- Some participants recommended monitoring those groups having positive impact at the community level, finding a mechanism to disseminate key elements of successful practice provincially.
- Many participants noted that identification of service gaps in First Nations communities and/or rural areas occurred frequently at the Summit. Wherever practical, we should be using technology to make services available to remote communities.

### Summit closing

Participants heard a closing address from the Honourable Thomas Crabtree, Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia. Elder Paul Lacerte of Carrier First Nation then offered a prayer at the conclusion of the Summit.

The Summit then adjourned.

### Future Justice Summits

Forthcoming Summit themes will be developed and communicated in the near future for 2015, in dialogue with sector participants.



*The Summit Steering Committee, at the conclusion of a successful event*

## APPRECIATION

The Steering Committee would like to express its thanks to the participants at the fourth British Columbia Justice Summit, whose continuing commitment and goodwill contributed greatly to the event.

The Steering Committee would like to thank the Musqueam Indian Band, and Elder Jewel Thomas, for the warm welcome and good wishes extended to Summit participants.



*The Summit Working Group gathered one last time at the end of the Summit*

For assistance in the development and realization of this Summit, special thanks are due to: the Court of Appeal for British Columbia, the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the Provincial Court of British Columbia, the Law Society of British Columbia and the Canadian Bar Association (BC Branch).

A deep thank you to invited participants and guests who made time to prepare presentations for the Summit, including Lori Haskell, Beverley Jacobs, Sheri Kiselbach, Shashi Assanand, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Karen Martin, Norm Lipinski, Tracy Porteous, Dalya Israel, Cita Airth, Debby Hamilton, Annita McPhee, Paul Lacerte, Elenore Clark, and the Honourable Donna Martinson.

The Steering Committee would also like to thank Dean Mary Anne Bobinski and staff of the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law, for their generosity and flexibility in once again creating an excellent setting for the Summit. The Steering Committee is also appreciative of the support it received from executive and staff from various branches of the Ministry of Justice, from the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, from the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women, and from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

Finally, the Steering Committee would like to thank the Summit facilitator, George Thomson; the Summit moderator, Caroline Nevin; Michelle Burchill, Dan Silverman, and Ryan Elias of UBC Faculty of Law, and the many individual employees of public and private justice and public safety organizations, agencies and firms in British Columbia who made direct personal contributions to the success of the Justice Summit.

## SUMMIT FEEDBACK

Comments on this *Report of Proceedings* and the Summit process are encouraged and may be emailed to [jpss@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jpss@gov.bc.ca). Written communication may be sent to:

Justice and Public Safety Secretariat  
Province of British Columbia  
1001 Douglas Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 3V3  
Attention: Justice Summit

## APPENDIX 1: SUMMIT AGENDA

Friday, November 28

<b>8:00</b>	<b>Registration and coffee</b>	
<b>8:30</b>	Introduction	Caroline Nevin, Canadian Bar Association – B.C. (Summit Moderator),
	Greeting	Elder Jewel Thomas, Musqueam First Nation
	Welcome from UBC	Mary Anne Bobinski, UBC Faculty of Law
	Welcome to participants	Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice
<b>9:00</b>	Goals of the Summit	George Thomson (Summit Facilitator)
<b>9:10</b>	Understanding the impact of domestic and sexual violence	Presentation Lori Haskell – Domestic and sexual violence and the effects of complex trauma
		Plenary question period
<b>10:00</b>	Current context in British Columbia (Part 1)	Presentation Beverley Jacobs – The impact of domestic and sexual violence against Aboriginal women in B.C.
<b>10:30</b>	Break	
<b>10:45</b>	Current context in British Columbia (Part 2)	Panel Participants Sheri Kiselbach, PACE Society Shashi Assanand, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society Karen Martin, DisAbled Women’s Network (DAWN) Canada  Small group discussions on Parts 1 and 2, and plenary report-out

## FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

12:15	Lunch	Address <b>Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond</b> <b>Representative for Children and Youth</b>
1:15	First responses to domestic violence (including partner sexual violence) which empower	Presentations Norm Lipinski, RCMP Tracy Porteous, EVA BC  Small group discussions and plenary report-out
2:30	Break	
2:45	First responses to sexual violence which empower	Presentations Dalya Israel, Women Against Violence Against Women Cita Airth, Vancouver Police Dept.  Small group discussions and plenary report-out
4:00	Day 1 wrap-up: Summary of key themes	George Thomson
4:30	End of Day 1	Caroline Nevin
4:30 to 6:30	Reception (Allard Hall)	Sponsored by the Law Society of BC

# FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, November 29

<b>8:30</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	
<b>9:00</b>	Check-in with participants at midway point	
<b>9:15</b>	Improving and coordinating agency and community support, and culturally relevant and culturally safe services, for victims of domestic and sexual violence	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Debby Hamilton, Community Coordination for Women's Safety</p> <p>Annita McPhee, Consultant, Past President, Tahltan Nation</p> <p>Small group discussions and plenary report-out</p>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:45</b>	Offender accountability and management	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Paul Lacerte, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres</p> <p>Elenore Clark, Corrections BC</p> <p>Small group discussions and plenary report-out</p>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>1:00</b>	Better coordination of criminal justice, family justice and child protection matters	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Honourable Donna Martinson</p> <p>Small group discussions and plenary report-out</p>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>2:30</b>	<b>Next steps</b>	
<b>3:45</b>	Day 2 wrap-up: Summary of key themes	Review and comment in plenary
<b>4:15</b>	Closing remarks	Honourable Thomas Crabtree, Chief Judge, Provincial Court of British Columbia
<b>4:30</b>	<b>Summit adjourns</b>	



## APPENDIX 2: SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Inspector Cita Airth, Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit, Vancouver Police Department

Ogake Angwenyi, Crisis Team Leader, Community-based Victim Services, Surrey Women's Centre

Honourable Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Niki Antonopoulou, Executive Director, Atira Transition House Society

Shashi Assanand, Executive Director, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services

Superintendent Dave Attfield, Operations Officer, Surrey RCMP

Dina Bambrick, Coordinator, Kootenai Community Centre Society

Grainne Barthe, Stopping the Violence Counsellor, North Coast Transition Society

Bally Bassi, Program Manager - Community, Social and Justice Programs, Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society

Susan Bazilli, Director, International Women's Rights Project

Mark Benton, Executive Director, Legal Services Society

Honourable Adrian Brooks, Judge, Provincial Court of British Columbia

Deputy Commissioner Craig Callens, Pacific Region RCMP

Nancy Carter, Executive Director, Civil Policy and Legislation Branch, Justice Services Branch, Ministry of Justice

Lynda Cavanaugh, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice

Jay Chalke, Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice Services Branch, Ministry of Justice

Elenore Clark, Provincial Director, Strategic Operations, Corrections Branch, Ministry of Justice

Jacky Coates, Community Counsellor, Vancouver Police Department

## FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Honourable Thomas Crabtree, Chief Judge, Provincial Court of British Columbia

Chastity Davis, Chair, Minister's Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Women

Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice

Bev Dicks, Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and Strategic Initiatives, Ministry of Children and Family Development

David Dundee, Vice-Chair, Canadian Bar Association, Family Law Subsection

Mavis Erickson, Lawyer, Wagstaffe Law Corp.

Lisa Falloon, Crown Counsel, Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice

Joe Fossella, Counsellor/Facilitator, Warriors Against Violence Society

Richard Fyfe, Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Justice

Marilyn George, Stopping the Violence Outreach Worker, Northern Society of Domestic Peace

Kate Gibson, Executive Director, WISH Vancouver

Kasari Govender, Executive Director, West Coast LEAF Women's Legal Education and Action Fund

Debbie Granger, Crown Counsel, Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice

Balbir Gurm, Faculty Member, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Debby Hamilton, Regional Coordinator, Community Coordination for Women's Safety

Dr. Lori Haskell, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto

Cory Heavener, Assistant Deputy Minister and Provincial Director of Child Welfare, Ministry of Children and Family Development

Honourable Christopher Hinkson, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of British Columbia

Dalya Israel, Victim Service, Volunteer and Outreach Programs, Women Against Violence Against Women

Margaret Jackson, Co-Director, FREDA, Simon Fraser University

## FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Beverley Jacobs, Indigenous Communities Project Consultant, Ending Violence Association BC

Gene Jamieson, Legal Counsel, Provincial Court of British Columbia

Kevin Jardine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services Branch, Ministry of Justice

Wendy Kellas, Youth Services Manager/Highway of Tears Initiative Manager, Carrier Sekani Family Services

Sheri Kiselbach, Violence Prevention Coordinator, PACE Society

Leonard Krog, MLA, Opposition Critic for the Attorney General

Trish Kumpf, Aboriginal Services Program Manager, Legal Services Society

Paul Lacerte, Executive Director, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

Kamaljit Lehal, Lawyer, Lehal Law

Doug LePard, Deputy Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department

Norm Lipinski, Assistant Commissioner, Criminal Operations, "E" Division RCMP

Angela Marie MacDougall, Executive Director, Battered Women's Support Services

Jeannette MacInnis, Director, Health Initiatives (and Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women Initiatives), BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

Karen Martin, Project and Training Coordinator, Disability Alliance BC and DAWN Canada

Donna Martinson, Adjunct Professor, Simon Fraser University (Justice, BC Supreme Court, retired)

Heidi McBride, Legal Counsel, Supreme Court of British Columbia

Brooke McLardy, Programs Director, Vernon Women's Transition House Society (and Interagency Case Assessment Team)

Annita McPhee, Consultant; Past President, Tahltan Nation

Brent Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corrections Branch, Ministry of Justice

Jonny Morris, Director, Public Policy, Research and Provincial Program, Canadian Mental Health Association, BC

Val Napoleon, Professor, University of Victoria

## FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Michelle Novakowski, Executive Director, Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society  
(Kelowna Domestic Violence Unit)

Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Programs Branch,  
Ministry of Justice

Tracy Porteous, Executive Director, Ending Violence Association BC

Melanie Randall, Professor, University of Western Ontario

Honourable Rose Raven, Judge, Provincial Court of British Columbia

Wayne Robertson, Executive Director, Law Foundation of British Columbia

Sally Rudolf, Legal Counsel, British Columbia Court of Appeal

Gisela Ruebsaat, Legal Analyst, Ending Violence Association BC

Cheryl Rumley, Outreach Worker, Tamitik Status of Women

Clark Russell, Director, System and Service Coordination, Provincial Office of Domestic  
Violence, Ministry of Children and Family Development

Veenu Saini, Program Director, Law Foundation of British Columbia

Jan Seelinger, Community Based Victim Services Worker, Safe Society - CBVAP (Shuswap)

Alex Shorten, President, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch

Mark Sieben, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development

Bill Small, Provincial Director, Community Corrections Division, Corrections Branch,  
Ministry of Justice

Catherine Talbott, Executive Director, BC Society of Transition Houses

Anne Taylor, Executive Director, Haven Society (Nanaimo)

Linda Thomas, Lawyer, Linda D. Thomas Law Corporation

Barb Vincent, Inspector, RCMP E Division

Wendy Walsh, Spousal Assault Victim Support Worker, Victoria Women's Transition  
House Society

Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Solicitor General and Deputy Minister, Justice, Ministry of  
Justice

Honourable James Wingham, Judge, Provincial Court of British Columbia

Jessica Wood, Social Planner, City of Vancouver

## APPENDIX 3: STEERING COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP

### Steering Committee

#### Members:

Dave Attfield	Superintendent, Operations Officer, Surrey RCMP Representative for BC Association of Chiefs of Police
Nancy Carter	Executive Director, Civil Policy and Legislation Office Justice Services Branch, Ministry of Justice
Lynda Cavanaugh	Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice
Jay Chalke (Chair)	Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice Services Branch Ministry of Justice
Chastity Davis	Chair, Minister’s Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Women
Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch Ministry of Justice
Beverley Dicks	Assistant Deputy Minister, Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and Strategic Initiatives Ministry of Children and Family Development
Gene Jamieson	Legal Officer, Office of the Chief Judge, Provincial Court of British Columbia
Heidi McBride	Legal Counsel, Office of the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of British Columbia
Annita McPhee	Consultant and Past President, Tahltan Nation
Tracy Porteous	Executive Director, Ending Violence Association

## FOURTH JUSTICE SUMMIT REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Anne Taylor Executive Director, Haven Society (Nanaimo)

Mary Teegee Executive Director, Carrier Sekani Child and Family Services and Member, Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women

**Summit Facilitator:**

George Thomson Director, National Judicial Institute

**Summit Moderator:**

Caroline Nevin Executive Director, Canadian Bar Association (BC Branch)

**Ex-officio:**

Allan Castle Executive Lead, Justice and Public Safety Secretariat, Ministry of Justice

Nancy Pearson Manager, Stakeholder Relations, Justice Services Branch, Ministry of Justice

## Working Group

### Members:

Emily Arthur	Senior Policy Analyst, Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, Ministry of Justice
Allan Castle (Chair)	Executive Lead, Justice and Public Safety Secretariat Ministry of Justice
Janet Donald	Director Policy, Legislation and Issues Management, Court Services Branch, Ministry of Justice
Debbie Granger	Crown Counsel, Criminal Justice Branch, Ministry of Justice
Michael Lucas	Manager, Policy and Legal Services, Law Society of BC
Marcie Mezzarobba	Director, Policy, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Ministry of Justice
Nancy Pearson	Manager, Stakeholder Relations, Justice Services Branch Ministry of Justice
Lori Pruce	Manager, Aboriginal Engagement and Partnerships, Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, Ministry of Children and Family Development
Gisela Ruebsaat	Legal Analyst, Ending Violence Association BC
Jodi Roach	Senior Policy Analyst, Civil Policy and Legislation Office Justice Services Branch, Ministry of Justice
Clark Russell	Director, System and Service Coordination, Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, Ministry of Children and Family Development



**Special assistance provided by:**

Edna Philippides                      Executive Administrative Assistant, Justice Services Branch,  
Ministry of Justice

Tiny Vermaning                      Administrative Assistant, Justice Services Branch, Ministry of  
Justice

## APPENDIX 4: JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL

Under provisions of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, Council members are appointed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice. Membership on the Council may include: an individual who is in a senior leadership role in the government and who has responsibility for matters relating to the administration of justice in British Columbia or matters relating to public safety, and includes any other individual the minister considers to be qualified to assist in improving the performance of the justice and public safety sector.

The Council is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice and, currently, includes Ministry of Justice executive members and a representative from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Council is supported by a Justice and Public Safety Secretariat within the Ministry of Justice. Further to Ministerial Order, the current membership is as follows:

Lynda Cavanaugh	Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Safety and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice
Jay Chalke	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Justice Services Branch Ministry of Justice
Joyce DeWitt-Van Oosten	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch Ministry of Justice
Tara Faganello	Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Management Services, Ministry of Justice
Richard Fyfe (Vice-Chair)	Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Justice
Kevin Jardine	Assistant Deputy Minister, Court Services Branch Ministry of Justice
Brent Merchant	Assistant Deputy Minister, Corrections Branch, Ministry of Justice

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Kurt Sandstrom	Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Legal Services Branch, Ministry of Justice
Clayton Pecknold	Assistant Deputy Minister, Policing and Security Programs Ministry of Justice
Bobbi Sadler	Chief Information Officer, Ministry of Justice
Mark Sieben	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Family Development
Lori Wanamaker (Chair)	Deputy Minister and Deputy Solicitor General Ministry of Justice