

VS Quarterly Newsletter

About Us

Who We Are

We are employees of the Alberta RCMP, based out of Headquarters in Edmonton, who are dedicated to providing support and resources to enhance service to victims. The Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program is comprised of the Program Manager; Dana Overton, and two Victim Services Program Support Coordinators, Tara Skeoch and Caitlynn Colonel.



(Photo credit: Alberta RCMP "K" Division)

Our Role

Our role is to provide support to RCMP-based Victim Services Units in the Province, working closely with our partner, Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services (PSES) Victim Services (formerly Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – JSG).

Together we provide services to Albertans in accordance with the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* and the *Alberta Victims of Crime and Public Safety Act*. The RCMP Victim Services Program is now part of the Community Safety and Well-being Branch, under the command of Officer in Charge (OIC), Chief Superintendent (C/Supt) Peter Tewfik.

A Happy New Year Wish

The Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We thank all victim services paid personnel, volunteers, board members and all RCMP members for their dedication in 2022 to providing victims the utmost care and respect as they navigate through the criminal justice system.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy 2023!

From,
Dana, Tara and Caitlynn

Important Dates

The Month of February: Black History Month

February 14th: Valentines Day

February 20th: Family Day

February 22nd: Human Trafficking Awareness Day

March 17th: St. Patrick's Day

March 22nd: JOIN Training (Day Time)

March 22nd: LMOU Training (Evening)

April 16th-22nd: Volunteer Appreciation Week

Team Feature – Mark Hilton, Manager of Community Outreach

Hi Everyone:

In August I retired from the Edmonton Police Service after 29 years of policing. Most of my time was spent in Major Crimes, however, I was also the Training Officer for VSU back in the early 2000's. In joining the RCMP as Manager for Community Outreach in December, I came full circle. My Grandfather, Syd Hilton, was a Sergeant and retired from the RCMP some time ago, so I'm proud to carry on that family tradition. I enjoyed my time with EPS and am looking forward to my new role which



also includes Crime Prevention, Relationship Violence and Youth Programs.



In speaking with Members within K Div and other Detachments, it's clear our Members value and appreciate your work in supporting communities in Alberta. Thank you for your efforts and I look forward to working with you in this New Year.

From,
Mark

Team Feature – Caitlynn Colonel, Victim Services Support Coordinator

Hello from Headquarters:

Yes, that is Colonel like the army rank! I have heard many jokes in my short time while working for the RCMP. I am the newest team member on the AB RCMP Victim Services Team and have just hit one year here on December 29th!

I graduated in 2018 from MacEwan University in Edmonton with a Diploma in Police and Investigative Studies. After graduation, I was a casual Detachment Clerk with the Devon RCMP Detachment before being hired by the PROS Data Centre (PDC) at K Division Headquarters. After about two years, I accepted the role of Victim Services Support Coordinator with the Victim Services Program.

Some fun facts about me are:

1. In 2022 I adopted an orange tabby cat from Wetaskiwin. His name is Taco! He never smiles and always looks grumpy!
2. I love to go camping in the summers. My dream location would be at Coronet Creek near Spirit Island on Maligne Lake in Jasper (to get there I will have to kayak).
3. On weekends, I am usually watching Premier League Football with my partner. We are both Manchester United fans!



I can't wait to see what 2023 has in store! Thank you to everyone who has made the role of Victim Services

Coordinator so fun, challenging and an all-around wonderful role to be in.

Have a stunning day,

Caitlynn

JOIN Activations

Ensure Regular Logins

The Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program worked diligently in order to sponsor JOIN access for VSU Personnel. Court Support is a core function of Victim Services Programming. It is your responsibility to maintain regular access to your JOIN Account. See our Best Practices Section on Page 4 for recommendations on how to ensure you keep access to JOIN.



NOTE: If you do not log into your JOIN Account, at minimum once every 45 days, your account will be deactivated.

If you are deactivated three times, there is a three stike policy and you could permanently lose access. If you are going to be away for any extended period of time or are experiencing computer issues inhibiting access to JOIN, please advise our Unit so we can put your account on hold.

NOTE: JOIN is not an RCMP system. The RCMP Central Helpdesk cannot help with reactivations or password resets. Please contact Tara Skeoch if you need assistance.

Quarterly Reporting

Thank you for submitting your Quarterly Reports on time each quarter! We use these stats and numbers to ensure that LMOU obligations are being met, to determine where further supports are required and to ensure that referrals are being consistently received in each VSU. These stats ensure accountability, transparency and accuracy for both the RCMP and VSUs.

NOTE: Please ensure all Quarterly Reports are filled in completely and have all information required! This ensures accuracy for our Program's stats collected.

Reminders:

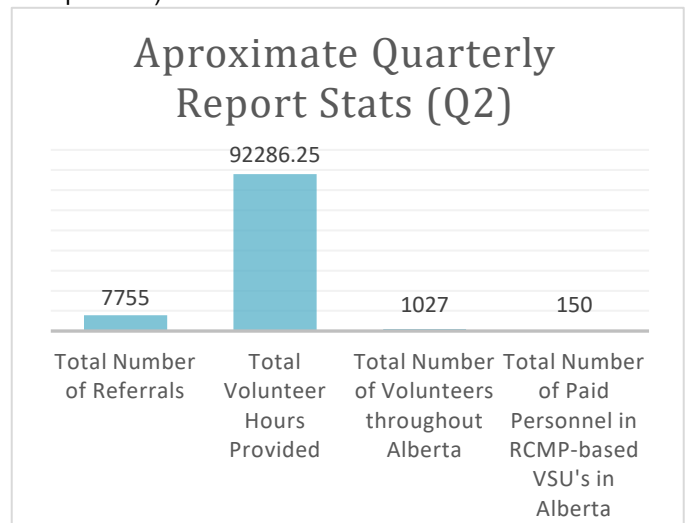
1. For approximate volunteer hours, include the on-call hours of all personnel.
2. Please ensure to note all Detachment Commanders and Liaison-Members for Detachment areas assisted.

Providing this report on time to the Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program is part of your LMOU responsibilities. The next Alberta RCMP VS Quarterly Report is due ***** **January 20, 2023*******

Should you have any questions when completing your Quarterly Report, do not hesitate to reach out to our Unit!

Quarterly Reporting – Snapshot

Based on the information provided to our Program, here is a quick snapshot of RCMP-based Victim Services Units in Alberta based on Quarter 2 (Q2) alone (July-August-September).



Training

LMOU Training

For some units, it has been a while since taking LMOU Training. We welcome you to sign up for a refresher on this document. Invite your whole team for an evening of discussion and learning! The next virtual training session is March 22nd, 2023 at 18:30. It is online training, so it can be taken from home or from in the office!

This training is beneficial for advocates, board members, program managers, liaison-members, regular members, and detachment commanders. Our facilitators will take your group through the LMOU, provide clarification on roles & responsibilities, do Q&A and do scenario-based learning. If you would like more information about the training, contact our unit.

JOIN Training

Court Support is a core function of the VSU role. The next JOIN Training Session is March 22nd, 2023 during the day.



This training is available to all paid personnel. If you or someone in your unit requires this training, or you would like a refresher on the program, reach out to Tara SKEOCH.

Agora Training for Victim Services Paid Personnel

This training platform provides access to a variety of training topics available within the RCMP environment and is available to Victim Services paid personnel only at this time. We encourage you to take advantage of this training platform! Contact our program at K VICTIM SERVICES via Outlook with the names and HRMIS numbers of those who would like Agora access. If you have any questions, we want to hear from you!

Agora Course Feature: Indigenous Learning Series – The Uncomfortable Truth (CSPS_ILS_UT) National (001301)

This eLearning course presents stories that will show you a renewed perspective of what Indigenous peoples experienced in the past and how this history continues to affect individuals, families, communities, society and cultures today. When we recognize the impacts of history on First Nations, Métis and Inuit, we have a better understanding of the sensitivity and respectful actions needed when collaborating together.

Featured Support Agency

Alberta Family Information Liaison Unit



The Alberta Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) provides a specialized service to augment the excellent services already being provided by Victim Services Units (VSUs) across Alberta.

FILU Site Link: <https://www.alberta.ca/family-information-liaison-unit.aspx>

Victims of Crime Site Link: <https://www.alberta.ca/help-for-victims-of-crime.aspx>

The Family Information Liaison's (FILs) act as a single point of contact to support families with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Alberta FILU assists families with missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls by:

- Providing system navigation
 - Requesting & obtaining police information, medical examiner reports, child and family services information, hospital reports, crown and court information and more.
 - Assisting in the sharing of information back to families to ensure a culturally safe approach
- Connecting families with supports, including counsellors, Elders, connections to Indigenous and non-Indigenous agencies as part of a wrap-around trauma informed approach
- Utilizing an outreach model to reduce barriers –FILs travel to the families in their respective communities
- Providing specialized knowledge and support regarding grief and loss, trauma, ambiguous loss and circle facilitation
- Operationalizing any needed cross-jurisdictional support through connection to other FILUs across the country in all jurisdictions
- Providing funding support (including protocol) to families to attend healing and support events, including accessing Elder support. Funding can also be accessed to attend court proceedings and family meetings
- The Alberta FILU is Indigenous led as it is guided by a 5 member Elder Advisory Committee comprised of Elders from across Alberta (HUGG)



FILU services are culturally safe. This means services are provided through an Indigenous lens with insight and understanding of Indigenous history and the resulting intergenerational impacts. A facilitated referral approach/warm transfer is utilized to address the resulting marginalization experienced by many families.

- Working with other agencies/entities to ensure families of MMIWG are fully supported through the criminal justice process

The FILs are security cleared and provide information to the families in accordance with the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This allows the FILU staff to meet the needs of victims effectively through collaborative, coordinated and integrated service delivery. Working in this manner enables a victim-centered focus that considers an individual's immediate and long-term needs.

Please note, the FILU can also assist families of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys, with limitations (funding for healing or cultural support options is not available) and as resources are available.

All referrals and inter-agency information sharing is conducted with the knowledge and written consent of the families. If you wish to make a referral to the FILU, simply contact the FIL in your area and/or provide the information to families so they can refer themselves.



(Photo Credit: FILU Logo Artwork Provided by Tracey Makokis, Government of Alberta. Original Artwork 'Kisahkitin' 'I Love You Very Much' by Lana Whiskeyjack)

Family Information Liaison Contact Information :

Deanna CASTELLANOS-GARCIA, Manager Indigenous Policy and Services

Contact: (780) 427-3557 deanna.castellanosgarcia@gov.ab

Dia THURSTON: North/Mackenzie Region. Includes: Dene Tha' Nation Communities (Chateh, Bushe River and Meander River), Little Red River Nation (John D'or Prairie, Garden River and Fox Lake), Tallcree Nation Communities (North Tallcree, South Tallcree, Tallcree/Fort Vermillion and Beaver Ranch), Beaver Nation Communities (Child Lake and Boyer River), Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement, High Level, Rocky Lane, Rainbow Lake, Zama, Fort Vermillion, and La Crete.

Contact: (780) 926-7020 dia.thurston@gov.ab.ca

The FILU can work collaboratively with other service providers by:

- Providing information on protocol and facilitating access to an Elder or other type of spiritual support for families
- Sharing resource options for missing and murdered persons
- Making referrals to other support persons/agencies
- Facilitating information sessions about FILU services and MMIWG



Patricia KENNEDY: Northwest/Central Region. Includes: Edmonton, Peace River, Grande Prairie, Fairview, Enoch Cree Nation, Red Earth Creek, Sucker Creek First Nation, Atikameg/Whitefish First Nation, High Prairie, Grouard, Driftpile Cree Nation, Loon Lake First Nation, Cadotte Lake/Woodland Cree First Nation, Little Buffalo First Nation/Lubicon Lake Band, Duncan's First Nation, Slave Lake, Westlock, Whitecourt, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Valleyview, Edson, Hinton, Jasper, Grande Cache, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Paul First Nation, Alexander First Nation and Metis Settlements: East Prairie, Peavine and Gift Lake (and all points in between).

Contact: (780) 644-9823 Patricia.Kennedy@gov.ab.ca

Sharon GLADUE: Northeast/Central Region. Includes: Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Gregoire Lake, Conklin, Janvier, Heart Lake First Nation, Fort Chipewyan, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Frog Lake First Nation, Fort Mackay First Nation, Kehewin Cree Nation, Cold Lake First Nations, Lac la Biche, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Calling Lake, Wabasca, Peerless Trout First Nation, Whitefish Lake First Nation (Goodfish Lake), Lloydminster and Metis Settlements: Buffalo Lake, Fishing Lake, Kikino and Elizabeth.

Contact: (780) 644-9890 Sharon.J.Gladue@gov.ab.ca

Janice RANDHILE: Central/Southern Region. Includes: Calgary, Maskwacis, AB (Samson First Nation, Louis Bull First Nation, Ermineskin First Nation, Montana First Nation and Pigeon Lake First Nation), Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Blood Tribe - Kainaiwa, Siksika Nation, Tsuut'ina Nation, Piikani Nation, Stoney Nakoda Nations (Chiniki First Nation, Bearspaw First Nation, Wesley First Nation, Bighorn First Nation and Eden Valley First Nation (Gahnha Nakoda)), Rocky Mountain House, O'Chiese First Nation, and Sunchild First Nation.

Contact: (780) 644-9825 janice.randhile@gov.ab.ca

Article Submitted by: Tracey Makokis, Manager, Indigenous Policy and Services

Myth or Fact?

Myth: If your home Victim Services Unit is not available for a call-out, a Member can contact a different Victim Services Unit.

Fact: Victim Services personnel are restricted to performing duties within their home Detachment(s) and Victim Services Unit's area of responsibility under which they normally serve and whose policies they follow.

Victim Services personnel may work at another Detachment in exigent circumstances providing they have prior approval from the Boards and Detachment Commanders of both their home Detachment(s) and the visited Detachment(s). (LMOU 5.3. bb. Obligations of the Program Manager)

*The exception to this would be a Mass Casualty Incident, as described in the Joint Communication Mass Casualty Incidents sent on 2022-12-19.

Myth: If a serious incident occurs that involves or impacts any victim services personnel while in the performance of their duties, it does not have to be reported to the Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program.

Fact: Should an incident occur in your Detachment area, we are requesting our Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program be notified as soon as possible by the Liaison-Member or Detachment Commander, taking into consideration any priority operational response required in relation to the incident.



Good News Stories/Fundraisers

Two Hills and Area Victim Services



(Photo credit: Two Hills and Area Victim Services, Melonie Gillis, Program Manager)

Two Hills and Area Victim Services hosted a community hot dog lunch in the yard of the Detachment on August 30. It was a spectacular sunny day and approximately 170 people came in attendance. Funds from a grant for Victims and Survivors of Crime Week provided the food. Local RCMP Members also hosted, giving all of us an opportunity to meet each other, share information and offer support.



(Photo credit: Two Hills and Area Victim Services, Melonie Gillis, Program Manager)

A week later, fellow advocates, board members and a local Alberta Health Services (AHS) representative hosted a 'coffee cafe' at two locations in Two Hills bringing awareness to Suicide Prevention and mental health. This event was very well received - serving approximately 40 coffees/cookies with some good conversation.

We are a small rural community with many challenges-especially with the absence of easily accessible referral services. Two Hills and Area Victim Services are proud to support our community!



(Photo credit: Two Hills and Area Victim Services, Melonie Gillis, Program Manager)

Contact Us

Questions, comments or concerns. Please contact us via

Outlook: **K Victim Services**

RCMP.KVictimServices-KServicesauxvictimes.GRC@RCMP-grc.gc.ca

Note: Each person in the unit now only has one phone number. Please only contact us on our Cellular Number.

Dana Overton:

Work cellular: 587-357-9297

dana.overton@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Tara Skeoch:

Work cellular: 587-545-6281

tara.skeoch@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Caitlynn Colonel: Work cellular: 587-337-3401

Caitlynn.colonel@rcmp-grc.gc.ca



Victim Services Quarterly Search

Quarterly Search Winner!

The winner of the Victim Services Newsletter Quarterly Search submission was Michelle Van Tighem, PSE at the Vermilion RCMP Detachment! We will contact you about sending out your prize.

NEW! Find Taco (Caitlynn's Orange Tabby Cat)

This quarter we are doing a little search again. We have hidden a picture of Caitlynn's cat Taco somewhere in this newsletter. If you'd like to enter a draw, please send a screenshot of where you found Taco's picture to K Victim Services via Outlook and be entered to win a prize! The winner will be announced in the next newsletter. Diary date to enter the draw is March 1, 2023.