

VS Quarterly Newsletter

April 2023: Vol 9/ Quarter 1, 2023-2024

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.

Important Dates

April 16th-22nd: Volunteer Appreciation Week

May 14th: Mother's Day

May 14th-20th: Victims and Survivors of Crime Week

May 22nd: Victoria Day

June 18th: Father's Day

June 21st: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Team Feature – Tara Skeoch, Victim Services Support Coordinator

I joined the RCMP as a Civilian Member in 2001, and have had the privilege to work in both the Southern Alberta OCC and Nunavut OCC (Iqaluit), followed by a position in Major Case Management as an Information Administrator for Proceeds of Crime & Money Laundering in Calgary, and in June 2020 joined the Victim Services team here at headquarters.

I truly enjoy my role, and love facilitating and supporting all of the incredible units throughout our province. I think my favourite thing about this role is getting back on the road to visit detachments and meet all of you in person!

I am the daughter of a Mountie and also married to one, so there is a lot of RCMP in our family! My husband and I have 2 children who are without a doubt, our greatest accomplishment; our daughter Ainsley (17) who is preparing for University in Oklahoma, and son Declan (almost 14) who is a competitive Irish Dancer; as this newsletter goes out, we are preparing to travel to Montreal where he will compete at the World Championships!

Continued on next page...!



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There are also 3 dogs (Wyatt, Peanut & Casey) and 2 cats (Bentley & Eli), and any number of teenagers in our house at any given time, so things can get a little loud!



We enjoy camping, boating, travelling (favourite destination is definitely Budapest!), and trying new food, (send me your recipe & restaurant recommendations!). As members of our local Rotary Club, we enjoy volunteering and contributing in a meaningful way to our community, and my home business rounds out all the free time on my hands, lol.

I look forward to continuing my travels and meeting you all very soon!

Tara

Volunteer Appreciation Week

The theme of this years Volunteer Appreciation Week is "Volunteering Weaves us Together". This theme rings true about all Victim Services volunteers. The time, energy and commitment to assisting victims in Alberta is pertinent in strengthening the fabric of Alberta's communities.

Through volunteering in Victim Services, each individual is helping their community flourish. The Alberta RCMP appreciates and wants to thank all volunteers for their dedication in assisting victims and communities throughout Alberta.

Victims and Survivors of Crime Week

2023

Victims and Survivors of Crime Week (Victims Week) is being held from May 14 to 20, 2023. The Policy Centre for Victim Issues will be hosting a virtual Victims Week, including an opening ceremony and keynote presentation on Monday, May 15, workshops throughout the week, and a plenary session and closing ceremony on Friday, May 19. Stay tuned to www.victimswweek.gc.ca for upcoming information and registration for the week's events.

JOIN Activations

Ensure Regular Logins

Court Support is a core function of Victim Services Programming. It is your responsibility to maintain regular access to your JOIN Account.

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.

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.

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.**

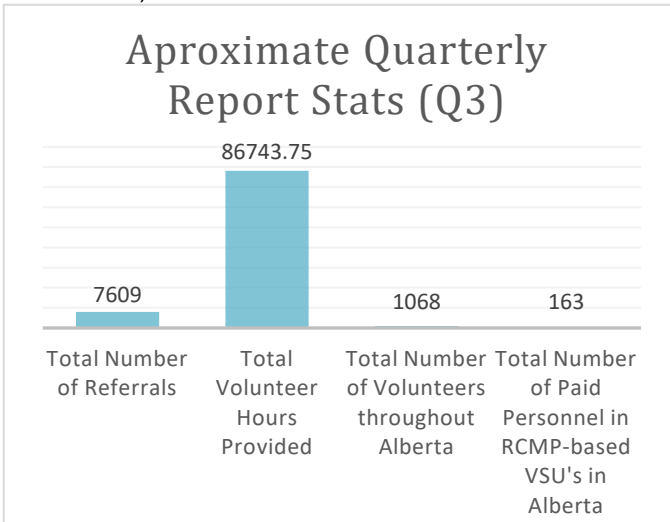


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Providing this report on time to the Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program is part of your LMOU responsibilities. The next Alberta RCMP VS Quarterly Report is due *******April 20, 2023*******

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 3 (Q3) alone (October-November-December).



Training

LMOU Training

This Quarter will be a little different. We are holding two LMOU Sessions this quarter:

1. May 17th at 10:00 Hours. This virtual training will be catered towards Detachment Commanders, Liaison Members and Regular Members.
2. June 8th at 18:30 Hours. This will be a virtual open session for anyone who is able to attend.

Our facilitator will take your group through the LMOU, provide clarification on roles & responsibilities, do Q&A and do scenario-based learning. This training is beneficial for all Members in a Detachment and all Victim Services Personnel. 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 May 7th, 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: Personal Values (FOL_PV National (001311))

This eLearning course promotes self-awareness as an essential first step toward effective leadership. When you know your personal values and live in alignment with those values, you have a greater sense of self awareness and are better able to lead by example. Upon course completion, learners will have identified their personal values and their behavioral alignment with those values.

Featured Support Agencies

Alberta RCMP Relationship and Sexual Violence Outreach

Within the Alberta RCMP's Community Safety and Well-Being Branch is the pillar of Community Outreach. The Relationship and Sexual Violence Outreach Program is based out of 'K' Division Headquarters. The unit is currently managed by Sgt. Amanda McCAULEY and supported by Cpl. Alanna JARDINE (Training Coordinator), Cst. Christine DMYTRIOW, Cst. Tim HENSCHERL and Cst. Rob SCHMIDT (Clare's Law Coordinator). The unit is focused on reducing victimization by



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identifying vulnerabilities and proactively addressing those risk factors.

The unit will be actively engaged in a new project titled 'Repeat Relationship Violence Victimization' commencing March 2023. The project will focus on identifying priority victims of domestic and sexual violence and offering these individuals and their families proactive and tailored supports developed collaboratively by local community partners. This mission is to provide effective intervention, interrupt the cycle of abuse, promote personal and public safety and combat recidivism. The initiative will follow a case management model similar to Integrated Offender Management and may include the Alberta RCMP, Victim Services Unit, Children Services, Crown Counsel and appropriate community support programs. The project will involve an exchange of information between partners, regular case management meetings, development of an outreach action plan for the victim, his/her family and their offender(s) and an ongoing risk assessment.

The 'K' Division Relationship and Sexual Outreach is looking forward to our partnership in this initiative!

Article submitted by: Sgt. Amanda McCauley, NCO i/c Relationship & Sexual Violence Outreach

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.

On February 23, 2023, the Honorable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, issued a statement to confirm the renewal and ongoing support for the Family Information Liaison Units (FILUs), so they can continue to

deliver critical services to families of MMIWG2S+ across the country.

FILUs were established in 2016 and work directly with families to provide culturally safe services when gathering the information family members are seeking from government agencies about the loss of their loved ones, including assistance in addressing outstanding questions.

To read the entire statement, please follow the link: [Renewed and ongoing supports for families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people - Canada.ca](#)

Follow this link for more information on the FILUs across Canada: [Family Information Liaison Units \(justice.gc.ca\)](#)

Please note: In addition to system navigation services, the **Alberta FILU** provides additional services to families with missing and murdered Indigenous loved ones upon request. This includes support to attend court process, memorial support in regards to lost family members, and supports to address wellness needs.

For more information, please call the Alberta Family Information Liaison [Family Information Liaison Unit | Alberta.ca](#) assigned to your community, Toll-free at 310-0000

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



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Good News Stories

Assumption Region (Chateh) Community Policing Society

On February 25th, Program Manager, Krista Kastiro, was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for her “exemplary service to the communities of Rainbow Lake and Chateh” in her role as Program Manager with Victim Services. The MLA, Dan Williams, nominated KASTIRO and it was a wonderful small ceremony at the Town of High Level Council Chambers. Five others were awarded the medal that evening. KASTIRO said it was certainly is an honour to be nominated for the medal!

Article submitted by: Krista Kastiro, Program Manager, Assumption Region Community Policing Society

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Victim Services



It was a very busy month with a lot of travel out to rural communities for the VSU. Two individuals, Amanda Laprise and Ryan McCann, had the opportunity to drive for the first time on the Fort Chipewyan Winter Road and they had one of the little mascots, Braveheart Lion, riding front and centre with them!

Ryan is pictured as well at one of the welcome signs in the community of Fort Chipewyan. The VSU travels up there at least once every month during court week, for 3 days at a time, to provide services/support for Victim Services. They also complete intakes for



Restorative Justice and work with a local committee performing Restorative Justice Circles!



On another visit up to the community, the VSU took a short drive to Allison Bay and had a wonderful visit at the local store which showcases beautiful handmade crafts by local Indigenous artists! Picture includes: Marie Weavers, Nicole Chouinard, and Amanda Laprise.

Christa Ryland and Linda Sovdi also had a visit to the community of Fort McKay recently to provide Grief & Loss information and Support.



Lastly, the VSU wants everyone to know that they are preparing for their Survivors of Crime Walk on May 12, 2023. The walk will take place from Snye Park on the waterfront in downtown Fort McMurray. It will start at the Victim Services bench that they had dedicated/placed at the park on May 15, 2019. Further, there will be food and refreshments to follow.

Article and all photos submitted by: Amanda LaPrise, Supervisor, Operations & Administration, Restorative Justice Facilitator, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Wood Buffalo RCMP



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Victim Services Fundraisers/Events

May 10th and 11th: The Flagstaff Victim Services Unit is partnering with FCSS, the woman's shelter, and the Sexual Assault Centre to offer two days of training on May 10 and 11th in Hardisty, Alberta. Its \$50/day and FCSS is looking after all costs associated with it, while Noreen Metz, Flagstaff Victim Services Program Manager, lined up all the presenters. As well as having the womens shelter and the Sexual Assault Centre present, there will be SART, Morag McLean, the RCMP DV unit, a crown representative, a family lawyer, an EPO lawyer, keynotes- Julie LaLonde, and Mildred Muhammed are coming too.

May 12th: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Victim Services is preparing for their Survivors of Crime Week Walk. The walk will start at the Victim Services Bench in Snye Park on the waterfront in downtown Fort McMurray at 11:30am.

May 17th: Two Hills Victim Services has planned an event to build awareness and dispel the myths and stigma surrounding PTSD. This event will be catered towards first responders (RCMP, Fire, EMS, Victim Services, Towing, etc.). There will be presentations by a resilience coach, a retired fire captain and a retired advanced care paramedic. There is no cost to attend and there will be a catered dinner. The event is to be held at the Two Hills Centennial Hall at 5:30 pm. For more information, email melg_vsu2@outlook.com or call 780-603-0193.

June 3rd: The Strathmore Regional Victim Services Society will be holding a dueling Pianos fundraiser on June 3rd at the Civic Center in Strathmore. They hope to raise money for training and appreciation for their advocates.

June 3rd: Slave Lake Victim Services is holding its 5th Annual Clays 2 Raise Family Fun Shoot at the Slave Lake Rod and Gun Club. Event check-in and breakfast is at 8:00am. The Entry fee is \$125 per person. This fee includes clays, shells, breakfast and lunch! There will be raffles and prizes. No PAL is required and there will be assistance available for new shooters. Ear and eye

protection are required. Come out, have fun and support Slave Lake Victim Services!

June 16th: The Westlock Community Victim Services Unit Association is assisting the Detachment in planning another big community event! This time to celebrate and commemorate the RCMP's 150th anniversary. It is planned for Friday June 16th at the Westlock Detachment and will include several RCMP demonstrations (as available) such as the RCMP Tipi, PDS, Recruitment, RCMP Helicopter, EDU, etc. The Victim Services Unit will be involved in this event to bring further awareness to the community regarding services available and to support the vital partnership with the local Detachment.

In-Kind Support Donation

The Alberta RCMP Victim Services Program can donate an item to any Victim Services Unit that is planning a fundraiser. This item is to be used in a fundraising capacity (such as a silent auction). If you would be interested in a donation, please contact K Victim Services with your request.



Myth or Fact

Myth: The KD5508 can be shared with Victim Services Units or used as a Victim Services Referral Form.

Fact: The KD5508 cannot be shared with Victim Services Units/Personnel. The only form that can be used to refer a victim to Victim Services is the KD5151.

Myth: Board Members only need to complete a Criminal Record Check at the time of hiring and they do not need to complete this ever again.

Fact: As per 5.2.j.) of the LMOU: Board members are to provide an annual Criminal Records Check to the RCMP Detachment Commander or designate. Board Members are not required to complete a RCMP Reliability Status (RRS) Security Clearance.



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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 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!

Thank you to everyone who entered the contest to find Caitlynn's cat, Taco! The winner of the Victim Services Newsletter Quarterly Search was Cst. Hayley MARTENS. We will contact you about sending out your prize.

NEW! Find Safety Bear!

We have hidden an image of the RCMP Safety Bear somewhere in this newsletter. This image is from when the Victim Services Program attended the Monday Morning Magic Event in 2022! If you'd like to enter a draw, please send a screenshot of where you found the picture to K Victim Services via Outlook to be entered to win a prize! The winner will be announced in the next newsletter. Diary date to enter the draw is June 15th, 2023.