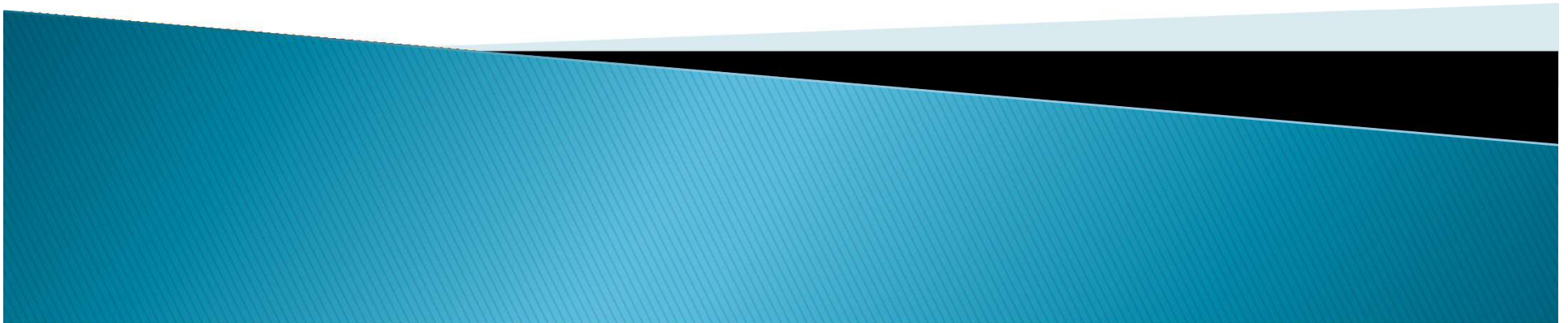


# **Nanaimo Police Based Victim Services Society**

**“People will forget what you said,  
People will forget what you did, but...**

**They will never forget  
how you made them feel”**

**Maya Angelou**



# Nanaimo Police Based Victim Services Society

## **Services to victims of crime and other trauma:**

- Practical assistance, grief and emotional support
- Assistance with forms VIS, CVAP, CSC, Restitution etc.
- Police File updates
- Court File updates
- Liaise with Police, Crown Counsel and other agencies
- Court support
- Explanation of the Court process
- Witness orientation, preparation and accompaniment
- Community Relations and Education



# Victims' Rights

- **Provincial Legislation (1996)**  
**Victims of Crime Act**  
**(VOCA)**
- **Federal Bill (2015)**  
**Canadian Victims Bill of Rights**  
**(CVBR)**



# VOCA (1996)

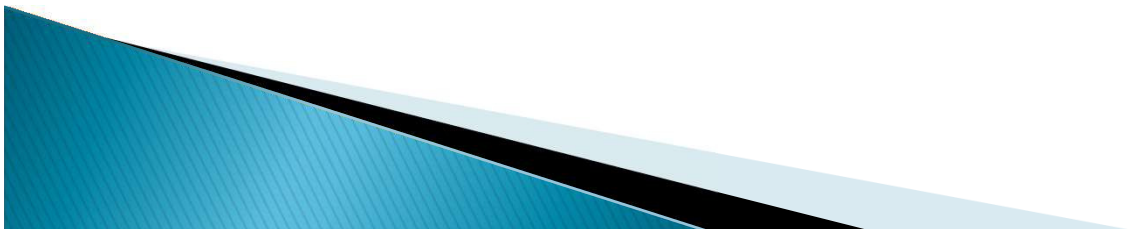
- **"justice system personnel"** means auxiliary constables, chief constables, chief officers, designated constables, enforcement officers, municipal constables, provincial constables, special municipal constables and special provincial constables as defined in Section 1 of the Police Act and persons working in positions designated by the Attorney General.



# Rights under VOCA

**Justice system personnel** must offer a victim general information concerning:

- The structure and operation of the justice system
- Victim services
- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Crime Victim Assistance Act
- Victims of Crime Act



## Information that must be given on request (VOCA)

- The status of the police investigation
- The specific counts with which the accused is charged or for which the offender is convicted
- The name of the accused
- The date, location and reasons for each court appearance that is likely to affect the final disposition, sentence or bail status of the accused
- The outcome of each court appearance that is likely to affect the final disposition, sentence or bail status of the accused
- The length of any sentence that the offender is serving and the date the sentence began
- The means for the victim to report breaches of the terms of supervision by the offender released under supervision



# CVBR

## ➤ **Information**

- General information
- Investigation and proceedings
- Information about offender or accused

## ➤ **Protection**

- Security
- Protection from intimidation and retaliation
- Privacy
- Identity protection
- Testimonial aids

## ➤ **Participation**

- Views to be considered
- Victim impact statement

## ➤ **Restitution**

- Restitution order
- Enforcement



# *Who are we?*

- Full time Program Manager
- Full time Assistant Program Manager
- Two days per week staff member
- One day per week staff member
- Eight volunteers providing an average of about 45 hours per month





# *Who are we?*

## ➤ Our Volunteers:

- Work hard but the work is emotionally draining.
- Provide services when they are available, but scheduling makes consistency for our clients difficult.
- There is only so much we can ask of our volunteers



# *Funding*

We are a **non-profit society** with three main funding sources:

**The Province – Ministry of Solicitor General and Public Safety:**

**\$84,733**

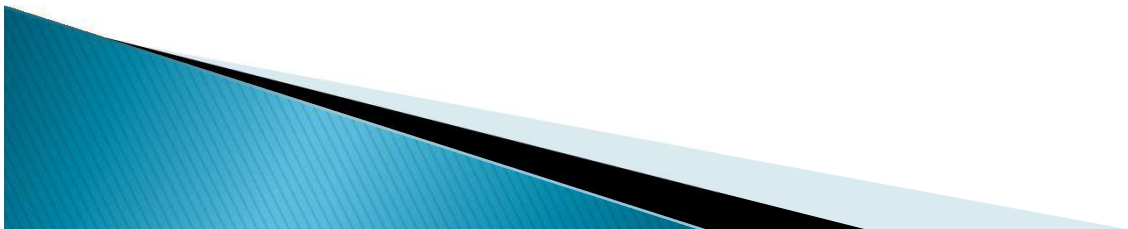
**City of Nanaimo:**

**\$53,229 plus “in kind” for rent**

**Regional District of Nanaimo:**

**\$10,000**

**Total Annual Funding: \$147,962**



# *Statistics:*

In **2018**, we served **837 Clients**

These files included:

- **Murder**
- **Sudden Death**
- **Child Pornography**
- **Motor Vehicle Incidents - fatal or serious injuries**
- **Threats**
- **Sexual Assault**
- **Robbery**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Property Crime**
- **Break & Enter**
- **Criminal Harassment**

Most client referrals come from police, self referrals, other community agencies, and other Victim Services Programs.



# *The Work*

- Most people get involved to serve their community, because of their own experiences, or they want to assist police.
- The work is emotionally draining, and compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma and burnout are real concerns.
- Our team is exposed to some very traumatic events, similar to what an RCMP member may be exposed to.
- We support one another and strongly encourage self care.
- The Program does not have funding to provide psychological services to volunteers and part time staff.



# *Victim Services or Police?*

- If Victim Services' Society did not exist, police would be required to provide this service.
- The role of Victim Services and police are very different, and we work “hand in hand” to serve the community.
- If police were to provide both services, their time to do police work would be diminished.



# City of Nanaimo

Historic funding of the program by the City of Nanaimo compared with the population served:

Year	Population	Funding
2004	77,089*	\$55,038 / \$0.71 pp
2007	80,949*	\$48,229 / \$0.60pp
2015	91,597*	\$53,229 / \$0.58pp
2018	113,132**	\$53,229 / \$0.47pp

**(Present funding is \$1,809 less than 2004 funding)**

\* Province of BC website

\*\* City of Nanaimo website

# *Our Request*

- That the City of Nanaimo increase their funding of the program to cover two full time positions, including benefits. (This request is equivalent to \$100,000)
- If this is not possible, we request the City of Nanaimo increase their funding of the program to cover one and a half full time positions, including benefits. (This request is equivalent to \$75,000.)
- If this is not possible, we request the City of Nanaimo increase their funding of the program to cover one full time position, including benefits. (This request is equivalent to \$50,000.)

Respectfully submitted,

Nanaimo Police Based Victim Services Society Board

