



Vernon Women's **Transition House** Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date & Time: June 28, 2016 at 6:30pm

Location: 2400 46 Avenue, Vernon BC - Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. Declaration of a Quorum and *call to order*
2. Introduction of Board Members
3. **Adoption of Agenda**
4. **Adoption of Previous AGM Minutes – June 23, 2015**
5. **Treasurer's Report: Auditor re: Annual Audit Report (BDO Canada)**
6. **Appointment of Auditors for 2016/2017 Fiscal Year**
7. **Board President's Report**
8. **Co-Executive Directors' Report**
9. **Special Resolutions:**
 - **Be it resolved that By-law 4.4 be amended to state as follows: "A quorum at a general meeting is the lesser of one-third of the Members or three Persons, but will never be less than three Persons."**
 - **Be it resolved that By-law 5.13 be amended to state as follows:
"Notwithstanding the foregoing Bylaws, if a Director ceases to hold office and the number of Directors is less than seven, the Board may appoint a Person as a replacement Director to take the place of such Director until the next annual general meeting."**
10. **Election of Directors**
11. Notification of the next Regular Board Meeting – September 26, 2016
12. Adjournment to Special Board Meeting – Election of Officers



Vernon Women's **Transition House** Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
June 23, 2015

Number of Society Members Present: 8

Number of Non-Society Members Present: 4

Directors Present: Deanna Jinjoe, Roger Perry, Myrna Young, Carolyn Hladik and Suzanne Robert.

Guests Present: Janet Welsh – Prospective Director
Alice Brown – Prospective Director
BDO – Markus Schrott

Others Present: Brooke McLardy (Acting E.D.) and Marg Simons (Exec. Admin. Assist.)

1. Declaration of Quorum and call to order

The June 23, 2015 Annual General Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. Deanna Jinjoe Chaired the meeting and Marg Simons recorded the minutes.

2. Introductions of Directors

Everyone present introduced themselves and explained their present position on the Board.

3. Adoption of the AGM Agenda for June 23, 2015 – Additions/Deletions

There were no additions/deletions noted.

MOTION M/S Roger Perry/Susan Robert

To adopt the June 23, 2015 AGM Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

4. Adoption of previous AGM Minutes/Motions – June 24, 2014 – Errors/Omissions

There were no errors/omissions noted.

MOTION M/S Myrna Young/Judith Perry

To adopt the June 24, 2014 AGM Minutes/Motions as presented.

Motion Carried.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

- a) **Auditor's Report** – Annual Financial Audit: Markus S. (BDO) presented his 2015 Audit Report to those present. There was a review of the Audited Financial Statements. The Audit process went smoothly and no issues were detected.

MOTION

M/S

Roger Perry/Carolyn Hladik

Move to accept the Auditor's Report and the 2014/2015 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Motion Carried.

6. Appointment of Auditors for 2015/2016 Fiscal Year

MOTION

M/S

Suzanne Robert/Carolyn Hladik

To appoint BDO Canada LLP as Auditors for the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year.

Motion Carried.

7. **President's Annual Report**

Deanna J. referred to her written President's AGM Report.

MOTION

M/S

Judith Perry/Suzanne Robert

To adopt the President's AGM Report as presented.

Motion Carried.

8. **Acting Executive Director's Annual Report**

Brooke M. referred to her written Executive Director's AGM Report.

MOTION

M/S

Myrna Young/Judith Perry

To adopt the Acting Executive Director's AGM Report as presented.

Motion Carried.

9. Election of Directors

Suzanne Robert:

MOTION

M/S

Roger Perry/Carolyn Hladik

To re-elect Suzanne Robert to begin serving the first year of her second 2 year term.

Motion Carried.

Carolyn Hladik:

MOTION

M/S

Suzanne Robert/Judith Perry

To re-elect Carolyn Hladik to begin serving the first year of her second 2 year term.

Motion Carried.

Roger Perry has completed the second year of his third 2 year term and will not stand for another year.

Deborah Williamson has completed the second year of her second 2 year term and will not stand for another year.

Election of New Directors

Janet Welsh:

MOTION

M/S

Carolyn Hladik/Myrna Young

To elect Janet Welsh to begin serving the first year of her first 2 year term.

Motion Carried.

Alice Brown:

MOTION

M/S

Suzanne Robert/Janet Welsh

To elect Alice Brown to begin serving the first year of her first 2 year term.

Motion Carried

All Nominations closed.

10. Notification of the next Regular Board Meeting

Date: September 28, 2015

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: People Place Room 003

Deanna J. notified the Directors that there would be a Strategic Planning Meeting on October 3rd, 2015. More information will be sent out to the Directors via email prior to this date.

11. Adjournment

MOTION MOVED BY Suzanne Robert

To adjourn the June 23, 2015 Annual General Meeting to a Special Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to a Special Meeting re: Election of Officers.



Vernon Women's **Transition House** Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING June 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have come to the end of another Fiscal Year (2015/16) for the Vernon Women's Transition House Society and it has been quite the year for this agency! A number of new and exciting things have happened. Last summer we moved the main offices of the Society from the People's Place downtown to our new location on 46 Avenue. This change was brought on in part due to the need for additional space to hold the new Oak Centre for Child and Youth Advocacy.

The Oak Centre is a new initiative in Vernon run in partnership with a number of agencies in Vernon including the VWTHS, RCMP, Ministry of Children and Family Development, North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, RCMP Victims Assistance and the Family Resource Centre. This service is a new initiative that did not exist before this partnership came together and in fact it exists in very few communities in BC.

The Oak Centre is a warm and welcoming place where children and youth who have experienced abuse, sexual assault, or witnessed a crime such as domestic violence can be interviewed by the RCMP and child protection workers. Its aim is to minimize the trauma a child feels when disclosing abuse, assault, or speaking about what they may have witnessed. In addition, the Child and Youth Advocate supports both the child and the caregivers throughout the process, ensuring they receive the supportive services they require along their journey to long-term healing. In the last fiscal year, from opening in October to the end of March we saw 72 children and youth. The numbers are climbing month by month and we expect to see an average of 20 kids per month this fiscal year.

The Transition House itself continues to fill a vital and necessary role in our community. The House has been very busy, with over 4,000 night stays last year it is often running at full capacity due to the needs of women and children who are looking for assistance.

When most people think of the VWTHS they think of the House itself but I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the other programs that provide vital services through this

agency. Our Casmir Court facility houses our Support to Young Parents Program. This is an 8-suite apartment building owned by VVTHS. The residents are young women aged 15-24 who are either pregnant or parenting. The Children Who Witness Abuse Program (in Vernon and Armstrong) provides counselling to children who have been witness to abuse. Our Outreach Services and Stopping the Violence Women's Counselling Services provide support and counselling for women whether or not they are currently residing at the Transition House. We also offer community support through the Legal Advocacy Program, Free Legal Clinics and Specialized Victim Assistance Program. Our Society also acts as an umbrella agency for the Equine Therapy Program – Helping Women and Children experience themselves through the eyes of a horse. The beneficiaries of these types of programs are ultimately some of the most vulnerable and marginalized victims in our community.

As this Board year comes to a close we will be saying goodbye to Myrna Young who has been a member of the Board for [REDACTED] years, we wish to thank Myrna for her years of service to the agency and wish her well in the future. The end of this Board year also marks my retirement from the Board after six years. It has been my pleasure to serve this agency over the past few years and to watch its change and growth. This agency serves a vital role in this community and I will miss being involved with it; however, I know the VVTHS is in capable hands and that the current leadership and new and returning Board members bring knowledge and passion to their roles that will help build and even strong agency.

It has been an exciting year of change and growth for the agency, the Board of Directors would like to thank our Co-Executive Directors Ninke Beeksmā and Micki Materi for their hard work and dedication. As well we would like to thank Sandi Dixon who temporary stepped into the Co-Ed of Administration role for part of the year for her assistance and guidance and Brooke McClardy who put in countless hours working to get the Oak Centre set up and functioning, it was a significant task and we appreciate all her hard work. We would also like to thank the many staff who work in the various programs day in and day out for providing the much needed services of this agency to the community.

Sincerely,

Deanna Jinjoe,
Board President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2016 CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

The Vernon Women's Transition House Society began operation as a refuge for women and children in the manse of the old United Church, mostly staffed by dedicated volunteers.

Today, 35 years later, with a group of approximately 40 qualified staff, we continue to provide services to women and children in need of safe shelter, and also offer a range of counselling and advocacy services to the community of Greater Vernon. The original woman-centered approach still forms an important part of our overall mission and philosophy.

Our Mission Statement **"Women will live with dignity and respect, free from violence and abuse"** is the key to the delivery of our programs and services and is reflected in the values we hold as an organization.

In the past year, we made changes to our leadership structure to a Co-Directorship. In this structure two Co-Executive Directors work collaboratively to provide strategic leadership and direction to the operational management and programming of the Vernon Women's Transition House Society. The two Co-Executive Director position titles are: Co-Executive Director of Programs & Co-Executive Director of Administration. We are currently working on the implementation of this structure, translating into collective decision making and shared accountability in the senior leadership of our Society. Each Co-Executive Director brings specific knowledge and expertise in their own area of responsibility.

Our Society continues to have a strong financial position. Solid relationships with funders and community partners have been maintained, despite the changes we have gone through. The community support we experience ensures our ability to continue to provide safe shelter, supports and services for women and their children experiencing abuse.

Our staff is our Society's biggest asset and we are thankful for such a passionate and committed group. Sincere thanks go to all our staff members for the day-to-day work that they do on behalf of our Society for every, woman, man and child who is in need.

In addition, the enthusiasm of our volunteers to help wherever they can has been a tremendous complement to staff services. Thank you for serving alongside of us!

Our services continue to be well utilized over the course of the year. Although the number of clients fluctuates year to year, we are seeing that client needs steadily increase. Due to the high need for service in this community we are dedicated to increasing our skills so that we can better serve clients with multiple issues such as poverty, violence, mental ill health and substance misuse. Trying to assist client with the multiple challenges they face means that at times our services, residential and community based, are seeing people for longer periods than they were in the past.

In the past year we have been successful in retaining all our programs at the same level of service, including projects that address emerging issues. We have also secured two-year pilot funding for the North Okanagan Child and Youth Advocacy Centre; the Oak Centre opened in October of 2015 at 2400 46th Avenue in Vernon.

Simultaneous with this service addition, we moved our Administration and Counselling Offices from People's Place to 46th Avenue. This was a project in itself in regards to renovations needed, technology issues and getting settled into a completely new facility, but it was successful. One program, our Legal Advocacy Program, moved into a building owned by John Howard Society, to join a community partnership on supporting clients with housing issues.

Our Society continues to strive to be a best practice service provider to women, men and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and poverty issues. We wish to acknowledge that we could not do this work without the support of our Society Members, Directors, Staff Members, Volunteers, Donors and Funders.

Our appreciation goes out to all of you and I look forward to continue to serve you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Micki Materi
Co-Executive Director of Programs

Ninke Beeksma
Co-Executive Director of Administration

**BOARD MEMBER TERMS OF OFFICE
2015 – 2016**

TERMS OF OFFICE ACCORDING TO VVTHS BYLAWS:

0.1 Consecutive Terms

Directors may be elected for consecutive terms.

0.2 Term Limit

A Director may serve for no more than four consecutive terms.

EXISTING MEMBERS:

Director's re-election:

Suzanne Robert	has completed the second year of her second 2 year term and may stand another year without re-election.
Janet Welsh	has completed the first year of her first 2 year term and may stand another year without re-election.
Melinda (Mindy) Westgarth	has completed the second year of her first 2 year term and may stand another year without re-election.
Alice Brown	has completed the second year of her first 2 year term and may stand another year without re-election.
Tina Rochford	has completed the second year of her first 2 year term and may stand another year without re-election.

Directors Leaving:

Christine (Tina) Rochford

Election of new Directors:

Charlene Smart and Amelia Martin.

In accordance with the **Bylaws – 5.3; *Number of Directors will be no less than three (3) nor more than nine (9).***

We presently have openings for up to 3 Directors.

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

PHILOSOPHY

- ▶ We recognize the right of all people to live their lives free from violence and abuse, and to be treated with respect and dignity.
- ▶ We value self-determination and we believe that every woman has the power to make decisions that will lead to positive change in her life.
- ▶ We are committed to working in an ethical, responsible manner while providing caring, confidential services in a safe, non-judgmental environment.
- ▶ We are committed to building relationships based on trust and mutual respect.

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To provide temporary shelter and support for women and their children who are undergoing transition in their family life.
- ▶ To provide services such as short term supportive counselling, referral to appropriate agencies, assistance in attending appointments, and in finding housing, for the women and children in Transition House and to follow up with after they leave the Transition House where requested.
- ▶ To offer services such as short term supportive counselling, self help groups, information or referral to women and their children who may be undergoing or considering transition in their family life but who are not residents of Transition House. This does not include intensive counselling services, although we may help families to find this kind of service when requested.
- ▶ To provide information to groups and organizations on the needs of women in transition. We will attempt to give priority to those organizations most likely to be dealing with women in transition.
- ▶ To provide the above noted services, except shelter and housing, to males who have experienced abuse in their relationship, criminal harassment or sexual assault.
- ▶ To provide awareness and prevention of violence against women and children.

HISTORY

The concept of Vernon Women's Transition House arose January 16th, 1975 when a group of local women got together to plan an International Women's Year celebration. A women's centre was subsequently opened in early July of that year, with funding from Secretary of State and Canadian Mental Health Association. Activities such as consciousness raising groups, women's health groups, yoga, massage, macramé and ageing workshops were held. Lobbying for a transition house began to take place.

As more women in the community were coming forth about being abused by their husbands and having nowhere to go for safety it became increasingly apparent that a Transition House was needed in the Vernon area. Lobbying accelerated and the effort was successful and Vernon Women's Transition House's initial funding was in place in 1976 and was opened in the old United Church Manse on 27th Street. . The community rallied to provide furnishing and household items. Service groups were approached for donations and gradually the house was equipped.

Casimir Court was acquired by the Society through a CMHC mortgage and was operated as Second Stage Housing for women leaving the Transition House; the Specialized Victim Assistance Program was added and then Vernon Girls' Residential Attendance Program rounded out the services offered to women and girls.

The location of the Transition House changed from the Manse to the original house on 26th Street. This location became inadequate for the need and the community raised over \$750,000 in 1993 to build a new Transition House on the existing lot. This present Transition House is one of the finest facilities of its kind in Canada. As well, in the early 1990's provincial funding became available to offer an independent counselling program for women (Stopping the Violence) and Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling for children.

Since the year 2000, the services have responded to community need by focusing Second Stage toward serving pregnant and parenting teen mums in the Support to Young Parents Program. As well, the Vernon Girls' Residential Attendance Program was discontinued, due to ongoing conflict with other programs residing in the Transition House.

A dramatic step toward the way services are organized, delivered and planned came when the Society's first strategic plan was developed in 2001. In 2005, several additions to services were made; The Children Who Witness Abuse

program expanded to Armstrong, the Outreach Services Program which responds to the needs of women not needing or wanting to stay at the transition house was started; a Child and Youth Worker joined the team at the Transition House; the Prevention and Awareness Program was added and a licensed child care centre was added for the young parents at Casimir Court.

In 2006, the Society engaged with Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC) to conduct a thorough organizational review. Noteworthy recommendations were to increase the leadership capacity of the organization, clarify Board and staff roles by adopting Policy Governance and increase services and staff available to families staying in the Transition House. These recommendations have been addressed through the hiring of Residential and Community Programs Managers, fully adopting the Carver Model of Board Governance at the Annual General Meeting in June 2008, and implementing increased staffing and programming in the Transition House.

Also in 2006, efforts to create and provide affordable housing to women leaving abuse and their children were complicated by a downturn in the economy and reduction in government funding for housing projects.

Partnerships and collaboration are a way of doing non-profit business, with a reduction in available resources and a willingness to work together to solve community problems. Some significant partnerships for the Vernon Women's Transition House Society are with the *RCMP, North Okanagan Youth and Family Services, Interior Health Authority, Vernon Jubilee Hospital, Splitsi'n Indian Band, First Nations Friendship Centre and Regional Transition Houses*. 2009 saw an increase in partnerships and collaborations with the beginning of *Sexual Assault Services Team, and Integrated Case Assessment Team*.

Justice related services were added to our complement in 2010, when The Legal Advocacy Program (*funded by the Law Foundation*) and the Legal Services Society Outreach Program (*funded by Legal Services Society*) were initiated.

Further, 2010 was the start of the North Okanagan Child Advocacy Response Service, a partnership with service providers to increase the safety and support for child victims of physical and sexual abuse.

The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies granted VWTSH membership in their national association in 2011. CAEFS mandate is to address issues that cause criminalized behaviour and to support women and girls who have come into conflict with the law. In 2012 VWTSH and Correctional Services Canada contracted to provide support services to women who had finished their prison sentences. Until this, there were no services like this in the Okanagan.

Plans to collaborate with other agencies to provide administrative services were attempted in 2012, but due to the complexity of the administration process, this was not a feasible solution.

In 2013, after leading the organization for 12 years, Debby Hamilton moved on and Ninke Beeksma was hired as the new Executive Director for Vernon Women's Transition House Society.

Over the past several years, as a Society we have experienced more pressure as it relates to our financial resources. However, we are very fortunate to receive generous support in this area from our community which greatly affects our ability to continue to serve the women and children in need of our help. We are continuously working with our funders, regional partners and various levels of government to communicate the needs of our clients and the resources we require in order to meet those needs.

In 2014-2015 we were awarded federal funding to develop a Child and Youth Advocacy Centre with our community partners. We have created a Partnership Agreement, protocols for service, a site plan and hired a Child and Youth Advocate. The Centre opened in 2015 with the support of federal, provincial and community funds. The Centre was named Oak Centre and is now co-located with some of the community based programs and Administration at 2400 46th Avenue.

In 2015 BC Housing awarded us a five year contract to start a new program: Homelessness Prevention Outreach. This program works with women who are at risk of violence and homelessness and the objective is to assist the clients to access and maintain stable housing. Already we are seeing positive movement in this area for our clients.

In late 2015, a Co-Leadership structure was implemented consisting of a Co-Executive Director of Administration and Co-Executive Director of Programs. It was determined that it would be beneficial for the organization to have both the program delivery and organizational administration expertise in the leadership team in order to meet all the demands and pressure of non-profit organization management in these increasingly challenging times.

The Vernon Women's Transition House continues to evolve. Staff is becoming more qualified and professional, and services are becoming more specific to providing shelter and support to women leaving violence in their intimate relationships. As we become more focused with our service, we strive to retain the grassroots kind of atmosphere of women helping women that initiated the conception of the Vernon Women's Transition House Society more than 30 years ago.



Vernon Women's **Transition House** Society

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS June 2016

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMMING:

The Vernon Women's Transition House provides **25** beds to women and children who are seeking safety from relationship violence. The program is permanently staffed 24 hours a day. There is supportive counselling available and advocacy and accompaniment to appointments where necessary and possible. Women can stay for up to 30 days and sometimes longer if necessary.

Referrals can be made by anyone, service is free of charge.

250-542-1122

The Emergency Teen Shelter Program (MCFD Teen) and Youth Bail Shelter (Teen Bail) accommodates up to 2 teen girls referred by the Ministry of Child and Family Development. The teens are able to stay up to 10 days and longer with an extension agreed upon by MCFD and Vernon Women's Transition House. This is a useful program to allow social workers time to plan for a more permanent placement or a return to home.

Referrals must be made by a social worker from the Ministry of Child & Family Development.

250-542-1122

Donations Program – The Donations Program accepts donations such as gently used household items (i.e. couches, beds, dishes) etc. The donations are sorted and residents who are setting up a new household are given the opportunity to select items that they can utilize prior to exiting the Transition House. Please access our website <http://vwts.ca> for our complete Wish List.

250-542-1122

Women's Parole Beds: Correctional Services Canada contracted with VWTSH to provide support services to women who finished their prison sentences. The Transition House has up to 2 Parole client beds available for women exiting the prison system, who require some assistance integrating back into the community. We are the only service of this kind in the North Okanagan.

250-542-1122

The Support to Young Parents Program is an 8-suite apartment building owned by the Vernon Women's Transition House Society. The program is funded by Ministry of Children and Family Development and staffed 70 hours per week. The residents are young women aged 15-24 who are either pregnant or parenting. The staff offer help with parenting skills, life skills, social skills and referrals.

Open referral.

250-549-2887

The Homelessness Prevention Outreach Program works with women who are at risk of violence and risk of homelessness. The Coordinator assesses client safety and housing needs and works with the clients to address issues, access and maintain stable housing. The program follows-up with clients and provides referrals for supports that will assist with maintaining stable housing.

Open referral. Service is free of charge.

250-558-0171

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING:

The Prevention and Awareness Program is funded through grants and donations. This Program works to bring together justice system and community support agencies to increase consistent, appropriate responses to instances of violence against women. This program coordinates the local Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) committee which looks at systemic issues that perpetuate violence against women and works to reduce these issues.

The Awareness and Special Events Coordinator is responsible for coordinating special events, workshops and presentations relating to violence against women in relationships and women's issues.

250-558-3850

The Specialized Victim Assistance Program Provides justice system related support to women, children and men who have experienced relationship violence, sexual assault or criminal harassment. Services include court orientation and accompaniment at trial, assistance with Crime Victim Assistance Program applications, risk assessment and safety planning and referral to other services. Services can be provided on an outreach basis to nearby communities. The office is located in the Vernon Courthouse - Room 210 and open for service Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Open referral, service is free of charge.

250-542-3322

The Free Legal Assistance Clinic Volunteer lawyers provide basic advice on legal issues to people with a low income. These clinics are held most Thursday evenings at Creekside Centre for Community Collaboration, 102-3301 24th Avenue. Access to this clinic is by appointment only and is booked on a first come first served basis.

Appointments Through: Access Pro Bono 1-877-762-6664

The Outreach Services Program provides mobile service to women and their dependent children who have experienced violence, abuse or threats from their intimate partner. Services include emotional support, information and referral, accompaniment to appointments and advocacy. These services are provided to women who are housed outside the Transition House and who are isolated or lived rurally.

Open referral, service is free of charge

250-542-1185

The Legal Services Society Community Partnership assists with the access to, and use of, Public Legal Education and information resources and other Legal Services Society services including Legal Aid.

250-558-3850

The Stopping the Violence Women's Counselling Service is offered to provide medium-term counselling to women who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault or criminal harassment. Groups and individual counselling are offered.

Open referral, service is free of charge.

Vernon Counsellor: 250-558-0334
Armstrong Counsellor: 250-546-6744

The Children Who Witness Abuse Program provides counselling for children who have witnessed family violence. The goal of this program is to reduce trauma in affected children and to prevent the children as adults perpetrating the cycle of violence. The kids are usually school aged. There is group and individual counselling provided. There are programs in both Vernon and Armstrong.

Open referral, service is free of charge.

Vernon Counsellor: 250- 558-3850 Ext. 201
Armstrong Counsellor: 250-546-6744

The Legal Advocacy Program is contract through the Law Foundation of BC. This program is focused in the area of poverty law – *“issues that impact a person’s ability to feed themselves, clothe themselves, maintain health and maintain housing”* (Legal Services Society). Areas of service include Income Assistance, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, Disability Benefits, Employment Standards, Employment Insurance, as well as Rental/Tenancy issues. The Legal Advocacy Program also provides legal information and referrals.

250-542-3555 ext. 209

The Equine Therapy Program is an experiential therapeutic form where horses participate as co-counsellors. The model applied at The Equine Connection uses a combination of the concepts of natural horsemanship, play therapy, story-telling, and problem-solving exercises.

Facilitator: 250-309-0351

Community Partnership Programs

North Okanagan Integrated Case Assessment Team (ICAT) uses an innovative, collaborative approach for information sharing, within legal parameters, to review the risk of serious bodily harm or death to victims of domestic violence or stalking. The same collaborative approach is used to provide an enhanced safety and support system to the victim and proactive interventions to the alleged offender.

250-558-3850 ext 214

North Okanagan Sexual Assault Services is a confidential hospital and community based emergency service which provides medical and emotional supportive care for anyone 13 and over who has been sexually assaulted. Children under 13 are assessed and referred appropriately.

250-558-3850 ext 214

The North Okanagan Child & Youth Advocacy Centre was established to help child victims of physical and sexual abuse. By partnering with the necessary service providers, this service increases the safety, support and promotes healing to children and their families. The Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Oak Centre) opened in October 2015.

778-475-2920