

PVSBC Executive Director's Report – August/September 2019

This is the second regular bimonthly report designed to inform our membership of the activities of Police Victim Services BC, by the Board of Directors, as governors of the organization and the Executive Director, responsible for implementing and operationalizing the Board's strategic direction.

The highlights of the August and September period include the following:

Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors participated in many formal and informal engagements during the reporting period. The activities centered around concluding the "on boarding" process for the Executive Director". In addition, individual meetings between the Executive and Board Members took place as part of the completion of the ED Regional Consultations sessions.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on October 09 and will be reported on as part of the PVSBC Executive Director's Report – August/September.

Our thanks to Board Members Amanda Murphy, Christine Van Dyke and Jessica Johnson for their oversight, direction and work on the Training Advisory Council as well as Celine Lee, for the upcoming *Supporting Survivors Following a Traumatic Death* educational session being presented on October 30 in person at the Justice Institute of British Columbia and remotely by video conference.

Action Plan, 2019/2020 Fiscal Year:

As reported in my June/July Executive Director's Report, the Board of Directors have approved the Action Plan, 2019/2020 Fiscal Year as its direction on key activities for the Executive Director to focus on through to the end of the fiscal year.

The Action Plan originated from the presentation provided to the board during the recruitment process and subsequently is being used as the basis of the Executive Director Regional Consultation sessions.

Immediately following the endorsement and approval of the Action Plan 2019/20 by the Board of Directors, all the presentation materials and messaging were actively and transparently communicated during the continued ED Regional Consultations Sessions and further engagement with all senior officials of governments, police agencies, local service providers and collateral organizations.

Website and Communication Updates:

The Action Plan 2019/2020 Fiscal Year, Executive Director Regional Consultation and Alberta Police Based Victim Services presentation documents have all been posted on the website. In addition, a new feature, "*From the Desk of the Executive Director*" section, Executive Director biography and picture were also added to the website for the benefit of the public and our members.

Internally, ongoing communication took place with service providers continuing to work on establishing the administrative foundation of the organization now based in Victoria, including banking, information technology, accounting functions. In addition, during this same period, external consultants were engaged who will be facilitating the upcoming Board Governance Development, Strategic Priority Setting, *Supporting Survivors Following a Traumatic Death* and Annual General Meeting now scheduled for October 28 – 30 inclusive in the Lower Mainland.

Upon completion of the Strategic Priority Setting session, the consultant will work with the Board of Directors to complete a Draft Plan, including the list of strategic priorities the organization will concentrate its efforts over the 2010/21 Fiscal Year. The Draft will be reviewed by the Board with the goal of finalizing and distributing the Plan to the membership and stakeholders by the middle of December.

Executive Director Regional Consultation:

The Executive Director Regional Consultation sessions concluded in late September. The undertaking committed to a series of individual and group meeting sessions with board members, police offices, local service providers, funders and stakeholders. The consultation meetings, both in each region and with stakeholders, during the Augusts/September time frame have taken place, as follows:

- Lower Mainland, August 8, including Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) staff, Director and Contract Manager and RCMP Crime Prevention and Victim Services Inspector, Staff Sgt, and program Director.
- Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Region, August 13 – 15 including Corrections Services Canada and Canadian Parole Board, BC Association of Transition Houses, BC Bereavement Society, RCMP Board Member and Victim Services Manager.
- Vancouver Island Region, August 16, Union of BC Municipalities
- Thompson Okanagan Region, August 21, including Merritt
- Alberta, August 22, Alberta Police Based Victim Services Association
- Vancouver Island Region, September 05, BC Coroner's Office, Chief and Deputy Chief Coroner
- Lower Mainland Region, September 12 - 13, LMND Victim Services Manager Meeting, Executive Director CSCP, Community Social Services Employer's Association.
- Vancouver Island Region, September 19, Association of BC Police Boards, Board Chair
- North East Region, September 20, Board Director and Regional Representative
- Lower Mainland Region, September 25, BC Association of Municipal Police Chiefs, CSPS/RCMP

In addition, individual meetings have been held with local victim services staff in numerous locations, as well as officials from the Attorney General and Public Safety & Solicitor General ministries, WorksafeBC, RCMP "E" Division, related police agencies, local government representatives and community stakeholders, during this period.

Some of the main themes impacting both the police-based victim services sector and local programs, emanating from the Executive Director Regional Consultation process, include the following:

- Extensive workload
- Limited funding resources

- Recruitment and retention of staff at all levels
- Delays in concluding Criminal Record Checks for new staff
- Provision of a sector wide Employee and Family Assistance support across the sector, particularly for workers in smaller and remote locations
- On Call and Call Out expectations and provisions
- Workers Compensation Mental Disorder Presumption
- Inconsistent practices of engaging Victim Service workers
- Inconsistent practices of compensation, benefit and time management
- Role geography, distance and weather play in service delivery, particularly in rural areas

PVSBC, through the Executive Director, has commenced advocacy communication and discussions with officials from the Province of BC, RCMP “E” Division and other agencies on many of these topics. Our members will be updated on a continuous basis as form information becomes available.

(My wife Anne and myself were also able to enjoy a personal vacation, to “recharge the batteries” from August 23 to September 3 visiting friends and family in Alberta and here on Vancouver Island.)

Membership Renewal:

As a membership-based organization it is vital that we have a strong representation of all organizations involved in providing police-based victim services across the Province. The more substantial our membership base is, the more effective we will be when representing and advocating for essential improvements for the sector, including organizations, employees and volunteers, with the various levels of Government, police and stakeholders.

PVSBC is both an organization incorporated as a society under the Society Act and a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. As such, PVSBC works to fulfill its constitution and bylaws through the direction and leadership of its Board of Directors.

By joining as a member, you have the opportunity for engagement on the direction of this organization and to benefit from future improvements. Your membership fee also contributes to the operation of PVSBC. The Board of Directors are drawn from the membership and works hard to represent the interests of our membership.

For those organizations who have not yet sent in their 2019 membership renewals, please do so at your earliest convenience. The membership application and instructions have been included.

The Executive Director Report - October/November 2019 will be released in early November.

All the best for the balance of Fall 2019.

Ian P. Batey
Executive Director
Police Victim Services BC