

THE CORNWALL
PUBLIC INQUIRY

L'ENQUÊTE PUBLIQUE
SUR CORNWALL

Commissioner

The Honourable Justice
L'honourable juge
G. Normand Glaude

Commissaire

**SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF THE
MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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PHASE 2 SUBMISSIONS

The Ministry addresses two Phase 2 policy issues in these submissions. The first is services for male victims of sexual assault. The second is apologies legislation.

1. Services for Male Victims of Sexual Assault Funded by the OVSS

A Phase 2 report was prepared for the Commission in respect of Services for Male Victims of Sexual Assault. That report recommends that the Men and Healing Program, a long-term counselling program, be funded and expanded throughout the Province, without comparing its effectiveness with other types of service delivery models for this client population. The Ontario Victim Services Secretariat has provided information about other service delivery models or combinations of service models, including service models that have been founded upon or adapted from the Men and Healing Program, and suggested that they be investigated before a decision is made to focus on one service delivery model throughout Ontario.

Before any service delivery program for male survivors of sexual abuse is funded on a permanent basis, it is necessary to make sure that the right program is being funded. What is the best service delivery model we can afford with the money that is available? What is the best possible combination of new resources with the resources that are presently available that will service the most people.⁶⁹⁴

The Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, Ministry of the Attorney General (the “OVSS”), provides funding to many programs that are available to all survivors of sexual abuse and assaults, male and female, including, but not limited to:

- (1) The Province-wide Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services network which provides immediate crisis intervention to victims affected by crime⁶⁹⁵;
- (2) The Victim/Witness Assistance Program, presently available in all 54 court jurisdictions (a total of 56 offices in 39 program sites), which provides information, assistance and support to victims throughout their involvement in the justice system⁶⁹⁶; and
- (3) The Victim Support Line which provides referrals to community service organizations⁶⁹⁷

In 1999, the OVSS began funding the Men’s Project as part of its commitment to providing services to victims of the Project Truth investigation in Cornwall. It was the first OVSS funded program that specifically targeted male victims of sexual assault. In 2000, the Office for Victims of Crime Report, entitled “A Voice for Victims”, noted the lack of comparable services available to male victims of sexual assault to female victims⁶⁹⁸. Since then, the OVSS has funded other programs aimed at male victims of sexual assault, as discussed in further detail below.

The Men’s Project

The Men’s Project is a not-for-profit charitable agency that provides counseling services for men and their families in Cornwall and Ottawa, as well as a telephone crisis intervention service for the 613 calling area in eastern Ontario⁶⁹⁹.

As stated previously, the OVSS has funded the Men's Project since 1999. It was initially funded for a 3 year basis, in response to a need for services in respect of Project Truth⁷⁰⁰, however, the funding has continued to the present time, throughout the Cornwall Inquiry⁷⁰¹.

Canadian Mental Health Association

The Canadian Mental Health Association, Waterloo Region Branch, received funding in 2002 to develop infrastructure services for male victims of sexual assault. These services include: therapy, a 1-800 toll free telephone support service, online service, workshops, peer support and self-help initiatives⁷⁰².

The Native Men's Residence

The Native Men's Residence, in Toronto, received funding in 2003 for peer outreach counselors and a full time staff member to facilitate counseling workshops on sexual violence and to work with homeless aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth who are victims of sexual abuse and perpetrators who abuse as a result of their own victimization⁷⁰³.

Alpha House

Alpha House, in Toronto, received funding in 2003 for a short term project to provide a counseling program and group workshops for male sexual abuse survivors, 16-55 years of age, who have a correlated chemical dependency⁷⁰⁴.

Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District

The Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District received funding in 2003 to develop a Community Response Program and hire staff to provide immediate emotional support, 24/7, to male and female acute victims of sexual assault in a medical setting in Picton, Trenton, Belleville and Bancroft⁷⁰⁵.

The M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre

The M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resources Centre, based in the Owen Sound-Bruce Grey area, received funding in 2005 to develop a cross-cultural program for adult male survivors of sexual abuse in rural areas⁷⁰⁶. The Centre provides a combination of conventional, clinical treatment with aboriginal healing concepts⁷⁰⁷.

North Bay and District Association for Community Living

The North Bay and District Association for Community Living received funding in 2005 to produce a manual and facilitate a series of support groups for men and women with a developmental disability who are victims of sexual assault⁷⁰⁸

Thunder Bay Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse Crisis and Counseling Centre

Thunder Bay Sexual Assault/Sexual Abuse Crisis and Counseling Centre received funding in 2005 to offer two workshops: (1) for male survivors of sexual assault and abuse to speak about their experiences and offer

recommendations to improve services; and (2) to train professionals on the effects of male sexual assault.⁷⁰⁹

Cochrane Ininev Friendship Centre

The Cochrane Ininev Friendship Centre, Northern Region, received funding in 2005 to deliver a series of workshops and create a resource library to raise awareness of male sexual and physical abuse⁷¹⁰.

Shibogama First Nation Council

The Shibogama First Nation Council, Northern Region, received funding in 2005 to develop and provide culturally specific therapeutic services to male survivor members of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation who were subjected to historic long-term sexual abuse⁷¹¹.

Service Models for Delivering Support Services to Male Victims of Sexual Assault

There is great debate over which service model(s) is the most effective at delivering support services to male victims of sexual assault⁷¹². Further, what service delivery model, or combinations thereof, will be the most effective and reach the most people? There is no comparative research that suggests that one service delivery model is to be preferred over another service delivery model, nor other jurisdictions we can look to, to inform any decision-making about the best allocation of resources in respect of support services for male victims of sexual assault⁷¹³.

The Phase 2 Report entitled “*Men & Healing: Theory, Research and Practice in Working with Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse*”⁷¹⁴, advocates the “Men and Healing Program” as the preferred service model for male victims of sexual abuse. It recommends that the Men and Healing Program be funded and expanded throughout the Province without comparing its effectiveness with other types of service delivery models available for this client population, including: services delivered by Sexual Assault Centres, services delivered by Family Service Associations, the Gatehouse Adult Support Network and other Sexual Assault Centre based specialized supports for male survivors.

Men and Healing Program

The Men and Healing Program is a service delivery program offered by the Men’s Project to assist male survivors of sexual abuse. First introduced in 1997, it has undergone many transformations since its inception, but can be described generally as a long-term counseling program that applies a trauma-oriented group therapy approach for service delivery⁷¹⁵. It also offers a crisis support line during business hours. It is described in detail in the *Men and Healing Report* which acknowledges that it cannot meet the needs of all victims including: aboriginal victims, newcomers, men who are visibly or culturally diverse, and men with significant physical and intellectual disabilities⁷¹⁶.

Services Delivered by Sexual Assault Centres

There are 39 Sexual Assault Centres (“SAC”s) across the Province, including 9 French-language centres, funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General. SACs provide a crisis support/intervention service to victims of sexual assault and abuse and incest survivors, their families, partners, friends and others, including a 7/24 crisis line support, often staffed by volunteers, and group and individual counselling. Counselling staff have both experience and education in childhood sexual trauma but formal education may not always be a prerequisite. Duration of counselling varies based on individual need. Services are primarily delivered to women but all SACs provide information and referral services for men and some SACs provide counseling or specialized support services for men. .

Services Delivered by Family Service Associations

There are 41 Family Service Associations (“FSA”s) across the Province, that are funded by both the United Way and the Province. FSAs provide a wide range of services to diverse client groups, including men and women, such as: clinical treatment, individual and group support services, education, advocacy, social planning, social action and community development. Both individual and group counselling are offered to male and female survivors of childhood sexual abuse⁷¹⁷. Individual counselling is generally paid for by the client on sliding scale based on ability to pay and generally, no crisis support line is offered.

Gatehouse Adult Support Network

Gatehouse Adult Support Network is an advocacy centre dedicated to the issue of child sexual abuse and provides services for children, families, adult sexual abuse survivors, and their partners. It has been operating since 2001 without any government funding, except for a \$55,000 grant from the OVSS in 2007.. Group counselling is provided that is co-facilitated by a trained therapist and a trained mentor/volunteer. Long term one-to-one peer support is provided for survivors and their partners.

Other SAC Based Specialized Supports for Male Survivors: Paths of Courage

The Quinte Sexual Assault Centre has developed and delivered the Paths of Courage Program, with a grant from the OVSS, to three groups of participants (2 female groups and 1 male group). The Paths of Courage Program is a one-week intensive residential group therapy program. Each group, comprised of 10 participants, is overseen by 3 facilitators in a residential setting where the accommodation, travel, food and therapy are provided at no cost to the participant. Following completion of the program, groups are supported with weekly meetings, with facilitators, for a limited time, but groups may continue to meet indefinitely on an *ad hoc*, peer support basis.

2. APOLOGIES

The Government introduced apologies legislation on October 7, 2008 (Bill 108). The Bill received second reading on October 23, 2008 and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. The Ministry will be working to ensure that the proposed legislation meets the goal of promoting healing without compromising the legal rights of victims.

3. PHASE 2 RECOMMENDATION

It is the Ministry's recommendation that other service delivery models for male survivors of sexual assault, or combinations thereof, including service models that have been founded upon or adapted from the Men's Healing Program, be investigated before a decision is made to focus on one service delivery model throughout the Province. We recommend that a comprehensive, systematic review and evaluation of existing service models be undertaken by an independent, third party to mitigate intrinsic bias and to ensure the validity and reliability of results.