



Altogether better.



## LIFE IN BC SNAPSHOT

The FCSSBC is a group of community-based social services organizations that influence decision-making to improve the wellbeing of communities.

We believe that:

- Healthy supported communities make good economic sense.
- For our families to succeed, all families must succeed.
- For jobs to be the answer to social inclusion other conditions must exist

We have scoured the literature and research to take a snapshot of Life in BC that captures some aspects of the economy that traditionally get overlooked and we will use these markers to determine how good life in BC *really* is. Below are some of the key facts that stood out for us.

***"Violence against women is a serious public health and safety issue, a grave human rights violation and an important criminal justice matter, and a pressing public health concern".<sup>1</sup>***

Gender-based violence costs us all personally, socially and economically. A coordinated and sustainability funded system to prevent and address intimate partner violence and to keep people safe must be a priority for everyone in BC.

**WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY**

**VOL.1  
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### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

**CASE STUDY**

**WHAT WE KNOW**



Shannon is a 45 year old trans woman. She was assaulted by someone she had been dating for a couple of months. At first Shannon did not know who to talk to and for several months experienced feelings of shame, fear, powerlessness and sadness, causing her to miss several days of work. Shannon's sister encouraged her to seek support at her local sexual assault centre. There she was supported to contact the police, and she also attended counselling sessions and was able to connect with other people who shared a similar experience. Shannon now volunteers at the centre providing peer support to other trans people; and also developed a program for high school students.



Domestic violence claimed the lives of 113 women in BC between 2004 and 2014.<sup>2</sup>

It is estimated that the 3,200 police reports of sexual assault represent only 10% of actual sexual assaults in BC in 2013.<sup>3</sup>



Aboriginal women are almost three times more likely to experience spousal abuse than non-Aboriginal women,<sup>8</sup> an issue that can be traced to colonialism and residential school experiences.<sup>9</sup>



Marginalized and minority women are more vulnerable to gender-based violence and face additional and unique barriers to services.<sup>10</sup>

Counselling for men can reduce the chance of violence that escalates into murder and/or suicide.<sup>11</sup>

Investing in legal services (supportive legal information through women's social services) leads to "significant" reductions in intimate partner violence.<sup>12</sup>



The impact of witnessing domestic violence on children can be as harmful as direct abuse.<sup>4</sup>

Costs to Canadians financially: estimations of between \$6.9<sup>5</sup> and 7.4<sup>6</sup> billion dollars a year.

Women are increasingly unable to access transition houses and counselling services because of lack of space.<sup>7</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Rossiter, K., Yercich, S., & Jackson, M. (2014) Assessing the Complexities and Implications of Anti-violence Service Delivery in British Columbia. Report prepared for the Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC). Retrieved from [http://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Complexities-of-AV-service-delivery-FREDA\\_lowres.pdf](http://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Complexities-of-AV-service-delivery-FREDA_lowres.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Coroners Service of BC. Intimate Partner Violence 2004-2014 YTD. Retrieved from: <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/reports/docs/IntimatePartnerViolence.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> BC Government Media Release, Fact Sheet Feb 6 2015. Retrieved from [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Newsroom/downloads/violence\\_free\\_bc.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Newsroom/downloads/violence_free_bc.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. Infographic on the Impacts and Costs of Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence for Children and Youth. Retrieved from <http://fredacentre.com/2015/01/16/infographic-on-the-impacts-and-costs-of-exposure-to-intimate-partner-violence-for-children-and-youth/>.

<sup>5</sup> Justice Institute of British Columbia. (2011) Domestic Violence Prevention and Reduction in British Columbia. Retrieved from: [http://www.jibc.ca/sites/default/files/research/pdf/Domestic-violence-prevention-reduction\\_REPORT.pdf](http://www.jibc.ca/sites/default/files/research/pdf/Domestic-violence-prevention-reduction_REPORT.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Zhang, T., Hoddenbagh, J., McDonald, S. & Scrim, K. (2012) An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada, 2009. Justice Canada. Retrieved from [http://justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12\\_7/rr12\\_7.pdf](http://justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/rr12_7/rr12_7.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Rossiter, K., Yercich, S., & Jackson, M. (2014) Assessing the Complexities and Implications of Anti-violence Service Delivery in British Columbia. Report prepared for the Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC). Retrieved from [http://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Complexities-of-AV-service-delivery-FREDA\\_lowres.pdf](http://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Complexities-of-AV-service-delivery-FREDA_lowres.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> BC Government Media Release, Fact Sheet: Action on Violence Against Women in BC. (2015) Retrieved from [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Newsroom/downloads/violence\\_free\\_bc.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Newsroom/downloads/violence_free_bc.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Justice Institute of British Columbia. (2011,2013) Domestic Violence Prevention and Reduction in British Columbia. Retrieved from [http://www.jibc.ca/sites/default/files/research/pdf/Domestic-violence-prevention-reduction\\_REPORT.pdf](http://www.jibc.ca/sites/default/files/research/pdf/Domestic-violence-prevention-reduction_REPORT.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Rossiter, K., Yercich, S., & Jackson, M. (2014) Assessing the Complexities and Implications of Anti-violence Service Delivery in British Columbia. Report prepared for the Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC). Retrieved from [http://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Complexities-of-AV-service-delivery-FREDA\\_lowres.pdf](http://endingviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Complexities-of-AV-service-delivery-FREDA_lowres.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA), Media Release Backgrounder, September 2014. Retrieved from [http://endingviolence.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/02/3\\_Backgrounder\\_for-Sept3\\_vF.pdf](http://endingviolence.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/02/3_Backgrounder_for-Sept3_vF.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Rosenberg, J. S. & Grab, D. A. (2015) Supporting Survivors: The Economic Benefits of Providing Civil Legal Assistance to Survivors of Domestic Violence. The Institute for Policy Integrity. Retrieved from <http://policyintegrity.org/files/publications/SupportingSurvivors.pdf>.

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WE HAVE LOTS OF READING MATERIAL*