

June 8, 2010

Barbara MacKinnon  
The Children's Aid Society  
CVAP Co-Chair

Deputy Chief Sue O'Sullivan  
Ottawa Police Services  
CVAP Co-Chair

**RE: OCTEVAW'S FOLLOW-UP TO THE CVAP MEETING**

To Ms. MacKinnon and Ms. O'Sullivan,

The Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) would like to thank you for inviting us to participate at the recent Stakeholder Engagement – Coordinated Victim Assistance Project (CVAP) for the City of Ottawa. OCTEVAW is aware that you received a letter from Cornerstone dated May 3, 2010 and we are supportive of their thoughts. In addition, we would like to put forward some additional comments.

Firstly, we understand that this initiative focuses on the service provision allocated to all victims of crime. However, the reality in Ottawa from what we have gathered is that much of the institutional and police resources are used in responding to domestic violence and sexual assault, where women make up the majority of victims. Aboriginal women, immigrant women, women of colour, disabled women, francophone women, young women, senior women and poor women are known to be at a higher risk. Therefore it would have been important for the CVAP committee to have included representation from the violence against women (VAW) community throughout the initial planning process. We are pleased to see the gathering of agency suggestions to be included in the next phase and OCTEVAW has put its name forward. The representation of women survivors of violence is crucial.

Secondly, we feel that by providing a listing of the tri-government CVAP steering committee members in advance to the community consultation would have allowed our members to be better prepared with the project history and context.

Thirdly, in terms of training and service-coordination, OCTEVAW recommends the importance of a gendered analysis including anti-oppressive, anti-racist and intersectional frameworks. OCTEVAW would be happy to provide information on these types of approaches.

Finally, it is important to mention that the VAW community in Ottawa, many of whom are members of OCTEVAW, has vocalized that we have been working well for many years with our own "no wrong door" policy. Our inherent solution-focussed and collaborative approach is our

strength and can be looked to as a model for other victims' services. Our Hidden from Sight report ([http://www.octevaw-cocvff.ca/en/hidden\\_from\\_sight](http://www.octevaw-cocvff.ca/en/hidden_from_sight)) which looks at the statistical prevalence of VAW in Ottawa is an original piece of work in the city that could also be used as a model for other sectors.

We look forward to future collaboration with CVAP. It is our hope that our input and feedback will be welcomed. I can be contacted at any time to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Erin Williams  
Executive Director  
on behalf of OCTEVAW's Steering Committee