

FUNDING TO HELP POLICE COMBAT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

In 2020, Halton police responded, on average, to more than 10 intimate partner violence incidents a day.

Intimate partner violence is an ever-present secret carried by far too many, say police, who along with their community partners, know and see the toll of violence on families.

"The true incidence of intimate partner violence may never be known, as we recognize that much of it goes unreported to police," stated a press release recently issued by Halton police, announcing a \$200,000 provincial grant which will enable the force to expand its supports to victims and survivors of intimate partner violence.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General's new Victim Support Grant, issued over a two-year period, will allow, for example, the embedding of a dedicated vi-

olence against women (VAW) support worker from Halton Women's Place (HWP) within the force's Intimate Partner Violence Offender Management Unit (IPV-OMU).

As a result, the IPV-OMU will be better positioned to provide survivors safety support, community referrals, crisis, group and individual counselling and advocacy.

Said Halton police deputy chief Jeff Hill, "This grant will help expand the reach of our collective efforts to ensure survivors know that they are not alone, that support is available, and ultimately help them begin their journey of healing."

To better meet the needs of Halton's diverse community, the VAW worker will also work closely with the IPV-OMU and the Victim Services Unit of the force to access their volunteer



Graham Paine/Metroland
Halton police will have new resources to combat intimate partner violence thanks to funding from the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

crisis workers who among them speak 15 languages.

Additionally, HMC Connections would also provide consultation and support in terms of strategies for providing services and supports that are culturally appropriate and address

the complexities faced by newcomers to Canada.

A portion of the grant will also be used to provide enhanced intimate partner violence risk assessment training to HWP and HMC Connections staff.

Recognizing that victims and survivors of intimate partner violence may have more comfort accessing support through non-police agencies, this training will ensure that non-police partners who are dealing directly with survivors of intimate partner violence, have access to the same risk assessment tools as police, stated the release.

"The risk assessment training is going to give our settlement specialists tools to identify people at risk and to make sure they know where and how to reach out for support," said Kim Jenkinson, executive director of HMC Connections.

"It is critical to get information to people early. Being able to identify people at higher risk will also allow us to customize and tailor the information provided to the cultural needs of the client."

These complementary, victim-centric strategies focus on

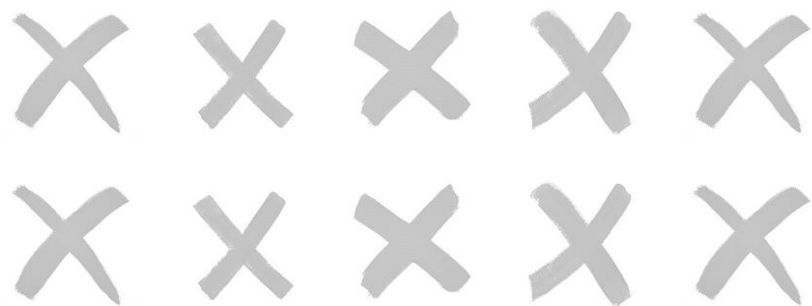
enhanced partnerships between police and non-police partners to better respond to the complex needs of survivors and help create safe places across the region for survivors to report violence and coercive and controlling behaviour.

Victims of intimate partner violence or sexual assault and witnesses are encouraged to contact the Halton Regional Police Service.

The following is a list of support services and resources in Halton Region for victims of intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence:

- Halton Regional Police Service Victim Services Unit 905-825-4777
- Halton Women's Place 905-878-8555 (north) or 905-332-7892 (24-hour crisis line)
- Halton Children's Aid Society 905-333-4441 or 1-866-607-5437
- Nina's Place Sexual Assault and Domestic Assault Care Centre 905-336-4116 or 905-681-4880
- Thrive Counselling 905-637-5256 or 905-845-3811
- Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS) 905-875-1555 (24-hour crisis line)

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