



The Corporation of the **City of North Vancouver**

Zero Tolerance of Violence Against Women

Policy, Principles and Implementation Strategy

Adopted: February 10, 1997

Zero Tolerance of Violence Against Women

Policy and Principles

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In their lifetimes, approximately one in two B.C. women is a victim of sexual assault, one in three of wife assault and one in five of other types of physical assault.”¹

The City of North Vancouver recognizes that violence against women is an insidious problem with devastating social, economic and personal costs. Women are victimized every day at home, in the work place and on our streets. Their victimization includes various types of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional, verbal and financial.

The City of North Vancouver recognizes that assaults on women undermine the values that our residents revere, and upon which we are trying to build a just, tolerant community.

Therefore, the City of North Vancouver:

- recognizes that violence against women is a violation of a most basic human right to security of the person;
- tolerates no amount of violence and regards the elimination of violence against women as an absolute priority;
- does not condone any sexist practices and other forms of discrimination which encourage acts of violence against women;
- recognizes that it has a responsibility to demonstrate leadership and provide resources to achieve equality and to end violence;
- supports collaborative initiatives that prevent violence and that limit the harms from violence to both victims and the accused when it has occurred.
- recognizes that the costly impact of violence on women can be measured in terms of lost potential and damage to children;
- asserts that victims must not be blamed for the violence committed against them;
- strives to eliminate barriers within the municipality and its operations that hinder the full participation and equal treatment of women;
- ensures equality and equity in operations and systems including recruitment, promotion, service delivery and community consultation;

¹ Statistics Canada 1993 “Violence Against Women” Survey

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Principles

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The following list of principles will guide municipal actions aimed at violence against women.

1. **Community Development and Participation**

Efforts designed to prevent violence against women are most effective if they are developed and carried out at the community level. The community should be part of the planning, development and implementation process.

2. **Partnership and Coordination**

All facets of the community need to be part of the solution if violence against women is to be prevented. New partnerships and better coordination is needed to strengthen community efforts to deal with violence against women.

3. **Prevention**

Programs which deal with the causes of violence before it occurs are the most effective. Preventative programs should be encouraged where possible.

4. **Maximize the Use of Existing Human and Financial Resources**

The City of North Vancouver is fortunate to have significant existing human and financial resources in the social service field. Efforts should be made to use resources more effectively addressing the issue of violence against women.

5. **Education**

Education is an essential component of any program designed to prevent violence against women. The community needs to know the extent of violence against women and that no level of violence is acceptable.

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Implementation Strategy

Adopted February 10, 1997

The Implementation Strategy identifies a number of actions that will be undertaken to implement the Zero Tolerance Against Women Policy within the first year after adoption by Council. These actions are developed from the principles in the Violence Against Women Policy and in recognition of the City of North Vancouver as both a community leader, employer and funder of community services.

Education

1. Direct staff to organize a workshop for Council members and senior municipal staff on the issue of violence against women.
2. Direct Social Planning and Personnel staff to work with the North Vancouver Community Committee to End Violence Against Women in Relationships to organize a workshop, or a series of workshops, for staff on the issue of violence against women, with the possibility of similar workshops being held on an ongoing basis as part of staff education.
3. Increase awareness of the Violence Against Women Policy among staff and the public by distributing copies of the policy, principles and implementation strategy to all City employees, municipal agencies such as the RCMP, libraries, North Vancouver Recreation Commission, etc., and all recipients of community grants.

Funding

1. Request applicants for community grants to indicate in their grant applications what initiatives their agency has participated in concerning violence against women.
2. As part of the 1997 Community Grants process, allocate \$3,000 from the Community Grants Budget to the "Together Against Violence" network. *This item has been referred to the Social Planning Advisory Committee and the Finance Committee for further discussion.)*
3. Direct Social Planning staff to meet with School District #44 officials to discuss the possibility of directing a portion of the \$20,000 annual municipal grant for violence prevention to specific projects on violence against women within the school system.
4. Encourage prospective applicants for grants under the Children and Youth Initiatives Fund to develop and implement programs that deal with violence against women.

General

1. Direct Social Planning staff to continue to participate in community initiatives dealing with the issue of violence against women.

2. Direct Community Development staff to consider Violence Against Women when developing actions under the Safe City Initiative, particularly with respect to the proposed Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines.
3. Direct Social Planning staff to report back to Council one year after adoption of this strategy with an evaluation and recommendations for further actions.

[http://www.cnv.org/c/data/3/199/Violence Against Women Policy.doc](http://www.cnv.org/c/data/3/199/Violence%20Against%20Women%20Policy.doc)