

REPORT  
1993 June 28

CITY OF BURNABY

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: VINA (VIOLENCE IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE)  
COMMUNITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive the attached report for information purposes.

R E P O R T

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 1993 June 23 received and adopted the attached staff report responding to the Committee's request for information on the VINA Community Coordinating Committee in Burnaby.

The Committee therefore submits the report for Council's information.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor E. Nikolai  
Chair

Councillor J. Young  
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Redman  
Member

: COPY - CITY MANAGER  
- DIR. ADMIN & COMM. SERV.  
- DIRECTOR FINANCE  
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING  
- MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER  
- CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES & SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE 1993 JUNE 15  
FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.926  
SUBJECT: VINA (Violence is Never Acceptable) Community Coordinating Committee  
PURPOSE: To respond to the Committee's request for information on the VINA Community Coordinating Committee in Burnaby.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

At its 1993 January meeting, the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee heard a delegation from the VINA (Violence is Never Acceptable) Community Coordinating Committee.

After hearing the delegation, the Committee passed the following motion:

*"THAT staff prepare a report to the Committee addressing recognition of the VINA group, effectiveness of the organization's membership and to address the liaison issue and funding aspects of the organization."*

This report responds to the request of the Committee, and describes the level of support being sought by VINA for the establishment of a community coordinating committee on family violence for Burnaby.

To compile the information contained in this report, staff attended a number of VINA committee meetings. Staff also participated in two subcommittee meetings of VINA to review the group's goals and objectives.

## **2.0 DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND**

In 1990 September, the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council formed a sub-committee to pursue issues related to family violence. A major ongoing task of the sub-committee has been the development of a formal coordinating committee on family violence for Burnaby.

Over the last three years, the sub-committee has undertaken a number of activities related to the issue of family violence. In addition, the sub-committee has outlined goals and adopted the name, "Violence Is Never Acceptable (VINA) Community Coordinating Committee".

VINA advises that major rationale for the development of a coordinating committee on family violence is as follows:

*"The existing social service delivery system with regards to responses to family violence issues is complex. It involves a large number of statutory and non-statutory organizations and individuals providing specific services to victims without an overall organizing framework or common procedures.*

*This complexity and lack of integration often results in gaps in service, lack of service coordination and occasional duplication of services.*

*These factors can result in victims of family violence not receiving appropriate services."*

The mission statement of VINA is to support families and the community to eliminate the multi-generational pattern of physical, emotional and sexual abuse in Burnaby.

The main goals of VINA in the area of coordination, planning and promotion and education are to:

### **Coordination**

- promote the coordination and cooperation of community services, including the sharing of resources.
- develop a community protocol and effective community response to family violence.

### **Planning**

- plan for the delivery of services regarding family violence in Burnaby through identification of service needs, and the monitoring and evaluation of community service protocols (procedures for responding to cases of family violence).

### **Promotion/Education**

- prevent family violence through professional development, community education and awareness.

VINA views the work of the Vancouver Wife Assault Coordination Program as an example of the type of coordination work that could be undertaken in Burnaby. The Vancouver Wife Assault Coordination Program receives Provincial funding for two full-time staff coordinators. Appendix 1 attached summarizes the major activities of that Vancouver program.

### **3.0 PROVINCIAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

In 1992/93, VINA has received Provincial funding for a number of activities related to family violence, including support for a community conference on family violence, production of a facilitator's manual, and publication of a handbook for facilitation of support groups for abused women.

A recent funding application to the Ministry of Women's Equality for a paid coordinator to develop community protocols for the delivery of service to women who are victims of violence was not approved by the Province. In denying VINA's application, the Province advised VINA that funding is being directed into direct services, while the Vancouver program continues to operate on a pilot basis.

In seeking other avenues of funding support for the development of a Burnaby based coordinating body on family violence issues, VINA is currently seeking City support for this project as outlined in the following section.

### **4.0 REQUEST FOR CITY SUPPORT**

VINA advises that the structure and resources of the existing Burnaby coordinating committee have limited its ability to effectively pursue its objectives. Difficulties encountered by VINA include:

- lack of formal recognition and legal identity,
- securing appropriate and consistent representation,
- obtaining sufficient paid staff resources to support and develop the coordinating committee, and
- conflicts of interest between the role of VINA and existing agencies involved in the development of VINA.

*Planning and Building*

*Re: VINA (Violence Is Never Acceptable)*

*Community Coordinating Committee*

*1993 June 15*

*Page 4*

Staff received the attached letter which outlines VINA's requests for City support. In summary, VINA is requesting that:

- . Council declare Burnaby a "zero tolerance zone in regards to violence".
- . the membership in VINA include "decision-makers and persons in positions of authority to pay more than just 'lip service' to VINA goals and objectives".
- . VINA receive "Council's endorsement, recognition and official letters of support".
- . Council provide VINA "the same level of staff support as various Council committees; ie., appoint a Council member, planner and secretary".
- . Council "to match funding; ie., pay half the cost to hire a full-time coordinator, or pay the salary of a half-time coordinator".
- . Council assist VINA in their "efforts to secure funding from the provincial government by: i) writing letters of support, ii) lobbying".
- . Council support VINA's "application for special projects funding; ie., the printing and distribution of information regarding services related to family violence. (VINA will be applying for a community grant under separate cover for this purpose.)"

## **5.0 DISCUSSION**

The initial work of VINA has identified a need for greater coordination of services related to family violence in Burnaby. Currently, there are many agencies working within individual mandates to provide services. However, there are limited resources and formal avenues for agencies to exchange information, establish mutually supportive procedures, and clarify areas of responsibility.

The role of a local coordinating committee, as defined by VINA, would address this basic issue with a view to improving the delivery of services to victims of family violence.

As indicated in the attached letter, VINA has had considerable difficulty obtaining funding, formal recognition and appropriate membership to effectively achieve its defined goals and objectives. At this time, VINA is seeking considerable assistance from the City to pursue its goals and objectives.

Staff are of the opinion that, given the broad range of government agencies involved in the area of family violence, funding for a community coordinating committee on this issue should be provided at the Provincial level.

*Planning and Building*

*Re: VINA (Violence Is Never Acceptable)  
Community Coordinating Committee*

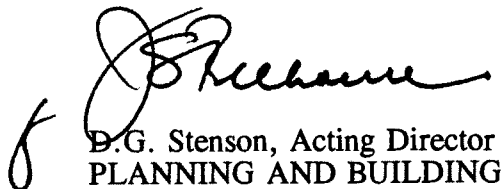
*1993 June 15 Page 5*

In order to assist VINA in obtaining the appropriate Provincial funding for this project, staff propose to work with VINA to develop a revised application to the Province.

The funding application would draw on the experience of the Vancouver pilot project to define the appropriate scope and direction for a Burnaby based community coordinating committee on family violence. In addition, in developing the funding application to the Province, VINA and staff will seek to find an approach to address the difficulties previously encountered by VINA in terms of membership, formal recognition, legal identity, and conflicts of interest between the role of VINA and participating agencies.

Once a specific funding proposal has been developed, staff would report back to the Committee to seek the formal endorsement of the City and other community agencies for the application to the Province.

This report is submitted for information purposes.

  
D.G. Stenson, Acting Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

LP/db

cc: Chief Medical Officer  
Director Administrative & Community Services  
Director Finance

## APPENDIX 1

### OVERVIEW OF THE VANCOUVER WIFE ASSAULT COORDINATION PROGRAM <sup>(1)</sup>

Battered Women's Support Services Society of Vancouver receives Provincial funding for the Vancouver Wife Assault Coordination Program. Provincial funding provides for two full-time staff coordinators.

In the first months of 1990, the Vancouver coordinating committee develop its mandate, grounding assumptions, and objectives. This provided the basis for the committee to work together as an interdisciplinary team to address family violence issues.

The committee has been divided into five working groups covering the areas of justice, health, social services, Native women, and immigrants and visible minority women's issues. These working group meet monthly, using specific cases examples, to identify gaps in services and develop recommendations for specific changes to the existing system responding to family violence. Examples of the work completed by the Vancouver committee in the past two years include:

- . a survey of hospital emergency departments, health department and family physicians to determine the level of awareness and protocols in place with regard to victims of wife assault.
- . facilitation of a new procedure between the Ministry of Social Services and Canada Immigration regarding immigration status letters.
- . presentation of a brief to the Family and Child Services Act Review regarding battered women and their children who witness violence.
- . development of a "model of current practice" which identified existing services and gaps in service in the area of family violence. This model will be used towards the formation of a "protective" model for victims of wife assault which will provide a "coordinated and consistent response to wife assault.

The Vancouver Coordinating Committee consists of representatives from organizations providing services related to family violence issues, including:

- . Provincial Crown Counsel
- . Crown Victim Services
- . Vancouver Police Department
- . Vancouver Police Victim Services
- . Corrections, Probation and Sr. Family Court Counselling
- . MOSAIC
- . Assaultive Husbands Program, Corrections

Appendix 1 - Page 2

- . Private Bar
- . Ministry of Social Services
- . Canada Immigration
- . Alcohol and Drug Program
- . B.C. Institute on Family Violence
- . SUCCESS
- . Vancouver Family Services, Family Violence Intervention Program
- . Kate Booth Transition House
- . YMCA Munroe House
- . Vancouver General Hospital, Emergency Services
- . B.C. Civil Liberties Association
- . Helping Spirit Lodge Society
- . Justice Institute of B.C.
- . Multicultural Family Support Services
- . Battered Women's Support Services
- . Native Education Centre
- . Vancouver Police Native Liaison Society
- . YMCA, Crabtree Corner
- . Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
- . Hey Wey Noqu Healing Circle
- . First United Church

<sup>(1)</sup> Adapted from a report in the Battered Women's Support Services Newsletter, "Making Waves", Volume 4, Number 1 and 2, Winter/Spring 1993.



# V.I.N.A.

Violence is Never Acceptable Community Co-ordinating Committee

May 17, 1993

Lou Peltier, Social Planner  
City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby, B. C.

Dear Lou,

RE: COMMUNITY ISSUES & SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - V.I.N.A.

Further to your request, the following is a list of what V.I.N.A.'s members feel is necessary in order to maintain credibility and effectiveness.

- \* The City of Burnaby must take a clear leadership role in declaring Burnaby a ZERO TOLERANCE ZONE in regards to Violence. Other cities in North American that are making progress have established a Co-ordinated Community response that requires active, committed participation by all service providers. It is essential that the Police, Hospital and Criminal Justice System participate in the process, along with government and community agencies.
- \* V.I.N.A. needs decision-makers and persons in positions of authority to pay more than just "lip service" to V.I.N.A.'s goals and objectives. Front line workers from Health, Family Court Counselling, M.S.S. and Community Agencies that have been the driving force behind V.I.N.A. for the past 3.5 years have exhausted their resources and expertise. The tasks required to develop a community co-ordinated response are overwhelming and time-consuming. The Vancouver Co-ordinating Committee, for example, has TWO FULL TIME STAFF working on the project while Burnaby has a handful of volunteers, working only from the side of their desks!
- \* V.I.N.A wants Council's endorsement, recognition, and official letters of support. V.I.N.A. would welcome Council-appointed members.
- \* V.I.N.A. would like Council to provide the same level of staff support as various Council committees; ie., appoint a Council member, planner and secretary.

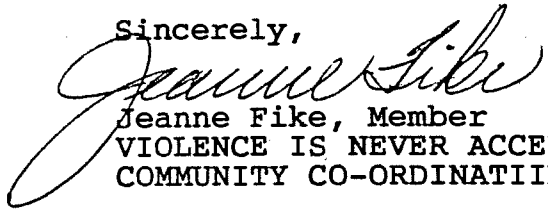
V.I.N.A., a sub-committee of the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council, represents more than 30 government and community agencies serving Burnaby.

- \* V.I.N.A. would like Council to match funding; ie., pay half the cost to hire a fulltime Co-ordinator, or pay the salary of a half-time co-ordinator.
- \* V.I.N.A. would like Council to assist us in our efforts to secure funding from the provincial government by:
  - i) writing letters of support
  - ii) lobbying
- \* V.I.N.A. would like Council to support our application for special projects funding; ie., the printing and distribution of information regarding services related to family violence. (We will be applying for a community grant under separate cover.)

We would be pleased to meet with the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee to discuss our requests in further detail.

Thank-you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Fike, Member  
VIOLENCE IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE  
COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

c.c. Darlene James, Chair, Bby Inter-agency Council,  
V.I.N.A. Members