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# **RCMP Victim Services**

Halifax District- 'H' Division (Nova Scotia)  
Coordinator Kimberly Richard



# Halifax District RCMP Victim Services Role

- Victim Services (VS) in Halifax District is a police based program that aims to identify and support victims in the first 24-48 hours post incident.
- VS is guided by RCMP National Policy in evaluating proactive victim referrals.
- Support for victims focuses on the three pillars:
  - 1 – Emotional Support to victims
  - 2 – Assist victims in navigating the justice system
  - 3 – Provide victims with community/partner agency referrals

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# Victim Services Structure & Duties

- The program is coordinated by one full time PSE position in Halifax District.
- VS Coordinator currently manages 17 security cleared volunteers.
- VS Coordinator position is supervised by NCO/IC of Community Policing.
- VS Coordinator reviews daily watch reports and file queues to evaluate all files for proactive referrals and then sends referral to the volunteer for follow up.
- VS Coordinator is also responsible for ongoing volunteer recruitment, training of all volunteers, create a flexible schedule and hold regular team meetings, attend regular partner agency meetings, statistical tracking and data entry to all investigative files regarding victim services activities.

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# Victim Services Training / Support

- Each VS Volunteer receives core training with coordinator and a mentor as they learn to provide victim support.
- Volunteers attend training sessions such as intimate partner violence, sexual assault training, grief bereavement & death notification, trauma informed approach and Dept of Justice Criminal Injuries Counselling referrals to name a few.
- Volunteers provide strictly phone based support to victims and feedback to the coordinator for data entry onto investigative file.
- VS Coordinator may meet face to face or on scene with victims at the request of the District Watch Commander.

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# Victim Services Statistics

- In 2020 Halifax District VS reviewed a total of 5544 files for proactive referral assessments.
- A total of 645 pro-active referrals were made to provide support to victims.
- 304 of the 645 referrals related to intimate partner violence but did not fall into the high risk protocol category.
- Majority of the other referrals were related to suicides/sudden deaths, sexually based offences, assaults and fatal/injury motor vehicle collisions.

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# RCMP VS Division HQ

- Act as liaison between RCMP VS, Provincial VS and Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network to ensure a seamless response for support to victims of crime in areas where the RCMP police.
- Liaise with VS Coordinators within the Division.
- Act as a resource for VS information and provide VS program support to Detachment Commanders, members, VS Coordinators and volunteers.
- Operational responsibility on a daily basis of the High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework and the IPV Team.

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Questions?

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