



# HELP *ing hand to* END VIOLENCE

**FACT:**

*Approximately 1 in 3  
Aboriginal women experience  
partner violence*

Moving Forward...Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of British Columbia in partnership with National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2012 recognizes that we are all part of the solution to end violence against women, cyber-bullying against our youth and elder abuse against the most valuable and most vulnerable members of our community.

Our Courtworkers and Support workers help Aboriginal people on a daily basis move forward into a place of healing from many forms of abuse. We provide a helping hand to justice as Aboriginal people; both victim and accused regain their culture and footing in their community.



## MOVING FORWARD

VICTIMS AWARENESS WEEK

[www.nccabc.ca](http://www.nccabc.ca)

NCCABC ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA

**NATIVE COURTWORKER**  
AND COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Department of Justice  
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*Helping Hand to Justice.*

# HELPING HAND TO END

## Violence Against Women



Violence against women is defined as “physical, visual, verbal or sexual acts that are experienced by a woman or a girl as a threat, invasion, or assault and that have the effect of hurting her or degrading her and/or taking away her ability to control contact with another individual”.

According to Statistics Canada’s 2009 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization, nearly 67,000, or 13 per cent of Aboriginal women aged 15 or older who lived in the provinces, self-reported that they had been the victim of one or more violent crimes in the 12 months prior to the survey. Education and awareness are vital in turning the tide on violence towards Aboriginal women and children. Striving to have life experiences recognized for its insight and wisdom; empathy and compassion to assist in breaking the cycle of violence against Aboriginal women and children is imperative.

### Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC:

- Embraces all women who have endured violence.
- Believes in empowerment through new beginnings.
- Recognizes all Aboriginal women who work diligently to provide valuable support that encourages women and children to become strong leaders in their communities.

## Cyber Bullying

Bullying is defined as “the intentional and generally unprovoked attempts by one or more individuals to inflict physical hurt and/or psychological distress on one or more victims.”

Email messages, blogs, and cell phone texting can create bullying humiliation with just a few clicks. This technology allows users to inflict pain without seeing its effect, and may foster even more meanness than face-to-face bullying. Bullying may be a single physical attack or spreading rumours and social exclusion. Ridicule is the most common form. Cyber bullying uses websites, email, and cell phones to harass victims.

Cyber bullying victims often consider it cowardly to report bullying, so listen to your child and watch for warning signs of the effects of bullying such as unusual behaviour and class performance. Victims are often scared of leaving home – especially going to school. Stopping bullies begins at home, and schools must be informed as to cyber bullying.



### Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC recommends:

- Always know what your children are doing online.
- Put the family computer in a common room.

## Abuse against Elders



Elder abuse is defined as “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person”

Elder abuse takes on multiple forms, from physical violence to financial scams to emotional neglect. Elders need someone to look after their interests with care and a sincere heart. When older people are isolated with no family member or friend giving them continual support, they are left vulnerable to the many manifestations of abuse. One of the best ways for elders to stay safe is to stay connected.

### Native Courtworker & Counselling Association of BC believes:

- Living longer than our ancestors is one of the most remarkable achievements of the twenty-first century
- To be an elder and to live in dignity free from all forms of abuse and violence should be a common goal for everyone.

V I C T I M S   A W A R E N E S S   W E E K

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