Working Together for Women’s Health Grants

Small initiatives can make a big difference in women’s health. In Bella Coola, a $280 grant enabled a health authority to offer a women’s wellness day. For $200, a transition house educated its residents about safe sex and injection drug use and HIV/AIDS. In the Fraser Valley, a $1,500 grant made possible women’s health symposium with a focus on violence towards women.

They are examples of how working together can assist health authorities, community health care providers and women to:

- examine issues that affect women’s well-being;
- share information on health initiatives;
- extend their own resources; and
- involve their communities in planning services for women.

The projects were funded through $128,000 in one-time Women’s Health Bureau grants. The 2000/2001 funds were earmarked for projects on improving women’s health, violence towards women and HIV/AIDS.

While grants are no longer available through the Women’s Health Bureau, Information Forum reports on the grant projects to inspire health authorities and community groups in planning their own women’s health initiatives.

Sharing information about women’s health improves prevention, care and treatment options. Women’s health involves physical, emotional, social, cultural and spiritual health. It is intertwined with social, political and economic influences in women’s lives. How healthy you are, and the type of health care services you receive, may depend on whether you are female or male. And, while just over half of British Columbia residents are female, they use the health care system 25 per cent more than men.

WOMEN’S HEALTH GRANTS: A FOLLOW UP REPORT

In Bella Coola, a $280 grant enabled a health authority to offer a women’s wellness day. For $200, a transition house educated its residents about safe sex and injection drug use and HIV/AIDS. In the Fraser Valley, a $1,500 grant made possible women’s health symposium with a focus on violence towards women.

They are examples of how working together can assist health authorities, community health care providers and women to:

- examine issues that affect women’s well-being;
- share information on health initiatives;
- extend their own resources; and
- involve their communities in planning services for women.

The projects were funded through $128,000 in one-time Women’s Health Bureau grants. The 2000/2001 funds were earmarked for projects on improving women’s health, violence towards women and HIV/AIDS.

While grants are no longer available through the Women’s Health Bureau, Information Forum reports on the grant projects to inspire health authorities and community groups in planning their own women’s health initiatives.

Small initiatives can make a big difference in women’s health. In Bella Coola, a $280 grant enabled a health authority to offer a women’s wellness day. For $200, a transition house educated its residents about safe sex and injection drug use and HIV/AIDS. In the Fraser Valley, a $1,500 grant made possible women’s health symposium with a focus on violence towards women.

They are examples of how working together can assist health authorities, community health care providers and women to:

- examine issues that affect women’s well-being;
- share information on health initiatives;
- extend their own resources; and
- involve their communities in planning services for women.

The projects were funded through $128,000 in one-time Women’s Health Bureau grants. The 2000/2001 funds were earmarked for projects on improving women’s health, violence towards women and HIV/AIDS.

While grants are no longer available through the Women’s Health Bureau, Information Forum reports on the grant projects to inspire health authorities and community groups in planning their own women’s health initiatives.

Working Together for Women’s Health Grants

Working Together for Women’s Health grants encouraged health authorities to take the lead in promoting women’s health. Preference was given to joint community-health authority projects. Projects focused on strategy or program development, direct service and public awareness.

The number of applications exceeded funding. But some communities were so enthusiastic about the unfunded projects — on women’s mid-life issues, mental health, post-partum conditions, breast feeding, disordered eating, networking and gender-inclusive planning — that they funded the projects themselves.
### Working Together for Women’s Health Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>WHAT THE PROJECT ACHIEVED</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategy Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Area Community Health Council</td>
<td>• Consulting with advocates, service providers and women to develop a “gender lens” workbook for health care planning and delivery</td>
<td>$ 9,665</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| North Okanagan Health Board | • Developing an evidence-based framework for a women’s health strategy  
• Promoting awareness of women’s health needs  
• Partnering with community-based women’s organizations and government ministries | $ 10,000 |
| North Shore Health Region | • Developing an information base/profile of women’s health to assist in planning and program decision making | $ 6,000 |
| South Peace Community Health Council and Women’s Advisory Committee | • Creating a profile of women’s health needs that will assist in developing a women’s health plan | $ 10,750 |
| **Program Development** | | |
| Capital Health Region | • Providing respectful and appropriate health care for mid-life women by establishing a women’s resource centre at the James Bay Community Project | $ 9,152 |
| Comox Valley Community | • Health Council Improving access to care resources for women with chronic health conditions by collecting information, organizing information sessions and giving feedback to community service providers | $ 5,900 |
| Powell River Community Health Council | • Using recommendations from Violence Against Women: Improving the Health Care Response to develop a draft policy statement and protocol  
• Collecting baseline statistics for goal setting and evaluation  
• Educating the public on the impact of violence towards women  
• A partnership with the inter-agency Family Violence Committee | $ 5,000 |
| **Direct Service** | | |
| Central Vancouver Island Health Region | • Teaching First Nations women and parents about nutrition and economical meal planning  
• Participants received cooking lessons and Food Safe certificates - some found food services jobs | $ 8,000 |
| Upper Vancouver Island/ Central Coast Community Health Services Society | • Establishing a support group for women with post-partum depression, anxiety or having difficulty making the transition to motherhood  
• Developing women’s support networks  
• Creating a lending library for women, their families and professionals  
• Providing community outreach to isolated new mothers  
• Coordinating services for women  
• Educating community professionals and lay caregivers | $ 6,000 |
Public Awareness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>WHAT THE PROJECT ACHIEVED</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Bella Coola Transitional Health Authority | • Promoting healthy lifestyles by organizing a Women’s Wellness Day  
  • Information was provided on Pap/mammography screening, safe sex, depression and stress  
  • Counselling was available for women who have experienced violence and/or with drug and alcohol issues                                                                                     | $ 280 |
| Bulkley Valley Community Health Council | • Organizing workshops on women’s health for adolescents 13 to 19, mothers of young children, women in mid-life and seniors  
  • Workshops identified health concerns, promoted local resources and networking and encouraged the development of community-based women’s health care services                                                                 | $ 5,775 |
| Coast Garibaldi Health Services Society | • Understanding and promoting women-centred care by engaging an interdisciplinary, woman-centred health advisory network team to survey women and organizations  
  • Developing educational activities around women’s health issues                                                                                                                                   | $ 6,000 |
| **Total**                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | **$82,563.60** |

HIV/AIDS Grants

HIV/AIDS grants increased awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention among adolescent and adult women and provided training on care and treatment. The project was a partnership between the Women’s Health Bureau and HIV/AIDS Division of the Ministry of Health Services and the former Ministry of Women’s Equality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>WHAT THE PROJECT ACHIEVED</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| AIDS Prince George Society           | • Educating aboriginal women about HIV/AIDS through an autobiographical video on four northern Aboriginal women living with HIV  
  • Produced in partnership with Prince George TV/Monarch Broadcasting                                                                                                                                              | $ 5,000 |
| AIDS Prince Rupert                   | • Raising HIV/AIDS awareness through a peer education theatre project for at risk females 12 to 16  
  • Ten at risk First Nations youth participated in a wilderness/ kayaking trip to plan the YEA! (Youth Educating about AIDS) Project  
  • Let’s Talk about Sex™ has been performed at a youth drop-in centre, First Nations village and local high school                                           | $ 3,500 |
| Atria Transition Society – Koomseh 2nd Stage Housing Program | • Educating transition house clients about HIV/AIDS, safe sex and safe drug use  
  • Information sessions were held for current and former residents of the Second Stage Program and outreach program participants                                                                                  | $ 200 |
| Central Vancouver Island Health Region | • Preventing HIV/AIDS through a Parksville School District Youth Helping Youth project  
  • 15 peer health educators presented HIV/AIDS workshops to students, parent advisory councils, teachers and at a regional safe schools conference                                                                 | $ 3,000 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>WHAT THE PROJECT ACHIEVED</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Deltaassist Family and Community Services | • Informing at risk youth about HIV/AIDS through an information card and youth forum  
• Cards will be distributed through alcohol and drug counsellors, youth suicide prevention workers, child care workers, school counsellors, and physicians | $ 2,000 |
| Interior Indian Friendship Society | • Educating young Aboriginal women about safer tattooing, disposing of dirty needles, HIV/AIDS and STDs through a joint fashion show/HIV/AIDS information session | $ 2,500 |
| Lower Similkameen Services Society | • Decreasing stigma and myths about HIV/AIDS and identifying local issues through an information session for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women, female service providers and young females  
• An editorial on the information session appeared in a local newspaper | $ 200  |
| Penticton Health Center | • Informing women and front-line service providers about HIV/AIDS through a presentation by the Positive Women’s Network | $ 2,500 |
| South Peace Community Resources Society | • Educating women, youth and service providers about HIV/AIDS through panel discussions by local public health nurses and HIV-positive women and by providing resource kits  
• In partnership with the Chetwynd Women’s Resource Centre, Aboriginal Women’s Awareness Resources Society and Peace Liard Community Health | $ 3,500 |
| Terrace Women’s Centre | • Educating service providers on stereotypes around HIV/AIDS, risk behaviours, harm reduction and psychosocial needs of women living with HIV/AIDS and providing resource kits | $ 2,242 |
| Tla’amin Health Society | • Educating women living on Tla’amin Reserve and in Sliammon about HIV/AIDS through workshops on HIV/AIDS and pregnancy, puberty, self-esteem, female condom use, self-care and STD/Pap tests | $ 1,000 |
| Youth Net Partnership | • Training youth facilitators to educate young Northern Vancouver Island Aboriginal women about the risks of unsafe sexual practices and their role in making healthy decisions  
• A four-day train the trainer workshop, training manual and resource collection were produced by a youth committee  
• Youth facilitators from the Tsawataineuk First Nations School in Kingcome Inlet planned three community workshops, a poster contest and a community dinner with skits and information tables  
• In partnership with the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council, Tsawataineuk First Nations School in Kingcome Inlet, Youth Net Outreach Program and Upper Island Women of Native Ancestry Society | $ 2,500 |
| **Total** | | **$30,000** |
Violence Against Women: Improving the Health Care Response Grants

Violence Against Women grants created health sector responses and improved services for women who have experienced violence.

The grants arose from recommendations of a Women’s Health Bureau publication, Violence Against Women: Improving the Health Care Response.

The publication is a guide for health authorities, health care managers, providers and planners on the impact violence has on victims, the health care system and society. It can be viewed at http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/whb/.

### Violence Against Women: Improving the Health Care Response Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>WHAT THE PROJECT ACHIEVED</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Bulkley Valley Health Council | • Developing a coordinated network to respond to and support women experiencing violence - training provided through the Children’s and Women’s Health Centre of British Columbia  
• Training health care providers about violence towards women | $1,930 |
| Fraser Valley Health Region and community partners | • Providing training and developing strategies to address violence towards women through a regional planning day with community partners | $1,500 |
| Kimberly Community Health Council | • Educating and training health care providers and community partners to develop responses for women who have been physically and/or sexually assaulted | $3,360 |
| North Peace Health Council | • Encouraging women who have been sexually assaulted to seek medical and emotional support from specially trained nurse examiners  
• Distributing information on safety and prevention  
• Educating the community about violence towards women | $5,210 |
| South Fraser Health Region  | • Planning prevention and intervention strategies, including actions and timelines, through a workshop for Langley health care providers | $3,000 |
| **Total**                  |                                                                                          | **$15,000** |

For More Information

For more information on these projects, contact the local health authority or the Women’s Health Bureau. Health authorities are listed at [http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/socsec/](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/socsec/).

The Women’s Health Bureau can be contacted by phone at 250 952-2256 or by facsimile at 250 952-2205.