



Attention: Joyce Pearce CAO Town of Bon Accord  
Farrell O'Malley CAO Town of Gibbons  
Robert Proulx CAO Town of Legal  
Stephane Labonne CAO Town of Morinville  
Reegan McCullough CAO Sturgeon County

**RE: Information Session on Proposed Shared Funding Model - Sturgeon Victim Services**

Further to our previous correspondence on August 20, 2020, our Board Chair (Vicki Zinyk) and I would like to invite you to lunch to further the discussion and provide information on the proposed shared funding model. We know your time is valuable and are striving to provide a forum and timing that can best minimize the impact of our request on your demanding schedule while providing an opportunity to discuss more fully as a group.

September 22, 2020 at 12:00pm  
Bistro Di Madre Piccola- 10015-100ave

Alternatively, we are available to meet with you individually at a time and location that better aligns with your needs.

You or your Councils might be asking what benefits we bring to your community and what has prompted a request to change to the funding model. We assure you that we do not take our planning and budgeting process lightly. While we have been busy preparing to provide for a results oriented and efficient year ahead, 2020 had other ideas for everyone – not sure that anyone could have expected nor guessed at the impact a little known virus could have on not only our region but the province, country, and world. Like other not for profits and those who rely on the province for a good portion of their revenues to support the cost of providing the essential services our region requires, we had to shift gears and manage resources, downsize staffing and protect those doing the protecting. With the province re-opening, our workload is resuming with a vengeance, our case load is higher than it has ever been, and as such will be very focused getting our community back on track through the use of our staff, the volunteer advocates and of course our support dog – Hope.

You may not be fully aware of the benefits this group brings to each of your communities. As a not for profit organization, we have skilled staff and volunteer-based advocates who with great care and attention provide community members the support they need in face of personal trauma. Their interaction and support of first responders is critical in coordinating and executing their tasks with precision. We are respected for the support, strength, and knowledge provided during every major accident, crime, and life tragedy – helping victims of crime and circumstance at any time of the day or night.

We recognize that the key to SVS success is through partnership within the community itself. Support is provided to victims of crime through partnerships with the RCMP, municipal police services and community-based programs. Not very many of us, in our everyday lives, are equipped to deal with someone who has become a victim of crime or who has experienced a significant tragedy – but Sturgeon Victim Services is! If we are fortunate enough to not have had to experience one of these life challenges, we should be grateful. However, many in our very own community (Sturgeon County and the towns within) have not been as fortunate, the statistics are eye-opening.

Unfortunately, in the face of a downturned economy and now with the COVID pandemic layered on top, these occurrences are on the rise. Resources and support related needs are in high demand while funding is at risk on all fronts, not just for Victim Services but for municipalities and other not for profit organizations. Even more reason to look at enhancing existing partnerships, developing new ones and leverages what each of us have to offer. The power of collaboration, together we can do more - more efficiently and more effectively.

While a great deal of our annual expenses is provided federally, it falls short on the operating side. We manage a very tight budget; however, we still require fundraising to the tune of \$12,000. It is because of this need we are reaching out to you for support. While we would absolutely appreciate a multi-year funding model (creating stability), we realize this may not be attainable due to the methods and objectives of each individual Council. We are providing the following information in advance of our meeting to assist in understanding impact and value.

<b>2019</b>	<b>Crisis Response</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Funding Per Capita</b>
Morinville	201	41%	9848	27%	\$ 3,255
Legal	23	5%	1345	4%	\$ 445
Bon Accord	53	11%	1445	4%	\$ 478
Gibbons	49	10%	3159	9%	\$ 1,044
Sturgeon County	165	34%	20506	56%	\$ 6,778
<b>Total</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>36303</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 12,000</b>

We hope you are able to join us on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, please advise of your attendance and/or to arrange a one on one meeting via email at [sturgeonvictimservices@gmail.com](mailto:sturgeonvictimservices@gmail.com) or call me directly at 780-939-4590

Respectfully,

Elisabeth Melvin