

NOTICE OF MOTION

(put forward by Councillor Shepherd)

Re: Provincial Funding Cuts – Community-Based Victim Assistance Programs

THAT a letter be sent from the Mayor and Council to The Hon. Geoff Plant, Attorney General; The Hon. George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services; and The Hon. Lynn Stephens, Minister of State for Women's Equality expressing concern about the impact of funding cuts on community-based victim assistance programs in the Central Okanagan and in particular on the Women's Sexual Assault Services provided by the Elizabeth Fry Society;

AND THAT the Minister of State be urged to, instead of developing a new strategy to address issues of violence against the women of B.C., focus on supporting existing programs and services which have proven to be fiscally responsible and successful.

BACKGROUND:

The Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society, Legal Aid, Kelowna Family Centre, Women's Resource Centre, RCMP Victim Assistance Program and Women's Emergency Shelter work together as a successfully cohesive unit to assist individuals and families affected by sexual or domestic violence. The Central Okanagan has been hardest hit by provincial cuts to sexual assault and community-based victim assistance programs. Continuation of these initiatives is essential to the community and the Province must adequately fund these services in order for them to exist.

Date: August 1, 2002
File: 0410-20