

■ Professional and Volunteer Training

is provided for our own paid and volunteer staff on an ongoing basis. In addition, practicum placements are made available to Masters-level university students in Counselling Psychology and students in a Social Work program.

In-Service sessions are also possible for lower mainland agencies.

Two day training seminars are offered at our down town location in the Spring and Fall.

■ Victim Services Program

has been developed to assist clients with non-clinical issues regarding sexual abuse and for male who are victims of spousal assault. Trained victim services workers will assist clients who wish to explore reporting to police, take legal action (criminal and/or civil), and/or explore compensation options. Victim services workers will also help explore other resources not covered by the Society's mandate.

■ Residential Historical Abuse

Program: BCSMSSA also provides treatment for males who were sexually abused while living in B.C. government-funded residences. Survivors of residential abuse who are currently living in B.C. and who were less than 19 years of age when the abuse began may be eligible to receive compensation coverage for counseling under the Residential Historical Abuse Program (RHAP) of the B.C. government.

***Our mandate has expanded to include males who experienced domestic violence in partnerships.**

For further information or to make an appointment call:

(604) 682-6482

MISSION & PURPOSE

The British Columbia Society for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse is a non-profit society, established to provide therapeutic services for males who have been sexually abused at some time in their lives and for men who are victims of domestic violence. As specifically outlined in our Constitution, our purposes are to:

- provide treatment and support services to male survivors of sexual abuse and support relatives and significant others of the survivors; to provide Victim Services to men who are victims of domestic violence;

- acquire and develop educational material concerning our clients and to gather statistics for dissemination to professionals and the community at large;

- establish, within British Columbia, new services to provide for the recovery needs of male survivors of sexual abuse, and to assist other agencies, through our educational outreach, in improving their response to male survivors within their client population;

- ensure clear, consistent communication in dealing with other involved agencies or professionals in order to guarantee more comprehensive case management;

- consult with community and government groups in the areas of prevention, treatment, therapy, and other matters relating to sexual abuse of males.

BCSMSSA is a registered Canadian Charity (87173 7961 RC0001).

- tax deductible donations are welcomed.

B.C. SOCIETY FOR MALE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Formerly Vancouver Society for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse, and Victoria Male Survivors of Sexual Assault Society – amalgamated in 1997 to form BCSMSSA.

*BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY
for MALE SURVIVORS of SEXUAL ABUSE*

www.bc-malesurvivors.com

Locations:

Vancouver (Head Office):
#202 – 1252 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1Z1
(604) 682-6482

Port Coquitlam:
(604) 682-6482

Courtenay:
(250) 897-0254

***Appointments also available in:**

Surrey, Abbotsford and Cowichan/Duncan on Van. Island

Email: victimservices@bc-malesurvivors.com

 Follow us on twitter: @bcmale survivors

- Please call Vancouver office to make arrangements.

ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual Abuse, for the most part, is greatly misunderstood. Generally sexual abuse is believed to involve an overt act, an unwilling party, and to be carried out by a male against a female. Although all of this is often true, it is only part of the picture. In order to recognize the real scope of sexual abuse and to address the trauma experienced by survivors as well as the impact on society, it is important to adhere to a broader definition of sexual abuse and a more global view of whom the offenders and survivors are.

Sexuality Abuse is a term which has come into more common use; it is essentially any behaviour which undermines the integrity of the individual's sexual identity or sexual safety. Sexuality abuse includes not only behaviours which are traditionally viewed as sexual abuse (i.e. criminal acts), but also covert sexual acts, not often recognized either by the courts or by the general population. Some examples are: derogatory comments of a sexual nature, leering looks, age inappropriate exposure to sexual information or imagery, or the lack of appropriate information. Although these and other examples may not result in criminal charges, nor be intentional, they may nevertheless result in long-term disturbance for the victim.

Victims and Offenders are increasingly seen as including a broader range of individuals. While it was once believed that a larger percentage of survivors are female than are male, recent studies indicate that the numbers are not as disparate as previously assumed, and sexual abuse of males of all ages is not rare. Statistics may be misleading if taken at face value: statements such as "...the majority of victims are female..." minimize the extent of victimization of males, or "...offenders are predominately male..." may result in one

overlooking female offenders. Statistics have their place, but what is important is that innocent people are being abused, traumatized, & need healing. Additionally, all offenders must be identified and treated.

Misconceptions about what it means to be a man often stand in the way of sexual(ity) abuse of males being recognized, acknowledged, & treated. One of these is that males are always in control of their sexual experiences: this is most obviously not true for young boys, but it may also not be true for an adult male. Men can, and have been, victims of rape. Another misconception is that men do not experience the degree of emotional pain associated with sexually abuse, as do women - if a man does have emotional pain he is able to handle it alone. Alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, suicide, and social dysfunction are a few of the possible results of sexual(ity) abuse of males when it is not acknowledged and treated. This is not "handling" the pain.

BCSMSSA was established as a non-profit society to address these issues. We offer a range of services to meet the needs of male survivors and their significant others. We also provide services to transgender survivors, both FTM and MTF.

Special Thanks to our primary funders:

- BC Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, Victim Services & Crime Prevention Division
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY
for MALE SURVIVORS of SEXUAL ABUSE

BCSMSSA PROGRAMS

The Society fulfills its purposes through the following programs:

■ **Individual Therapy** is available for male survivors of sexual abuse. Sessions are typically on a weekly basis, or as indicated by the needs of the individual. Fees for individual therapy may be covered by third party compensation programs Others not covered are responsible for their fees. A sliding scale is available.

■ **Group Therapy** is available for male survivors. Sessions are 2½ hours per week for 12 weeks. Fees may also be covered by some form of compensation.

■ **Support Groups** are also available for significant others of male survivors and run for 6 weeks only. Referrals for individual sessions may also be made if requested. Fees for significant others are not likely covered by compensation.

■ **Educational Outreach** is carried out by the Society through presentations to other social service agencies, schools, or service clubs; through on-site seminars or conferences; through radio, TV, newspapers, and magazine interviews; and clients; and through various pamphlets, manuals, and video projects. Collection of statistics is a standard procedure in all BCSMSSA operations and they are made available on request.