

# 24 Hour 2018 PEACE Program Census Report

A one day look at the Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment (PEACE) Programs for Children and Youth in BC

A large, stylized graphic of the word "PEACE" in a white, cursive font. The letters are filled with a dark teal color and have a white, speckled texture. The word is set against a dark teal, irregularly shaped background that resembles a splash or a drop. The entire graphic is centered on the page.

PEACE



BC Society of  
Transition Houses



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## Introduction

### 24 HOUR CENSUS

The BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH) is a member-based, provincial umbrella organization that, through leadership, support and collaboration, enhances the continuum of services and strategies to respond to, prevent and end violence against women, children and youth. The Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment (PEACE) Program for children and youth experiencing violence, (formerly the Children Who Witness Abuse program) is a free, confidential program across BC for children and youth aged 3 to 18 who have experienced domestic violence.

BCSTH surveys PEACE Programs annually to document a snapshot of services provided in a single 24 hour survey period by an annual 24 hour census. BCSTH conducted the same 24 hour census survey in 2017. This census is a snapshot count of children, youth and their parents who are the survivors of violence or guardians who were served in a 24 hour period by the PEACE Programs. This census provides a provincial picture of how many people are seeking services for their experiences of domestic violence and how many were unable to be served and the scope of the current PEACE program support services.

Though PEACE Programs do submit their data on a monthly or quarterly basis to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG), that data may include duplicate information (a child or youth may have been served by 2 of the same Programs in a quarter). This data aims to eliminate, as much as possible, duplication by the 24 hour time frame. PEACE Programs advise that “this survey is useful as it brings the whole picture together” thus BCSTH plans to continue it as an annual census.

### BC'S PEACE PROGRAMS

PEACE Programs use psychoeducational methods including group and individual support services in an age appropriate manner to help children and youth to:

- Label and express the feelings they have experienced regarding the violence they have experienced;
- Understand healthy ways of dealing with anger and expressing anger;

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- Understand that they are not at fault for the violent actions of others;
- Teach safety skills, strategies and develop safety plans;
- Encourage open communication;
- Acknowledge loss and separation issues;
- Facilitate understanding of abuse and myths about violence against women;
- Explore other violence issues such as violence in the media; and
- Encourage self-confidence.

Visit the BCSTH [Directory of Member Programs & Services](#) to find a PEACE Program in your community.



### In Just One Day

80 of the 86 PEACE Programs in BC participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual BCSTH 24 Hour PEACE Program Census. Thank you to the 80 PEACE Programs who took time out of their busy days to participate in the 2018 Census. The Census provides an unduplicated count of how many women, youth and children were supported and received information and how many more were unable to get immediate support services and information during one work day of the PEACE Programs in BC.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in a 24 hour period, 929 children, youth and their parents (or guardians) who are survivors of violence were supported in-person, by 80 PEACE Programs, across BC.

During this 24 hour period in the PEACE Programs in BC:

- 929 children and youth and their parents (or guardians) who are survivors of violence were supported in person by PEACE program counsellors;
- 551 calls, emails and texts were responded to providing information and support; and
- 343 people were educated about the dynamics and effects of violence against women through training, workshops and public presentations.

Unfortunately, during the same time period in BC:

- An additional 1,322 children and youth were still on waitlists for services; and
- 232 people contacted the PEACE Programs through calls, emails, texts and walk in requests but were unable to receive support services that day.
- Only 59% of children and youth from BC who attempted to get help from PEACE Programs were able to access services.

Factors contributing to waits for service were: limits on staffing hours, space and resources.

BCSTH thanks the PEACE Programs for the difference they are making in the lives of children and youth experiencing domestic violence each day. Still, PEACE Programs in BC are not able to support all those who are in need in a timely manner.



## In-Person Support Services

On March 13, 2018, 929 children, youth and their parents (or guardians) who are survivors of violence were provided in-person support services through the 80 reporting PEACE Programs. Counsellors in these Programs listen, talk with and provide information and support services relating to experiences of domestic violence. PEACE Programs supported 715 children and youth and another 214 adults to understand and respond to the effects of domestic violence.

### IN-PERSON

# of people supported in-person	929 TOTAL
Female Adults	184
Female Youth (16-18)	45
Female Children (11-15)	159
Female Children (6-10)	132
Female Children (0-5)	38
Male Adults	30
Male Youth (16-18)	20
Male Children (11-15)	142
Male Children (6-10)	119
Male Children (0-5)	45
Trans-Identified Adults (over 18)	3
Trans-Identified Youth (16 - 18 years)	3
Trans-Identified Children/Youth (11 - 15 years)	9
Trans-Identified Children (6 - 10 years)	0

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*"It is truly wonderful to see children feeling supported by PEACE Counselling. I can truly see the impact of the work."* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

Unfortunately in the same 24 hours, the number of people on the 80 PEACE Program Waitlists (1332) was greater than those helped in person (929).

*"There is a lot of demand for our services in and around our community. When we inform them about our wait list there is usually disappointment. They want services right away but we cannot accommodate. This 24 hour period we were able reach 91 people in a remote First Nation community who were unaware of our program."* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

*"I love working here as we work in hope. We get to see the healing, growing resilience and the magnificence of these kiddoes emerge. I am soooo happy to hear we are getting more funding because our wait-list has been getting me down. Hopefully we can get on top of it now."* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

### **CALLS, EMAILS AND TEXT MESSAGES**

On March 13, 2018, 80 reporting PEACE Programs responded to 551 calls, emails and text messages from people.

Unfortunately in the same 24 hours, 232 people contacted the PEACE Programs through calls, emails, texts and walk in requests but were unable to receive support services that day. Limited staffing hours, space and resources were identified as contributing to waits for service.

*"The lack of resources and time is frustrating"* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

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*"It is an honour and rewarding to be a part of the PEACE Program and to work with children who have been exposed to violence. I hope that we can get more funding to provide more individual and group counselling services to more people." PEACE Program Counsellor*



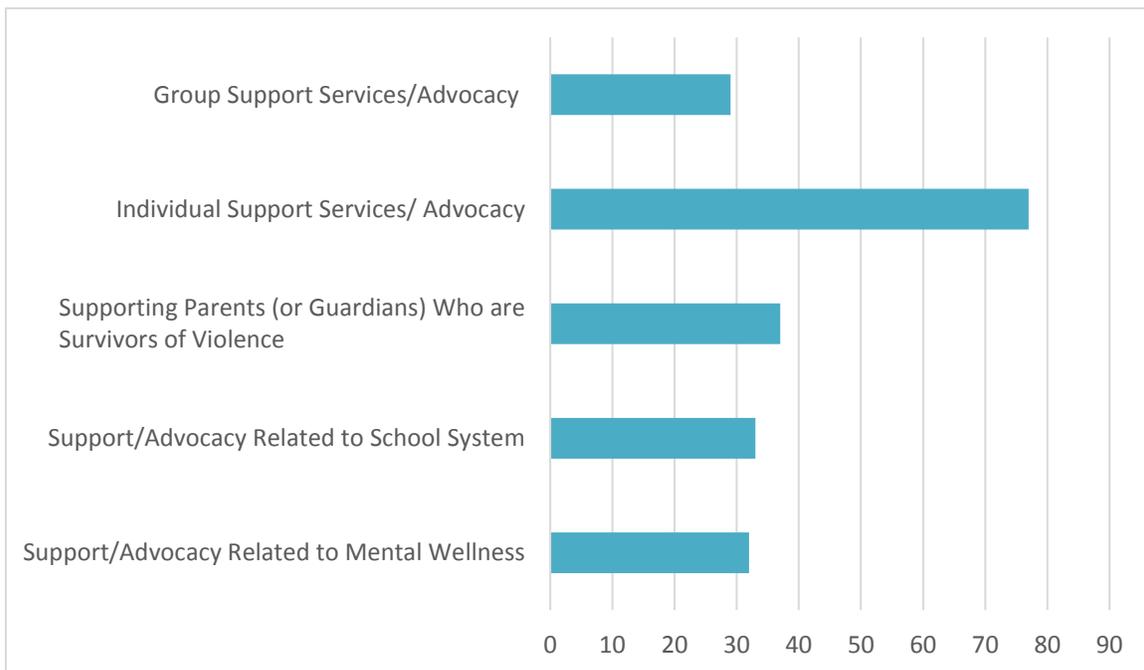
## Standing Beside: Support and Advocacy

*"Thank you for offering this Program to the children that are benefitting. Sadly more funding is required to meet community demands. Early intervention proves effective."* **PEACE Program Participant**

Individual support services and advocacy for children and youth was the activity most frequent activity by the reporting 80 PEACE Programs on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. PEACE Program Counsellors work with children and youth to help them understand that domestic violence is:

- Not Okay
- Never a child/youth's fault
- There are people who can help.

### TOP 5 PEACE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DURING 24 HOUR CENSUS





## Sharing Knowledge: Violence Prevention and Education

PEACE Programs reach out to young people in schools through the Violence is Preventable (VIP) project and the BELIEVE project. Through VIP, PEACE Program counsellors educate young people and school staff about healthy relationships and the resources available to children and youth who may have experienced domestic violence and through BELIEVE in the 2017-2018 school year 24 PEACE Programs across BC piloted the BELIEVE project curriculum in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> as a coordinated provincial response to sexual violence in BC schools. The BELIEVE project was developed in response to requests from PEACE Programs for resources to address this issue in their VIP prevention curriculum and the BELIEVE resources now are incorporated in the VIP curriculum.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, over 300 children and youth learned that there is help available if they experience domestic or sexual violence. In this 24 hour period, PEACE Programs offered 20 prevention and awareness presentations: 6 VIP Presentations; 7 BELIEVE presentations and 7 additional community education presentations across BC. Altogether, the Programs reached 343 people in just one day through their violence prevention and education efforts.

# of people supported with 20 prevention presentations	343 TOTAL
VIP	6
BELIEVE	7
Additional community prevention presentations	7

*“I would love to have specific funding to provide education and awareness session, it's just not possible to take away from front line direct service to do this. The number of hours provided to meet the need is quite low, I see huge benefit on working on the preventative end of things but it*

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*needs to have additional funding to do so."*

***PEACE Program Counsellor***

*"Thank you for providing service in our school--we mostly feel overlooked because we are in a remote location"*

***Principal from a rural Elementary School.***



## Unmet Needs

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 1322 children and youth were on waitlists for PEACE Program support services in BC.

*“CWWA saved my life. CWWA kept me sane and helped my children be children again. I can't believe my kid has to go on a wait list when they need counseling so badly!” PEACE Program Participant's mother*

*“This work is really tiring. It is hard to have wait lists and hold worry for the people on them. There isn't enough time to meet the demands of the school. Meeting the expectations of MCFD is impossible and at times in contradiction to best practice. There is so much unseen work in our rural community and work that is hard to represent and record in surveys statistics.” PEACE Program Counsellor*

Top PEACE Program Reasons For Not Serving Children and Youth	Very Relevant	Somewhat Relevant	Not Relevant
Waitlist	42.47%	35.62%	21.92%
Not enough government funding for program	36.99%	41.10%	21.92%
Not enough resources to support children and youth	27.94%	45.59%	26.47%
Not enough staff	25.35%	39.44%	35.21%
No funds for transportation and No childcare (tied)	16.67%	36.36%	48.48%

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Unfortunately in the same 24 hours, 232 people contacted the PEACE Programs through calls, emails, texts and walk in requests but were unable to receive support services that day.

Limited options regarding staffing hours, funding, resources, childcare, housing and transportation are factors undermining support services.

*"First that our Programs continue to be under-funded - the need increasingly outweighs the resources which puts children, women, families and our future generation at increased risk - physically, emotionally and in all aspects of health. Second, the needs of families impacted by violence are complex - we need to be able to offer what we do but also longer term and with a lens for how to respond to the complexity of needs."*

**PEACE Program**

*"We have 3 staff working in the PEACE program however together our hours do not make up one full time position."* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

Childcare can also be a barrier for women seeking support after experiences of violence. Most PEACE Programs depend on volunteers to provide childcare while the parent or guardian attends various necessary appointments. If childcare is not always available it can cause extra stress on families that are already in crisis.

*"More support around child care so women do not have to rely on abusers for child care"* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

*"HELP. We need help. We need more funds for housing, for subsidized child care and more funds to pay our child care providers a respectable wage. Our children need support to overcome the impacts of trauma."*



*We need support to do this from all levels of government”* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

The cost of transportation and lack of transportation creates barriers. Women in northern, rural and remote areas face particularly challenging circumstances as they often need to travel many kilometers outside of their communities to access services and supports.

*“As we service many outlying communities travel is often a barrier for families accessing services. We also have no bus system in town and in winter again transportation just around town can produce barriers for people who have to walk.”* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

*“We stretch between service to 3 community's and travel uses up a lot of service time.”* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

*“Transportation is a huge barrier for families in our community.”* **PEACE Program Counsellor**



## Supporting PEACE Programs

BCSTH and the PEACE Programs are grateful for the additional government funding provided by MPSSG but as reported in this survey needs are still going unmet. It is vital that every BC child, youth and parent or guardian who has experienced domestic violence has timely access to appropriate supports to live safely and build PEACEful relationships.

PEACE Programs develop creative and resourceful ways to support women, children and youth who have experienced domestic violence and they know that their work is making a difference.

*"I am the only staff within the PEACE program. It is a tough job but it is the support that we are able to give to the youth in this moment that can help for tomorrow as well as prevention for healthier lives."* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

PEACE Programs commented on the challenges posed by the complex needs of the families they are supporting: "Some families are not only dealing with violence but a myriad of other issues such as poverty, poor health, mental health issues and isolation. [Often] this is within a community which has very little infrastructure and support of all of the systems. Sometimes I feel that we are not able to meet the needs of these families and that we must be careful not to oversimplify issues or to overwhelm ourselves with trying to find resources when few exist."

*"It is time for the government to recognize this challenging work we do with wage increases that offset the cost of living in this province --- I did this work for five years (2005-2010) and returned the work in 2016, and the wage was the same!! There has been a small incremental increase in wage but not enough!"* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

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*“This is a wonderful program, it is making a positive difference in women, youth and children's lives.”* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

*“Thank you for valuing the work we do with women, children, youth, and families in our communities! Commensurate with years of experience and specific training as well. I am thankful however, that our province recognizes the need for such services as STV & PEACE and continues to support & value its work!!”* **PEACE Program Counsellor**

Please visit the BCSTH [Directory of Member Programs & Services](#) or the [Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General](#) site to find more information about a PEACE program in your community.