



April 21, 2023

York Regional Police Services Board
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear York Regional Police Services Board,

I am writing to request your support for the York Region Centre for Community Safety (YRCCS). YRCCS is a co-located, coordinated single access point for services within York Region to meet the needs of those affected by intimate partner/domestic violence and sexual violence through an integrated, holistic access to services. Our goal is to enhance coordinated service delivery through co-locating a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and to improve access to needed services in one central location without having individuals retell their experiences. YRCCS is unique in its position as a conduit for individuals to be connected to justice alongside community supports and services.

YRCCS was created because of the leadership of York Regional Police (YRP). In 2008/09, YRP had visited the family justice centre (FJC) in San Diego. The FJC was created by two San Diego prosecutors who understood the need for victims of intimate partner/domestic violence and sexual violence to access one location for multiple services and not be forced to retell their stories. Thanks to the commitment of York Regional Police to address intimate partner/domestic violence in the Region, YRCCS opened in 2013 with strong partnerships that continue today, i.e. Sandgate Women's Shelter, Yellow Brick House, York Region Children's Aid Society, Victim/Witness Assistance Program, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Centre, Community Legal Clinic of York Region and Victim Services of York Region to name a few. Once connected to YRCCS, survivors are supported through our holistic case management. Referrals are specific to the survivor's needs, i.e. police advice, housing, employment and social assistance, financial literacy, counselling support, legal aid. Through YRCCS, survivors access needed services without having to retell their stories. Our service provides a unique model for collaboration that serves to enhance the safety and well-being of survivors.

YRCCS is proud to be the first international affiliate of the Family Justice Center Alliance of the United States and can serve as a blueprint for similar service delivery frameworks in the province. We have a strong collaboration with the justice sector: a Detective from York Regional Police's Intimate Partner Violence Unit comes onsite to remove the necessity of survivors going to police stations to make a report; this creates equitable access to police while providing support onsite when making reports or video statements. We also have a worker from the Victim/Witness Assistance Program at the Newmarket Courthouse who is onsite to meet with victims from the southern part of York Region. YRCCS's service model and its collaboration with YRP has gained interest from Quebec City Police Services (who met with YRCCS and YRP in December 2022) and Montreal Police Services (they will be visiting us in June 2023). In fact, the Federal government visited San Diego to tour the Family Justice Center; it is a point of pride for York Region that YRCCS became the first international affiliate of the US Alliance of Family Justice Centers



YRCCS
York Region Centre for Community Safety



in August 2021. I would be pleased to give a deputation to the Board about the work that YRCCS does to support survivors.

Unlike most of our partners, YRCCS does not have annualized, core funding. As we continue to address the rise in intimate partner violence cases that have increased in frequency and severity of abuse, \$50,000 from the Board would contribute to our delivery of essential services to the community members in need. In 2022, we supported 548 adult survivors and 759 of their children with 2683 referrals made for them to needed services. We would greatly appreciate your support to continue to serve survivors and their children.

Sincerely,

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