



## **Access to Justice** Family Violence Prevention

Amanda Jones – Commanding Officer, RCMP V Division  
Public Awareness Campaign Launch in Iqaluit

Unnusakkut, Good Afternoon, Bon Après Midi.

Before I start, I would like to thank Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and the Law Society of Nunavut for the invitation and honour to be a part of the launch of their 'Access to Justice' campaign.

I could not think of a better time to launch the campaign advocating for breaking the silence on family violence and abuse against women in Nunavut then on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the day designated as International Women's Day around the world advocating for women's rights.

The International Women's Day 2021 theme is "Choose to Challenge", choose to challenge for women's rights, equality, safe homes, empowerment and freedom from abuse. I stand before you as a woman and as the Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police here in Nunavut. I am joined today by some of my fellow female colleagues, together we celebrate our achievements, our successes, and our struggles, and thank those who have supported us in our journey to where we are today. I would love to have stood here before you with all my female employees in Nunavut, as they are strong leaders and champions for change on woman equality and ending violence against woman, however, there is not enough space up here for everyone and someone has to go to work and keep our communities safe.

Superintendent Marie-Claude Coté, French Canadian, 28 years with the RCMP, recently returned from Iraq where, as the Director Gender and Protection, she joined the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve – and assisted, supported and mentored Iraqis on finding ways to counter Daesh actions

against Iraqi. Supt Coté is now the Officer in Charge of Operations for the RCMP here in Nunavut and is my 2nd in Command.

Sergeant Lisa Leith is a Northwest Territories Inuk and Beneficiary of the Inuviluaudit Final Agreement, she has 28 years with the RCMP and is in charge of the RCMP Federal Serious and Organized Crime unit here in Nunavut. Sgt Leith leads a team who, as one of many operational taskings, help to reduce contraband drugs and alcohol in Nunavut, thus reducing overall violence and violence against woman and children in our communities.

Corporal Tammy Lobb, 15 years with the RCMP whose specialty is Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking investigations. Cpl Lobb is currently our Family Violence Coordinator for the RCMP in Nunavut and, over the last several months since taking the position, she has been building relationships with Community Justice, Family Services, the women shelters, Corrections, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Embrace Life Council, the Umingmak Centre and the Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre, to name a few. Recently, Cpl Lobb partnered with the Medical Boarding Home to raise awareness and educate Nunavummiut on a variety of topics, such as, Understanding Sexual Consent, Sexual Abuse and Family Violence and provided information regarding supports available to them. Cpl Lobb works with Victim Services and the YWCA Women's Shelter and together, they have delivered a Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking presentation to clients and staff at the shelter in Iqaluit. In partnership with the Department of Health and the Umingmak Center, Cpl Lobb delivered a joint presentation to various service providers in Rankin Inlet on the Effects of Family Violence on Children. Most importantly, Cpl Lobb has been assisting victims of spousal abuse by meeting them at the hospital after being medivac'd to Iqaluit for injuries sustained through a domestic violence. She has provided bed side support and helped link the client to applicable support services.

We, the RCMP, and I, as the Commanding Officer of the RCMP in Nunavut, fully support Pauktuutit and the Law Society of Nunavut in this 'Access to Justice' campaign. On January 27, 2021, the Commissioner of the RCMP, Brenda Lucki, and the President of Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, Rebecca Kudloo, signed an historic document – "The Pinasuqatigiinniq (Pinasugatiguynniq) Agreement" – "To Work Cooperatively Together" - formalizing our working relationship to

improve the protection and safety of Inuit women, children and gender- diverse persons. I look forward to working with Paukuutit towards implementing recommendations from their 2020 report “Addressing Gendered Violence against Inuit Women: A review of police policies and practices in Inuit Nunangat” and partnering together to reduce violence against women in Nunavut.

We do not tolerate violence against woman and children. It takes all of us to stand up and say “No!” and it takes all of us to provide the support woman and children in abusive situations need in order to empower them for change.

Nakurmiik, Thank You, Merci Beaucoup