



### Basic Qualifications for a Volunteer Advocate

- 18 years or older
- Canadian Citizen / Landed Immigrant (Resided in Canada a minimum of 10 years)
- Police Enhanced Security Clearance
- Successfully complete Alberta Solicitor General On-line Training

### WHAT DOES AN VICTIM SERVICES ADVOCATE DO?

#### Office Shifts

The Advocates work in an office in the Red Deer City Detachment, located in downtown Red Deer at 4602 - 51 Avenue.

Advocates are asked to complete at least four shifts every month (roughly twelve hours per month). This office time can be completed in one block, but is usually broken down into smaller time slots. Of course, we work around vacations, busy periods of employment and family commitments that may arise.

While in the office, advocates are making first contact or follow-up calls with victims to offer services; meet with victims to provide information or support by explaining or assisting victims with completing forms; conducting court preparation sessions; and sometimes assisting staff with administrative functions. Regularly, advocates are scheduled to assist in court accompaniments.

#### Crisis Call Dispatchers

Advocates are asked to sign-up and carry the on-call call-out phones for a week at a time. These two advocates act as dispatchers for RDCVSU.

These advocates will be contacted by the RCMP when Victim Services Assistance has been requested. They will in turn contact the volunteers that have signed up to be on call and available to attend Crisis Calls. These advocates will follow-up with the detachment and advise if volunteers are available to attend.

#### On Call

Advocates are required to sign up for a minimum of two on-call shifts per month. When requested by the police, two or more advocates will respond to a crisis call. They attend on scene (scene of incident, secondary location or the hospital) to provide support and information to victims of crime and/or tragedy.

#### Meetings

Advocate meetings are held every month (except for July & August). Advocates are required to attend these meetings.

#### Community Events

RDCVSU participates in a variety of community events (Ex. Let's Talk & Law Day, Westerner Exposition). Staff and advocates will assist with public displays and the distribution of information.

#### Training

Throughout the year, there are many training opportunities locally, provincially and abroad. Advocates are required to keep their training up to date and to take advantage of various different types of training throughout the year that is provided and paid for by our program.