

Name of Organization	Victoria Child and Youth Advocacy Centre
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DESCRIPTION:

The Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre opened the Victoria Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (Victoria CYAC) in February 2016, with the collaborative support of community partners (municipal police, RCMP, MCFD and Justice). The VCYAC program provides two forensic interview rooms for police and child protection interviews, and as well as victim services through the *Victim Assistance Program* for child and youth victims crime and for those who are required to be a witness. The VCYAC is co-located in the Victoria Community Response Centre with the Victoria Sexual Assault Clinic.

The VCYAC was developed to enhance a multi-disciplinary coordinated approach to working with children, youth, and caregivers in child abuse cases, The CYAC uses a multi-disciplinary team approach to encourage cross-sector communication and information sharing focusing on the needs of the child and family. Victim services, police/crown, MCFD, and other community organizations work together to reduce barriers to service and increase supports.

The Victoria CYAC helps children and their caregivers navigate the justice system in a supportive and safe environment, with the goal of reducing the risk of re-traumatization. The model is based on the principle that the needs of children and youth should come first when cases of child abuse are investigated and prosecuted.