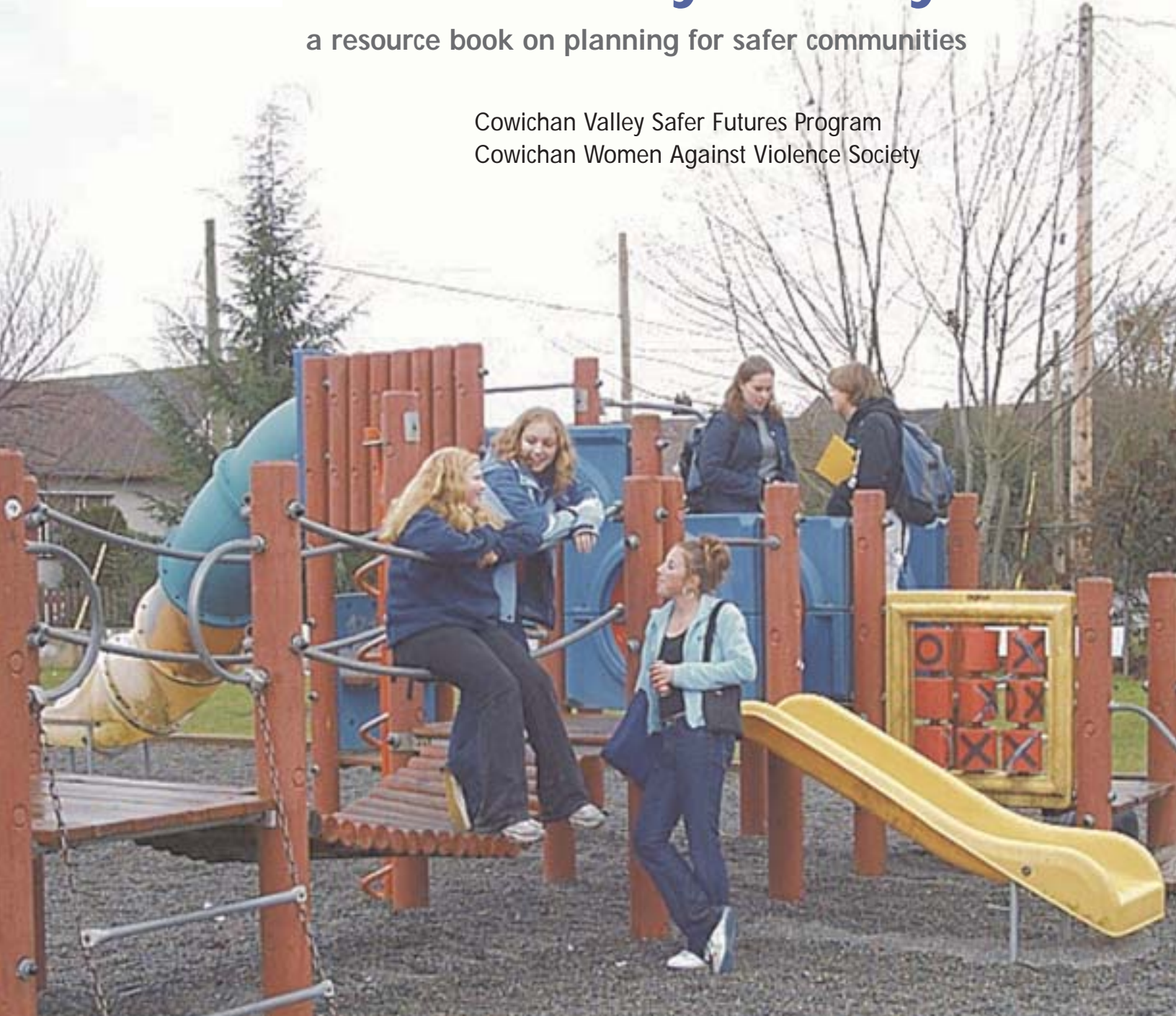




WOMEN and Community Safety:

a resource book on planning for safer communities

Cowichan Valley Safer Futures Program
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society



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COWICHAN VALLEY SAFER FUTURES PROGRAM

Using an integrated, feminist approach to community and social development, Cowichan Valley Safer Futures seeks to promote safer, healthier and more equitable communities for all. Through research, education and community action, we build equitable access to, and create innovation in, community planning.

Since 1996, Safer Futures has worked in collaboration with numerous organizations and local governments in the Cowichan Valley to research issues around the safety of women, children and other marginalized groups in their communities, and to work at the community level to develop and implement solutions.

Safer Futures is one of five programs of Cowichan Women Against Violence Society. The Society began in 1979, as a part-time service dedicated to meeting the needs of the women of the Cowichan Valley who were dealing with issues of violence in their lives. Today, the Society is a growing organization, with more than 20 years of experience. Our many programs and projects continue to reflect that same dedication to providing services to local women and their children who deal with issues of violence.

Women and Community Safety: a resource book on planning for safer communities -

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The material in this resource book is grounded in the realities and experiences of those small, rural and/or isolated communities that are leading the way in building safer communities for women. Thank you to the communities who participated in the Women and Community Safety Project: Port Alberni (Port Alberni Women's Resource Centre); Sechelt (Sunshine Coast Women's Resource Centre and the District of Sechelt); Nelson (West Kootenay Women's Council, Safe Haven Program and Nelson Advocacy Centre); Campbell River (Campbell River Women's Centre); Princeton (Town of Princeton); Fernie (City of Fernie and Fernie Women's Centre); Boundary Region (New Rural Partnerships Project and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary); and Kelowna (City of Kelowna and the Kelowna Women's Resource Centre).

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OVERVIEW

Women and Community Safety: a resource book on planning for safer communities was researched and written by Terri Dame and Ali Grant, the coordinators of the Women and Community Safety Project, a training and development project for small, rural, and/or isolated communities in British Columbia.

The resource book was developed in response to requests from women's groups and local governments for in-depth information and assistance on working together to plan for safer small, rural and/or isolated communities. Personal security is a major concern for women and other vulnerable groups, one that impacts greatly on the ability of those groups to participate fully and freely in all community environments.

This resource book is for use by women's groups, local governments, community organizers, and anyone who wants to take action to improve the quality and safety of the places and spaces in which they live, work and play. It is intended to be a detailed "how-to" resource that will complement other, more general resources in the field (see References).

The material presented in the resource book has been drawn from the experiences of the communities involved in the Women and Community Safety Project – Port Alberni, Sechelt, Nelson, Campbell River, Princeton, Fernie, the Boundary, Kelowna, and of the communities of the Cowichan Valley.

Although women are the focus of this resource book, the relevance for any group that is vulnerable to harassment, intimidation and violence due to age, income, race, sexuality, ability, or language will be clear. And although our focus has been on small, rural and isolated communities in British Columbia, the information presented will be useful for communities across the country.

Communities are not born, they are made. This book represents a valuable resource for those interested in addressing the inequality that has been built into the operation of the places in which we live. Women's groups and local governments can, and must, work together to do this.



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