

Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) **Legal Aid BC Information Sheet**

What is ReVOII?

In November 2022, Premier David Eby KC announced the [Safer Communities Action Plan](#). Part of this plan included the government's commitment to tackle repeat violent offending in communities throughout British Columbia. As part of the *Plan*, the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) was developed.

ReVOII involves dedicated probation officers and correctional supervisors along with police agencies and dedicated Crown prosecutors to serve as an enhanced case management initiative that focuses on prioritizing public safety while also facilitating a person's rehabilitation. ReVOII intends to focus on helping Prioritized Individuals through enhanced community supervision, case management and release planning for those transitioning from custody into the community, as well as helping Prioritized Individuals gain access to available culturally appropriate supports/resources where they identify as indigenous, and mental health and addictions treatment by engaging community stakeholders and service providers.

Starting May 1, 2023, 12 Community Hubs lead by BC Corrections will stand up around the province and will work collaboratively with local police agencies to identify individuals who pose a risk to the community for enhanced case management and/or release planning. The Community Hubs will work with existing community stakeholders and resources to assist Prioritized Individuals in gaining access to available supports and resources.

Initially, Community Hubs will identify up to 400 individuals province wide for prioritization into ReVOII. As ReVOII rolls out, this cohort size, along with the inclusion criteria (below) will be reassessed. We expect to start seeing individuals being given the REVOII label by the end of May 2023. Designated REVOII clients will be personally notified of this designation and provided resources explaining the designation.

Who would be designated a Prioritized Individual Under ReVOII?

Preliminary criteria has been developed to establish who qualifies for prioritization into ReVOII. It is anticipated that a person will qualify for prioritization into ReVOII where the following is met:

- a. A recent history of violent offending (convictions within the previous five years); and,
- b. A predicate "violent offence", meaning a current offence that involves:
 - a. actual or perceived violence, threat of violence or the use of or possession of a weapon; or

- b. Property and other offences which contain a component of violence, intimidation, or the threat of violence; or
- c. Administration of justice offences resulting from an alleged or substantiated violation of an order where the substantive offence is a violent offence.

ReVOII is not designed to include the following:

- a. Individuals, who by virtue of their age at the time they committed the predicate offence, would be prosecuted pursuant to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- b. Individuals who have committed a homicide or commit any offence that results in the death of another human being.
- c. Individuals whose predicate offence is an intimate partner violence offence and whose criminal history is comprised primarily of intimate partner violence offences.
- d. Individuals whose predicate offence and criminal history are primarily related to organized crime or gang conflict.
- e. Individuals who do not have a history of violent offending OR where the history of violent offending is outdated.
- f. Individuals whose predicate offence does not include an element of violence or threat of violence.

Once a person is designated by the Community Hub as a Prioritized Individual in ReVOII, they will be notified by a representative of BC Corrections and the respective police agency. Prosecution of their predicate violent offences will be handled by dedicated Regional ReVOII Prosecution teams. Crown Counsel will not play a role in designating an individual into ReVOII.

Where ReVOII is Located

12 Community Hubs will be stood up in the following locations around the province, serving all communities within the defined geographic region.

Hub Location / Number of Prioritized Individuals	Crown Location	Court Location	Communities
Greater Victoria / Western Communities	Victoria	Victoria Western Communities Duncan	South Island – Duncan South
Nanaimo	Nanaimo	Nanaimo Port Alberni Campbell River Courtenay	North Island – Nanaimo North and Powell River
Vancouver	Vancouver	Vancouver Downtown Community Court North Vancouver Richmond Sechelt	Richmond Vancouver UBC Burnaby Sunshine Coast (except Powell River) North Vancouver West Vancouver Squamish Whistler Pemberton
Surrey	Surrey	Surrey	Surrey Langley Delta White Rock
New Westminister	Port Coquitlam	New Westminister Port Coquitlam	New Westminister Tri Cities Pitt Meadows Maple Ridge
Abbotsford	Abbotsford	Abbotsford Chilliwack	Mission Abbotsford Chilliwack Hope Fraser Canyon
Kelowna	Kelowna	Kelowna Vernon Penticton	Okanagan Region

		Princeton	
Kamloops	Kamloops	Kamloops Ashcroft Merritt Salmon Arm Revelstoke Lillooet / Lytton Clearwater	Thompson Nicola Region
Cranbrook	Cranbrook	Cranbrook Rossland Nelson Grand Forks Creston Ferne Sparwood Invermere Golden Castlegar Nakusp	West and East Kootenay Region
Williams Lake	Williams Lake	Williams Lake Anahim Lake 100 Mile House Quesnel	Cariboo Region communities
Prince George	Prince George	Prince George Valemont Burns Lake Houston Fraser Lake McBride Vanderhoof Fort St. James Fort St. John Mackenzie Dawson Creek Tumbler Ridge Chetwynd Tsay Keh Dene Kwadacha Fort Nelson	Communities east of Smithers to the Alberta border and north to the Yukon border.

Terrace	Terrace	Terrace Kitimat Prince Rupert Haida Gwaii Smithers Dease Lake Good Hope Lake Lower Post Atlin	
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Role of the Crown

5 Regional ReVOII Prosecution teams will be stood up within each of the BCPS regions to work exclusively on providing independent criminal law advice, support, and prosecutorial services to [12 ReVOII Community Hubs](#).

ReVOII Crown Counsel will be responsible for all prosecution functions pertaining to a ReVOII Prioritized Individual, including charge assessment, bail, trial and sentencing. These assigned Crown will have conduct of the file in Court at all stages aside from evening and weekend bail appearances. A list of contacts will be made available to the defence bar. The idea is for defence counsel to have a direct line of communication with the Crown assigned to their ReVOII client.

In exercising their discretionary decision making, ReVOII Crown Counsel will apply existing BCPS policy and all appropriate legal principles in accordance with their independent quasi-judicial minister of justice role. Crown will not be changing their charge assessment standard or any other decision-making (including Indigenous Accused Persons) for ReVOII Prioritized Individuals.

Implications for Legal Aid BC Defence Counsel

Given the anticipated profile of a potential ReVOII Prioritized Individual, show cause and sentencing hearings for all matters, including those that might be perceived as minor or routine such as administration of justice offences, are likely to take longer and may include additional information such as the details of the individual’s prior criminal and correctional history. Such information will be provided to Crown, the Court, and defence counsel through a Court Update Form.

REVOII accused will maintain their right to seek bail at the earliest opportunity.

Lawyers whose clients receive a REVOII designation are encouraged to request additional preparation hours from LABC to compensate counsel for the increased efforts these files will require. ***Up to 10 hours will be routinely approved.*** We ask lawyers to indicate if the additional preparation is related to REVOII in the authorization request so that we can monitor those requests and approve them on an expedited basis.