

## [Women alerted to family programs]

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### Women alerted to family programs

A visit to the local RCMP station to enquire about some of the problems faced by the police when dealing with East Indian people, produced some interesting results.

On the whole the East Indian community is seen as different in any other group. However, the Constables did admit to a few minor problems. Apparently some East Indians pretend not to understand English when questioned but usually are very cooperative.

Generally the community is quite close and they tend to help one another rather than resort to violence in any other form of social assistance. This closeness though, does pose a problem in that they often do in with the whole truth in an effort to protect someone from their law community.

Of the approximately 400 families in the valley there are still a lot who are not yet fluent in English. The RCMP and the courts have several translators they call upon when needed and when needed if there were any criminal situation they would like to obtain the two officers both agreed that the East Indian people are really very serious.

They explained that all job opportunities are open to young East Indian men and women the same as any other nationality, provided they meet the criteria - 19 years of age, university graduate, Canadian Citizen and no criminal record. You must also be mentally and physically fit and possess a valid drivers license.

Other related jobs include parole and probation officers, social workers, corrections, sheriffs, court registry workers and customs officers. In the fields of science there are such sectors jobs related to

holistics, blood, hair, garba, metal, cloth, paper and wood chemistry. For those with a love of flying, the RCMP have their own pilots for both fixed winging gear planes and helicopters.

Constable Tracy Ramsey, the only woman in the Duncan Detachment, is a special crime prevention and community policing officer. She spoke of the need to make the local East Indian women aware of the social services and other sources of help available to them.

Her paraphernalia and services are available to everyone and Constable Ramsey is anxious to speak to groups, making everyone aware of the help available. As she explained, break-ins, purse snatching, domestic disputes, problems with children and drug and alcohol related problems can happen to anyone. But with the East Indian women, because of the two different cultures, the police have problems dealing with them.

Among the paraphernalia that she is asking are tips on identifying stolen property, identifying a vehicle, insurance problems, protection for senior citizens, women alone, parents in crisis, preventing child molesting, home threat, telephone procedures, neighborhood watch, shoplifting and one on child drug users.

She has some video cameras in show with her lectures and has access to more.

The local police work in conjunction with Cowichan Family Life and Women Against Violence Against Women. They will arrange for a battered wife and her children to be transported to a safe home and will direct you to drug counselors should the need arise.

As a final conclusion it appears the East Indian community like any other has the same kinds of problems except that they are usually reluctant to ask for help.

A special program for East Indian women is planned for sometime in January or February to be hosted jointly by the Women Against Violence Against Women and the local Cultural Society. East Indian women speakers representing various help-groups in Vancouver will be in Duncan to speak and answer questions and perhaps offer some suggestions.

**Indo Canadian**  
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