



**SUMMARY OF EVALUATION STUDIES AND
PERFORMANCE INFORMATION on the
Department of Justice Component of the
Interdepartmental Family Violence Initiative**

October 2002

**Evaluation Division
Policy Integration and Coordination Section**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

In 1988, the Department of Justice joined efforts with other federal government departments to establish the interdepartmental Family Violence Initiative (FVI). The Initiative is currently in its third phase of operation (1997/98 and ongoing through 2001/02). The overall objective of the FVI is to reduce the occurrence of family violence in Canada. The FVI Interdepartmental Accountability Framework sets out four main objectives of the Department of Justice (hereafter referred to as DOJ or “the Department”):

- Promote continued public awareness of the causes of family violence;
- Promote public involvement in the response to family violence;
- Strengthen the ability of the criminal Justice system to respond to the problem; and
- Support data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

The Interdepartmental FVI budget is \$7 million annually, of which \$1.45 million is allocated to the Justice component.

Department of Justice activities under the FVI include improving the criminal justice legal framework and system response to family violence through policy development, criminal law reform, research, grants and contributions in support of family violence projects and the development of public legal education materials. Five interrelated program elements carry out these activities: Policy and Legal Advice, Policy Research, Project Development, Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) and Evaluation.

Objectives and Evaluation Issues

The overall focus of the report is to:

- assess the relevance of the Department's continued involvement in the area of family violence and interdepartmental efforts to respond to the issue;
- explore the extent to which the Department of Justice component has achieved its objectives and intended effects;
- determine the extent to which Departmental efforts contributed to the success of the overall federal Initiative; and
- assess the perceived cost-effectiveness of the interdepartmental approach, and the role of the Department, in further understanding and responding to family violence in Canada.

In keeping with Treasury Board requirements, the evaluation considered three principal issues, including program relevance, success, and cost-effectiveness. In total, 31 evaluation questions were identified in the Evaluation Framework¹ and these formed the basis for this report.

Methodology

This report on the Justice component of the FVI draws on the results of existing evaluation studies and annual performance reports to assess the relevance, success and cost-effective issues.

The lines of evidence included:

- a) the results of two studies that reviewed the effectiveness of selected activities under the DOJ component of the FVI in some detail (e.g., *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings* (March 2000); *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* (March 2000)); an analysis of a feedback survey on the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors* (September 1999); a review of materials on prevention of child sexual abuse (2001); and an examination of selected FVI project files (2002);

¹ Department of Justice Canada's Component of the Family Violence Initiative 1997/98-2001/02, Evaluation Framework, May 2001, Evaluation Division, Policy Integration and Coordination Section.

- b) key informant interviews with Departmental representatives, other government departments and agencies, provincial/territorial informants and partners regarding the effectiveness of the overall operation of this Component; and
- c) annual program performance reports on the DOJ component of the Interdepartmental FVI.

Findings

i) Relevance

The issue of relevance was addressed primarily by the key informant interviews . These interviews provided a positive assessment of the relevance of the DOJ component of the FVI. The current mandate and rationale for DOJ involvement in this area is sound, given the importance of criminal justice measures in addressing family violence. Criminal law in this complex area must be dynamic to respond to social change and key informants identified a number of current and emerging issues related to the criminal justice system (CJS) response to family violence. These issues included, for example:

- the effectiveness of mandatory charging policies and other legislative reforms as they are implemented in the provinces/territories in practice;
- the effectiveness of legislative reforms;
- the effectiveness of interventions for offenders;
- the use of alternative measures such as circle sentencing and family group conferencing;
- the need to tailor efforts to address family violence issues to specific population groups and settings;
- the need to expand the focus to include lesser-recognized forms of family violence such as financial abuse of elderly people;
- the training of criminal justice personnel;
- the need for greater collaboration and communication among service providers dealing with family violence; and
- raising public awareness of family violence issues and new legislative provisions.

At this time, the criminal justice response to family violence is not wholly satisfactory for victims, nor are responses perceived to be comprehensive and effective to deal with offenders. There is approval for approaches undertaken by the Department that move beyond a strictly

legislative focus (e.g., interest in practical assistance in administration of justice and in a broader array of responses).

The current organizational structure of the DOJ FVI component is perceived by Departmental representatives to be well-suited to meet objectives, though resources are viewed as limited. No significant changes were recommended to the priority of the various program elements.

The FVI activities at DOJ represent one component of the Interdepartmental FVI. Justice is perceived to make an important contribution to the FVI by those involved in the Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG). The overall interdepartmental approach is viewed as a sensible one by most key informants, given the multi-faceted nature of family violence. Yet, there are some reservations about the way the IWG has been implemented in practice.

Minimizing overlap would bolster relevance of DOJ FVI activities. The potential for duplication was identified as being greatest in terms of the development and distribution of PLEI publications, given the many organizations that are involved in this area. As well, a gap in coordination with other linkage areas within the Department of Justice doing work in the family violence area was also noted as having implications for duplication.

ii) Outcomes

The Department has identified eight key results that it expects to derive through its efforts under this component of the FVI: 1) effective interventions in family violence situations; 2) community support for prevention, intervention and protection measures; 3) protection of family violence victims/witnesses; 4) strengthened criminal justice system response to family violence; 5) improved responsiveness of the criminal justice system to family violence; 6) increased public awareness of family violence issues; 7) reduced tolerance for family violence; and 8) development of efficient and coordinated criminal justice policies and programs concerning family violence issues.

It should be noted that the evidence on outcomes from this study is largely anecdotal and subjective. There are measurement difficulties associated with many of the intended outcomes and the extent to which changes or improvements in intended outcomes can be attributed to the Department's component of the FVI specifically is questionable.

Nevertheless, it is evident that a wide variety of products and knowledge has been generated under the Justice component of the FVI. These products include changes to the Criminal Code,

policy decisions, research and publications, funded projects focusing on family violence-related interventions and public education and information materials.

The quality of the various family violence products generated by or funded by the DOJ is difficult to assess, given that there is information available only on a limited set of these products. The evaluative material that is available, however, is generally positive. Intermediaries and end-users provide high ratings of the products in terms of aspects such as clarity, relevance and usefulness or helpfulness.

The broad variety of products generated by the DOJ component of the FVI is matched by a wide variety of dissemination strategies. These range from directed distribution aimed at a selected audience (e.g., to CJS professionals, provincial/territorial partners) to more generalized circulation (e.g., to service providers, the general public). Many materials are disseminated on an upon-request basis. The format in which material is disseminated includes, for example, print, media (radio/TV announcements), multi-media (e.g., video), web-sites, and workshops and conferences.

The evaluation of the dissemination of products was not encouraging, particularly for DOJ's own publications that are intended for a broader audience. Organizations that would be expected to be key recipients and promoters of these materials lacked familiarity with the products. An active and strategic dissemination plan was not apparent, nor was there any tracking of dissemination. In at least one instance, there was confusion on the part of end-users about the availability and cost of additional copies of materials.

Products are perceived to have contributed to progress in the key result areas that have been identified. Improvements in the effectiveness, responsiveness and co-ordination of the CJS response to family violence are where most policy efforts are directed. Examples of products providing effective interventions include the family violence awareness training kit produced by *The Silence is Deep, Let's Talk about Touching* and the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*. The *Handbook*, and the F/P/T Forums and Working Group on Spousal Abuse, in particular, were identified as contributing to greater co-ordination of efforts. Research and evaluation provide the underpinning for policy work by identifying gaps, understanding practices across jurisdictions and evaluating results.

The Department also aims to affect public awareness through, for example, its PLEI projects, research publications and the Departmental FVI web site. In fact, in the file reviews, all selected projects identified impacts in this area.

In terms of protection of family violence victims/witnesses, the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors* was perceived to make an important contribution in this area. The FVI also has a strong collaborative relationship with the Policy Centre for Victims Issues around these issues.

Outcomes in the area of community support are less evident, given limitations in the amount of Grants and Contributions funds available for community support projects. As well, provincial/territorial jurisdiction over delivery of family violence-related services limits extensive federal involvement in the intervention area.

Current monitoring and reporting on activities of the DOJ component of the FIV is regular and responds to the requirements of the Accountability Framework for the Interdepartmental FVI. At the project level, there is a requirement for reporting on activities, though there is less known about the results of project activities. The review of project files in the context of the *Case Studies Sub-Study* noted the absence of adequate success measures and a clear evaluation plan. More evaluations of legislation were recommended in the key informant interviews.

iii) Alternatives

A key strength of the DOJ component of the FVI is partnerships. There is a high degree of satisfaction among funded partners and other government departments with their relationship with Justice. Relationships with provincial and territorial counterparts (through the F/P/T Committee) are seen to be very effective by those involved and there is a high level of interest in seeing the work of this Committee continue. These partnerships have had many benefits, both for the Department and for the partners themselves.

Co-ordination of activities is both a strength and a weakness. While co-ordination of activities is effective within the component itself, Departmental linkages can be strengthened to minimize overlap and ensure that all areas of the Department that address the issue of family violence do so in a coherent fashion and that mandates are clear. Visibility and communications about Justice FVI activities has been lacking, both to areas within the Department, as well as to the public, provinces/territories and community organizations. This could be a function of resource limitations, both to undertake communications, but also resources available in the form of grants and contributions to increase the Department's presence through financial support for projects among community organizations. The new DOJ FVI web site will remedy some communications issues, though it is not a replacement for more active approaches.

iv) **Implications**

Final observations regarding the implications of the study include:

- Family violence and the CJS response to this issue is an evolving area with a number of new and emerging issues. This supports the continued need for the Initiative and the participation of Justice.
- This dynamic context also has strong implications for ensuring projects and publications remain in step with current thinking. Evaluative work of the Department's publications suggests that while the products themselves are of a high quality, there is a need to review the current dissemination strategy for these materials.
- There is a strong message from the community level about the need for specificity and tailoring of products, particularly with respect to community interventions and public education materials. Diverse groups have various requirements, and locally relevant and culturally sensitive materials are seen to be most effective. This theme is evident in the types of projects in which DOJ is involved now (e.g., expanding the types of formats and languages in which publications are available). The research reviewed for this evaluation also strongly recommends the direct involvement of target groups in the development of products. Finally, the production of PLEI publications requires a more coherent strategy and balance between tailoring of materials to local needs yet avoiding duplication of effort.
- Inclusion and consultation are effective methods to achieve goals and the partnerships developed by the DOJ component of the FVI have been quite successful. The networking opportunities that have been provided through the DOJ (e.g., the F/P/T Forums) are highly valued and have proved fruitful for individuals able to network with those from other jurisdictions. These kinds of collaborations appear to work best when supported by longstanding relationships, when there is clarity of roles and responsibilities, and when there are formal mechanisms for information sharing (e.g., the Working Group and Forums). Communications with NGO partners in funded projects was noted as an area where some projects have not been wholly successful.
- The Department is achieving significant success in the F/P/T area, through committee work and in assisting provinces in the administration of Justice (e.g., through the *Handbook*). This may be a useful approach and template for other areas of legislation, and there is interest among CJS professionals for practical tools of a similar nature.
- Lack of visibility of the DOJ component of the FVI was raised in several contexts: within the Department, some linkage areas are not fully aware of the mandate and activities of the FVI, provincial and territorial partners were not familiar with the broader scope of FVI activities

beyond their F/P/T committee and some groups at the community level were not aware of Justice family violence activities. Some service providers hoped the DOJ would make a contribution to facilitating co-ordination among service providers at the community level.

- The lack of ongoing tracking and monitoring, particularly of the results of funded projects leaves the Department with a dearth of information vis-à-vis outcomes. Clear performance measures and accompanying evaluation activities for funded projects are recommended.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Objectives

The Department of Justice has participated in a number of federal interdepartmental initiatives to respond to family violence, beginning with the Child Sexual Abuse Initiative (1986-1988), followed by the Family Violence Initiative (FVI). In 1988, the Department of Justice joined efforts with other federal government departments to establish the interdepartmental Family Violence Initiative (FVI), which has included three phases (1988/89 to 1991/92, 1991/92 to 1995/96 and 1996/97 and ongoing²). The overall objective of the FVI is to reduce the occurrence of family violence in Canada.

The FVI Interdepartmental Accountability Framework set out the four main objectives of the Department of Justice in relation to the Interdepartmental Family Violence Initiative³:

- Promote continued public awareness of the causes of family violence;
- Promote public involvement in the response to family violence;
- Strengthen the ability of the criminal Justice system to respond to the problem; and
- Support data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

The Department of Justice (hereafter referred to as DOJ or “the Department”) contributes to this ultimate objective of reducing the occurrences of family violence by focusing on improving the criminal justice legal framework and system response to family violence through policy

² Phase I and Phase II overlapped for one year. Phase II was initially supposed to end in 1994/95, but when program funding sunset on March 31, 1995, the Cabinet Committee on Social Development approved a one-year extension, though no resources were approved. In February 1996, Treasury Board confirmed that an amount up to \$7 million per year would be made available on an ongoing basis contingent upon the development of a new policy proposal and demonstration of a clear strategy and justification for the funding. In December 1996, Cabinet approved the renewal of the Family Violence Initiative and funding of \$7 million per year on an ongoing basis.

³ Seven other departments were also given special allocations (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Department of Canadian Heritage, Health Canada, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Statistics Canada and Status of Women Canada). Each member reports annually on progress towards the overall objective of the FVI and these individual reports are coordinated by Health Canada to provide an annual performance report to Treasury Board.

development, criminal law reform, research, grants and contributions in support of family violence projects and the development of public legal education materials.

This report on the Justice component of the FVI draws on the results of existing evaluation studies and annual performance reports to assess the relevance, success and cost-effective use of Departmental funds of the Justice component of the Family Violence Initiative and synthesizes the evidence from two stub-studies recently completed for the Department. This report provides a summary of activities completed to date, to indicate progress towards meeting desired outcomes, to identify lessons learned, and to suggest changes to DOJ approaches that will improve the Department's response to family violence in Canada.

1.2 Evaluation Issues

The overall focus of this report is to:

- assess the relevance of the Department's continued involvement in the area of family violence and interdepartmental efforts to respond to the issue;
- explore the extent to which the Department of Justice component has achieved its objectives and intended effects;
- determine the extent to which Departmental efforts contributed to the success of the overall federal Initiative; and
- assess the perceived cost-effectiveness of the interdepartmental approach, and the role of the Department, in further understanding and responding to family violence in Canada.

In keeping with Treasury Board requirements, the focus of the evaluation of the DOJ component of the FVI is on three principal issues, including program relevance, success, and cost-effectiveness. In total, 31 evaluation questions were identified in the Evaluation Framework⁴ and these formed the basis for this report.

⁴ Department of Justice Canada's Component of the Family Violence Initiative 1997/98-2001/02, Evaluation Framework, May 2001, Evaluation Division, Policy Integration and Coordination Section.

a) Program Relevance

The issue of program relevance is an important one to consider when evaluating the future direction of the FVI within the DOJ, and also for decisions about the future role of DOJ in the federal Initiative. The evaluation of program relevance addresses the following questions:

- Is there a continuing need for action on the part of the Department to improve the criminal justice system's (CJS) response to family violence?
- Is there a need to continue all of the activities funded under the departmental component of the federal Family Violence Initiative?
- Has the policy environment concerning family violence issues and the criminal justice system changed?
- To what extent are the objectives and mandate of the Justice component of the Family Violence Initiative still relevant?
- What should be the purpose and scope of the Department's involvement in the area of family violence?
- Is there a continuing need for a coordinated interdepartmental initiative in the area of family violence?
- Is there a continuing need for the Department of Justice Canada to participate in a federal initiative to address family violence issues?

b) Success

The range of "success" issues addressed here pertains largely to intended impacts and effects for which the Department is held accountable in its participation as an integral member of the federal FVI. The core questions for this segment of the evaluation are:

- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI contributed to the development of efficient and coordinated criminal justice policies and programs concerning family violence issues?
- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI contributed to effective interventions in family violence situations?
- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI contributed to community support for proven family violence prevention, intervention and protection measures?
- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI contributed to the protection of family violence victims/witnesses?

- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI contributed to a strengthened criminal justice system response to family violence?
- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI increased the responsiveness of the criminal justice system to family violence?
- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI increased public awareness of family violence issues?
- To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI provided policy and legal advice that has assisted decision-makers and other players in enhancing the criminal justice system's response to family violence?
- To what extent has research and information created through the Department of Justice Canada contributed to the policy development and decision making process within the criminal justice system, on issues related to the prevention and reduction of family violence?
- To what extent has the Department of Justice Canada's work in developing, implementing, testing and assessing models, strategies and tools improved the criminal justice system's response to family violence?
- To what extent has the Department of Justice Canada's work in supporting the development and delivery of public legal education and information to the Canadian public on family violence contributed to the prevention and reduction of the incidence of family violence?
- Has the current model of intersectoral, multi-disciplinary partnership and collaboration contributed to the success of the Department's component of the FVI? If so, how?
- Are adequate processes and systems in place to plan, organize, implement, monitor and report on the Department's component of the FVI?
- Have there been any unintended impacts (positive or negative) of the Department's family violence activities?
- What lessons have been learned as a result of the Department's component of the FVI?

c) Cost Effectiveness

The third issue under investigation for this report requires some assessment of perceived cost-effectiveness. The concept of cost-effectiveness largely pertains to the extent to which the Department is making effective and efficient use of available funds. Given this understanding, the report addresses the following evaluation questions:

- Was the distribution of program resources across all four program elements optimal for objectives achievement?
- Are the program elements efficient and cost-effective ways to obtain the intended results?

- Is the current intradepartmental approach to addressing family violence an efficient way to improve the responsiveness of the criminal justice system to family violence issues?
- Is the current interdepartmental approach to addressing family violence an efficient way of addressing family violence issues?
- Was the distribution of program resources sufficient to ensure efficient and effective coordination of Family Violence Initiative activity,
 - Within the Department?
 - With the federal Family Violence Initiative?
 - With other key players (e.g. provincial and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations (NGO's))
- Were resources allocated to coordination and liaison sufficient to effectively manage the Department of Justice Canada's Family Violence Initiative component, in accordance with established priorities?
- To what extent did the Department contribute FVI resources to other elements of the federal Initiative and what was the value added of this partnership approach?
- Do the results achieved justify continued investment?
- Could the same or better results have been achieved by an alternative, more cost-effective approach? (within the Innovations, Analysis and Integration Section, Programs Branch)

1.3 Methodology

This report draws on three lines of evidence, listed below, and draws on the information contained therein to provide a review of activities carried out under the Family Violence Initiative of the Department of Justice. Wherever possible outcome results were culled from these sources. The limitations of the information contained in these sources are reviewed in section 1.4.

The three lines of evidence:

- a) the results of a number of studies that reviewed the effectiveness of selected activities under the DOJ component of the FVI in some detail
- b) key informant interviews regarding the effectiveness of the overall operation of this Component and
- c) annual program performance reports on the DOJ component of the Interdepartmental FVI.

The key lines of evidence are described below:

a) Evaluation Studies of Selected FVI Activities

Evaluative research conducted by the Department on selected activities, publications or projects was examined for this report. These documents included:

- *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings* (March 2000). Needs assessment studies for public legal education and information materials related to family violence were conducted in seven jurisdictions in Canada in 1999. While there were variations in the study methodologies, their common objective was to identify gaps in available public information and recommend future resource needs. The studies were carried out by provincial public legal education organizations and involved research activities such as interviews, focus groups and surveys with social service providers and victims of family violence. A synthesis of the results of all of the studies was subsequently compiled.
- *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* (March 2000). This review examined three public information documents produced by the Department, including *Abuse is Wrong in Any Language* (1995), *Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal Harassment* (1996) and *Peace Bonds* (1996). The study was undertaken to assess the effectiveness of distribution methods for the publications and the quality and effectiveness of the publications themselves. The methodological approach was based on: 1) a compilation of the extent and manner of distribution of the publications by PLEI organizations; 2) interviews with selected PLEI organizations and key agencies involved in domestic violence in three jurisdictions; 3) telephone interviews with 200 service agencies in these jurisdictions; and 4) a series of six test groups with end users of the documents (composed of women in abusive relationships or with women representing the target group for the publication) that attempted to test the effectiveness of the publications in improving readers' accuracy of their understanding of the key messages in the publications.
- Feedback survey findings on the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*, conducted in January 2001: The *Handbook* was distributed to Crown Attorney's offices, police forces, RCMP, justice policy officers and other Justice System users. The feedback survey obtained views about the quality of the *Handbook*, how and to what extent the *Handbook* is being used and what improvements might be made in future editions. In total, 122 feedback forms were completed and analysed.
- Summary Report on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse Materials (2001). This study involved: 1) an evaluation of the DOJ booklet *The Secret of the Silver Horse* (SOSH) based

on a survey of practitioners who had received the booklet (including a self-administered survey of 95 professionals and follow-up telephone surveys with a sub-sample of 18 professionals), a study of selected children and their families and an assessment of distribution of and demand for the booklet; and 2) a review of child sexual abuse prevention literature to determine availability of other materials on prevention of child sexual abuse, evaluations of the success of these programs and components that are associated with success. The latter component was undertaken with a view to assessing the need for further redesign and dissemination of the SOSH in light of currently available alternatives and current thinking in this area.

- An examination of selected project files. For this study, five projects were selected to represent various activities of the Justice component of the FVI. The methodological approach for the case studies included a review of project documentation and files and between three and five key informant interviews for each case. The interviews were conducted with project personnel, DOJ staff and others involved with the projects. A profile of the five case studies is as follows:

Program Element	Project Selected	Funding Type
Policy Development	Development of <i>Criminal Harassment : A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors</i> to assist police and Crown prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting cases of criminal harassment. Second Federal/Provincial/Territorial Forum on Spousal Abuse, held in 2001 to exchange information and identify emerging issues in spousal abuse among senior criminal justice officials from policing, prosecution, victims' services, corrections and policy sectors.	Contract Contract
Policy Research	<i>Women Speak</i> , which examined the effects of research on subjects and other participants and the usefulness of the community-based research approach used in the 1997 Ontario Rural Woman Abuse Study	Contract
Project Development	<i>Let's Talk About Touching</i> program, specifically design and renewed delivery of a sexual abuse education and prevention program for young children.	Contribution
Public Legal Education	Mitouni Kiywmashtayw – <i>The Silence is Deep</i> Phase III, which involved development of a family violence awareness training kit to train women to conduct workshops in Métis communities on the issue of domestic violence.	Contribution

b) Key Informant Interviews

General feedback on the overall operation of the Justice Component of the FVI was gathered through a series of key informant interviews. In total, 37 interviews were completed with key

informant respondents. The interviews were scheduled during February and March, 2002. All interviews were conducted by telephone. The duration of interviews was between 30 and 90 minutes.

Key informant interview respondents included: Department of Justice staff involved in the FVI; representatives of Departmental linkage areas (e.g., Youth Justice, National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC), Policy Centre for Victims Issues, Aboriginal Justice); representatives of the FVI Interdepartmental Working Group; non-governmental organizations and other project partners; and members of the F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee on Spousal Assault. The key informant interview questions are appended to this report (Appendix A).

c) Performance Reports

Each of the program elements under the Justice component of the FVI prepares performance reports on an annual basis. These reports include: a summary of each activity or project undertaken during the fiscal year, the status of the project, budget commitment, partner organizations and their contribution where relevant, the intended client groups of the activity, outputs and intended results.

1.4 Caveats

Several study caveats should be noted. First, there are measurement difficulties associated with many of the intended outcomes. For example, reduced tolerance for family violence and, by extension, prevention and reduction of family violence presents a significant measurement challenge given the vagaries in reporting and recording incidences of family violence and changes in public tolerance and definitions of family violence over time. Second, the extent to which changes or improvements in intended outcomes can be attributed to the Department's component of the FVI specifically is questionable. While the Department is certainly the key player in reform of criminal legislation, the provinces are responsible for the administration of justice. As well, the Department of Justice is one of many contributors in other areas such as research, public education and information, and intervention (see footnote 2). Finally, this summary report synthesizes information from various lines of evidence. These lines of evidence, described in Section 1.3, offer very detailed information on some activities, but not others, particularly on grants and contributions projects and research projects. Moreover, much of the available evaluation evidence on the Department's component of the FVI overall and on selected activities is based on qualitative and subjective information (e.g., key informant interviews and

descriptive case study information) or on quantitative information based on small sample sizes. Therefore, the assessment of program outcomes, in particular, is limited.

1.5 Organization of the Report

This report is organized into six chapters. The second chapter provides a description of the Justice component of the FVI. Chapter Three presents findings pertaining to the issue of program relevance. Chapter Four examines the issue of program success. Cost-effectiveness and alternatives (suggested improvements) are considered in Chapter Five. Chapter Six provides overall concluding observations and highlights key themes.

2. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

2.1 Background

The FVI came into being in 1988. In 1996, after an evaluation of Phase II of the Initiative, the decision was taken to renew the Initiative and provide A-Base funding. The federal government made a long-term commitment to reduce family violence in Canada. The main objective of the federal Family Violence Initiative, as stated in the FVI Interdepartmental Accountability Framework, is “to reduce family violence in the Canadian population, particularly as it relates to women and children in Canada [through]: 1) promoting public awareness of the risk factors of family violence and the need for public involvement in the response to family violence; 2) strengthening the ability of the criminal justice and housing systems to respond to family violence; and 3) supporting data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions”.

Through the first two phases of the FVI, it had been determined that the best way to address family violence is to support a common vision and a coordinated approach. Through this phase of the Initiative, Health Canada has had lead responsibility for coordination of the FVI.⁵ There is an Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) composed of representatives from all departments involved.

2.2 Objectives

As part of its role within the interdepartmental structure of the FVI, the Department of Justice reviews, researches and reforms criminal justice legislation and policy, funds community-based

⁵ The other departments that are involved in the FVI in addition to Justice Canada are: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, RCMP, Canadian Heritage, Status of Women Canada and Statistics Canada. Additionally, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Correctional Service of Canada and the Department of National Defence address family violence issues through existing departmental programs and activities.

family violence projects and provides public legal education and information support regarding family violence. In this third phase of the FVI, the Department has four main objectives:

- to promote continued public awareness of the causes of family violence;
- to promote public involvement in the response to family violence;
- to strengthen the ability of the criminal justice system to respond to the problem; and
- to support data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

2.3 DOJ FVI Elements

The Department's component of the FVI is comprised of five interrelated program elements: Policy and Legal Advice, Policy Research, Project Development, Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) and Evaluation. The activities of each over the five years of the initiative are listed in appendices B through F. The following is a short description of each of these elements.

a) Policy and Legal Advice

The specific mission of Policy and Legal Advice under the FVI is to provide policy and legal advice that will assist decision-makers and other players to enhance the criminal justice system's response to family violence. Policy and Legal Advice is the cornerstone component of the Department's participation in the FVI, with additional responsibility for co-ordination. The work focuses on two aspects of criminal justice: the substance of criminal law (i.e., adequacy of current provisions to address family violence); and implementation of law (practical enforcement of laws, including strengthening and sensitizing the criminal justice system's response to family violence).

Policy and Legal Advice is carried out by officials in the Family, Children and Youth Section. Key tasks include:

- analyzing policy related to family violence and identifying links with other policy issues;
- collaborating in family violence policy research;
- developing policy advice (options, alternatives) and recommending new policies or changes to existing policy;
- developing policy products, such as public consultation documents, policy statements, guidelines and protocols;

- disseminating policy information and research findings;
- monitoring legislative developments and assessing the potential implications for family violence;
- working to implement and support legal measures;
- preparing legal briefings and opinions and proposing changes to the law;
- providing litigation support for the federal government on relevant cases;
- working with provincial and territorial partners to develop integrated policy on family violence issues, where possible; and
- participating in the Family Violence Initiative's Interdepartmental Working Group.

Examples of specific activities and products have been drawn from annual performance reports and through key informant interviews with departmental personnel. In the area of legal measures, examples of recent *Criminal Code* reforms include those pertaining to criminal harassment (Bill C-126) (1993), child sexual exploitation (Bill C-27), and modifications to the use of Peace Bonds (Bill C-42). To support the implementation of Bill C-126 and subsequent amendments, a *Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors on Criminal Harassment* was developed.

Working with provincial and territorial partners is a key focus, and representatives from Policy and Legal Advice co-chair the Ad Hoc F/P/T Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation. The Department organized and hosted two F/P/T Forums on Spousal Abuse, in 1998 and 2001.

Another example of activities includes the Children as Victims in the Criminal Justice System Project, which, in consultation with other F/P/T officials and experts, is examining the need for revised offences against children and examining other issues such as children's testimony, age of consent to sexual activity, and sentencing to protect children.

Finally, Policy and Legal Advice staff participate in international discussions and activities around family violence, including, for example, negotiation on the *Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*, adopted in May 2000. The Department also participates in international family violence conferences including those sponsored by the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations.

b) Policy Research

Policy Research's specific mission under the FVI is to provide nationally-relevant, high quality research and information to guide policy development and decision-making within the criminal justice system on issues related to the prevention and reduction of family violence. Three types of research are undertaken: research on issues related to family, children and youth; research on the criminal law; and statistical and methodological research on family violence issues (e.g., polling, environmental scanning).

The Research and Statistics Division carries out these activities. The Division:

- supports research studies on family violence issues;
- conducts and supports research on the application of the criminal law in cases of family violence;
- collects relevant data and analyzes survey results;
- generates and disseminates research and statistical reports on family violence;
- conducts environmental scans on family violence issues; and
- liaises with the Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada concerning survey design, collection and analysis of national survey data on family violence

Examples of recent research projects include: literature review and compilation of policies related to mandatory charging and prosecution in spousal abuse cases; examination of femicide trends and, in particular, explanation of reasons for apparent declines in these rates, assessment of the impacts of the 1994 peace bond reforms; analysis of Statistics Canada data on impact on children who witness family violence, and on spousal violence after separation; pilot testing of the International Violence Against Women Survey; and Child Victimization Data analysis. These research activities typically lead to publications (e.g., in the Statistics Canada publication *Juristat*), research papers, and background working papers.

c) Project Development

The Project Development element under the FVI supports the development, implementation, testing and assessment of models, strategies and tools to improve the criminal justice system response to family violence.

The Programs Branch carries out these activities through grants and contributions and through contract work. Key tasks are:

- engages other levels of government, non-governmental organizations, front-line services and members of the public in broad-based partnerships;
- supports the partnerships to implement projects to reduce family violence;
- analyzes the results of these projects; and
- disseminates information about project results and lessons learned.

In addition to being consistent with the overall objectives of the FVI and the Grants and Contributions funding guidelines, funded projects must also:

- enhance knowledge of, and inform Canadians and the legal community about, family violence issues;
- promote access to justice, equality and human rights in Canada through:
 - partnerships, consultation, research and information development and dissemination, or through;
 - development, testing and implementation of new, cost-effective, multi-disciplinary approaches, models and pilot projects to improve service delivery for women and children who are victims of family violence;
- promote the development and implementation of legislative and socio-legal reforms; and
- support the development, testing and implementation of new, innovative and multidisciplinary programs, approaches and models that facilitate community involvement and increase protection from family violence for women and children who are victims of family violence.

Recent examples of projects funded under this element of the FVI include: evaluation of the PEI *Family Violence Act*; design and implementation of a training program for Aboriginal Prevention Educators (*Walking the Prevention Circle*); report on the International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth (1998); conferences (e.g., Second National Conference on Elder Abuse, Violence Against Aboriginal Women conference); school-based anti-violence program that involves workshops to train Education Assistants as family violence facilitators; research projects (reasons for recanting of testimony by female victims of domestic violence, tracking and assessment of policies and procedures of police-reported domestic violence cases); redesign of a prevention program for children on child sexual abuse to address cultural diversity and children with special needs (*Let's Talk About Touching*). The single largest project funded under the DOJ FVI fund is development of a communications linkage between sexual assault centres to improve

capacity and responsiveness to the needs of women and children victims of family violence⁶. This five-year project, due for completion in 2002, is also funded by the National Centre for Crime Prevention.

d) Public Legal Education and Information

The specific mission of the PLEI under the FVI is to support the development and delivery of public legal education and information to the Canadian public on family violence to contribute to the prevention and reduction of the incidence of family violence by promoting the public involvement in responding to family violence. PLEI materials are targeted to or used by: PLEI organizations, victim/witness assistance programs, social services organizations, criminal justice professionals, those who are in a situation of family violence and the general public.

The PLEI activities are carried out through grants and contributions and through contract work (managed by the Innovations, Analysis and Integration Directorate, Programs Branch). These activities are intended to:

- identify the need for public information materials on family violence;
- support the development of resources, such as fact sheets, brochures, training programs and workshops;
- work with Public Legal Education and Information organizations across Canada to deliver public legal education and information on family violence issues; and
- conduct needs assessments and collect performance information on the use of PLEI materials.

One of the activities of DOJ PLEI has been to produce a series of booklets on legal issues related to family violence for the general public. These publications include, for example, *Abuse is Wrong in Any Language* (developed for Immigrant women) and *Abuse is Wrong in Any Culture* (developed for Aboriginal women). In addition to its own publications, the Department also funds the development of other PLEI publications and provides further support for revision, translation and printing in various languages and dialects.

Examples of other recent projects funded under the PLEI component include: needs assessment (in seven jurisdictions) for public legal education materials on family violence; development of a training module for Train-the-Trainer sessions for prevention and intervention of violence

⁶ Creating a National Link between Front-Line Legal Educators/Researchers on Anti-Violence Centres

against Métis women for use by Métis communities; pilot testing and evaluation of a counselling program for children of parents in a high conflict divorce; literature review to identify the needs of rural communities and Aboriginal communities for family violence PLEI materials; inventory of best practices for dissemination of PLEI family violence information in rural areas; Violence Against Women 20th Anniversary Symposium; information awareness campaign in Quebec secondary schools on dating violence; senior's resource guide to raise awareness of legal issues including elder abuse; development of an FVI site on the DOJ website and development and testing of an interactive bilingual website for youth to raise awareness of family violence and dating violence (Healthy Relationships Website and Educating on Family Violence Website).

e) Evaluation

The Evaluation Division supports the collection and reporting of performance information in accordance with the FVI Accountability and Reporting Frameworks, undertakes studies on the effectiveness of DOJ-FVI activities, and participates in the IEWG (Interdepartmental Evaluation Working Group).

2.4 Key Results

The Department has identified eight key results that it expects to derive through its efforts under this component of the FVI:

- effective interventions in family violence situations;
- community support for prevention, intervention and protection measures;
- protection of family violence victims/witnesses;
- strengthened criminal justice system response to family violence;
- improved responsiveness of the criminal justice system to family violence;
- increased public awareness of family violence issues;
- reduced tolerance for family violence; and
- development of efficient and coordinated criminal justice policies and programs concerning family violence issues.

2.5 Resources

The interdepartmental FVI budget is \$7 million annually, of which \$1.45 million is allocated to the Justice component. Table 2.1 presents the breakdown of DOJ resources by program element. The distribution of resources across the five elements is: Policy and Legal Advice (27 per cent); Policy Research (12 per cent); Project Development (29 per cent); PLEI (32 per cent); and Evaluation (1.5 per cent). Table 2.2 presents the breakdown of Departmental resources for the FVI by object of expenditure.

TABLE 2.1
Resources by Program Element

Program Element	FY 97-98 and ongoing
Policy Development	\$388,000
Policy Research	\$169,650
Project Development	\$413,250
Public Legal Education	\$457,101
Program Evaluation	\$22,000
Total	\$1,450,000

TABLE 2.2
Resources by Object of Expenditure

Object of Expenditure	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 & Ongoing
FTEs	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64	4.64
Salaries and EBP	\$325,047	\$325,047	\$325,047	\$325,047	\$325,047	\$325,047
O&M	\$619,046	\$527,228	\$527,228	\$527,228	\$559,228	\$527,228
Total Vote 1 Operating Expenditures	\$944,093	\$852,275	\$852,275	\$852,275	\$884,275	\$852,275
Total Vote 5 Contributions	\$220,000	\$597,725	\$597,725	\$597,725	\$565,725	\$597,725
Total	\$1,164,093	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000

In terms of leveraging of contributions from sources outside of the FVI, the nature of contributions differs according to the program elements. In the Policy and Legal Advice and Policy Research areas, for example, leveraging occurs largely in the form of in-kind contributions from partners who provide their time and expertise to committees, forums and consultations. Partners making these contributions include non-FVI Department staff, representatives from other federal government departments, provincial and territorial officials and non-governmental partners.

In terms of the Project Development and PLEI elements, funded projects may leverage both financial and in-kind contributions. Table 2.3 presents an overview of DOJ contributions under Grants and Contributions and PLEI, as well as accompanying contributions from partners. Partner organizations in these cases include, for example, other Justice linkage areas (such as the NCPC), other federal government departments or agencies (e.g., Status of Women, Health Canada) and non-governmental partners.

These data indicate that expenditures under the Project Development and PLEI program elements vary substantially depending on the nature and size of funded projects during the year. Partner contributions in many cases exceed the Departmental FVI contribution. Moreover, contributions are typically in the form of financial contributions and in-kind contributions make up a proportionately smaller share of overall leveraging.

**TABLE 2.3
Leveraging of Funds: Project Development and PLEI**

Program Element	DOJ	Partner Contributions	
		Financial	In-Kind
Project Development			
1999-00	\$501,279 ¹	\$786,356 ²	\$6,000
2000-01	\$258,000	\$441,964	\$35,980
2001-02	\$332,714	\$271,500	\$40,400
Public Legal Education and Information			
1999-00	\$407,919 ³	\$423,324	\$16,480
2000-01	\$165,159 ⁴	\$108,922	\$15,000
2001-02	\$287,717 ⁵	\$190,000	\$30,000
Source: FVI DOJ Performance Report Tables, PLEI and Grants and Contributions, 2000 and 2001, 1. Includes \$28,000 from 98/99 2. Includes \$640,155 from the National Film Board 3. Includes \$119,800 in contracts and \$48,906 from 98/99 4. Includes \$84,680 in contracts 5. Includes \$57,870 in contracts			

2.6 Related Initiatives and Linkages

a) Departmental

In addition to its FVI activities, the Department of Justice also undertakes a range of activities that have either a direct or indirect impact on reducing family violence. Of particular note from the perspective of improving the justice system’s response to family violence are the following strategies, initiatives or activities:

- National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) responsible for the implementation of Phase II of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention;
- The Firearms Initiative;

- The Victims of Crime Initiative;
- The Aboriginal Justice Strategy;
- Restorative Justice; and
- Diversity and Gender Equality.

b) Federal/Provincial/Territorial Relationships

While the Department and the federal government are responsible for changes to the *Criminal Code*, provincial and territorial governments are responsible for their implementation. The Department, therefore, works in close collaboration with its provincial and territorial counterparts to ensure national understanding and consistency in the areas of criminal justice policy development, law reform and protocol development pertaining to family violence. As mentioned above, two F/P/T Forums on Spousal Abuse and the resulting establishment of a Working Group are examples of mechanisms for interjurisdictional collaboration and opportunities for coordination of policy decisions.

c) Other Linkages

The Department of Justice also has formal and informal linkages with NGOs, professional associations, the private sector and interest groups. This may include consultations with women's groups or committee hearings for new legislative initiatives, as well as support for programs. These consultations occur on a project-by-project and/or issue-by-issue basis. The Department also consults and collaborates with international bodies such as the United Nations and other governments in the development of international mechanisms such as protocols to address family violence-related issues.

3. RELEVANCE

A key component of the evaluation of the Justice Component of the FVI was to assess relevance largely in terms of continued need for action in the family violence area and the ongoing relevance of the objectives and mandate as they are currently articulated. In addition, the relevance of the FVI was explored in terms of the Department's participation in the interdepartmental approach to address family violence. Finally, relevance considers the FVI in terms of the broader environment, including issues such as co-ordination of activities and extent of overlap or duplication with other initiatives. The key informant interviews are the primary source of evidence to address these questions.

3.1 Continuing Need

Key informants were asked whether they believe the mandate and objectives of the Justice component of the FVI are still relevant and whether there is a continued need for action on the part of DOJ to improve the criminal justice response to family violence. Key informants both within Justice and outside the Department believe the objectives and mandate of this FVI component to still be relevant. Further, there was a general consensus that there is a continuing need for action to address the criminal justice response to family violence. According to many key informants, criminal law cannot be static, but rather must respond to changes in the social understanding and expectations around family violence, new research, evolution of broader trends in criminal justice and gaps or short-comings in the legal/policy framework that emerge.

Key Issues and Emerging Trends:

Key informants and the Department's own documentation suggested a number of key issues and emerging trends in the family violence area that merit the attention of the Department in future. These include, for example:

- the effectiveness of mandatory charging policies as they are implemented in the provinces/territories in practice;
- the effectiveness of legislative reforms;
- the effectiveness of interventions for offenders;
- the need to tailor efforts to address family violence issues to specific population groups and settings;
- the need to expand the focus to include lesser-recognized forms of family violence such as financial abuse of elderly people;
- the high attrition of spousal abuse cases in court, due to victim recanting of testimony;
- the training of criminal justice personnel;
- the need for greater collaboration and communication among service providers dealing with family violence;
- the use of alternative measures such as circle sentencing and family group conferencing;
- the impact on children of exposure to spousal abuse; and
- raising public awareness of family violence issues and new legislative provisions.

The relevance of the Justice component of the FVI is supported by provincial/territorial partners who were canvassed in the key informant interviews. Provinces and territories have a significant stake given their responsibility for administration of justice. There is a high level of collaboration and participation of provinces and territories in reform of the CJS response to family violence, bilaterally and through the F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee on Spousal Assault (though many provincial/territorial representatives were unfamiliar with the FVI itself). Provincial/territorial support to improve the criminal justice response to family violence is strong, but influenced by the distinct political climate in each province, meaning that directions for reform and areas of interest are not all the same. As well, while provincial/territorial representatives express interest and willingness for reform, action is constrained in some jurisdictions by lack of available resources and competing priorities. Nevertheless, there is broad interest among F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee members that the work of the Committee continue.

Few key informants were sufficiently familiar with the Department's FVI component to comment on the relevance of the internal organizational structure and program elements. Among those able to respond (largely Departmental representatives), the current configuration of the Justice component – which includes the five elements relating to policy, research, project development, public legal education and information, and evaluation – was generally perceived to be appropriate and no significant changes were deemed to be required in the basic structure (though the substance of activities will evolve as current issues do). The core elements are each

viewed as integral to making possible a co-ordinated, strategic and informed response to family violence. As mentioned above, Policy and Legal Advice is the cornerstone of the DOJ FVI activities. Research provides the underpinning for policy work by identifying trends and gaps or providing follow-up research or evaluation of policy change. Funding of projects provides an opportunity to understand how policy can be implemented “on the ground” and PLEI provides the means to ensure broad public understanding of policy and reform through education and training. Ongoing performance measurement and evaluation are used to understand impacts and suggest modifications.

3.2 Interdepartmental Participation and Co-ordination

Participants in the key informant interviews were largely supportive of having a co-ordinated Interdepartmental approach to dealing with the issue of family violence. The issue is characterized as being “complex”, having a multitude of causes and consequences and, therefore, requiring a “holistic response”. Health Canada is the lead department for the Interdepartmental FVI and the means of co-ordination is through the Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG). The various Departmental members of the IWG provide complementary perspectives in understanding and addressing family violence. The Interdepartmental approach is also viewed as providing a way for the federal government to craft a strong, coherent and consistent approach to family violence, and a means to avoid duplication.

Given that incidents of family violence, in many cases, are criminal offences, there is a strong and obvious rationale for the participation of the Department of Justice in the federal government response to family violence. The criminal justice system represents an important mechanism, albeit not the only mechanism, to address family violence. In the view of those directly involved in the IWG, the Justice component makes a key contribution to the FVI through review and reform of legislation, research, public legal education and project activities. Other examples of Justice’s contribution include informing Statistics Canada’s data collection agenda in the area of family violence and sharing information with other departments about current CJS responses to family violence. The DOJ also has prosecutorial responsibilities in the three Territories. Information on all these aspects is shared with other departments who are members of the IWG.

Despite the broad approval for an Interdepartmental approach in theory, the effectiveness of the implementation and co-ordination of this approach in practice is perceived by some key informants at Justice and from other Departments to have waned over time. IWG meetings are irregular, therefore, limiting opportunities for sharing information and learning. In the research

area, there is no formalized multilateral partnership. According to these key informants, the real work of collaboration often occurs outside the structured IWG meetings on a bilateral basis between Departments that have shared interests.

3.3 Other Aspects of Co-ordination

Based on evidence from the key informants, co-ordination among the elements *within* the Justice component of the FVI is perceived to be effective by those familiar with the organizational structure. The group is relatively small in size and, over time, colleagues have now established comfortable working relationships. Heavy workloads were mentioned as a barrier to effective co-ordination, however, in the recent past, Justice FVI meetings have become more regular. This process facilitates planning and co-ordination within the group and supplements informal communication, which is quite open. Increasingly, projects undertaken by the DOJ are funded using resources from more than one program element, which is also suggestive of increased collaboration.

In addition to family violence activities under the FVI, the Department also undertakes a range of activities that have either a direct or indirect impact on family violence. The key linkage areas within the Department include: Youth Justice, Aboriginal Justice, the Policy Centre for Victims Issues and the NCPC. Based on feedback from participants in the key informant interviews, co-ordination between the Justice component of the FVI and other Departmental linkage areas is uneven.

While significant collaboration occurs with the Policy Centre for Victims, workload issues often interfere with co-ordination. There is also a lack of formal means of dialogue and, according to representatives of some linkage areas within the Department, limited awareness of the mandate and activities of the Justice component of the FVI within their area. Finally, areas such as the NCPC are relatively new entities and relationships are not yet fully developed.

Based on evidence from the key informant interviews, co-ordination between the Justice component of the FVI and provincial/territorial governments is viewed as effective by Departmental representatives and is also highly praised by provincial and territorial representatives themselves. The F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee on Spousal Assault is viewed as very effective by all participants and has been instrumental in advancing the areas of investigation and prosecution of family violence crimes. This venue provides opportunities for representatives at the federal level and provincial counterparts to put forward ideas, exchange information and

share experiences with alternative CJS approaches with a view to encouraging effectiveness and consistency. Lack of resources for participation in the Committee is an issue at the provincial level, though this has not impeded work to date as the Department has provided assistance to provinces in this area.

Feedback on co-ordination between DOJ and project partners and NGOs is mixed. Participants in the key informant interviews, both from the DOJ and from partners, generally viewed co-ordination as working well. Interviewees from funded projects, however, observed that communication between project funding recipients and the DOJ could be improved. Lack of communication was found in some instances to have “hampered the efficient and timely execution of some project activities”.

Partners and NGOs who participated in the key informant interviews favoured the Department taking a more active role to facilitate co-ordination *among* services providers. There is a sense that there is a broad variety of programming in the family violence area being undertaken; yet organizations do not feel they have sufficient access to materials or research on these projects. According to these key informants, access to information through activities such as an inventory of projects or best practices would be highly valuable.

Similar issues were raised in the *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings* where a need for systematic communications and coordination among agencies and an infrastructure to support information exchange was identified. Further, the need for stronger linkages was mentioned: between those who develop family violence materials and services agencies and end-users; among different levels of government; between different social service organizations, between federal producers of PLEI materials and provincial and local sources.

3.4 Overlap, Duplication and Complementarity

Based on comments from interviews with key informants, the Justice activities in the area of family violence are perceived to complement the work of other federal Departments that share responsibility for the FVI. Departmental mandates are clearly defined and there is a high level of collaboration to avoid any duplication or overlap.

Respondents within Justice noted the potential for overlap between the activities of the FVI and other linkage areas within the Department, however. The problems with co-ordination and

communication with linkage areas discussed above translate into the potential for overlap and duplication (i.e., with the NCPC, Aboriginal Justice and Youth).

There is perceived to be a high degree of complementarity between federal and provincial efforts in the family violence area, owing to the collaboration of the F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee. At the level of legislation and policy there is effective information sharing and co-ordination. One respondent noted, however, that in keeping with provincial jurisdiction over child welfare (e.g., social services, Children's Aid Society), provinces should also have responsibility for protection of child victims of family violence.

The potential for duplication is greater for the Department's funded projects, particularly for PLEI materials. Project partners and NGOs who participated in the key informant interviews noted that DOJ's funded projects can sometimes overlap with provincial/territorial efforts. Similarly, the *Review of Effectiveness of Three DOJ PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* found that distribution of DOJ publications by provincial PLEI organizations was limited because "there were already similar materials available that had been developed provincially, and that they were considered by the PLEI organizations to be more applicable and useful". Given that PLEI organizations produce a wide variety of pamphlets and information materials, the participants in this review felt that while duplication could be avoided through better coordination of federal and provincial activities, duplication likely could not be eliminated entirely. Nevertheless, the report concluded that the substantial amount of information that is common across jurisdictions should provide a shared foundation to reduce redundant work by each jurisdiction.

4. SUCCESS

Eight key results indicators, identified by the Department, were used to measure the overall success of the Justice component of the FVI (see Section 2.4). The review of program documentation and information from various lines of evidence (described in Section 1.3) were used to develop a list of products and activities undertaken with funding from the FVI, assess the quality of a selection of these products, as well as examine how activities contribute to achieving program objectives.

4.1 Products

The Justice component of the FVI generates a broad variety of products. In the Policy and Legal Advice area, for example, “products” generally include criminal law reform and policy papers and decisions. Examples of *Criminal Code* reforms are in the areas of criminal harassment (new legislation and amendments), mandatory charging policies and legislation pertaining to female genital mutilation. One of the most frequently mentioned products from the Policy area is the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*. This document represents a new direction for the FVI in providing practical support to provinces and territories in the administration of new legislation. Two F/P/T Forums on Spousal Abuse (1998 and 2001) are also examples of products generated by the Policy area. Finally, the Policy area has shown international leadership in the area of child sexual exploitation and violence against women, according to key informants within the Department and partners.

In the Research area, there has been significant collaboration with Statistics Canada in the design, collection and analysis of data with respect to family violence. For example, the DOJ component of the FVI partnered with Statistics Canada in the definition and collection of data on spousal abuse on the General Social Survey. These collaborative efforts have led to the release of reports on post-separation violence and declining spousal homicide and publication of results in the *Juristat*. Other examples of products generated by the Research Section for the FVI include: research on consolidation and implications of investigation and prosecution policies on spousal abuse; research support in the ongoing development of a risk assessment tool for law

enforcement officials to evaluate risks to family violence victims; evaluation of provincial legislation for victims of family violence (e.g., in Saskatchewan); research into recanting of testimony during prosecution of family violence cases; and research on the extent/impact of children witnessing family violence.

In terms of Project Development and PLEI, DOJ enters contracts or partnerships with a number of organizations to conduct research, develop family violence-related materials for distribution to the general public and practitioners, sponsor professional conferences and symposia and pilot interventions to support implementation of policy. The largest funded project is with the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres. This project is intended to encourage communications and computer linkages among women's shelters and assault centres and to standardize and improve services for victims.

The key informant interviews with project partners and NGOs, the examination of selected project files and the review of Department program documentation yielded the following examples of knowledge and products funded under the Justice Project component of the FVI:

- Pamphlets, brochures, booklets, information guides developed by the Department (e.g., *Abuse is Wrong in Any Language* and *Abuse is Wrong in Any Culture, Peace Bonds, Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal Harassment*, and *The Secret of the Silver Horse*);⁷
- Pamphlets, brochures, booklets, information guides developed by PLEI organizations (e.g., *A Safer Place, Abuse of Older Adults, Child Abuse and Neglect, Harassment and Intimidation, New Identities for Victims in Life Threatening Relationships*);
- Training manuals/kits/videos (e.g., *Walking the Prevention Circle, The Silence is Deep – Violence Against Métis Women*);
- Workshops/interventions (e.g., mentoring program for men in rural areas, piloting of a counselling program for adults and children in high conflict divorce, *Let's Talk about Touching* which is a kit for delivery of a sexual abuse education and prevention program for young children);
- conference materials (e.g., for the F/P/T Forums on Spousal Abuse, two binders were provided to participants containing a list of research in the area and a summary of provincial and federal policies and initiatives. Participants also received proceedings of the Forums following completion);
- Public information classes;

⁷ Note that some of these publications were not developed under the current iteration of the FVI, though they continue to be distributed.

- Outreach programs (libraries);
- Q & A guides;
- Presentations;
- Public consultations;
- Databases for tracking materials and service providers;
- Telephone call-in centres and info-lines; and
- Updates and reprints of existing material.

Many products are targeted to specific client groups. DOJ and PLEI organizations strive to make materials that are culturally sensitive and that are accessible to as many groups of Canadians as possible. The Department has recently (February 2002) established a web-site that includes further information on available products. The web-site provides, for example, an inventory of funded projects and other material on legislation pertinent to family violence, research publications and fact sheets on family violence (<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/fm/index.html>).

4.2 Quality of Products

This report is limited in providing an overall assessment of the quality of all the various products generated by the FVI program elements. There are, however, several studies of individual products that examine quality from the perspective of intermediaries and end-users, though these results are not necessarily generalizable to the myriad products of the FVI, including:

1. The Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence
2. The Secret of the Silver Horse
3. Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors
4. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Forum on Spousal Abuse (2001)

The results of these are discussed below:

a) DOJ Publications

The only available assessment of the quality of public education and information products is of DOJ publications. The *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* reviewed three public legal education products - *Abuse is Wrong in Any Language*, *Peace Bonds* and *Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal*

Harassment. These three booklets were first published in 1995/6 as no other similar materials existed at the time, particularly in the case of *Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal Harassment* and *Peace Bonds*. All three booklets received very positive ratings from service agencies and intermediaries with respect to quality (Table 4.1). One-third rated the quality of *Abuse is Wrong* as “excellent” and another 44 per cent rated the publication “very good”. Seven in ten rated the quality of *Stalking* as “very good” or “excellent” and almost two-thirds provided this rating for *Peace Bonds*. In terms of ratings of individual aspects such as clarity, relevance and presentation eight in ten or more service providers indicated that the publications were satisfactory.

TABLE 4.1
Perceived Quality and Usefulness of the DOJ Publications

Statement	Abuse is Wrong	Peace Bonds	Stalking
Overall quality rating			
Excellent	35%	20%	29%
Very good	44%	43%	41%
Good	17%	31%	27%
Fair	4%	6%	3%
Not good	0%	0%	0%
Publications written at appropriate level?	93%	80%	81%
Publications relevant to client needs?	100%	93%	100%
Publications presentation effective?	100%	86%	93%
Source: Telephone Survey of Service Providers (n=200)			

Where service providers noted a weakness in these DOJ publications, this had to do with the generic nature of the publications: “there was a concern expressed...that the publications are national in scope, whereas the information that is of greatest use to clients tends to be province-specific. In some cases it was noted that terminology is used that is not common to all provinces”. Several respondents raised the point that national-level publications do not fulfil a key function, that is, to refer readers to local organizations and resources and provide the specific names, addresses and telephone numbers of these organizations. For some PLEI organizations this was a primary reason that DOJ publications were not actively distributed by them; that is, because they were viewed as not being sufficiently useful. When end-users of the products were asked about their preferences for publications on family violence, they confirmed that “simple

messages focussing on what to do and where to go for help were the most useful – once help has been found, more detail can be provided in a supportive setting”.⁸

Information on the quality of DOJ publications is also available from an evaluation of the publication *The Secret of the Silver Horse* (SOSH) developed in 1989. The purpose of the publication is “to teach children that secrets about sexual abuse should not be kept and that [children] should tell an adult about the abuse”. A companion publication, *What to Do When a Child Tells You of Sexual Abuse* was also developed.⁹ The evaluation found that the majority of practitioners to whom the publication was distributed and who were familiar with the SOSH booklet are using it, with many using the SOSH in conjunction with other prevention activities. Information gathered from practitioners indicated that about one-quarter found the booklet to be “extremely helpful”, about one-quarter “somewhat helpful” and one-quarter helpful when used in conjunction with other materials (the remainder did not respond to the question).

b) Handbook on Criminal Harassment

The *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*, produced in 1999, is a follow-up to the creation of the new offence of criminal harassment in the *Criminal Code* in 1993 and strengthening amendments in 1997. The *Handbook* is a response to the perception that there was inconsistent application/implementation of the new legislation.¹⁰ The document provides police and Crown prosecutors with guidelines to assist them in investigating and prosecuting criminal harassment cases, and to promote an integrated and uniform approach to dealing with this crime. Ultimately, the guidelines are intended to improve public confidence in the criminal justice system. The *Handbook* was developed through the collaboration of federal, provincial and territorial criminal justice officials, in consultation with front line police and Crown prosecutors. Over 3,000 copies of the document were distributed.

As mentioned above, the Department undertook a review of the current *Handbook* in the form of a feedback survey. As well, the *Handbook* was one of the products selected for inclusion in the examination of selected project files and many participants in the key informant interviews also commented on this publication. In general, the *Handbook* was very highly rated by those who

⁸ Note that the booklet on criminal harassment (“Stalking”) has subsequently been revised to reflect a legislative amendment and changes recommended in the review of the booklet.

⁹ This publication was not, however, included in the evaluation of the SOSH.

¹⁰ Interestingly, one of the areas noted by service providers in the *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* was that the way the Criminal Harassment legislation is used by police and the Crown varies by provinces. Respondents indicated that police apply different standards of evidence and there are variations in the kind of information provided to victims about what constitutes sufficient evidence.

responded to the feedback survey form (Table 4.2). Highest ratings are for the clarity of the document; one-third of respondents strongly agreed that the *Handbook* is easy to understand and another 62 per cent agreed with the statement. Similarly, nine in ten agreed or strongly agreed that the overall quality of the *Handbook* is excellent. About 87 per cent of respondents agreed the *Handbook* would be very useful to them in their work (one in five strongly agreed). Seven in ten respondents indicated that the *Handbook* contains information they were not aware of before. One in ten disagreed with this statement and one in five provided a neutral response.

TABLE 4.2
Perceived Quality and Usefulness of the Handbook

Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The Handbook explain the criminal harassment provisions of the Criminal Code in terms that are easy to understand	0%	0%	3%	62%	34%
The overall quality of the Handbook is excellent	0%	0%	9%	63%	27%
The Handbook will be very useful to me in my work	1%	1%	11%	65%	22%
The Handbook contains information I was not aware of before	2%	9%	20%	62%	8%

Source: *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*: Feedback Survey Findings, n=115-117

Respondents who were police officers were asked whether the guidelines for investigating criminal harassment are easy to understand. Crown prosecutors were asked whether the guidelines for Crown Prosecutors are easy to understand. Within each group, one-third of respondents strongly agreed that they were. Combining both strongly agree and agree responses, 85 per cent of prosecutors and 99 per cent of police officers agreed that their respective guidelines are clear.

Key informants interviewed as part of the key informant interviews and examination of selected project files echoed these comments. These individuals also described the publication as clear, useful and comprehensive. The only concern expressed was the extent to which the *Handbook* would stay current given evolutions in policy and legislation and some expressed a desire for a clearer commitment from agencies respecting their actual utilization of the document.

c) F/P/T Forum on Spousal Abuse

The F/P/T Forum on Spousal Abuse (2001) included an evaluative component whereby participants in the Forum were asked to complete a questionnaire following the end of the event. In total, 34 forms were completed.

Overall, the comments provided by participants were very positive. When asked whether the Forum was useful in carrying out their work, participants who responded (31 individuals) unanimously agreed that the materials and contacts were very beneficial. There was also a general consensus that the Forum met its objectives in terms of sharing information on research, best practices and innovative ideas to address the issue of spousal abuse.

Comments were favourable as well with respect to the format of the Forum, with participants praising the mix of formats (e.g., workshops and plenary sessions) and the balance between presentations and group discussion. The majority of participants were also extremely satisfied with the opportunities for networking (82 per cent extremely satisfied – rating of 5 on a 5-point scale), the format of the workshops (76 per cent) and the structure of the agenda (71 per cent). All participants rated the location and facility for the Forum as good or very good.

Table 4.3 summarizes Forum participants' ratings of the usefulness of the various elements of the Forum (note that sample sizes for the ratings are quite small). Most highly rated was the presentation by Statistics Canada on trends and patterns of spousal abuse. The workshops, the materials provided in advance of the Forum and the presentation on Risk Assessment received positive ratings as well. Favourable ratings were provided for the dinner speaker and for the Plenary Discussion of Restorative Justice Issues (26 per cent rated this session extremely useful, though another 47 per cent rated the session very useful – i.e., a rating of 4 on the 5-point scale).

TABLE 4.3
Perceived Usefulness of the F/P/T Forum

Element	% Extremely Useful (rating of 5 on a 5-point scale)
Overview of Trends and Patterns: Presentation by Statistics Canada (n=33)	91%
Workshop: Domestic Violence Courts (n=24)	79%
Presentation on Risk Assessment (n=33)	76%
Workshop: Provincial/Territorial Family Violence Legislation (n=20)	65%
Materials provided in advance of Forum (n=33)	65%
Workshop: Victim Empowerment: Observations and Strategic Responses (n=18)	50%
Dinner Speaker (n=31)	41%
Plenary Discussion of Restorative Justice Issues (n=33)	26%

The Forum participants expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for attending future events of a similar nature. In providing open-ended comments on improvements to future Forums, participants suggested having the Forum on an annual or bi-annual basis, and perhaps extending the conference by one day. Several participants noted the great variety of items and issues that could be discussed in future Forums (e.g., rural access issues, native domestic violence response and research and evaluation).

4.3 Dissemination of Products

Dissemination of products, like the nature of the products themselves, is highly varied. Criminal law reform, by definition, is “disseminated” to all jurisdictions and “up-take” is mandatory. Dissemination of research generally occurs through StatsCan publications (e.g., *Juristat*), direct release to partners, conferences and now on-line through the family violence web-site of the Department of Justice Canada (established in February 2002)¹¹. Dissemination of DOJ publications and the products generated through funded projects is described in more detail below.

¹¹ <http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/fm/index.html>

a) Dissemination of DOJ Publications

The review of the Department's own products – namely, three public legal education booklets – revealed there is limited information regarding extent of distribution and weaknesses in the dissemination strategy. Dissemination of information products is not rigorously tracked by the Department or PLEI organizations. Nor is there any follow-up to ensure that the booklets are being made available to clients. As a result, the evaluation could account for no more than a small proportion of publications compared to the number of copies that are known to have been made. For example, 100,000 copies of *Abuse is Wrong* were printed, however, based on the estimates from DOJ and PLEI organizations only about 9,000 were accounted for in the actual distribution estimates. The report concludes that “large numbers of the publications have been disseminated, but we simply have no idea where”.

Distribution of materials by the Department and PLEI organizations is, for the most part, passive. In other words, dissemination occurs in response to a request for copies of the publications. In some cases, DOJ or PLEI organizations will provide copies at workshops or seminars on relevant topics and make them available to participants. The evaluation found there is no clear agreement in place between the Department and PLEI organizations to actively distribute DOJ PLEI materials. DOJ materials are not included on PLEI organizations' publication lists and are not marketed in any way, unless they were produced by a particular PLEI organization under contract to the Department. This is contrary to the assumption being made by at least some Departmental officials that the PLEI organizations serve as a focal point for the distribution of the Department's PLEI materials. In short, the study concluded that the distribution strategy for the three publications was not well designed to maximize the dissemination of the booklets nationally.

The lack of an active distribution strategy translates into limited visibility of the publications among service deliverers. The survey of agencies conducted as part of the Review of Effectiveness revealed that between three in ten and four in ten ever recalled having copies of the publications and, at the time of the survey, only between 22 and 32 per cent of organizations had a copy of the publication available.

This was confirmed in the *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings*. Several jurisdictions involved in this study noted gaps in the dissemination of federal PLEI materials at the provincial and local levels. In at least two jurisdictions, one half or fewer service providers were familiar with DOJ or PLEI information on family violence.

Responsibility for distribution was identified as lying with those who produce the materials, as service providers do not have the resources to seek out information.

In terms of distribution to the “end users” of the information (that is, those who are themselves in a situation of family violence), a passive approach is predominant. According to the *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence*, the most frequent ways in which clients were offered materials from service agencies were: available for clients to read in the office (71 per cent) and handed out to clients directly (52 per cent). The latter method increases the opportunities and likelihood that clients will peruse and read the publication. On the other hand, the former method – “on the rack” – provides a discreet way for individuals to access information without disclosing the nature of their family situation.

The *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors* was disseminated by the Department. As mentioned above, 3,000 copies were distributed. Receiving the document were: provincial and territorial Crown Attorney’s offices, police forces in urban centres, the RCMP, and federal, provincial and territorial justice policy officers.

With respect to dissemination of the *Secret of the Silver Horse*, the evaluation found the publication to have been widely distributed across Canada, with requests for reprinting continuing. PLEI organizations are not, however, distributing the booklet. The study did not rigorously analyze the number of copies that were distributed and to whom. Nor is there information on the proportion of recipients of the publication who are, in fact, using it. Practitioners who were familiar with the SOSH and who were interviewed in the evaluation of the SOSH, however, expressed concern that the booklet is not available in sufficient quantities and there was some confusion about whether there were charges associated with additional copies of the publication.

b) Dissemination of Products of Funded Projects

This section addresses the dissemination of products generated through funded projects and public legal education and information developed under agreement with local PLEI organizations or other partners. According to key informants, agreements that are established between the Department and suppliers typically include a dissemination strategy that is approved prior to undertaking the project. The strategy outlines the types of products generated, the intended audience and method of dissemination. Often products are translated into multiple languages and alternative formats for persons with disabilities. Final project reports are intended to provide a check on whether the dissemination strategy has unfolded as planned. Tracking of

products and distribution by the Department is perceived to have improved significantly over the last year by DOJ FVI representatives.

Interviewed NGO and partner representatives indicated the following distribution methods:

- according to comments from these respondents, public education and information materials such as brochures and pamphlets are disseminated using a variety of proactive strategies such as mass mail-outs, presentations and forums, and displays at legal offices, courthouses and city halls. Organizations also said they used their networks to distribute materials, for example, through women's shelters, resource centres and victim service providers;
- materials are also distributed in a more reactive way such as on an "upon request" basis. Requests occur through the PLEI offices, for example, or web-sites, information lines or law call-in services; and
- training materials and manuals are circulated within organizations and to their partners. For example, the family violence awareness training kit developed by the *Silence is Deep* project was distributed through Métis National Council of Women affiliates, transition houses, Aboriginal housing projects, Native Friendship Centres, other Métis non-governmental organizations, Métis settlements, other Aboriginal women's groups, the National Library of Canada, the funding partners and community nursing stations. The *Let's Talk about Touching* (LTAT) program was distributed to selected school districts in BC. Of concern for this project is funding cutbacks in the province that have affected the participation of schools and the early childhood education community.

When asked if their materials are reaching their intended audiences, NGOs and partner representatives were confident that the knowledge and materials were being used, based on requests for copies and positive feedback on the materials themselves. Unlike the DOJ publications, there are no formal assessments available of the effectiveness and reach of products generated by funded projects. The examination of selected project files also found that in some cases (i.e., *Women Speak*) intended dissemination strategies such as workshops or publications did not materialize.

4.4 Outcomes

The Department has identified eight key results that it expects to derive through its efforts under this component of the FVI:

- effective interventions in family violence situations;
- community support for prevention, intervention and protection measures;
- protection of family violence victims/witnesses;
- strengthened criminal justice response to family violence;
- improved responsiveness of the criminal justice system to family violence;
- increased public awareness of family violence issues;
- reduced tolerance of family violence; and
- development of efficient and coordinated criminal justice policies and programs concerning family violence issues.

Following is a discussion of each of these results areas and examples of activities contributing to progress in achieving outcomes. As mentioned above (Section 1.4), the available data are limited in measuring effectiveness of activities and in attributing results to the work of the DOJ. The following sections elaborate the activities that have been carried out by the Department's component of the FVI to work toward these eight objectives.

a) Effective interventions in family violence situations

The project file reviews indicated that several projects were intended to contribute to effective interventions in family violence situations. The family violence awareness training kit produced by *The Silence is Deep* project is described in the report as a “good first step” by federal partners and project personnel toward intervention in Métis communities, through the development of culturally specific responses for Aboriginal communities. Future work should include an evaluation of effectiveness and applicability of the kit. Similarly the program to educate children and parents about sexual abuse (*Let's Talk about Touching*) (LTAT) “might make a contribution to increased intervention in cases of family violence” based on the views of key informants and based on what is known from prior research on similar intervention programs. Finally, both the *Handbook on Criminal Harassment* and the F/P/T Forum on Spousal Abuse were thought to contribute to this outcome by encouraging earlier and better-informed police action and discussion of risk assessment tools. However, the extent to which increased discussion and awareness of issues translates into practical effects requires more research.

Key informant interviewees also mentioned both the *Handbook* and the F/P/T Forums as leading to effective interventions because these media consolidate best practices and put forward innovative and informed approaches in dealing with investigation, prosecution and protection of victims and witnesses. Research is seen as contributing to effective intervention by evaluating law and practices and by synthesizing lessons learned.

Interviewees frequently mentioned that *Criminal Code* reforms contribute to effective interventions in family violence situations. Legislation with respect to mandatory charging, female genital mutilation and criminal harassment, for example, provide new means for criminal justice officials to address family violence.

b) Community support for prevention, intervention and protection measures

Community support for prevention, intervention and protection measures occurs primarily through grants and contributions projects and through development of PLEI materials. These projects include, for example, development of educational/information materials for professionals and the general public, or development and testing of interventions. Projects do not routinely undergo evaluations to assess outcomes, however, so their ultimate impact is not known.

The file reviews found that The Silence is Deep project provided a series of tools to increase the capacity of Métis communities to deal with family violence. These tools included a training manual and video for use in workshops on family violence. Enhanced knowledge and understanding generated through these activities was said to have increased community support for measures in the family violence area. In the Women Speak research project, community researchers were trained to study the impacts of participation in family violence research. It was suggested that dissemination of data through these researchers could result in increased community support for prevention, intervention and protection measures. Finally, the pilot test of the LTAT program and the involvement of children, parents, and educators in the prevention of child sexual abuse would raise the profile and thus the support for this prevention activity in the community. To the extent that the LTAT is adopted in other schools or jurisdictions, community support would be maximized.

c) Protection of family violence victims/witnesses

The file reviews and interviews both identified the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors* as making an important contribution to the protection of family violence victims. The *Handbook* supports the criminal code response to stalking and describes the offence and related provisions for protection of victims. The *Handbook* was seen to be effective in increasing the awareness of the charging option among police and prosecutors. Key informants described the document as “timely, welcome and well-used”.

As discussed above, the analysis of the feedback surveys from users of the *Handbook* indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of the document. In terms of the impact of the *Handbook* on criminal harassment investigation and prosecution (and thus, on the protection of victims), the ratings suggest the *Handbook* has a stronger impact on investigation compared to prosecution of this offence. More than eight in ten police officers agreed (one-third strongly) that the guidelines will improve their ability to investigate criminal harassment situations. One in two prosecutors agreed that the guidelines will improve their ability to prosecute. The feedback survey indicated that the *Handbook* has an impact on sensitizing criminal justice officials to the needs of victims; two-thirds of respondents agreed with the statement “The guidelines have improved my awareness of victims’ needs”.

A small number of those surveyed did not believe the *Handbook* to be directly useful to them in their job, largely because the *Handbook* did not add to their knowledge of criminal harassment. Still, the responses indicate that the *Handbook* would “be a useful addition to offices as a reference tool, as a guide to people with less experience in handling criminal harassment cases, and as a direct contribution to training and operations manuals”.

Other examples in which the FVI has contributed to the protection of victims is through collaboration with the Policy Centre for Victims Issues. Joint activities include work on victim protection legislation, policy for new identities for victims who are in life threatening situations, and ensuring that restorative justice policies take the needs of victims of family violence into account.

d) Strengthened/enhanced response and improved responsiveness of the criminal justice system to family violence

The examination of selected project files found that the F/P/T Forum on Spousal Abuse and the F/P/T Ad Hoc Working Group contributed to the development of collaborative policy (though

additional research was suggested as to whether harmonization of policies and practices, in fact, leads to a stronger criminal justice system response). It was also noted that the F/P/T Forum examined family violence legislation and court processes in various jurisdictions, which could lead to improved responsiveness by sharing of practices.

The evaluation of the Forum by participants was very positive. Many participants noted the Forum provided opportunities to network with other jurisdictions and looked forward to similar opportunities in future. The majority of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the structure of the agenda, the format of the workshop and the level of opportunities for networking.

The *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*, by “evening out” knowledge across the country, is expected to lead to more consistent application of the law and thus a strengthened criminal justice response in this area. The process of developing the *Handbook* also helped to strengthen interdepartmental relations, which “may lead to increased responsiveness on the part of the criminal justice system to family violence”. The interest raised in developing handbooks in other topic areas could enhance this contribution.

Key informant interviewees identified other examples where the FVI has contributed to a strengthened criminal justice system response to family violence:

- research work conducted to assess responsiveness and identify trends and gaps in the criminal justice system response. For example, recanting of testimony in prosecution of family violence offences is being studied to understand the family context in prosecution of family violence crimes, as are intervention models for children witnessing violence;
- changes to the *Criminal Code* (e.g., mandatory charging, criminal harassment); and
- work on alternative CJS response such as domestic violence courts.

e) Increased public awareness of family violence issues

Increasing public awareness of family violence issues is perceived to be the key area where the Department’s own PLEI publications and partnerships with provincial public legal education organizations have had an impact through distribution of materials on criminal law reform. The new Justice Canada family violence web-site also makes information on family violence and the CJS response available to the general public.

While DOJ’s funded PLEI projects have not undergone any formal evaluation of impacts and effects, some of the Department’s own publications have been evaluated in terms of their

outcomes; (*Abuse is Wrong in Any Language* (1995), *Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal Harassment* (1996) and *Peace Bonds* (1996)).

According to the *Review of Effectiveness* of these publications, 96 per cent of service providers and 82 per cent of potential end-users of the information materials said the booklets were a useful way to get information across to those who may need help with respect to family violence.

Table 4.3 presents end-users’ ratings of the publications in terms of helping them to understand the subject matter. Between one-third and one-half of participants felt the publication helped them to understand the subject matter a lot (highest for *Abuse is Wrong*). A minority felt the publications did not help their understanding (one in five for *Peace Bonds*).

TABLE 4.3
Perceived Extent to Which the Publications Help Readers Understand the Subject

	Stalking	Peace Bonds	Abuse is Wrong
Helped a lot	33%	44%	52%
Helped a bit	56%	33%	42%
Did not help	11%	22%	6%
Source: Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence, 2000			

The effectiveness of the three publications was further tested in this Review by assessing whether readers were better informed in terms of the key messages that the booklets sought to convey.¹² Interestingly, a high proportion of questions were answered correctly prior to the booklet being read (75 per cent for *Abuse is Wrong*, 79 per cent for *Stalking*, 62 per cent for *Peace Bonds*). The research eliminated cases where a knowledge gain was not possible (i.e., cases in which the correct answers were given both before and after reading). The remaining responses were categorized¹³ in terms of knowledge gained, knowledge “lost” (that is, where reading the booklet caused confusion and the response went from correct to incorrect after reading the booklet, or at least where the booklet did not clarify or reinforce knowledge that was previously uncertain); and no effect (Table 4.4). The extent of knowledge gain is similar across the three publications – for about one-third to four in ten participants, reading the booklets

¹² The methodology involved asking participants a series of factual questions (based on the messages in the booklet) prior to reading the booklet, immediately after reading the booklet and again three to four weeks later.

¹³ “Cases” or “responses” refers to one participant’s test scores for one question in the test, for the three phases.

resulted in a gain in knowledge. The report concludes that “there is some considerable knowledge gain from the reading of the booklets in areas where the readers did not previously have the knowledge”.

TABLE 4.4
Knowledge Gained, Removing “All Correct” Cases

	Stalking	Peace Bonds	Abuse is Wrong
Knowledge gained	35%	33%	40%
Knowledge “lost”	33%	18%	31%
No effect	33%	49%	30%
Source: Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence, 2000			

Further, in the examination of selected project files, each of the projects was believed to have or could have an impact on raising awareness of family violence issues. Results include:

TABLE 4.5
Contribution to Increase Awareness of Family Violence Issues

Project	Results
<i>The Silence is Deep</i>	The review of project documents indicated wide distribution of the training kit to Métis communities, which should contribute to increased awareness (to the extent that it is used in communities)
<i>Women Speak</i>	The project increased community awareness in areas that participated in the original research and knowledge was increased by those involved in the follow-up. Yet, results of the project were not distributed as widely as expected by some project key informants, thus limiting the distribution of information among professionals and the general public.
F/P/T Forum and Ad Hoc Working Group	The Forum and the Working Group increased awareness and knowledge of family violence issues among professionals, though it is uncertain whether this knowledge is passed on to the general public.
<i>Handbook on Criminal Harassment</i>	Provision has been made for public access to the <i>Handbook</i> by making the document available on the Internet, though it is not known the extent to which the public has made use of the document.
LTAT Program	The inclusion of trainers, teachers, early childhood educators and parents in the delivery of the program indicates that its ideas will gain wide distribution. Again, the extent to which the program is adopted in other jurisdictions will determine the magnitude of the impact on public awareness.

f) Contributed to reduced tolerance and the prevention and reduction of family violence

As mentioned at the outset of this report, measuring reduced tolerance and prevention and reduction of family violence and attributing a causal impact to the Department's activities is a difficult exercise and beyond the scope of this project. Neither the file reviews nor interviews were able to offer definitive evidence on the impacts on reducing tolerance for family violence. While many of the projects, activities and reforms are intended to reduce family violence and have the potential to contribute to these results, the effectiveness of interventions is not generally known.

g) Development of efficient and coordinated criminal justice policies and programs concerning family violence issues

The F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee on Spousal Assault was identified by interviewees, in both the file review and the interview exercises, as a key vehicle in developing co-ordinated criminal justice policies across jurisdictions, particularly in the areas of investigation and prosecution of spousal abuse. The committee provides opportunities for discussion and information sharing among provinces/territories and is a forum to learn from one another about alternative approaches to improve standardization and effectiveness. The F/P/T Forums on Spousal Abuse extended participation and consultation on these issues to a broader audience and has been an important catalyst in building interdepartmental linkages.

The *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors* is also believed to have encouraged greater consistency in the application of the criminal harassment legislation across jurisdictions. There is now interest to produce additional practical tools to assist in decision-making around assessment of risk and the administration of other criminal code offences pertaining to family violence.

4.5 Role of Partnerships

According to participants in the key informant interviews, partnerships with other organizations and agencies are perceived to be a key ingredient in the successes achieved by the Justice component of the FVI. Key partners include:

- *other government Departments* that Justice works with on the IWG, as well as on a bilateral basis. Particularly close partnerships have been established with Statistics Canada where there is significant collaboration on research (e.g., analysis of trends in spousal homicide); and the RCMP, Corrections Canada and the Solicitor General in terms of translating criminal law reform into practical administration of justice;
- *other departmental areas*. As discussed above, the objectives of the FVI dovetail with those of other areas within the Department and there has been some collaborative work, particularly with the Policy Centre for Victims Issues (e.g., victim protection legislation, co-sponsoring, in April 2000, of a Northern Roundtable for Departmental officials to examine federal prosecutorial services relating to spousal abuse and sexual assault cases, video on conjugal violence in same-sex couples);
- *provinces/territories*. Given the jurisdictional division of responsibility for criminal law reform (federal) and administration of justice (provincial), the provinces/territories are by necessity close partners for the FVI. Partnerships occur through formal committee work (e.g., the Ad Hoc Committee on Spousal Assault), as well as informally through consultations and project work. As mentioned above, few provincial/territorial representatives were aware that the F/P/T Committee represents one activity of a broader Family Violence Initiative that encompasses both the DOJ and other federal government departments.
- *other organizations*. Organizations that partner with the DOJ include NGOs, academics, research institutes, provincial public legal education organizations, professional associations, the private sector and provincial government agencies. Further, contribution recipients must develop project-level partnerships to leverage resources and expand experience and expertise. Partner organizations are involved with the Department in consultations, funded projects (i.e., through Grants and Contributions and PLEI) and other forms of collaboration. Finally, the Department also consults and collaborates with international bodies such as the United Nations and other governments in the development of international mechanisms such as protocols to address issues such as child sexual exploitation.

Departmental representatives and key informants who were interviewed as part of the file review exercise, indicated satisfaction with the quality and effectiveness of partnerships/working relationships, as did the partners themselves. The file reviews provided several examples where partners worked successfully together to: develop realistic project objectives and a workplan (*The Silence is Deep*); plan a conference (the F/P/T Forum on Spousal Abuse); and collaboratively develop the *Handbook on Criminal Harassment*. On the other hand, in at least one instance (*Women Speak*) the communication between the Department and the project

personnel was lacking in terms of defining the objectives of the project and disseminating results.

According to key informants, partnerships provide numerous benefits for the Department, including: enhanced quality of work; greater comfort level/buy-in for reform by those who are directly or indirectly affected; education and understanding of different perspectives; leveraging of resources; enhancing the means for community outreach; access to “hands-on” knowledge at the field level; and credibility and connections at the local level.

In terms of benefits of partnerships for other organizations, particularly NGOs and project partners themselves, the majority clearly indicated that, had it not been for DOJ funding, programs and services may not have been undertaken. These respondents also indicated that through their partnership with DOJ they were able to build further partnerships with other organizations in the family violence area, develop a better understanding of other family violence-related services, establish networks for dissemination and achieve a greater visibility in the community through publications.

According to key informants, facilitators of partnerships have been: common goal or objectives; resources (human and financial) in order to actively participate in partnerships; commitment of the partners; trust and open communication; and recognition of the benefits of the partnership for all partners. Partnerships have worked less well in circumstances where there have been: limited resources (time and financial) to participate effectively; lack of trust or poor communications; staff turnover and, therefore, lack of continuity; and widely different perspectives/ideologies. Project development (i.e., Grants and Contributions) has also been constrained in terms of the number of partnerships established by limitations in available funds.

NGOs and project partners who participated in the key informant interviews had a number of recommendations on how DOJ could improve their relationship with NGOs, including: multi-year contributions; allocating more time to the application/proposal process; and increased personal contact between the Department and its partners.

4.6 Monitoring and Reporting

The monitoring and reporting requirements of the Justice component of the FVI are dictated by an Interdepartmental Accountability Framework (the first of its kind at the federal level) that has been agreed to by all government departments who participate in the FVI in order to better

measure the progress of the Initiative. The Framework describes the objectives and key results for the Initiative, lists specific departmental commitments related to additional resources received, and establishes performance indicators and mechanisms in order to demonstrate results. The twelve federal departments and agencies use this Interdepartmental Accountability Framework to measure and report annually to Treasury Board on progress on key results commitments.

The key informant interviews determined, in general, Department representatives involved in the FVI found reporting requirements to be clear, though many were frustrated by the reporting process. They cited extensive requirements for information, but limited time and resources to meet these requests. The requirements are viewed as disproportionate to the amount of funding that is made available under the FVI. Few problems were cited with the types of information collected, though several respondents pointed out that legislative reform and social change are long-term processes and difficult to measure on an annual basis. No alternative or additional information was identified as needing to be gathered to meet Departmental or FVI requirements.

Monitoring and reporting requirements for funded projects are outlined in Departmental contribution agreements, with a requirement for an annual report (and often interim reports) and copies of the product itself (e.g., publication, research report, training manual, video). In addition to the final report, project report questionnaires are to be completed at the end of the projects. NGO and partner representatives who participated in the key informant interviews indicated that they collect the following kinds of information to support the DOJ's requirements for monitoring and reporting on the results of their activities:

- statistics on dissemination;
- attendance at speaking engagements;
- numbers and key issues related to legal info-line calls;
- statistics on material usage, where available;
- names of people and organizations who ordered information;
- results of written surveys from class participants; and,
- other indicators of success.

When asked to discuss the extent to which expectations for monitoring and reporting about the results of their activities have been clear, the majority of NGO and partner representatives indicated that the requirements have been clear and in the event that more detail was required DOJ staff were helpful.

The review of project files noted that files often did not contain comprehensive information. Better record keeping could be attained through the use of a standardized template. As well, projects were found to be lacking in terms of identifying clear measures of success and accompanying evaluation activities.

This concern was confirmed in the key informant interviews. In terms of gaps/areas that could be improved in project monitoring and reporting, the need for more in-depth evaluation on a project-by-project basis was raised by key informants at DOJ; that is, for example, beyond the achievement of the delivery results (e.g., conference, research product, projects, distribution of public education materials), to what extent and how were results used and what were the ultimate impacts of use. A similar comment was made with respect to legislation; several key informants from outside the DOJ FVI component mentioned the need for more research on the impacts of legislation and criminal code changes.

4.7 Unintended Impacts

Information on unintended impacts comes largely from the key informant interviews. Few unintended impacts of FVI activities were identified by key informants. However, on the positive side, though not a formal objective, the Justice component of the FVI was seen by several respondents to have raised awareness of family violence within the Department which, in turn, has had a positive impact on other strategies and initiatives. Some NGO and partner respondents noted that the collaboration with DOJ permitted them to establish further partnerships in the community and, sometimes, discover other funding opportunities. In their experience, dissemination of information on family violence can also have the effect of mobilizing the community around law reform and inspire further activity in the family violence area.

A negative unintended impact mentioned by several key informants was the raising of expectations among funded partners and communities that cannot be realized given few and time-limited resources. In some instances, projects that have been initiated through DOJ funding are not sustainable in the longer-term which dampens enthusiasm and undermines effectiveness.

5. ALTERNATIVES

The final component of the evaluation of the Justice component of the FVI involved an assessment of the overall perceived cost-effectiveness of activities, the adequacy of current resources and an exploration of the extent to which other alternatives should be considered in the ongoing delivery of the FVI. The majority of evidence to address these questions comes from the key informant interviews, though other lines of evidence contribute to questions of alternatives and suggestions for improvement.

5.1 Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness

Interviewees provided mixed responses on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of addressing the issue of family violence through the intra-departmental and Interdepartmental approaches that are currently in place. Many respondents simply did not know enough about these approaches to comment. For others, on the one hand, few disagree that having a broad goal to prevent or reduce family violence necessitates an equally broad, multidisciplinary approach that benefits from including various perspectives and multiple resources. The holistic approach ideally provides access to experience and expertise outside each Department's or unit's individual domain and provides opportunities for pooling of resources and ideas, as well as the means to avoid duplication. These aspects support both efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Yet, there are costs to participation in these kinds of ventures in time and resources. When co-ordination resources are not well used, these investments are not recouped. In other words, the sense among key informants is that intra-departmental and Interdepartmental approaches are both effective and efficient when they work the way they are supposed to. However, as mentioned previously, (sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4), co-ordination with Departmental linkage areas and the IWG are perceived by some to be current challenges. The broader evaluation of the Interdepartmental FVI and the IWG, currently underway, should provide additional information to address this issue.

5.2 Adequacy of Resources

The resources for FVI activities both nationally and within the Department were perceived by many interviewees to be limited.¹⁴ Few key informants were aware of the exact level of resources available to the Justice component, however, respondents for the most part believed funding to be limited. Some of the current dissatisfaction with resources stems from the fact that a large portion of funds in the Project Development area are already committed, leaving limited scope for entering into new project work. Yet, some key informants thought that the Justice component of the FVI should expand its scope to address current pressing issues (described above in Section 3.1(a)). According to key informants, the co-ordination function, particularly within the Department, could be improved and currently suffers from a lack of dedicated resources. Finally, provincial/territorial participation in partnerships around family violence has been effective though lack of funds at the provincial/territorial level has raised expectations for federal funding to allow participation to continue. All these expectations have implications for the adequacy of resources.

The current mix of FVI activities (i.e., across the program elements) is generally perceived to be appropriate by those who are knowledgeable about operations and key informants did not suggest any significant shifts in priorities among the elements.

5.3 Strengths and Challenges

Key informant interviewees were asked about the overall strengths of the Justice component of the FVI as well as challenges. Following are the perceived strengths of the Justice component of the FVI:

- proactive and reactive review and reform of legislation/policy based on assessment of needs and gaps;
- the organizational program elements and collegial relationships that lend themselves to focused work;
- consultative and inclusive approach that fosters strong partnerships and incorporates diversity of perspectives and ideas;

¹⁴ Annual funding for the Interdepartmental FVI is \$7.5 million and the Justice component is \$1.5 million.

- information sharing such as through the F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee, which has assisted provinces in gaining an understanding of alternative approaches used to address family violence across the country (particularly with respect to investigation and prosecution); and
- dedicated staff working inside and outside the Department in the area of family violence and (from the perspective of NGOs and project partners) helpful staff within DOJ (e.g., quick responses and clear information).

Key informants also identified the following challenges:

- lack of communication and limited visibility of FVI activities within the Department and more broadly to potential “clients” of the research, policy or products generated through the Justice component of the FVI;
- lack of coordination between the Justice component and relevant areas within the Department;
- lack of momentum around the issue (government-wide and Justice component);
- limited funds; and
- limited effectiveness of some DOJ products that are perceived to be too national in scope and, therefore, too general to be applied to provincial/territorial issues.

5.4 Suggestions for Improvement

Suggestions for how the current FVI activities at the Department might be improved flow from the perceived strengths and challenges. As well, other lines of evidence provided recommendations in terms of how specific products can be improved. The proposed suggestions for improvement have been organized into three broad categories: management and delivery; public education and information; and other products.

a) Management and Delivery

Two broad themes emerged in terms of the management and delivery of the Justice component of the FVI. The first concerns how the Initiative relates to other partners. Suggestions included:

- greater visibility of the Justice role in the FVI and efforts to communicate activities within the Department, to provinces and other partners;
- increased attention to collaboration, co-ordination and definition of mandate vis-à-vis other Departmental linkage areas;

- continued support and promotion of partnerships, both with other government agencies and voluntary, community-based organizations. It should also be noted there is an interest among these partner organizations for a greater role of DOJ to facilitate coordination/information sharing among services providers; and
- attention to effective communications with projects funded under grants and contributions; and
- adequacy of funding levels was raised also as there was a widespread perception among funding recipients that current funds are limited.

The second recommendation concerns the tracking and monitoring of results. There was a need expressed for a deeper understanding of the outcomes of Justice component activities under the FVI through evaluations of legislation and results-based reviews of funded projects. Clearly identified measures of success and an evaluation plan for funded projects were recommended.

b) Public Legal Education Materials

Two key reports - the *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings* and the *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* provided numerous suggestions to improve the quality of and access to public information materials. Key suggestions with respect to *content* included:

- locally relevant content. As mentioned above, one of the criticisms of the DOJ publications was that their national-level scope compromised relevance at the provincial or local level. To balance the need for local tailoring of information materials, while at the same time avoiding duplication of effort across jurisdictions, the *Review of Effectiveness* suggested a strategy which would make available core information common to all provinces and territories, but with the potential to incorporate/adjust or add materials to make them relevant provincially. Electronic distribution of materials to coordinate sharing and taking advantage of economies of scale for printing were also suggested.
- ensuring materials are sensitive to the needs and concerns of diverse populations. The groups identified as being in need of tailored materials varied from province to province, but included individuals with mental/physical disabilities, youth/children, elderly people, Native communities, immigrant communities, and women with children. The report noted other issues such as being attentive to religious/cultural issues, financial and educational barriers, isolation and age issues, lifestyle and age issues, different formats and attention to simplicity

of language, materials in various languages/dialects. Needs of various populations should be addressed in consultation with PLEI organizations and with the end-user groups.

- need for materials that name different forms of abuse and focus on the positive aspects of taking action. Different types of abuse included bullying and teasing, financial or emotional abuse.
- effective presentation of materials. Recommended features included: simplified language, graphically striking and discreet.

The *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* further suggested that the content of future publications be more specific in terms of targeting of readership. Readers who are in contact with support services have different needs from those who have had little or no contact and require the most basic information.

With respect to dissemination of public legal education materials, the *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* recommended “a more systematic approach to the distribution of Department of Justice PLEI publications, including an explicit agreement with provincial and territorial PLEI organizations to actively promote and distribute the materials through their networks of government and community-based agencies”. Tracking of distribution and follow-up to ensure availability of materials were also suggested. Both of these recommendations have implications for resources, however.

Other suggestions with respect to dissemination included:

- Ensuring access to legal information for victims in isolated areas (where, it was noted, by study participants, family violence may be more often tolerated) was mentioned as a particular issue in the *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings*. Distribution to smaller urban centres and in rural areas was also noted in the *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence*.
- Both the *Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence* and the *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings* recommended distribution of materials in “everyday” locations such as grocery stores, malls, churches, hair salons, or public washrooms. and use of alternative formats such as videos and radio advertisements. The extent to which booklets are readily available to those who need them the most (those not involved in social services or who have little support) was an issue raised by service deliverers and was the main concern of end-users too.

- The *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings* noted the need for greater communication and collaboration with target groups to “produce materials which cover their concerns, are relevant to their needs, and do not stigmatize groups in the process of conveying their experiences”. These target groups and the agencies representing them also become effective channels of communication for PLEI material.
- Improving service providers’ awareness of different family violence materials was a recommendation from the *PLEI Needs Assessment Report*.

The *PLEI Family Violence Materials: Needs Assessment Report, Synthesis of Findings* further identified a number of areas where services to victims of family violence and to the general public could be improved. These included, for example, expanding services to target diverse populations, additional resources to social service agencies, and family violence education in school curricula. The report also identified a host of training issues including increasing the legal training of front-line social service workers, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, ensuring that those working in the criminal justice system are informed of family violence issues and sensitive to victims’ needs, particularly those of diverse client groups. Doctors, nurses and clergy were also mentioned as particular groups who need to have greater information about family violence and the legal process.

c) Other Products

With respect to the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*, there were few areas where users said they required more information. Seven per cent or fewer of respondents, for example, indicated an interest in more information about how to investigate criminal harassment, criminal harassment law and interpretation and prosecution of criminal harassment cases. A somewhat higher proportion (16 per cent), however, did indicate an interest in more information on examples of criminal harassment cases (e.g., current case law, precedents, case studies, case synopses). Finally, the survey asked respondents if they thought they would benefit from similar handbooks in other areas of criminal law. Almost 85 per cent agreed that handbooks in other areas would be useful, and many of them identified some specific areas: sexual assault (16 respondents); domestic abuse (6) and child abuse (5).

6. CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this report has been to synthesize evidence collected for a summative evaluation of the Justice component of the FVI. The study has examined issues of relevance, outcomes and alternatives. Following are concluding observations organized by evaluation issue.

6.1 Relevance

The issue of relevance was addressed primarily by the key informant interviews. This study provided a positive assessment of the relevance of the DOJ component of the FVI. The current mandate and rationale for DOJ involvement in this area is sound, given the importance of criminal justice measures in addressing family violence. Criminal law in this complex area must be dynamic to respond to social change and key informants identified a number of current and emerging issues related to the criminal justice system (CJS) response to family violence. At this time, the criminal justice response to family violence is not wholly satisfactory for victims, nor are responses perceived to be comprehensive and effective to deal with offenders. There is approval for approaches undertaken by the Department that move beyond a strictly legislative focus (e.g., interest in practical assistance in administration of justice and in a broader array of responses).

The current organizational structure of the DOJ FVI component is perceived by Departmental representatives to be well-suited to meet objectives, though resources are viewed as limited. No significant changes were recommended to the priority of the various program elements.

The FVI activities at DOJ represent one component of the Interdepartmental FVI. Justice is perceived to make an important contribution to the FVI by those involved in the IWG. The overall interdepartmental approach is viewed as a sound one by most key informants, given the multi-faceted nature of family violence. Yet, there are some reservations about the way the IWG has been implemented in practice.

Relevance of DOJ-FVI activities would be bolstered by minimizing overlap. The potential for duplication was identified as being greatest in terms of the development and distribution of PLEI publications, given the many organizations that are involved in this area. As well, a gap in coordination with other linkage areas within the Department of Justice doing work in the family violence area was also noted as having implications for duplication. This situation has improved over the past couple of years. In the last year for example, projects have been funded jointly with several other Justice initiatives: the National Crime Prevention Centre, the Policy Centre for Victim Issues, the Nunavut Fund and the Aboriginal Justice Strategy.

6.2 Outcomes

As mentioned at the outset of this report, the evidence on outcomes from this study is largely anecdotal and subjective. It is evident, however, that a wide variety of products and knowledge has been generated by the Justice component of the FVI. These products include changes to the criminal code, policy decisions, research and publications, funded projects focusing on family violence-related interventions and public education and information materials. (Appendices B-F)

The quality of the various family violence products generated by or funded by the DOJ is difficult to assess, given that there is information available only on a limited set of these products. Nevertheless, the evaluative material that is available is generally positive. Intermediaries and end-users provide high ratings of the products in terms of aspects such as clarity, relevance and usefulness or helpfulness.

The broad variety of products generated by the DOJ component of the FVI is matched by a wide variety of dissemination strategies. These range from directed distribution aimed at a selected audience (e.g., to CJS professionals, provincial/territorial partners) to more generalized circulation (e.g., to service providers, the general public). Many materials are disseminated on an 'upon-request' basis. The format in which material is disseminated includes, for example, print, media (radio/TV announcements), multi-media (e.g., video), web sites, and workshops and conferences.

The evaluation of the dissemination of products was not encouraging, particularly for DOJ's own publications that are intended for a broader audience. Organizations that would be expected to be key recipients and promoters of these materials lacked familiarity with the products. An active and strategic dissemination plan was not apparent, nor was there any tracking of dissemination.

In at least one instance, there was confusion on the part of end-users about the availability and cost of additional copies of materials.

Based on the materials reviewed and studies undertaken for this review, products are perceived to have contributed to progress in the key result areas that have been identified. Most policy efforts are directed to improvements in the effectiveness, responsiveness and co-ordination of the CJS response to family violence. Examples of products providing effective interventions include the family violence awareness training kit produced by *The Silence is Deep, Let's Talk about Touching* and the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors*. The Handbook and the F/P/T Forums and Working Group on Spousal Abuse, in particular, were identified as contributing to greater co-ordination of efforts. Research and Evaluation provide the underpinning for policy work by identifying gaps, understanding practices across jurisdictions and evaluating results.

The Department also aims to affect public awareness through, for example, its PLEI projects, research publications and the Departmental FVI web site. In fact, in the file reviews, all selected projects identified impacts in this area.

In terms of protection of family violence victims/witnesses, the *Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors* was perceived to make an important contribution in this area. The FVI also has a strong collaborative relationship with the Policy Centre for Victims Issues around these issues.

Outcomes in the area of community support are less evident, given limitation in the Grants and Contributions funds available for community support projects, as well as jurisdictional barriers to extensive involvement in the intervention area.

Current monitoring and reporting on activities of the DOJ component of the FVI is regular and responds to the requirements of the Accountability Framework for the Interdepartmental FVI. At the project level, there is a requirement for reporting on activities, though there is less known about the results of project activities. The review of project files noted the absence of adequate success measures and a clear evaluation plan. In the key informant interviews, it was suggested that more evaluations of legislation would be useful.

6.3 Alternatives

A key strength of the DOJ component of the FVI is establishing partnerships. There is a high degree of satisfaction among funded partners and other government departments with their relationship with Justice. Relationships with provincial and territorial counterparts (through the F/P/T Committee) are seen to be very effective by those involved and there is a high level of interest in seeing the work of this Committee continue. These partnerships have had many benefits, both for the Department and for the partners themselves.

Co-ordination of activities is both a strength and a weakness. While co-ordination of activities is effective within the component itself, Departmental linkages can be strengthened to minimize overlap and ensure areas of the Department that address the issue of family violence do so in a coherent fashion and that mandates are clear. Visibility and communications about the Justice component of the FVI activities has been lacking, both to areas within the Department, as well as to the public, provinces and community organizations. This could be a function of resource limitations, both to undertake communications, but also resources available in the form of grants and contributions to increase the Department's presence through financial support for projects among community organizations. The new web site will remedy some communications issues, though it is not a replacement for more active approaches.

6.4 Implications

Following are some final observations regarding the implications of the study, considering the different lines of evidence together:

- Family violence and the CJS response to this issue is an evolving area with a number of new and emerging issues. This supports the need for the Initiative and the participation of Justice.
- This dynamic context also has strong implications for ensuring projects and publications remain in step with current thinking. Evaluative work conducted of the Department's publications suggests that while the products themselves are of a high quality, there is a need to review the current dissemination strategy for these materials.
- There is a strong message from the community level about the need for specificity and tailoring of products, particularly with respect to community interventions and public education materials. Diverse groups have various requirements, and locally relevant and culturally sensitive materials are seen to be most effective. This theme is evident in the types of projects in which DOJ is involved now (e.g., expanding the types of formats and

languages in which publications are available). The research reviewed for this evaluation also strongly recommends the direct involvement of target groups in the development of products. Finally, the production of PLEI publications requires a more coherent strategy and balance between tailoring of materials to local needs yet avoiding duplication of effort.

- Inclusion and consultation are effective methods to achieve goals and the partnerships developed by the DOJ component of the FVI have been quite successful. The networking opportunities that have been provided through the DOJ (e.g., the F/P/T Forums) are highly valued and have proved fruitful for those able to network with those from other jurisdictions. These kinds of collaborations appear to work best when supported by longstanding relationships, when there is clarity of roles and responsibilities, and when there are formal mechanisms for information sharing (e.g., the Working Group and Forums). Communications with NGO partners in funded projects was noted as an area where some projects have not been wholly successful (i.e. expectations were not clearly articulated).
- The Department is achieving significant success in the F/P/T area, through committee work and in assisting provinces in the administration of Justice (e.g., through the *Handbook*). This may be a useful approach and template for other areas of legislation, and there is interest among CJS professionals for practical tools of a similar nature.
- Lack of visibility of the DOJ component of the FVI was raised in several contexts: within the Department, some linkage areas are not fully aware of the mandate and activities of the FVI, provincial and territorial partners were not familiar with the broader scope of FVI activities beyond their F/P/T committee and some groups at the community level were not aware of Justice family violence activities. Some service providers hoped the DOJ would make a contribution to facilitating co-ordination among service providers at the community level.
- The lack of ongoing tracking and monitoring, particularly of the results of funded projects leaves the Department with a dearth of information vis-à-vis outcomes. Clear performance measures and accompanying evaluation activities for funded projects are recommended.

APPENDIX A
Key Informant Interview Guide
Evaluation of the Department of Justice Family Violence Initiative

APPENDIX A
Key Informant Interview Guide
Evaluation of the Department of Justice Family Violence Initiative

EKOS Research Associates has been commissioned by the Department of Justice to conduct an evaluation of the Department's activities under the Interdepartmental Family Violence Initiative (FVI). The long-term goal of the FVI is to reduce the occurrence of family violence in Canadian society. The Justice focus is on improving the criminal justice legal framework and system response to family violence. The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the relevance, success and cost-effectiveness of the Justice component of the Family Violence Initiative and to identify lessons learned.

All of the comments you provide in this interview will be kept strictly confidential. The final report on the evaluation will present the findings in summary form only, and will not contain information attributable to any individual. The interview will take about one hour. Please indicate any areas where you are unfamiliar with the topic and hence unable to respond and we will move on to the next question.

Relevance

The issue of relevance is designed to reflect on the underlying rationale of the program, and to question whether there is an ongoing need for it.

1. In your view, what are some of the most pressing current issues related to family violence and the criminal justice system?
2. To what extent are the objectives and mandate of the Justice component of the Family Violence Initiative still relevant?
 - What current issues do Justice FVI activities address?
 - Is each of the program elements consistent with Departmental objectives?
 - What changes have occurred in the broad policy environment (vis-à-vis family violence and criminal justice) and how have these had an impact on the Department's FVI activities?
3. In your view, is there a continuing need for action on the part of the Department to improve the criminal justice system's response to family violence?

- Why do you say this?
 - What is the extent of provincial/territorial support for reform in this area?
 - Should future activities be similar in purpose and scope to current activities?
 - Are there any gaps that should be addressed?
4. Is it important to have a coordinated interdepartmental initiative in the area of family violence?
- To what extent is it important that the Department of Justice participate in a federal interdepartmental initiative?
 - What is achieved through participation that could not be done with the Department working independently?
 - What is the value of Justice participation for other Departments involved in the Initiative?
5. In what ways, if any, do the Justice activities under the Family Violence Initiative duplicate, complement or overlap with other Department programs? Other federal or provincial/territorial programs?

Success

The issue of success is focused on the results achieved by the program, and on the extent to which the Initiative is meeting its objectives.

6. What knowledge and products have been generated under the Department's Family Violence Initiative (e.g., research and information, policy and legal advice, projects, public legal education information)? How have they been disseminated?
- Are they reaching their intended audiences?
 - What has been the up-take or adoption of materials/advice, etc.?
 - How has this been determined?
7. To what extent has the Justice component of the FVI resulted in or made progress toward:
- effective interventions in family violence situations?
 - community support for prevention, intervention and protection measures?
 - protection of family violence victims/witnesses?
 - strengthened/enhanced response and improved responsiveness of the criminal justice system to family violence?
 - increased public awareness of family violence issues?

- contributed to the prevention and reduction of family violence?
- development of efficient and coordinated criminal justice policies and programs concerning family violence issues?

Please provide examples of ways in which these have been accomplished through policy and legal advice, policy research, funded projects and/or public legal education and information.

8. In what ways has the current partnership and collaboration-based approach (vis-à-vis other jurisdictions and NGOs) contributed to the success of the Department's component of the FVI?

- What has been the nature of partnerships? What have they accomplished?
- What factors have made partnerships successful? What aspects have made partnerships more difficult?

9. What processes are in place to plan, organize, implement, monitor and report on the Department's component of the FVI?

- Have these been adequate (e.g., comprehensive, timely, valid, accessible)?
- Are there areas/gaps that could be improved?
- What alternative or additional information needs to be gathered to meet Departmental requirements?

10. To what extent has the Department's family violence program been effectively co-ordinated:

- across the four program elements
- with other related areas within the Department
- with the federal Family Violence Initiative (e.g., other federal departments)
- with other key partners (e.g., provincial/territorial governments, NGOs).
- In what areas has co-ordination worked best? Are there areas where co-ordination has been weak? What factors have enhanced/impered co-ordination?
- Have adequate resources been allocated to co-ordination?

11. What have been the strengths and weaknesses of the Department's family violence activities?

- How might current programs be improved?

12. Have there been any unintended impacts (positive or negative) of the Department's family violence activities?

Cost-Effectiveness

The issue of cost-effectiveness is focused on whether or not the program represents the most cost-effective means of achieving objectives, or whether more cost-effective alternatives can be identified.

13. Is the right mix of programs and activities in place for the Justice FVI to achieve results?

- Are there activities funded under the Departmental component of the Family Violence Initiative that should receive a higher priority? A lower priority?
- Are current resources adequate?
- To what extent would you say the need for the program is at the same (or greater or lesser) level of resources?

14. To what extent do the Initiative's elements and delivery approach (inter- and intradepartmental approaches) represent an efficient and cost-effective way to obtain the intended results?

- What aspects of the Department's family violence design or delivery enhance/impede cost-effectiveness?
- Can you suggest alternatives or enhancements in design or delivery that would improve overall cost-effectiveness?

15. What lessons have been learned as a result of the Department's component of the FVI?

16. Do you have any comments that you would like to add?

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

APPENDIX B
Policy and Legal Advice

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Policy and Legal Advice

Year	Activity	Description
00-01 to 01-02	Complete FPT consultations on the Optional Protocol (OP) to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography	FPT consultations on the OP resulted in support for Canadian signature of the OP. A Memorandum to Cabinet was developed which sought and received approval for Canadian signature to the OP.
00-01 to 01-02	Co-chair Ad Hoc FPT Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation	The WG's mandate is to review the status and effect of spousal abuse police charging and prosecutorial policies implemented across the country since 1983, as well as a number of proposed legislative reforms. The outcome of the review will be advice and recommendations to FPT Ministers Responsible for Justice including recommendations as to maintaining or amending these policies.
Ongoing	Support/monitor/review criminal law and policy reform relating to family violence.	This ongoing policy activity encompasses a range of measures to provide increased protection to victims of family violence by strengthening the criminal justice system's response to specific forms of family violence (e.g., criminal harassment; protective court orders/peace bonds; spousal assault; protection of victims fleeing life-threatening relationships ("NIVA"); use of restorative justice processes; strengthening linkages to victims of crime, crime prevention and Aboriginal Justice initiatives). These measures emphasize collaboration with provincial and territorial partners and linkages with the Department of Justice (between different policy functions and operations).
Ongoing	<i>Support/monitor/review domestic and international criminal law and policy relating to protection of children including from physical abuse and sexual exploitation.</i>	This ongoing Policy activity includes participating in the Canadian Delegation to the UN Preparatory Committee and related negotiations for the United Nations' General Assembly's Special Session on Children; the North American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the First World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, as well as the Second World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.
Ongoing	<i>Supporting departmental/federal government criminal</i>	These ongoing efforts include monitoring case law and legal and social policy developments, as well as communications to contribute to an improved understanding of the criminal law's response to this problem, of the criminal law's intolerance of child abuse and the need for continuing public education and awareness building.

Year	Activity	Description
	<i>legislation and policy relating to the protection of children from child abuse by family members or persons standing in their place.</i>	
97-98 to 01-02	<i>Child Victims and the Criminal Justice System</i>	This multi-year multi-sectoral project seeks to improve Criminal Code protections for children from abuse. A variety of activities have been undertaken, including background papers for CJS and public use. Public and FPT consultations were undertaken to review the need for criminal law reforms relating to: specific offences against children, facilitating child victim/witness testimony; sentencing; and age of consent to sexual activity. Follow-up options were developed in collaboration with FPT partners with the expectation of leading to a stronger, co-ordinated response to the problem and increased public awareness.
01-02	Second FPT Forum on Spousal Abuse – conclusion of report/summary of Forum.	The Forum enabled FPT criminal justice officials to exchange and update best practices related to charging, prosecution, sentencing/corrections, victims services, risk assessment, policy and research. Completion and release of the Report will inform continuing efforts at the FPT level as well as by interested members of the public/organizations.
01-02	Assist with the review of Divorce Act re: impact of domestic violence on custody and access determinations.	This activity involved participating in/contributing to, the on-going legislative review of custody and access under the Divorce Act.
01-02	Support review of the PLEI publication, Secret of the Silver Horse (SOSH), including a needs assessment and evaluation.	Financial assistance for a review of the SOSH was provided to support FPT policy issues with respect to the prosecution of child sexual abuse offences and to contribute to future efforts to revise/update/reprint this PLEI product.
Ongoing	Co-ordination of all Departmental activities relating to family violence, including co-coordinating Justice's related interdepartmental activities.	This ongoing activity focuses on the effective and timely coordination of Departmental activities and policies relating to family violence to ensure that the needs of victims of family violence are reflected in Departmental activities and that Departmental activities are consistent.

Year	Activity	Description
00-01	Criminal Harassment: A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors – informal survey evaluation and reprinting	The Handbook on Criminal Harassment was released in December 1999. This activity involves responding to requests for reprinting and an informal survey of recipients to assess the utility of the Handbook and its impacts on the criminal justice system response to criminal harassment.
00-01	Second FPT Forum on Spousal Abuse	The Forum enabled FPT criminal justice officials to exchange and update best practices related to charging, prosecution, sentencing/corrections, victims services, risk assessment, policy and research.
97-98 to 99-00	Participate on UN Working Group negotiating the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography	The Optional Protocol establishes new international standards by strengthening the criminal justice system's response to practices relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. This activity involved participation in negotiation and consensus-building in the development and approval of the OP. The Optional Protocol will facilitate Canada's efforts to address these practices, their root causes and recovery for victims.
98-99 to 99-00	Development of A Handbook for Police and Crown Prosecutors on Criminal Harassment, together with FPT officials.	The Handbook is a tool for frontline criminal justice professionals, including for training purposes, victims' services organizations and victims. It is intended to provide increased professional and public awareness of criminal harassment and how to respond to it.
98-99	Developing criminal legislative and policy reforms related to family violence	This activity includes conducting a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary review of the Criminal Code's treatment of women and children as victims of family violence to develop strategic criminal law and policy reforms. It will promote the development of more effective and better co-ordinated and gender sensitive federal policy, legislative reform and programming relating to women and child victims of family violence (i.e., for both FVI and non-FVI activities).
98-99	Follow-up to March 1998 FPT Forum on Spousal Abuse Cases	The Forum was a gathering of criminal justice officials from all jurisdictions (representing policing, prosecutions, victims services, policy, corrections and criminal justice statistics) to discuss and exchange best practices relating to spousal abuse cases. A compilation of related FPT policies was distributed to participants in March 1998, with follow-up exchange of materials in 1998-99, including a final summary of the issues discussed/identified for further discussion at the Forum.

Year	Activity	Description
97-98 to 98-99	Examination of legislative reform options relating to the impact of spousal abuse/family violence on custody and access proceedings	The on-going review of the child custody and access issue through legal and policy support and assistance will ultimately serve to minimize the opportunity for continuing incidents of family violence within the context of custody and access proceedings. It will also ensure that such incidents are appropriately considered in custody/access determinations to safeguard the best interests of children of divorce.
97-98	Support and monitor the implementation of Bill C-27	Bill C-27 is an amendment related to child prostitution, child sex tourism, criminal harassment and female genital mutilation, proclaimed into force on May 26, 1997. This activity will assist with assessing the new legislation by monitoring case law, preparation of briefing notes, responding to requests for copies of legislation and related materials, and communications.
97-98	Organization and hosting of First FPT Forum on Spousal Abuse Cases	This Forum for senior criminal justice officials was designed to facilitate the exchange of best practices amongst FPT CJS professionals. A two-volume compendium of related materials, including models, best practices and FPT summaries of activities was prepared. A summary of the Forum was also prepared and distributed to participants.
97-98	Contribution to Phase II of the evaluation of the Native Courtworker Program.	Phase II of this evaluation focused on the special service delivery needs of Aboriginal women in conflict with the CJS.

APPENDIX C
Policy Research

APPENDIX C Policy Research

Year	Activity	Description
01-02	Survey of data quality of suppliers of peace bond data to the ACCS	This survey attempted to identify problems with the intent to standardize data collection procedures that are currently inconsistent across jurisdictions related to peace bond data in the Adult Criminal Court Survey.
01-02	Collection of data from the Ottawa Family Violence Court	Data have been collected in the Ottawa Domestic Violence Court to examine issues such as outcome in relation to severity, children present, violations of previous conditions, etc.
01-02	Examination of Spousal Homicide Trends	This follow-up to a previous review involved an in-depth analysis of available Stats Can data to provide possible systemic and individual correlates to explain the decline in the spousal homicide rate.
01-02	<i>International Violence Against Women Survey - Pilot</i>	Pilot testing of a newly designed survey instrument through all phases - training, pre-testing, system and data base development – indicated the instrument, with some modification, can be used successfully.
01-02	<i>Child Victimization Data Analysis</i>	This research report provides information on the extent of offences involving children, victim and accused characteristics and case outcomes in terms of dispositions and sentences. A background report was prepared on the basic, general, publicly available national criminal statistics involving children (e.g., ACCS, UCR and Homicide Surveys)
01-02	<i>Reactions of Child Victims of Sexual Assault to the Justice System</i>	This brief analysis concluded that child victims and their parents essentially want the same things from the police and the criminal justice system: to be treated with respect and courtesy and provided with information in a timely manner.
01-02	Identifying Professionals' Needs in Reporting Child Abuse	A review of log book data between 1992 and 2000 examined trends in requests for advice and referrals among practitioners associated with the implementation of the consultation model. The benefits of the model were confirmed based on an increase in requests, particularly among physicians and social workers.
00-01 to 01-02	A research agenda for advancing the understanding of the nature and extent of child maltreatment in Canada.	Investigators from the Canadian Centre for Studies of Children at Risk (CCSCR) reviewed current knowledge and gaps with a view to suggesting the types of research that should be of the highest priority to inform policy both in the health and justice fields.
00-01 to 01-02	Impact of 1994 peace bond reforms on the effectiveness and use of peace bonds	This research project examined the rate at which peace bonds are issued and incidence of breaches since the reform, as well as follow-up with CJS professionals to understand victims' experiences with the legislation.

Year	Activity	Description
00-01 to 01-02	Status of police and prosecution policies related to child victims of criminal offences in Canada	This document provides a summary of all available federal and provincial police and crown policies related to the processing of cases involving child victims of criminal offences.
00-01	Status of mandatory charging and prosecution policies in Canada	This project involved a compilation of F/P/T policies related to mandatory charging and prosecution in spousal abuse cases, as well as a literature review of studies examining the effectiveness of the policies with a view to facilitating the work of the FPT Ad hoc Working Group reviewing national policies related to spousal abuse.
00-01	Examination of Femicide Trends	This research attempts to explain and suggest further research related to declines in lethal and non-lethal offences committed against women by intimate partners with a view to identifying what has worked and what work still remains in addressing this problem.
00-01	Further analysis of GSS data on the impact on children who witness violence	This research examined the prevalence and consequences of children witnessing violence in the home to inform CJS responses.
00-01	Further analysis of GSS data on spousal violence after separation	This report indicates that marital separation does not necessarily mean the end of spousal violence; but in some cases, leads to the initiation or escalation of violence.
99-00	"Women Speak"	This project examined the community-based research process used in the ORWAS study. The objectives of the project were: 1) to review the research process developed through ORWAS and draw conclusions about the value of the approach; 2) to investigate the effects of participating in woman abuse research on the survivors, community researchers, and project leaders; and 3) to examine the benefits to government and communities of a collaborative partnership.
99-00	Assessment of Bill C-27	The Bill C-27 reforms to criminal harassment legislation were supported by the development of a Handbook to promote an integrated criminal justice response to stalking. It received wide distribution and is being used as a resource tool for police and crown to identify the type of stalking involved and provide guidelines on how to conduct interviews with and provide advice to victims, conduct investigations and processing of cases.
97-98 to 99-00	Review of Implementation of Bill C-46 (use of personal records) in sexual assault cases	This review involved preliminary consultations with experts in the CJS, academia and the DOJ on a research framework to inform litigation defending Bill C-46. This was followed by a Survey of Sexual Assault Survivors with one of the objectives being the incidence of use of personal records and for what purpose and the impact of possible or actual record disclosure on the victims' experience and their decision to report.

Year	Activity	Description
98-99 to 99-00	Financial Support for the General Social Survey (GSS) on Criminal Victimization	FVI support enabled Statistics Canada to include more questions related to family violence, particularly spousal abuse and male spousal abuse, as well more information on the use of community services.
97-98 to 98-99	Rural Women Abuse Studies (Ontario and BC). A cluster of research projects which examine the extent and nature of violence against women in rural Canada (south of 60°) as well as these women's experience with the justice system and appropriate interventions.	The projects included focus groups that were conducted with community residents, community leaders and service providers to facilitate constructive discussions about family violence in communities. The project produced recommendations that address the enhancement of the effectiveness of justice system interventions and prevention response to family violence. An important feature of these research projects is that they provided immediate feedback and research skills training for community members. Presentations on the findings have been made at numerous conferences in late 1998-99 and 1999-2000. Reports were released in 1999-2000.
98-99	Research support of policy initiative to develop guidelines for police and Crown relating to criminal harassment.	The Handbook will serve to enhance police and Crown prosecutors' understanding and knowledge of: risk factors for violence (criminal harassment); extent and nature of violence against women and children in families; and the dynamics of violence within families involving criminal harassment.
97-98 to 98-99	Phase II evaluation of the Saskatchewan Victims of Domestic Violence Act.	This report assesses the extent to which issues identified in the Phase I review were implemented and identifies issues that may have arisen since the earlier research was completed. Data collection is based on a review of files and key informant interviews. The report provides an increased understanding and knowledge of the relevance and impact of the legislation and the achievement of its stated objectives.
98-99	Research to elaborate on the experiences and protection needs of children	This activity included public dissemination of three reports: 1) Federally Sentenced Women's Experiences with Family Violence; 2) Analyzing Family Violence: The Role of Family Structure and Family Functioning in Youthful Development and Childhood Adjustment; and 3) Children Who Witness Violence: A Needs Assessment. A literature review and annotated bibliography was also completed on Youth Involvement in Prostitution: A Focus on Intrafamilial Violence. Recommendations address such issues as the need for more effective interventions in prevention and response to family violence, and the fair and equitable treatment of victims of family violence.
98-99	Project support to Prince Edward Island for the Development of an Evaluation Framework for its Victims of Family Violence Act	This project contributes to the limited information base within Canada regarding the increasing reliance by provincial jurisdictions on alternative justice system intervention responses to the problem of family violence.

Year	Activity	Description
98-99	Research support for policy activity relating to corporal punishment of children	This activity involved research advice/support and a Preliminary Draft Literature Review of the Use of Corrective Force Against Children.
97-98	Children who Witness Violence, A Needs Assessment	This activity involved a comparative analysis of selected models of intervention for children who witness violence in the home. The method includes a comprehensive literature review and survey of 200 key informant organizations across Canada. The report contains considerations of implications for public education, integrated justice, child custody and access and additional research.
97-98	Are Federally Sentenced Women's Experiences with Family Violence a Factor in their Contact with the Criminal Justice System: An Exploratory Study	This research publication/information session examined the correlation between family violence and criminal activity. The study is based on a literature review and analysis of in-take assessment forms/data on federally sentenced women between 1994 and 1998. The project specifically addresses Aboriginal women and women with youth court records.
97-98	Analyzing Family Violence: The Role of Family Structure and Family Functioning in Youthful Development and Childhood Adjustment	This research involved an in-depth analysis of data on family structure and family functioning available from the National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth. The project intended to explore the predictors (including violent family environments) of conduct disorders in the 10-11 year age group and abuse and aggression in children 4 to 11. Products included a technical report with key findings and policy implications, and a presentation.
97-98	Synthesis of Findings from Department of Justice Research on Spouse Assault	This research report was prepared for and distributed to participants in the FPT 1998 Forum on Spousal Abuse Cases.
97-98	Conditional sentencing in situations of family violence	This research compiled findings from: a literature review, analysis of data from two Toronto domestic courts, analysis of national use of conditional sentences with special emphasis on family violence and sexual assaults, and interviews with select judges and crowns about perceptions of use of conditional sentences in domestic cases. The analysis examined the extent of use of conditional sentences in family violence situations and implications for safety of victims.

APPENDIX D
Project Development

APPENDIX D
Project Development

Year	Activity	Description
01-02	Eastern Ontario School-Based Anti-Violence Program	<p>Through these certification-training workshops, the Education Assistants will become the school resource person in matters pertaining to family violence issues.</p> <p>The workshops will also train the education assistants to in turn become the trainers in workshops and information sessions within their school communities.</p> <p>The Anti-Violence manual used and distributed in the workshops will be implemented in the schools and used as an early intervention tool with school aged children to combat the effects of family violence on both the victims and their classmates.</p>
01-02	Fighting the Demons: sexually exploited youth - A theme paper by Save the Children Canada	<p>This theme paper and its presentation in Yokohama promoted an approach to effective prevention and intervention strategies in dealing with child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>The strong presentation by Save the Children Canada, the inclusion of youth representatives and a strong show of support by the federal government acted as a model for other participants at the Congress.</p> <p>The Departmental support of this paper and presentation will be mirrored nationally through presentations to other government departments and communities.</p>
01-02	Why do Female Victims of Domestic Violence Recant – A Research Project	<p>This research project will examine factors that influence recantation in female victims, in order to provide organizations with information that will help them develop a more effective response to victim’s needs, provide an enhanced crisis intervention and counseling program, and put in place proactive victim witness assistance services.</p> <p>The research should assist the police and the Crown in their response to the victim’s needs.</p> <p>The examination of factors influencing recantation will support the establishment of an effective community response to end abuse against women.</p>
01-02	Domestic Violence Tracking Survey – Saskatchewan Justice	<p>This project, through an examination and evaluation of current policies and procedures in dealing with domestic violence cases, will provide both information on current practices, and recommendations for changes where necessary.</p> <p>The results of the tracking survey will be used to improve policy, programs and procedures in response to domestic violence.</p> <p>The survey results will also be used to promote new approaches to dealing with reported incidents of family violence.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
01-02 00-01 99-00 98-99 97-98	Creating a National Link between Front-line Legal Educators /Researchers on Anti-Violence Centres	<p>The Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres received financial support over five years in order to develop and carry out a project entitled: "Creating A National Link Between Front-Line Legal Educators & Researchers In Anti-Violence Centres".</p> <p>The project included the following activities: coordinate and engage in public legal education and research with regards to women's issues; computer link-up which would place all participating centres in touch with each other so that there can be more integrated communication between centres. The computer network that links several organizations and individuals from the June 1996 Consultation would be enhanced. Hardware would be provided to those centres not originally equipped.</p> <p>The established computer linkage between Sexual Assault Centres across the country continued to allow information sharing and networking between the centres; assisted in enhancing the capacity of these centres to identify effective interventions aimed at legislative reform; and provided opportunity for women victims of family violence in addressing their issues. The computer link has become a great avenue for public legal education and information as it has provided an opportunity among Anti-violence Centres for ongoing debate on legal and equality issues that relate to violence against women. Also, the Website (both in English and French) receives an average of 1,500 hits per month and it is another venue for public legal education and information.</p> <p>The participatory research project is intended to examine how the criminal justice system (e.g., police, courts, etc.) and other response systems (e.g., 911 operators) respond to family violence cases in order to identify any necessary remedial action required to improve the criminal justice system's response to the needs of women and children victims of family violence. As part of this research project, interviews with approximately 110 women victims of violence are completed. The review of documents obtained by different centers from justice professionals and a literature review are being undertaken. The final analysis and the report are being planned. Also, as part of the evaluation's efforts, a summary report of the CASAC Midterm Evaluation of Feedback Forms from the Centres involved in research was provided.</p> <p>This project will assist to promote knowledge about family violence issues, enhance public involvement in the response to family violence, and promote improvements to the criminal justice response to family violence.</p>
01-02 00-01	PEI Victims of Family Violence Act, 3 Year Evaluation	<p>This study is a comprehensive evaluation of the PEI Family Violence Act involving both qualitative and quantitative data collection, and was guided by an Evaluation Committee which was a partnership of government and non-government organizations. The evaluation looked at issues such as experience with Emergency Protection Orders (EPO), reaction to EPO and impact of EPO and concerns about the Act aimed at providing suggestions for improvement of the Act. The results of the Evaluation will be shared with stakeholders and other provinces. The study helps to improve the criminal justice system response to family violence. It also helps to enhance knowledge about the effectiveness of the Act among general public and other provinces where similar legislation is being considered.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
01-02	Spousal Abuse Counseling Program for Rankin Inlet	This project will assist in reducing family violence and enhancing community involvement in responding to the problem in Rankin Inlet. The program will have different components including a culturally appropriate counseling program for abusers and simultaneously, for victims and their families, as well as community education on family violence. The program is in response to the community's call for a program that provides an alternative to jail for abusers, helping them to change the way they relate to others. So far the training design and communication plan are completed. The next phase includes the development of protocols for referrals and intakes, the development of main program plan, the development of the evaluation plan and the operation of the program.
00-01	Let's Talk About Touching (LTAT)	This prevention program will help young children to acquire basic knowledge regarding sexual abuse, learn some safety skills and develop beginning skills for self-protection. It will increase parental awareness of the extent of the problem. LTAT is a self-sustaining community based prevention program, which includes training support. The development and implementation of the updated program and training model could set a standard and prototype across Canada. The program will assist in enhancing prevention of child sexual abuse and providing early intervention for children/ youth who are exposed to sexual assault.
00-01	Walking the Prevention Circle	This project will develop increased awareness of the problem of family violence in aboriginal communities. It will provide an increased understanding of the causes of family violence as well as links to community resources and services available to help victims. This self-sustaining prevention program will provide aboriginal communities with a comprehensive response to violence, including a more healing environment and strong community involvement, resulting in safer communities.
00-01 99-00	Assessing the Range of Opportunities for Organized or Sexual Exploitation of Children	This study resulted in a report called " Social Interactions Among Pedophiles: A Sociological Investigation". The report provides some insights to the variety of conditions that would allow pedophiles to overcome their social isolation and seek each other out, including market-driven opportunities and Web-driven exchange forums for pedophiles. The study assists in increasing knowledge of child pornography and prostitution networks in metropolitan settings in Canada. This information will help policy- makers and criminal justice professionals in developing early intervention strategies and /or making changes to their current practices to prevent sexual exploitation of children.
99-00	Men's Track	The project resulted in a cost effective and coordinated approach to justice in rural areas in domestic assault cases. The approach holds men accountable, improves victim safety, and provides a number of opportunities for early intervention and prevention of further violence. As a result, women and children who are involved in abusive relationships will have improved victim safety and a greater voice in the system. Men who assault will have a number of opportunities for early intervention and prevention of further violence. Children will benefit not only by having a voice, but also by having a safer family environment. This project strengthens the ability of the criminal justice system to respond to the problem of family violence in large rural communities where traditionally geography and far distances hinders coordination between various parties involved in family violence cases.

Year	Activity	Description
99-00 98-99 97-98	Show Peace Series: Animated Films About Conflict Resolution / National Film Board of Canada	<p>The series of three films dealing with conflict resolution will provide children with an opportunity to learn how to prevent and resolve their own conflicts. The short animated film presents a conflict situation and provides opportunities for exploring creative problem-solving techniques that can be utilized with siblings in the home environment.</p> <p>The videos will have no human characters and no spoken language and communication will be gender and culture free, making the subject easier for a child to relate to.</p> <p>Overall, this project will promote tolerance and build positive behavioral models for preventing, managing and resolving violence, including violence within the family context.</p> <p>The project will be evaluated by assessing and analyzing market demand as well as the critical reaction from the media, film festivals, and from buyers and users.</p>
99-00	Giving Children Hope	<p>Final report and evaluation not received.</p> <p>This project will provide increased knowledge and understanding of the long-term effects of marital/family breakdown in high conflict families. It will contribute to a reduced tolerance for family violence. It will provide direct support to the members of these families and promote the development and implementation of activities to reduce family violence. It will also help to prevent re-occurrence of family violence in these families.</p>
99-00	Creating a Legacy of Hope- An international conference on Children Exposed to Domestic Violence	<p>This project provided an international forum in which practitioners and social scientists from a variety of disciplines shared information about the impact of witnessing violence on children and challenges presented by children witnessing violence at home. The forum, therefore, has contributed to raising awareness of the issue and has promoted information exchange and networking among the conference participants. The conference also focused on sharing information on different interventions and prevention techniques that will help to meet the needs of children exposed to domestic violence. The information can be used for educators, counselors and service providers when dealing with these children. The conference, therefore, has contributed to improved response to the needs of children witnessing violence and prevention of family violence for children at risk of family violence.</p>
99-00	Muslim women in Canada: Our Rights and Freedoms in the 21 st Century	<p>The project contributed to the increased knowledge of human rights among Muslim women and provided them with tools, information and strategies to address their human rights issues including violence against women. The project resulted in the publication of a position paper based on the Conference keynote speeches and a workshop on the congruency between universal human rights and the Islamic tenets, thus promoting ideals of gender equality and human rights for Muslim women. This paper was distributed to university departments of Law, Religious and Women's studies, other Chapters of the organization and ethnic and women's groups. The conference also included a workshop on female genital mutilation (FGM) to promote awareness, and encourage networking among service providers to address the issue, thus enhancing community support for prevention and intervention in relation to this practice.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
99-00	Canadian Feminist Perspective on Law	The project resulted in the publication of a comprehensive bibliography that is a useful tool for public legal education. It promotes knowledge and increases accessibility to the feminist legal literature on law. There are a number of areas in the bibliography that will be of interest to policy makers and scholars to understand the breath, depth, and gaps in the area of family violence. The knowledge gained through the bibliography contributes to the enhanced public involvement and the development of more effective response to family violence. It also supports co-coordinated federal policy development in the area of family violence. The bibliography was distributed as a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Women and the Law, therefore reaching over 700 individual and institutions including women's organizations, law faculties, libraries, law reform commissions, etc.
98-99	Information report on the review of justice, violence, and social control prepared by les Femmes Autochtones du Quebec Inc.	The Report and its supporting community discussions resulted in an increased understanding and awareness of specific issues of concern to Aboriginal communities, including family violence. It will also contribute to the development of activities to reduce incidents of family violence within Aboriginal communities.
98-99	Violence against Aboriginal Women Conference - May 1998" by The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women	<p>The objective of the conference was to promote the use of Aboriginal values and concepts of justice to resolve issues involving family violence, including the use of holistic, community healing processes developed and implemented by Aboriginal persons.</p> <p>The conference served to increase awareness of the problem of family violence within Aboriginal communities and, through its recommendations for action, to promote the development of further information and education-related activities to respond to it.</p>
98-99	For the Benefit of the Children: Services for High Conflict Families of Divorce" by The Family Centre of Winnipeg.	This project provided increased knowledge and understanding of the long-term effects of marital/family breakdown in high conflict families. It was meant to contribute to a reduced tolerance for family violence as well as to strengthen related F/P/T policy development. It also provided direct support to the members of these families thereby enhancing the response of the justice system to the needs of these persons.
98-99	Canadian Perspectives on Law: An Annotated Bibliography of Interdisciplinary Writings, 1989-1998" by the Canadian Journal of Women and the Law.	This project promoted knowledge and public involvement in responding to family violence by increasing awareness of family violence in legal circles, women's studies programs and law reform commissions. It also promoted three principal objectives of the Family Violence Initiative: legal research, public legal education and law and policy reform.
97-98	Child abuse Response Models / Saskatchewan Justice	Funding was provided to compare two child abuse response models, i.e. a "co-location" model, where police and social services are combined in one center, and where cases are co-investigated by police and social workers (Regina's Integrated Child Abuse Unit); and a multi-disciplinary model, which involves a stand-alone facility, intended to be less threatening

Year	Activity	Description
		<p>for children and facilitate a coordinated response by professionals (Saskatoon project). It is understood that both centres aim to fulfill the same primary objectives by integrating services.</p> <p>These projects were developed by Saskatchewan Justice and Saskatchewan Department of Social Services in an effort to jointly respond to cases of child abuse. The evaluation was to take into account the different practices, and to compare the efficiency and effectiveness of each on certain research criteria. This project has occurred in two phases, and took place over a period of eighteen months.</p> <p>The objectives of the evaluation project were: to determine if the projects provide a more comprehensive, streamlined approach to dealing with child abuse cases; to determine if the projects are able to achieve the stated goals using the delivery model as first designed; to inform the government departments if these new methods of responding to child abuse cases should be revised or expanded; to compare the different models and judge effectiveness.</p> <p>A report will be submitted to the Department of Justice, which will include detailed information on the outcome of caseloads and other activities of the project and control sites, point-form summary of interviews, and quantitative analysis in tabular format with differences shown among the project and control sites.</p>
97-98	<i>Discussion and information paper on justice, violence and social control/ Femmes Autochtones du Québec</i>	<p>The Centre d'entraide La Destinée (through the Femmes Autochtones du Québec Inc.) is preparing a discussion and information paper whose central theme is social control. The project's objectives are: (1) to dialogue on questions of justice, community healing, social control and the fight against domestic violence; (2) to share the experiences and initiatives of other communities, information and the thoughts of specialists and Aboriginal representatives; (3) to dialogue with Quebec's Aboriginal people and more particularly Aboriginal women. The document will discuss: (1) relearning of social control by and for the community; (2) redefining public morality and ethical standards; (3) civic education, the role of parents and members of the community; (4) traditional methods of conflict resolution and modern life; (5) community responsibility for peace and social control; (6) justice services and the administration of justice; (7) participation of members of the community in the judicial process. Sessions facilitated by community stakeholders could be held to discuss this document. This would enable women and Aboriginal people in general to participate in the discussion and the decisions concerning the taking of control of justice by Aboriginals and in the social reconstruction of communities.</p>
97-98	High Support Program/ Anglican House	<p>Financial support was provided to defray some of the costs associated with the "High Support Program", intended to provide alternatives and support services to youth engaged in prostitution.</p> <p>This project promotes activities which empower communities and engage partners in the identification of solutions that address the underlying issues (e.g. social, economic, and cultural factors) that contribute to family violence and anti-social and violent behaviour in society. More specifically, the focus of this constellation of community services would be to integrate youth back into their community with the skills and confidence to leave prostitution. It promotes a more healthy and safe lifestyle and it provides young people with positive social values, as well, it better equips them in becoming effective parents.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
		<p>It also promotes the development of youth alternative dispute resolution programs as a prevention measure for youth who perpetrate violence in families/relationships and violence among their peers.</p> <p>Participation in the High Support Program is on a voluntary basis and it helps reduce youths' dependence on prostitution and helps prevent future conflict and involvement with the justice system. Youth are contacted through the outreach work on the streets, the drop-in service, and through referrals from other agencies and from the justice system. It is believed by SOS that this project represents a more practical, economical, and viable alternative to incarceration, and will significantly lower the rate of recidivism of the youth involved. The evaluative component included: case load identifying data, referrals, outcome data (reduction of prostitution, attainment of housing, etc.), client self-reporting assessments, etc.</p>
97-98	Development of Workshop Module on Female Genital Mutilation/National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada	<p>Financial support was provided for the development of a Workshop Module to address Female Genital Mutilation to be used in community workshops. The Module focused on the following areas: 1) Female Genital Mutilation: The Concept and the Struggle; 2) Legal Implications; 3) Health Implications; and 4) Religious & Socio-Cultural Implications for the immigrant family.</p> <p>The module was developed in response to concerns about FGM raised within various ethnic communities and professional realms. The need for an information package was identified in order to provide an educational resource so that discussions concerning FGM could take place in a more comfortable and informed setting. The module was prepared in cooperation with the federal interdepartmental Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation.</p> <p>The project objectives of correcting misconceptions and providing information were successfully met in the Female Genital Mutilation Workshop Manual through a thorough examination of the module areas and extensive consultation. An extensive Workshop Manual was produced. A guide and suggestions for the groups, facilitators and participants most suitable for conducting the workshop was included. As well, the required equipment for conducting the workshop (eg.:AV equipment, handouts, overhead transparencies, stationary equipment etc.) was also listed. Finally, a suggested schedule was provided.</p> <p>The manual is clear and succinct in its step by step approach to approaching the issue of FGM with sensitivity towards those affected; more specifically, young women.</p>
97-98	International Conference on Children Who Witness Violence/London Family Court Clinic	<p>The London Family Court Clinic requested financial support from the Department of Justice in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 in order to defray some of the costs associated with the publication of the proceedings of the international conference on children who witness violence. This conference was for practitioners and social scientists, focusing on one aspect of the problem of family violence, the children exposed to family violence in general, and marital violence in particular.</p> <p>The need for the project was based on the premise that children being reared in violent homes are increasingly being recognized to be at increased risk for a variety of behaviour problems. The objectives of the conference were: 1) to better</p>

Year	Activity	Description
		<p>understand the determinants of children who are exposed to violence and examining their adjustment to such factors as the impact of different types and severity of violence, degree of exposure, mediating variables in the child and the quality of child rearing the children receive; 2) to help front-line professionals and volunteers network and discover the most up-to-date strategies in addressing the needs of children and adolescents in schools, shelters, and community programs, who are exposed to violence; 3) to enhance knowledge and promote the development of effective legal, assessment, intervention, prevention and research strategies to address the prevalence of different forms of violence. A book entitled "Child Custody Disputes and Domestic Violence: Current Clinical and Legal Issues" will be published as a result of the conference.</p>
97-98	Stop the Violence Conference/Manitoba Justice	<p>Manitoba Justice hosted a conference to assist criminal justice practitioners in dealing with family violence issues. It provided training and facilitated the exchange of information with respect to spousal, child and elder abuse, be it physical or sexual, victims' issues, offender programs and management, and other related issues. The goals of the conference were: 1) to improve the understanding of the cycle of family violence as it applies to both victims and offenders; 2) to provide training in aspects of the Manitoba Family Violence Court model; 3) to provide participants with the opportunity to enhance or build critical skills for effectively dealing with family violence victims and offenders; 4) to promote and increase awareness of family violence issues; and, 5) to provide opportunities for sharing ideas and building networks among the professionals and workers in the family violence community. The main target audience of the conference was Manitoba Crown Attorneys, who assist victims of violence when prosecuting an offender. Other target audiences included: judges, advocacy workers, courts and corrections staff, victim service workers, social service professionals, police officers, shelter workers, etc.</p>
97-98	Violence Against Aboriginal Women Conference/ Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women	<p>The Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women received funding in order to host a conference that brought together Aboriginal women to address issues that have touched their lives, to gather expertise from their own experiences as Aboriginal women, to validate these experiences and, to identify and discuss positive measures that could bring about change. The conference was held from May 15 to May 17, 1998.</p> <p>The goals and objectives of this Conference were to: discuss incidences of family violence against Aboriginal women; to validate Aboriginal women's experiences of violence; and to identify and discuss positive measures to bring about changes. New strategies to counter negative stereotypes of Aboriginal women and strategies for preventing violence and breaking the cycle of violence were discussed and developed.</p> <p>This Conference was meant to increase awareness in Aboriginal communities about the violence that occurs against Aboriginal women; provide additional encouragement for Aboriginal women to report violence; promote the development of a support system of mentoring throughout the province of Alberta; and further educate Aboriginal women about various legal remedies that are available.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
97-98	“She’s so Funny” Benefit for Women and Children’s Shelters across Canada/ Delta Media Inc.	<p>On behalf of The Women’s Television Network and the Canadian Pacific Charitable Foundation, Delta Media Inc. received funding to develop and implement a media relations campaign to raise awareness of the “She’s So Funny” television special to generate financial support for women’s shelters.</p> <p>The objective of this campaign was to generate media coverage in local newspapers, radio and television about this national fundraising event. Exposure in the media helped ensure that potential viewers (and donors) knew about the broadcast and how they could contribute to women’s shelters.</p> <p>The aim of the campaign was also to sensitized viewers to the need for women’s shelters, thus increasing awareness about violence against women and children.</p>
97-98	La Violence sexuelle/ Théâtre Parminou	<p>Le Théâtre Parminou requested financial support to defray some of the costs associated with realizing (writing, performing, etc.) a theatre production dealing with sexual violence. The Théâtre has been active in the community and has successfully dealt with various social issues, including suicide, youth social integration, domestic violence, First Nations, school drop-out, pornography, etc.</p> <p>With this initiative, they addressed the problem of sexual violence, exposing its many facets so that the aura of shame and silence is lifted. By presenting a theatrical event they wanted to address the complex dynamic between the offender and the social context. In doing so, they hoped to raise public awareness about this issue.</p> <p>The play itself was created from abusers’ and victims’ witness accounts, as well as those of social workers and other concerned individuals. It will also enhance awareness of adolescent sexual offenders and of violence in families and relationships with the ultimate goal of engaging community partners in the identification of solutions.</p>
97-98	Out from the Shadows - International Summit of Sexually Exploited Youth/ University of Victoria	<p>This project consisted of a series of focus groups and an international summit on the subject of the child sex trade. It brought together sexually exploited youth, their support network, and representatives of governments and NGO’s. The project deals with aspects of child abuse, family violence and crime prevention. Many children exploited through the sex trade come from marginalized and disadvantaged situations including family violence situations.</p>

APPENDIX E
Public Legal Education and Information

APPENDIX E
Public Legal Education and Information

Year	Activity	Description
00-01 to 01-02	Healthy Relationships Website – “YouCan!”	<p>Objective: To increase awareness among youth of the quality of their relationships, provide them with tools to make decisions regarding these relationships and provide conflict resolution initiatives to prevent violence.</p> <p>Description: Over three phases, the project will support the development, testing and launching of a bilingual interactive website targeted to Canada’s youth on dating violence. The project will provide data to support research and evaluation of the effectiveness of the initiatives.</p>
01-02	Educating on Family Violence – A Website	<p>Objective: To increase awareness of the factors contributing to family/dating violence, and to direct users to additional information and resources on the subject.</p> <p>Description: This project creates an interactive website to teach users about family violence and dating violence, and to direct them to resources where they may get help and information.</p>
01-02	Métis Women – Breaking the Cycle Phase I - A Training Project	<p>Objective: To use “Train the Trainer” sessions to provide information on violence, with a view to ending the generational cycle of abuse against Métis women and their children.</p> <p>Description: The project provides three “Train the Trainer” regional workshops for Métis women to address violence against women and children at the community level. The sessions will enable participants to assist communities with techniques for integrating existing family violence prevention programs with a community action plan.</p>
01-02	Information Awareness Campaign on Dating Violence	<p>Objective: To increase awareness in young people about the signs, forms and repercussions of dating violence in order to prevent the increase in this type of violence among teenagers.</p> <p>Description: The project involves production and mail-out of educational materials on dating violence (teaching guide, classroom exercises, poster) to Personal and Social Education teachers in secondary schools in the province of Quebec’s major urban areas. The resource tools promote strategies for conflict resolution, values of self-respect and self-esteem and gender equality in the school system.</p>
01-02	Senior’s Resource Guide	<p>Objective: To raise awareness among seniors on a number of important issues, including elder abuse and the laws that affect their lives.</p> <p>Description: The project dedicates an issue of the People’s Law School newsletter to raising awareness of public legal education resources available for seniors in British Columbia. The newsletter included a section on “Elder Abuse”, providing information on resources available to seniors and caregivers.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
01-02	Public Legal Education Network of Alberta (PLENA) Reprint Project	<p>Objective: To provide the general public and family violence service providers in the province of Alberta with the information, knowledge and capacity to meet client needs and deliver services to Albertans.</p> <p>Description: The project supports the reprinting of a number of family violence booklets in order to ensure a wide distribution of family violence information to those in need in the province of Alberta.</p>
01-02	The Family Violence Information Brochure Project – Saskatchewan	<p>Objective: To provide safe access to relevant legal information to women on how to safely get out of a violent relationship.</p> <p>Description: The project provides female victims of spousal abuse (in rural or small communities) with relevant legal information on how to safely leave a violent relationship. The information is packaged in a safe, inconspicuous manner, enabling women to keep the resource tool/information with them without alerting the abuser.</p>
01-02	Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan Reprint Project	<p>Objective: To continue to promote public awareness of family violence issues among Saskatchewan residents.</p> <p>Description: This project funds the reprinting of four family violence brochures to meet high demand.</p>
01-02	Violence Against Women 20 th Anniversary Symposium – BC	<p>Objective: To examine the many initiatives that have emerged in the past thirty years to respond to the issue of violence against women and children, and to propose approaches and ways to address the problem in order to reduce the risk of further victimization.</p> <p>Description: This project sponsors a forum (conference) for practitioners, policy makers, criminal justice personnel and survivors of violence to examine the benefit and value of government and community based initiatives that have been undertaken in the past thirty years to respond to violence against women and children.</p>
01-02	Stuart Lake Community Safety Strategy – Phase I	<p>Objective: To develop a community strategy for dealing with women and children in domestic crisis that require removal from the home to safety in a local safe haven facility for short term stays.</p> <p>Description: The project involves development of a community protocol that allows for improved referral services and assistance to victims of domestic abuse in Fort St. James. The protocol provides knowledge of gaps in services available and an enhanced integration of available services in Fort St. James.</p>
01-02	Distribution and reprint of FV booklet: “Abuse is Wrong in any Culture” for Inuit Women	<p>Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues, safety and prevention among Inuit communities.</p> <p>Description: The project establishes a contract for distribution and reprinting of over 13,000 of an FV booklet in three Inuktitut dialects: Syllabics, Labradorimutitut, and uinaqtum, and in French.</p>
00-01 to 01-02	Design and Production of Department of Justice Family	<p>Objective: To enhance public knowledge about family violence issues and how the Department of Justice is addressing these issues.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
	Violence Website	Description: A two-phase project involves letting of contracts for the design (00-01) and production (01-02) of the Department of Justice Family Violence Internet Site. The site provides access to information and resources available in relation to policy, programs, research and public legal education and information activities related to family violence within the Department. Also available are fact sheets on family violence, spousal assault and child abuse, and links to other information and resources related to this area.
01-02	Inventory of Best Practices for Dissemination of PLEI family Violence Information in Rural Areas	Objective: To enhance access to family violence information and resources in rural areas. Description: This project involves compilation of an inventory of PLEI methods and practices for reaching persons experiencing family violence in a rural context for use by PLEI providers (e.g., distribution formats, methods and processes that have been employed to promote access to family violence law information in rural areas; and suggestions for improving the relevancy and distribution of PLEI materials for victims of abuse in rural areas).
01-02	Revision of Criminal Harassment Booklet	Objective: To promote public access to information and resources for victims, or potential victims of criminal harassment. Description: This project updates and rewrites the booklet to reflect an amendment to the criminal harassment legislation (Section 264 of the Criminal Code), and changes recommended by the review of the booklet conducted by the Department in 2000 (e.g., plain language, inclusion of a safety plan for victims of criminal harassment).
01-02	Translation of FV materials (Walking the Prevention Circle- Our Children, Our Future) for Inuit communities	Objective: To enhance information on child/youth maltreatment in Inuit communities in a culturally appropriate way. Description: This project involves translating a chapter (14 pages) of "Walking the Prevention Circle (WTPC) Participant Family Violence Resource" into Inuinnaqtun for use in workshops to be held in Nunavut.
01-02	Revision and reprint of a CLEO publication "Elder Abuse: the Hidden Crime"	Objective: To promote knowledge about elder abuse. Description: This project involves revisions to and reprint of 30,000 copies of the publication in English. The 32-page booklet covers a range of topics, including types of elder abuse, signs and symptoms of elder abuse, and the needs of victims. As well, the booklet discusses what the police can do when elder abuse occurs, the kinds of services that can help seniors, and a list of community resources. The list of resources and phone numbers, and references to the legislation in the publication (primarily the Criminal Code) are updated.
01-02	Video on conjugal violence in same sex couples	Objective: To increase awareness on conjugal violence in same sex couples. Description: The project involves development of a video and a guide on conjugal violence in same sex couples, its impact on victims and ways of leaving behind the violence. The video and guide are intended to assist in increasing awareness about the existence of conjugal violence in same sex couples, its impacts and the needs of

Year	Activity	Description
		victims in such situations.
01-02	Educational Materials on the Optional Protocol (OP) for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	<p>Objective: To enhance public knowledge of the OP to CEDAW.</p> <p>Description: The project develops plain language educational materials on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW available in print and on the Internet. It will provide the public with an understanding of the nature of the OP and the procedures it establishes, and generally promote awareness of this instrument.</p>
99-00 to 00-01	Mitouni Kiywmashtayw – The Silence is Deep – Violence Against Métis Women – Phases I and II	<p>Objective: To increase knowledge and develop a resource tool on family violence for Métis women.</p> <p>Description: The project involved two phases. A Phase I workshop discussed issues related to violence against Métis women. The second phase addressed the findings from Phase I, as well as: the judicial treatment of violence against Métis women and their children and implications for custody and access; the issue of child prostitution of Métis girls; the role of Aboriginal and mainstream media in promoting the reduction violence against Métis women and their children; development of an action plan to address violence against Métis women; opportunities to partner with other agencies to develop a video concerning violence against Métis women and their children; and development of an action plan to disseminate the finished video.</p>
00-01	Family Violence PLEI Needs in Rural Areas throughout Canada (a literature review)	<p>Objective: To increase knowledge of FV PLEI needs of rural communities.</p> <p>Description: The Department of Justice commissioned a literature review to identify the needs of rural communities with regards to family violence PLEI materials in order to guide its FV PLEI work in developing these materials.</p>
00-01	Family Violence PLEI Needs in Aboriginal Communities (a literature review)	<p>Objective: To increase knowledge about FV PLEI needs of Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Description: The Department of Justice commissioned a literature review to identify the needs of Aboriginal communities with regards to family violence PLEI materials in order to guide its FV PLEI work in developing these materials.</p>
00-01	FV booklet: “Abuse is Wrong in any Culture” for Inuit Communities	<p>Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues among Inuit communities and help service providers to assist victims or potential victims of family violence.</p> <p>Description: A contract was let for the additional translation and printing of the “Abuse is Wrong” booklet in three dialects of Inuktitut.</p>
00-01	“Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal Harassment” Booklet Review	<p>Objective: To make revisions and republish the booklet in light of legislative developments and evaluation of the booklet conducted by the Department (2000) that recommends some areas for improvement.</p> <p>Description: The project involves conducting a review of the kinds of changes that will be needed to the Criminal</p>

Year	Activity	Description
		Harassment booklet based key factors needing to be taken into consideration in planning the production of the new booklet. These key factors relate to local relevance, quality, target audience and accessibility.
00-01	Family Violence Brochure Reprints	<p>Objective: To raise awareness among residents of Saskatchewan about family violence, its risk factors and family law.</p> <p>Description: The project reprints 16 brochures dealing with legal issues related to family violence.</p>
98-99 to 99-00	Canadian Women Studies	<p>Objective: To increase public understanding and inform public discussion of women's equality issues in the areas of legal reform and restorative justice with a view to increasing awareness about family violence issues.</p> <p>Description: The project resulted in publication of the Spring 1999 issue of Canadian Women Studies entitled "Women and Justice". The publication dealt with issues such as women and legal reforms, women and violence, and women in conflict with the law. The issue also aimed to reach women immigrants, Aboriginal women, and women with disabilities.</p>
98-99 to 99-00	Achieving Equality Rights in the New Millennium – Phase I	<p>Objective: To increase public understanding about issues of concern to women with respect to justice issues, including family violence.</p> <p>Description: The project will contain three phases: a broad research and consultation process to assess existing legal strategies, define emerging equality issues and examine future directions in equality legal theory; a national forum to be held in November 1999; and the development and distribution of an equality action guidebook that will provide a framework and tools for how to work together to achieve equality for all Canadian women. A research paper will also be prepared for each topic to be discussed at the forum. It promotes public involvement in the response to family violence by identifying specific responses for women to encourage them to empower themselves to prevent violence in their families.</p>
99-00	BC FV PLEI Brochure/ Poster	<p>Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues.</p> <p>Description: This project reprints "Caring for Children" in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.</p>
99-00	Ontario FV PLEI Brochure	<p>Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues.</p> <p>Description: This project involves revision, translation and reprinting of "Elder Abuse: The Hidden Crime". The brochure will assist the francophone population in Ontario to better understand the issue of elder abuse by helping them to identify abuse and provide information on how to deal with the abuse.</p>
99-00	Survey of Elder Abuse/Family Violence	<p>Objective: To research the current state of resource materials on elder abuse available to seniors, service providers and the public in both electronic and non-electronic media.</p>

Year	Activity	Description
		Description: This review included an examination of current literature, and inventory of programs being offered to seniors in Canada in order to identify gaps in information and recommend strategies to improve access to existing information.
99-00	NFLD FV PLEI Brochure	Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues. Description: This project reprints "Family Law Guide for Women in Nfld"
99-00	A Safer Place Brochure, BC PLEI	Objective: To contribute to the reduction of the risk of family violence within Aboriginal communities and assist victims of family violence. Description: This project involves an updated brochure and creation of a new poster, which identifies support and assistance resources for Aboriginal women and children in situations of family violence.
99-00	PEI FV PLEI Brochure	Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues among francophone individuals in PEI. Description: This project involves translation and printing of three brochures on family violence into French. (Women, Assault and the Law; Sexual Assault; Islander's Guide to the Victims of Family Violence)
99-00	Sask. FV PLEI Brochure	Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues among Saskatchewan residents, and their understanding of causes and effects of family violence. Description: This project reprints eleven PLEI booklets related to family violence.
99-00	Man. FV PLEI Brochure	Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues and awareness of rights. Description: This project revises "Women in Abusive Relationships" and "Peace Bonds and Restraining Orders".
99-00	NB FV PLEI Brochure	Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues among service providers to better respond to clients involved in a situation of family violence. Description: This project revises a handbook for service providers in New Brunswick who come into contact with abused women.
99-00	NS FV PLEI Brochure	Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues within the province. Description: This project reprints family violence related publications: Peace Bonds, Elder Abuse, Abuse in a Marriage or Common Law Relationship, Being a Witness in a Criminal Trial and Sexual Assault.
99-00	Alta. FV PLEI Brochure	Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues within the province.

Year	Activity	Description
		Description: This project reprints nine family violence brochures.
99-00	FV booklet: "Abuse is Wrong in any Language" in Roma languages	<p>Objective: To enhance knowledge of FV issues, rights and options among new immigrants, and to give service providers an appropriate tool to address these issues with clients.</p> <p>Description: A contract was let for the translation and printing of Abuse is Wrong booklet into Hungarian, Serbian, Czech, and Romanian.</p>
99-00	Family Violence and the Deaf- Legal Education and Information Issues: A National Needs Assessment	<p>Objective: To identify public legal education and information needs among the deaf in family violence situations, and give service providers an appropriate tool to address these issues with clients who are deaf.</p> <p>Description: A contract was let for the provision of guidance on the family violence information needs, from a PLEI perspective, of those who are deaf. The research will assist in developing appropriate PLEI materials for victims of family violence who are deaf.</p>
98-99 to 99-00	Department of Justice Needs Assessment (in seven jurisdictions) on Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) Materials for the Family Violence Initiative	<p>Objective: To assess the needs of various communities in each jurisdiction with regards to family violence PLEI materials</p> <p>Description: The Department of Justice Canada contracted with seven jurisdictions to conduct a needs assessment related to PLEI materials. Each project focused on similar questions, however, the methods used varied across jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction reported on regional requirements for family violence PLEI materials and recommendations for further action. The information provides guidance to the PLEI workplan.</p>
99-00	Synthesis of Family Violence Needs Assessments reports	<p>Objective: To prepare a synthesis report outlining the findings/implications of PLEI needs assessments reports from seven jurisdictions.</p> <p>Description: The Department of Justice Canada commissioned the detailed review of seven reports and the preparation of a synthesis report outlining the major findings and recommendations arising from the seven studies. The synthesis pulled together the findings/recommendations from each of the seven reports and grouped them to identify common needs across the regions and specific needs for each region. The report identified where action/study was required, and this is reflected in the Departmental PLEI workplan.</p>
99-00	Canadian Pensioners' Concerns	<p>Objective: To increase awareness among older people of their rights with regards the law and legal processes</p> <p>Description: This project reviews and revises "Law and Older Nova Scotians"</p>
97-98 to 98-99	"YouCan!" –Focus Groups with Youth	<p>Objective: To discuss the issue of family violence with youth in relation to conflict resolution.</p> <p>Description: This project culminated in a Report on Focus Groups with youth on the subject of "family violence and</p>

Year	Activity	Description
		conflict resolution". The report includes recommendations about content for a workshop module for use by youth in raising public awareness about family violence in their communities.
98-99	"YouCan!" Conference Workshop Module on family violence.	<p>Objective: To develop a workshop module for Conference participants to learn how to present this type of workshop and to develop action plans to take the information learned back to their communities.</p> <p>Description: The project involved development and delivery of a workshop module at a YouCan! Conference. The module and report are being added to the YouCan website so they will be accessible to youth for adaptation and use elsewhere.</p>
98-99	Fact Sheet on criminal legislative reforms for use by law enforcement authorities	<p>Objective: To enhance professional understanding of recent criminal legislative reforms relating to the sexual exploitation of children introduced by Bill C-27 in 1997.</p> <p>Description: The Fact Sheet was developed in consultation with law enforcement authorities and DFAIT.</p>
98-99	Review and revision/updating of PLEI product on peace bonds	<p>Objective: To revise and make available information on peace bonds produced by the Department of Justice in 1996-97.</p> <p>Description: The pamphlet provides information to victims/potential victims of violent, harassing or threatening conduct about their rights and some possible solutions available through the criminal justice system.</p>
98-99	Second National Conference on Elder Abuse	<p>Objective: To fund a conference on elder abuse in 1999</p> <p>Description: The purpose of the national conference was to develop a three-year action plan whereby seniors and professionals can continue to exchange practical, sustainable solutions to elder mistreatment.</p>
98-99	National Youth In Care Network Buffet Manual and Video.	<p>Objective: To develop a manual and video for youth in care, by youth in care.</p> <p>Description: The video shows youth that have been in care talking about their experiences with the Network, including experiences with family violence issues. The video will be distributed to youth in care and others that want to enhance their networks in order to support youth who are or who have been exposed to violence.</p>
98-99	"New Identities Guide Project"	<p>Objective: To improve understanding among legal advocates.</p> <p>Description: The guide was developed by the University of Ottawa Community Legal Clinic. The information guide outlined essential issues and steps for legal advocates working with victims in life-threatening relationships seeking new identities.</p>
98-99	Evaluation of the effectiveness of three PLEI products on	Objective: To improve public legal education and information materials intended to inform women who are victims of or at risk of partner abuse, of their legal rights and some of the legal recourses available to them.

Year	Activity	Description
	spousal abuse	Description: The review involved three publications (“Abuse is Wrong in Any Language,” “Peace Bonds,” and “Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal Harassment”), and focused on three jurisdictions (Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and British Columbia). It considered a variety of issues including: how the materials could better enable service providers to support/advise victims of family violence; whether they are understood by users; and the most effective means of dissemination.
98-99	“Stolen Innocence Campaign – B.C. Pilot Project”	Objective: The goal of the campaign is to combine a successful strategy of prevention with public awareness and education tools in dealing with the sexual exploitation of children and youth in Canada and abroad. Description: This is an action-oriented strategy developed by The Kid Friendly! Society of British Columbia with intersectoral collaboration (government, private sector travel and tourism industry, and non-governmental organizations).
97--98	Pauktuutit Contract	Objective: To provide information to Inuit women about where to get help if they are being abuse. Description: This contract with the Pauktuutit Inuit Women’s Association is for the adaptation and translation of Abuse is Wrong in Any Language into Innuinaqtun.
97-98	Super Directory of PEI Agencies	Objective: To increase accessibility and provide information on family violence support services to those in need. Description: A contract was let with the Community Legal Information Association of PEI to compile a Super Directory of agencies in PEI providing services to victims of family violence, to be accessible through Health Information Resource Centres and the Island HelpLine.
97-98	National Youth in Care Conference	Objective: To assist with co-ordination of a national event to heighten awareness of the issues of youth in care, specifically with regards to family violence. Description: The project involved a contract for coordination and planning of the National Youth in Care Conference.
97-98	Development and production of pocket guide for victims of family violence	Objective: To provide information to citizens of Newfoundland who are victims of family violence. Description: The Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland developed a pocket guide for victims of family violence.
97-98	Poster on abuse of disabled adults	Objective: To provide information and raise awareness about what constitutes abuse and rights of disabled adults. Description: The Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick was contracted for the development of materials, which can also be adapted nationally.

Year	Activity	Description
97-98	Translation of Fact Sheets	<p>Objective: To provide information to new Canadians who are at risk.</p> <p>Description: The Legal Services Society of British Columbia translated family violence fact sheets into Punjabi, Farsi, Spanish and Chinese.</p>
97-98	Development of FAQs	<p>Objective: To provide information to the general public about family violence issues.</p> <p>Description: The University of Alberta was contracted to develop 107 Frequently Asked Questions on Family Violence. The FAQs were to be uploaded on the University Internet site, with links to other sites.</p>
97-98	Fact sheet on legal issues in family violence for Manitobans	<p>Objective: To increase awareness and provide information to the general public about family violence issues.</p> <p>Description: The Community Legal Education Association of Manitoba was contracted to produce a fact sheet on legal issues.</p>
97-98	Transfer to Office of Senior Advisory on Gender Equality	<p>Objective: To facilitate prosecutors' understanding of gender equality analysis.</p> <p>Description: This transfer was used for participation in a conference and meeting of prosecutors on gender equality analysis of prosecutions and development of a chapter on gender equality analysis for criminal prosecutors (with a specific section on prosecution of family violence cases) as part of the Department's overall guide on gender equality analysis.</p>

APPENDIX F
Evaluation

APPENDIX F
Evaluation

Year	Activity	Description
01-02	The Family Violence Evaluation of the Secret of the Silver Horse Booklet for the Department of Justice	This report was commissioned to evaluate how the Secret of the Silver Horse is used in the professional community and whether it delivers the intended messages to children. The evaluation concluded that although professionals are continuing to use it, the focus groups with children indicated that it is not effective at communicating the key messages. Three courses of action were suggested to address the need for a resource in keeping with current knowledge about essential elements associated with the greatest learning of prevention concepts in children.
01-02	Key Informant Interviews in Support of the Evaluation of the Department of Justice Component of the Family Violence Initiative	As part of the summative evaluation of the DOJ component of the FVI, 37 key informant interviews were completed with respondents from DOJ FVI staff and regional office staff, representatives of the Departmental linkages areas (e.g., Youth Justice, National Crime Prevention Centre), FVI Interdepartmental Working Group, non-governmental organizations and F/P/T Ad Hoc Committee on Spousal Assault. Conclusions were that the current mandate and rationale for DOJ involvement in the FVI is sound. A number of current and emerging issues were identified for the Criminal Justice System response to family violence.
01-02	Review of the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Literature	This review was undertaken to inform the Department of Justice as to the availability of materials and programs on child sexual abuse; to inform the Department if there are any evaluations published about these materials or programs; and to provide a short summary of the results as published. To date there is insufficient evidence to establish whether child sexual abuse prevention programs assist children in situations of threat and there is even less data to support the conclusion that these programs actually reduce child sexual abuse. Essential elements associated with the greatest learning of prevention concepts in children were identified.
00-01	<i>Review of the Criminal Harassment Handbook</i>	The Department developed a survey that was distributed to all those who had received a handbook to seek their views on the effectiveness and usefulness of the handbook on criminal harassment.
99-00	<i>Revision of the performance indicators for the DOJ FVI activities</i>	Performance indicators were revised to better reflect the activities that are being undertaken, and strategies were developed to enhance the Department's ability to monitor and report on the results of its FVI activities.
99-00	<i>Review of Effectiveness of Three Department of Justice PLEI Publications Relating to Domestic Violence</i>	Three products were assessed: Abuse is Wrong in any Language, Peace Bonds, and Stalking is a Crime Called Criminal Harassment. For economic reasons, the study was limited to Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and British Columbia. Interviews with PLEI organizations, community case studies and focus groups were used in each jurisdiction. Case studies assessed the accessibility and usage of each publication and collected information on their dissemination, effectiveness and impact from PLEI intermediaries and end users. It was found that the publications were not widely distributed by PLEI organizations. The findings on the effectiveness of the publications in conveying key concepts to users could not be confirmed.