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WORKING DOCUMENT

**More Than a Crime:
A Report on the Lack of Public Legal
Information Materials for Immigrant
Women Who Are Subject to Wife Assault**

Joanne Godin

March 1994

WD1994-2e

**Research and Statistics Directorate /
Direction générale de la recherche et de la statistique**

**Corporate Management, Policy and Programs Sector/
Secteur de la gestion, politiques et programmes ministériels**

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Department of Justice Canada. The views expressed herein are solely those
of the author and do not necessarily represent the views
of the Department of Justice Canada.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>1.0</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	1
1.1	PLEI Working Group on Wife Assault	1
1.2	Organization of the Report	1
1.3	Department of Justice Canada PLEI Mandate	2
1.4	Why is PLEI on Wife Assault Important?	3
1.5	Why Is PLEI on Wife Assault Important for Immigrant Women?	4
1.5.1	Landed Immigrant Status	4
1.5.2	Sponsorship Breakdown	5
1.5.3	Waiting for Sponsorship Status	5
1.5.4	Language Skills	6
1.5.5	Lack of Information	7
1.6	Beyond Law	8
1.6.1	The Family	8
1.6.2	The Community	9
1.6.3	The Police	9
1.7	Findings from the Literature Review	11
1.7.1	Basic Information for Women	11
1.7.2	Basic Introduction to the Legal System	11
1.7.3	Literacy	12
1.7.4	Videos	12
1.7.5	Meeting Community Needs	13
1.7.6	Information for Service Providers	14
1.8	To Sum Up	15
<u>2.0</u>	<u>SUGGESTED MAIN MESSAGES FOR PAMPHLET IN HERITAGE LANGUAGES FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF WIFE ASSAULT</u>	17
2.1	What can I do?	17
2.2	What happens if I leave?	17
2.3	What if I decide to stay and try to get my husband to change?	18
2.4	What if I stay and try to protect my children?	18
2.5	What can I do if he hits me again?	19
2.6	What happens if I call the police?	19
2.7	I am a landed immigrant. What will happen to me?	20
2.8	I am not a landed immigrant. What should I do?	20
2.9	My husband is a landed immigrant. What will happen to him?	20
2.10	Where can I get help?	20
<u>3.0</u>	<u>LITERATURE REVIEW</u>	21
3.1	Information for Victims/Survivors	21
3.1.1	PLEI Materials for Immigrant Women	21
3.1.2	Other Materials for Immigrant Women	22
3.1.3	PLEI Materials on Wife Assault	23
3.1.4	PLEI Materials that Can Be of Use to Assaulted Women	28
3.2	Materials for Service Providers	30

3.2.1	PLEI Materials on Immigrant Women and Wife Assault	30
3.2.2	Materials on Wife Assault	31
3.2.3	General PLEI Materials	34
3.3	Background Information and Research on Wife Assault	34
3.3.1	Materials on Immigrant Women and Wife Assault.....	34
3.3.2	Materials on Wife Assault.....	37

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by the Department of Justice Canada as part of its Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) program. Through PLEI, the Department promotes equal access to information about the law and the legal system among all Canadians. This report examines the legal information needs of immigrant women who are victims of wife assault members of society who, it is believed, are in need of PLEI and for whom little legal information seems to be available. The report's findings are based on a literature review of materials on the subject of wife assault, especially the assault of immigrant women by their partners, and on telephone interviews with service providers, federal and provincial government representatives, and PLEI practitioners across the country. The research was conducted in late 1992 and early 1993.

1.1 PLEI Working Group on Wife Assault

In 1992, the Department of Justice Canada invited representatives of the federal departments of Employment and Immigration, Multiculturalism and Citizenship, Secretary of State, Health and Welfare, and Status of Women, to work together to produce PLEI materials for women who are victims or survivors of wife assault. The PLEI Working Group on Wife Assault, composed of these representatives, held its initial meeting in October of 1992. It is expected that the Working Group will address the needs of immigrant women, women with disabilities, and aboriginal women. The group's initial efforts are focused on information for immigrant women.

1.2 Organization of the Report

This report begins with an overview of the Department of Justice's public legal education and information mandate. It then describes the situation facing many immigrant women who are victims/survivors of wife assault, considers their legal information needs, and suggests strategies to meet these needs, based on the findings of the literature review. The next section of the report presents an outline for a possible pamphlet for immigrant women, which could be published in the languages of ethnocultural communities having large numbers of recent immigrants. The final section of the report constitutes an annotated review of public legal education and information materials and other literature on wife assault. The review concentrates on information relating to the concerns of immigrant women, although an attempt was made to be comprehensive by including other documents that could be of assistance to researchers preparing PLEI documents for this group of women.

1.3 Department of Justice Canada PLEI Mandate

The Department of Justice Canada has a responsibility to inform members of the public about the laws that affect them. In its 1990 PLEI Planning Document, the Department stated that it has

... a clear responsibility to *inform the public* about laws for which the Minister is responsible. The Department of Justice Canada has an additional responsibility, as the primary federal department responsible for justice issues, *to promote equality of access to information* about the law and the *justice system* in general².
(emphasis added)

The Department of Justice Canada fulfils this responsibility by operating a six-part PLEI program, as follows:

Access to Legal Information Fund

The Department provides financial support for one sole-purpose PLEI organization in each province and territory, as designated by the Attorney General or Minister of Justice in each jurisdiction. The two levels of government and the recipient organizations collaborate to plan the program for this \$1.4 million fund.

Law Information Development

In 1992-1993, the Department's work to coordinate the development and production of PLEI materials by the federal government has included the preparation of a strategy paper on wife assault (which was the genesis of this initiative), the production of the present report, and the establishment of the Working Group. In addition, the Department has been asked to advise Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada (MCC) on citizenship materials for new Canadians. It is also working with other departments to address issues of concern to immigrants, and to collaborate on public legal education and information projects for this segment of the population.

PLEI Research

The Department undertakes empirical research and operational studies, often with the provinces or territories or with a PLEI organization. Recently, it has studied a number of initiatives at the federal level, including PLEI activities, information sharing, data collection and the use of plain language. It has studied the possible role and operation of PLEI Net, a cross-Canada electronic information network on PLEI and related subjects. It has also conducted focus group studies of the PLEI needs of immigrants and new Canadians.

PLEI Project Funding

Through project funding, the Department enables PLEI organizations and others to experiment with approaches for PLEI, to meet the needs of particular groups, and to develop PLEI activities on priority justice issues.

National PLEI Coordination, Planning and Policy Development

² Department of Justice Canada. *Planning Document: Public Legal Education and Information* (Ottawa: Department of Justice Canada), p.7.

The Department has established a national network of PLEI organizations, including three working groups. The National Information-Sharing Working Group developed PLEI Net, as well as a PLEI data collection instrument and the PLEI MIS database.

The Department developed the PLEI Policy Discussion Package to consult nationally on a future agenda for PLEI. All of the Department's major policies that have a PLEI component have benefitted from the annual consultations and planning exercises conducted within the PLEI network across Canada.

National Victims Resource Centre

The National Victims Resource Centre (NVRC) operates a 1-800 telephone service throughout the country to respond to enquiries about the criminal justice system as it relates to victims of crime. Working with PLEI Net, the NVRC provides a national communications link for victims, victim services, and governments.

1.4 Why is PLEI on Wife Assault Important?

All women who are victims/survivors of wife assault need information on their rights and responsibilities under the law. They may want to consider the repercussions of calling the police, and they need to understand the terms of Canada's assault laws, the ways in which the operation of the justice system may or may not protect them from further abuse, and the implications of a separation under family law. They may be concerned about the custody of their children, the division of matrimonial property, their property and other rights if their union is common-law, and the ability of the police to restrain the actions of the spouse.

In addition to these legal information needs, all victims/survivors need to know about related matters, such as shelters for themselves and their children, how to proceed when leaving the home so that they can be safe, and the possibilities of removing the spouse from the home.

1.5 Why Is PLEI on Wife Assault Important for Immigrant Women?

In addition to all of the foregoing information, immigrant women have additional, important legal information needs and it is more difficult for immigrant women to gain access to legal information than it is for many others in Canada.

An immigrant woman must consider many important legal issues as she decides whether to leave or remain in an abusive relationship. In addition to questions about assault laws, family law, divorce and child custody, she may have to consider her immigration status, her sponsorship relationship, her eligibility for social assistance if the relationship breaks down, and the possibility that she or her husband will be deported.

1.5.1 Landed Immigrant Status

A woman who is a landed immigrant is said to be protected from deportation if her sponsorship relationship breaks down, and not to be in danger of losing her status as a landed immigrant. However, many women do not know this. Abusive spouses may threaten them with deportation or loss of landed immigrant status if Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC) discovers that they have left their relationship or if they report abuse. According to the 1992 Report of the British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence:

More women than men enter Canada as sponsored immigrants. Abused women who have been sponsored by their husbands may avoid seeking help because they mistakenly believe they can lose their status as a landed immigrant.

To complicate matters, the few PLEI documents that describe even to a limited extent the legal status of immigrant women who are victims/survivors of wife assault have tended to *state categorically* that women who are landed immigrants will not be deported if their sponsorship arrangement breaks down. However, Ontario officials have expressed regret that they included such reassurances in documentation produced for immigrant women they advise that they know of some instances where women were deported despite having landed immigrant status.

1.5.2 Sponsorship Breakdown

Sponsored immigrants may face a problem in obtaining social assistance if the sponsorship arrangement breaks down. The British Columbia Task Force report quotes a draft 1991 report by Etherington et al. as saying that in situations of abuse where a woman wants to apply for social assistance, "Sponsored women immigrants must prove that the sponsorship relationship has broken down before they can receive assistance." This may discourage women from applying for welfare or, at least, delay access to the benefits. The woman may be asked to provide confirmation of sponsorship breakdown from EIC.

In interviews for this report, officials of Public Legal Education and Information Services of New Brunswick stated that immigration officers have been asked to confirm the breakdown of a woman's sponsorship relationship before she would be eligible for social assistance. The woman therefore would have to provide proof of abuse to EIC, perhaps through a police report. In a 1990 report, MacLeod and Shin state that EIC treats sponsorship breakdown as a fact, not something that is subject to discretionary assessment. And a literature review by Education Wife Assault (EWA) on "The Specific Problems of Battered Immigrant Women" states, "Recently, immigration officials have been instructed to consider abuse as sufficient grounds for sponsorship breakdown."

EWA also states that women can make special application for permanent residency if their sponsorship relationship breaks down, but that many women are not aware of this possibility. For this purpose, EWA says that EIC officials have substantial discretion in deciding what constitutes marriage breakdown, a power that EWA says can be misused.

Further research is needed on proving sponsorship breakdown, EIC and social assistance practices, and alternatives available to women in these situations, in order to advise immigrant women of current practices.

1.5.3 Waiting for Sponsorship Status

A paper produced by Status of Women Canada explains the usual practice whereby men sponsor their spouses for entry to Canada. It is a valuable description of the problems that are inherent in a lengthy process that makes immigrant women very vulnerable:

The usual procedure for sponsoring family members into Canada is for person (sic) being sponsored to remain in her/his home country until the sponsor's application is approved. She/he then comes to Canada as a permanent resident.

In this situation, the sponsored spouse remains in Canada on a Minister's permit or a visitor's visa while she awaits approval of the application for her permanent residence status. *This approval process can take up to two years or more.* The sponsoring husband may withdraw his sponsorship undertaking at any time prior to the finalization of his wife's permanent resident status. Without sponsorship, the wife faces the risk of deportation. The tremendous incentive for a sponsored immigrant to stay in even the most abusive relationship is obvious. In fact, community workers and lawyers frequently advise battered women to wait out the permanent process before they take any action against the abuse. The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) estimates that there are approximately 3,500 immigrant women in this precarious situation (emphasis added).

The British Columbia Task Force report reiterates this dangerous situation, and workers in an Ottawa shelter for immigrant women report it as a common problem.

1.5.4 Language Skills

It is evident that women who emigrate to Canada from countries where neither English nor French is used will have difficulty gaining access to services and materials in their adoptive country. Even if a woman's first-language skills are excellent, it will take time for her to learn a new language and feel comfortable asking for assistance. While learning a second language is difficult under the best of circumstances, the situation of many immigrant women can make the challenge insurmountable.

According to the aforementioned Status of Women paper, Canada's rules, and the terms of benefits available to immigrants who wish to learn English or French as a second

language in ESL or FSL classes, make it impossible for many women to take such classes.³ While sponsored refugees are eligible for a training allowance and child care while they attend the free classes, sponsored immigrants are not. Most sponsored immigrants are, of course, women.

The importance of these terms is clear when one considers that many immigrant women need to work – usually at low-paying jobs where their lack of English or French is not a serious impediment – to support their families in Canada. They are unable to work at any skilled jobs for which they may be qualified.

Material written in their first language, and cultural interpretation services to help them deal with the justice and social service systems, are key needs of immigrant women. This fact is echoed in all reports on PLEI needs in cases of wife assault.

1.5.5 Lack of Information

Virtually all reports on the situation faced by immigrant women who are subject to wife assault call for more legal information for the women. Some of the comments are as follows:

Chinese Family Service of Greater Montreal

"There should be Chinese materials available to us such as resources for women and legal information."

MacLeod and Shin

"Above all, immigrant and refugee women need to be informed of their rights and the laws pertaining to wife assault and immigration status."

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick

"Immigrant women who are abused also require particular legal information. They sometimes fear that they or their husbands will be deported if they leave their abusive husbands."

Status of Women Canada

"RECOMMENDATION: Information sessions and materials outlining Canadian law of particular concern to women and services available to assist immigrant women with legal problems or questions should be made available in a variety of languages and provided to immigrant women upon their entry into Canada and distributed in workplaces, childcare facilities, ESL classes, ethnic shopping areas, immigrant community agencies, etc."

³ The researcher was able to review only a photocopy of the Status of Women paper, which was not dated and did not denote authorship. It is difficult to state, therefore, whether this information needs updating.

Young Women's Christian Association

"Although it is growing more likely wife assault will be treated as a crime this depends a lot on . . . information about legal rights being available to native women, racial minority, immigrant and refugee women, women with disabilities."

The Comparative Justice Systems Project, sponsored by the Department of Justice Canada and the British Columbia Attorney General, repeatedly calls for PLEI materials for immigrant communities. Its report addressed the legal information needs of the Canadian Chinese, Indo and Latino communities on family violence and other legal issues.

All reports recognize the need to adapt materials to the communities' languages, as do government and nongovernment workers contacted for this study. Support for a federal initiative to develop PLEI for immigrant women who are subject to wife assault was universal. One community worker offered to participate in any consultative group working on development of materials; she also invited the Department of Justice Canada to attend the first showing of a new video on wife assault. Shelter workers in Ottawa and Montreal were enthusiastic about the possibility of legal information becoming available. The Ontario government lamented the lack of information and welcomed the initiative, as did the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women. That organization is willing to share the results of its current research on the subject, which should be available soon.

1.6 Beyond Law

PLEI materials written for immigrant women must be sensitive to many other concerns. Interviews with shelter workers and others in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto elicited a number of considerations, highlighting the need for PLEI material that is sensitive to the particular circumstances of women from various countries of origin.

1.6.1 The Family

The primacy of the family and a deep concern for the welfare of the children usually considered to be best protected within the nuclear and extended family is a fundamental value for people from many cultures. Although this would be a major consideration for any woman, representatives of Montreal's Greek and Chinese communities, Vancouver's Indo-Canadian community, and Filipino communities across the country, stated that in their communities it is a particularly significant cultural value that may keep women in abusive relationships.

During its consultations to develop the new pamphlet for immigrant women who are subject to wife assault, PLEI Services of New Brunswick found that this concern made it important to emphasize to women that *remaining* in an abusive relationship could

be more harmful for their children. They also pointed out that, if there is any potential danger to the children, Children's Aid Society workers are obligated to remove them to safety.

Many people are reluctant to bring in "outsiders" to resolve what is seen as a "private family matter". The video *No Small Matter* illustrates this attitude in Vancouver's Punjabi community. It demonstrates both the power and the peril of bringing in the extended family to help resolve issues of violence. The video also points out the legal aspects of abuse, and underlines the religion's belief that the two sexes are equal, and its opposition to violence in the home.

1.6.2 The Community

Although leaving the family is traumatic for a woman, she and her children can be further victimized if members of their ethnocultural community regard her action as a betrayal of their values. If a woman is further isolated culturally and linguistically from the services and information she needs, she may be forced to return to the abusive situation or may be unable to support herself and her children.

Rejection by the community can be even more devastating if the woman is deported to her country of origin and the ostracism escalates to attacks.

1.6.3 The Police

Although the police are part of the legal system, their role in the context of this report is more complex. Many reports state that immigrant women may be reluctant to call the police in Canada because the police in their country of origin were seen as agents of an oppressive state. They may consider that the police are susceptible to bribery, and therefore servants of the rich and powerful, and they may fear them as a repressive and brutal force. For example:

- The Education Wife Assault paper quotes a 1985 Ontario study by Ruitort and Small: "Many immigrant women have come to associate the police as a repressive, brutal force to be avoided because of their experience with the police in their country of origin."
- The Ontario Women's Directorate fact sheet, "Wife Assault: The Criminal Justice System", states that "many refugee and immigrant women fear the police because in their countries of origin the police are a repressive force".
- The Status of Women report states that many immigrant women do not see the police as being capable of supporting or protecting them. The women also fear that racist attitudes among police officers may cause them to deal harshly with their spouses.

The report on the Comparative Justice Systems Project undertaken by the Department of Justice Canada and the British Columbia Attorney General brings a different perspective to this issue. The focus group discussions with representatives of ethnocultural minority communities in British Columbia – men and women of all ages meeting in stratified and mixed groups – brought out mixed impressions of the police in Canada. Participants had been in Canada for varying lengths of time and some sessions were held in their first languages. Focus group participants came from the following countries of origin: Burma, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Chile, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and India.

Although participants from India and China were quick to affirm corruption and abuse on the part of many members of the police forces in their countries of origin, they thought the police in Canada were basically fair and honest. Where negative attitudes were expressed, they tended to come from men rather than from women. Some women expressed reluctance to call the police because of their unwillingness to speak outside the family. Participants generally expressed the view that the police were not tough enough in Canada, and were not visible enough on the streets and in their communities.

Participants from Latin America expressed greater fear and mistrust of the police, likening Canadian police to those in their countries of origin. These participants also expressed a strong belief that the police hold racist attitudes against persons of Latin American origin – seeing all men as drug dealers, for example.

Virtually all participants from all ethnocultural groups expressed a reluctance to report "minor" crimes to the police. This tended more to reflect their fear and their ignorance of the legal system. Many feared retaliation by the offenders if they appeared as witnesses; they did not believe that the police could protect them from vengeful acts.

There was a universal call from participants for information on the law and the legal system in their first languages.

A high degree of racism was reported in the focus group discussions. Participants believed that they would be treated differently by the police, especially because of language barriers. They called for greater numbers of police officers representing ethnocultural and visible minority communities, and for cultural sensitization of police. In matters of wife assault, men believed that the police and the laws favour women, and that the police would not understand cultural preferences to keep matters within the family.

Many people working in shelters and other community services believe that women of colour and many immigrant women fear calling the police because they believe that their spouses might be brutalized by the police, and ultimately dealt with much more harshly in the legal system. These concerns must be addressed sensitively in any PLEI materials for immigrant women who are victims of assault.

1.7 Findings from the Literature Review

1.7.1 Basic Information for Women

Information obtained from PLEI organizations across Canada, from provincial and federal government departments and from other sources confirms that very little public legal education and information is available for immigrant women who are subject to wife assault. In fact, only PLEI Services of New Brunswick has developed a written document on wife assault expressly for immigrant women. That booklet is in draft form and is undergoing revisions based on consultations with ethnocultural minority communities in the province.

Clearly, much more public legal information is needed: basic, plainly written material on wife assault and immigration matters, in many languages. This could take the form of a pamphlet or small booklet.

1.7.2 Basic Introduction to the Legal System

All immigrants need a basic introduction to Canada's laws and legal system perhaps a booklet, accompanied by a video presentation. Although the focus in this paper is on the needs of immigrant women, the importance of communicating information about the law and the legal system to men cannot be overlooked. Indo-Canadian participants in the Justice / British Columbia Attorney General study repeatedly emphasized that one cannot send one message to women and a different message to men: "Written material can backfire if men are threatened by what they read." "You want to be sure that no matter what information you offer it is to everyone. Do not isolate information to women or you will alienate men."

Addressing legal information to both women and men should not be detrimental to women. Men need to know that Canadian law does not consider wife assault to be "just a family matter": they need to be aware that the law may deal harshly with the offence. Although one could argue that it is risky and potentially dangerous to inform men that women awaiting sponsorship are in a vulnerable position, it can be assumed that men know this already. The individual who comes to Canada first is far more likely to be aware of the laws. At any rate, a woman in such a position needs to be advised that, if she can wait, she should seek legal counsel before taking action.

1.7.3 Literacy

Other comments from the Justice/British Columbia report are also helpful: "Don't be afraid to be direct with the writing. It is information that women need." "Keep in mind plain language; don't use legal language."

Although first-language literacy is not a problem for many immigrant women, some come from cultures with predominantly oral traditions. Men and women from such countries may have low literacy skills. First-language materials for these groups should be sensitive to literacy skills. All materials should avoid "legalese". Many Canadians have a very low level of understanding of the legal system. Immigrants have the added

challenge of understanding a system that may be very different from their previous experience.

1.7.4 Videos

Videos can be effective for communicating information to people with low literacy skills. *No Small Matter* and *Bitter Love* are videos that effectively portray the reality of wife assault and the options available to women in ethnocultural minority communities. Both videos are at their best in conveying attitudes about wife assault, the impact on family members, and the gravity of police involvement. Another video, *Wife Assault*, by Peg Campbell, the British Columbia Attorney General and the Justice Institute of British Columbia, demonstrates how involving the police and the justice system can strengthen a woman's self-esteem, and emphasize to an abusive husband that his behaviour is more than just a "problem". It is also effective, as are all videos, in walking people through the processes in this case, of calling the police, appearing in court, going to a shelter, and so forth.

Videos have limitations, however. Because so much information needs to be conveyed and because so much of it is not dramatic in nature, videos tend to use a lot of "talking heads". People, usually experts or community leaders, lecture the viewing audience about the provisions of the law, or the reasons that abuse escalates, or the reasons why women choose to stay in abusive situations. While some talkers command attention and convey information effectively, others are far less successful. In the videos mentioned above, and in others, the least successful portions are usually those that involve a lawyer, a bureaucrat, or a community leader talking about the law, the system, or the principles behind them. Workers from shelters, and others who are able to discuss the human aspect of the situation the cycle of abuse explained by using everyday situations in the home, for example are far more interesting.

The level of interest that a video is able to sustain is important: interest promotes understanding. If the viewer is engaged by the figure on the screen, she will be better able to absorb the message. PLEI is not useful if it is not retained.

Brochures and booklets may be less flashy than videos and may not, in fact, be interesting enough to capture a person's attention completely. But it is much easier to subsequently refer to a piece of written material to clarify a point. If resources are limited, the price and utility of videos must be weighed carefully.

1.7.5 Meeting Community Needs

One size does not fit all among immigrant communities. Each community has distinct needs. The Department of Justice Canada and the PLEI Working Group on Wife Assault need to define what they mean by "immigrant women". Many ethnocultural communities are well established in Canada. Workers in Greek Orthodox Family Services in Toronto and Le Bouclier d'Athens in Montreal point out that information on immigration matters is not needed for women of Greek origin because immigration has

now stopped. But the Greek community requires information in its first language, and this information must take account of traditional views of the family and of the role of women. Should this community be ignored because its members have been in Canada for some time?

The Ontario Women's Directorate emphasizes that materials cannot be developed in a generic way and translated into other languages. The Directorate was advised by members of Toronto's African community that translating its brochure would be useless. It was futile to talk about bringing the police into the situation. The Directorate is therefore funding community groups to develop materials that meet their needs and to prepare them in their first languages.

The Ontario Citizenship ministry, however, says that there is a problem of quality control in contracting with communities to produce first-language materials. Ministry representatives fear that legal information could be misconstrued in the transition to another language.

The federal government's 1989 consultation on family violence with national, nongovernment organizations called for awareness programs to be ". . . developed in each community to meet its own cultural, linguistic, and literacy reality . . . ". The consultation also called for a complementary mass-media, high-profile campaign like the anti-smoking and drinking-and-driving campaigns. Whether or not such a broad initiative is possible, the message about the importance of developing materials in the community is clear. The consultation report also recommended that effective information materials, such as *Fresh Start*, produced by the YWCA, be translated and made available to members of ethnocultural minority communities.

1.7.6 Information for Service Providers

The need to inform service providers about the needs and concerns of immigrant women who are subject to wife assault was implicit in many of the documents reviewed. PLEI Services of New Brunswick states that "immigration officers could benefit from better information sources to explain legal options to immigrant women who are abused".

Two excellent information sources are available to service providers. Community Legal Education Ontario has produced *Assaulted Women: A Manual for Advocates*, a thorough review of legal issues for assaulted women. The binder includes the most extensive discussion available of issues facing immigrant women. The information is complex, however, because it is intended for legal personnel. It would be a very valuable resource for research on the issue. Immigrant and Visible Minority Women Against Abuse has produced *Towards Equal Access: A Handbook for Service Providers*, a valuable book that is destined for a wider audience. The language is more accessible and it does an excellent job of presenting the situation of immigrant women coping with wife assault, but it is less thorough in its treatment of the legal issues.

Information on cultural concerns could be of use to the police, shelter workers, health care providers and others. Although cultural awareness and sensitivity are usually

developed through workshops, it may be useful to have a generic document for service providers that would describe cultural factors and beliefs that may have a bearing on how or whether a woman presents herself for assistance, what she may see as her options, and how information can be conveyed to her so that she is not offended. Many professions have developed protocols and guides for dealing with victims/survivors and perpetrators of wife assault; these groups may be receptive to additional tools to assist them in their work.

1.8 To Sum Up

There is no question that PLEI materials are needed for service providers, and especially for immigrant women who are victims/survivors of wife assault. Materials are needed in immigrant women's first languages, and must use plain-language terminology. The Department of Justice Canada and the PLEI Working Group on Wife Assault could consider many approaches in meeting this need, depending on the resources available and the amount of consultation with ethnocultural and immigrant communities that can be carried out. There is support for this work: many people are willing to give time and energy to the effort. Much information is available in reports, but more research is needed.

2.0 SUGGESTED MAIN MESSAGES FOR PAMPHLET IN HERITAGE LANGUAGES FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF WIFE ASSAULT

Men are not allowed to hit their wives or girlfriends. This is wife assault. It is against the law.

If your husband or boyfriend hits you, you can get help. You can get help whether you want to stay with your husband or if you want to leave. This pamphlet will tell you about your rights under the law and will tell you where you can get help.

Women of all ages, religions and cultural backgrounds can become victims of wife assault. It happens to women even though they are strong and capable and care for their husbands and children.

- No religion supports violence against women.
- If your husband hits you, it is *not* your fault.
- Many women are attacked when they are pregnant.
- Men who start hitting their wives usually do not stop. Over time, the assaults can happen more often and become more violent.

2.1 What can I do?

- You can leave your husband and take your children with you.
- You can stay with your husband and try to help him change.
- You can accept your situation and try to protect your children.

2.2 What happens if I leave?

- Under the law, you are not "deserting" your husband if you leave him because he hits you. You have a right to leave so that you can protect yourself and your children.

- You can get help to find a place to live.
- You can divorce your husband and receive part of the assets that you and your husband had while you were married.
- You can get help from the police to keep your husband from hurting you again.

2.3 What if I decide to stay and try to get my husband to change?

You, your husband and your children can get help:

- He can learn that it is wrong to hurt you. He can learn to stop hitting you.
- You can get help to feel better about yourself.
- Your children can get help to learn that it is wrong for a man to hit a woman.
- Your husband has to admit that he has a problem, that it is wrong to hit you, and that he wants help. If he does not admit these things, he will not change. Other people will not be able to help him. But *you* can always get help from the police and from people who understand your situation. You can also talk to women who have gone through the same problems that you are facing.

2.4 What if I stay and try to protect my children?

- If you know that your husband will not change but you want to stay anyway, you can and must protect yourself and your children. In most cases of abuse, the abuse becomes more severe over time.
- It is much harder for the police to protect you if you stay with your husband. You should know that it can be dangerous for you and your children to stay when your husband is hitting you. The police and others will do all they can to help you.

What about the children?

- If there is any danger that your children may be injured because of the violence in your home, Children's Aid Society workers must take them away to safety. If you stay with your husband despite his abuse, you may lose your children.

- Research shows that the effect on children who see their mothers being hit and abused can be as serious as if the children themselves were being hit and abused. Because they have learned about violence in their home, boys may learn to hit others and, as they grow up, they may hit their girlfriends and their wives.
- Girls may begin to believe that it is all right to be hit by a boyfriend or their husband. After all, their mother could put up with it.

2.5 What can I do if he hits me again?

- Leave your house if you can. Take your children with you.
- Call the police.
- Protect yourself. Get help from neighbours if you can.

2.6 What happens if I call the police?

- If you let them in your home, they can check to see if you are all right and if your husband is using any weapon, such as a gun or a knife, to attack you.
- They can charge your husband with assault.
- They can help you leave with your children.
- Even if the police do not charge your husband with assault, they can report the attack. This can help you get a restraining order (an order from the court that tells your husband to stay away from you) or a peace bond. With a peace bond, your husband could go to jail if he comes near you or threatens you or your children.

Can the law help me?

Yes. There are several ways that the law can protect you and your children:

- Your husband can be charged with assault. He can be arrested. He can be ordered to stay away from you.
- You can charge your husband with assault even if the police decide not to charge him.

- The courts can order your husband to stay away from you even if he has not been charged with assault.

The law can also help you get money from your husband, or from a social service agency, so that you can support yourself and your children. See a lawyer. You may not have to pay to speak to a lawyer.

2.7 I am a landed immigrant. What will happen to me?

You will *not* be deported from Canada if you leave your husband because he hits you. You will *not* be deported, even if your husband is your sponsor. You should get help from a lawyer to protect your rights.

2.8 I am not a landed immigrant. What should I do?

If you are not yet a landed immigrant, you should see a lawyer for help. Even if your husband is your sponsor, you may be able to stay in Canada. If your sponsorship agreement has broken down, you can get financial help for yourself and your children.

2.9 My husband is a landed immigrant. What will happen to him?

Your husband will *not* be deported for hitting you unless he is very violent. If he is so violent that he is charged with a criminal offence and given a severe penalty, he may be deported from Canada.

2.10 Where can I get help?

(Phone numbers of police, shelters, cultural interpretation services.)

More information is in the booklet. You can get a copy of this booklet from _____.

(List of resources in the area)

- (Legal Aid)

- (Multicultural organizations)

3.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

PLEI Materials and Other Sources of Information for Immigrant Women Subject to Wife Assault, Service Providers and Researchers

In the following descriptions and appraisals of information sources on the subject of wife assault,

*denotes information concerning immigrant and refugee women that may be of particular interest.

3.1 Information for Victims/Survivors

3.1.1 PLEI Materials for Immigrant Women

LeFeuvre, Joan, with the Young Women's Christian Association of Canada. *Fresh Start.*

Booklet, 75 pages, revised July 1992.

An excellent, practical guide to assist women contemplating leaving abusive relationships. Good information on services available, procedures to follow, things to think about. General "legal" information focuses on police role and access to legal representation.

* Some focus on needs of immigrant women, including information on possibility of deportation and availability of culturally appropriate support services.

Resource lists.

Ontario Women's Directorate. *Wife Assault: It is a crime.*

Pamphlet, 6 pages, no longer in print.

*Briefly describes immigration issues facing immigrant women and gives basic information on charges of assault.

*Available in English, French and seven other languages.

People's Law School. *No Small Matter.*

Video, 28 minutes, 1991, Punjabi, with English subtitles.

Well-acted play dramatizing a situation of wife abuse and the extended family's attempts to resolve the problem. One actor presents the legal and societal attitudes and sanctions against wife abuse. A subsequent segment presents community leaders' and experts' views that wife assault goes against all Sikh religious and community views.

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick. *Woman Abuse - Immigrant Women.*

Draft booklet, 6 pages.

*Good description of police and legal procedures, services and help that may be available; legal options such as obtaining a peace bond, custody orders, and consequences for immigration status.

3.1.2 Other Materials for Immigrant Women

Local shelters and other support services for immigrant women across Canada prepare a wealth of pamphlets and information kits for immigrant and refugee women who are subject to wife assault. However, these organizations tend to be wary of including legal information, at risk of misleading their clients. Organizations instead counsel women during intake sessions, in public forums, and in telephone conversations. They rely on their personal experience with immigration services and other institutions to give women practical advice and impressions of how the rules are applied in their region.

Materials provided by local organizations cover practical needs, such as housing, social assistance, translation services, and so on. Of particular interest and importance are materials on cultural interpretation services.

Centre for Spanish-speaking Peoples. *Effect of Violence on Children.*

Pamphlet, Spanish.

Not reviewed.

_____. ***Family Violence.***

Pamphlet, Spanish.

Not reviewed.

Citizenship, Ministry of (Ontario). *You Are Not Alone.*

Video, for loan in Ontario only.

Not reviewed.

*Available in six languages.

Hispanic Council of Metro Toronto. *Bitter Love.*

Video, 51 minutes, 1989, Spanish, with English subtitles.

Somewhat questionable discussion of the psychology and sociology of wife assault, but effective portrayal of the Hispanic community and women's views. Excellent

portrayal of the sheltering experience with a down-to-earth and illuminating representation of the cycle of violence.

Immigrant and Visible Minority Women Against Abuse. *Cultural Interpreter.*
Pamphlet.

*Explains role of cultural interpreters in helping immigrant women gain access to service providers and professionals.

_____ . *Empowering Women to Stop Abuse in All Forms.*
Pamphlet.

*Describes cultural interpretation and other services offered by the organization, to assist immigrant women in gaining access to "mainstream" resources.

3.1.3 PLEI Materials on Wife Assault

Arctic PLEI Society. *Women and the Criminal Justice System.*

Booklet, 29 pages.

Very basic approach to explaining the criminal justice system and the laws on assault, young offenders, peace bonds, and so forth. Sometimes appears too simplistic; for example: if you don't want to deliver a summons to your spouse, ask the RCMP to do it for you.

British Columbia Women's Programs. *Assault is a crime.*

Pamphlet.

Basic information describing wife assault as a crime, urging women to report and seek help.

British Columbia/Yukon Society of Transition Houses. *A Place of Peace.*

Video, 90 minutes, 1990.

Not reviewed.

Describes wife assault as a crime; describes the practical and legal help available. Other segments focus on the needs of rural women and the experience of a former abuser.

Campbell, Peg, Ministry of the Attorney General, Justice Institute of British Columbia *Wife Assault.*

Video, 40 minutes, 1985.

A white, middle-class, retired couple, married 40 years, encounter the legal system and its support systems for victims/survivors and abusers after neighbours report their "domestic disturbance" to the police. Drama points out the criminal nature of

a "private family matter" and demonstrates the impact of the charges and the potential for rehabilitation. Production values are acceptable, but the makeup is mask-like and detracts from the realism.

Community Legal Education Association (Manitoba). *Understanding the Law Women in Abusive Relationships.*

Booklet, 52 pages.

A very good review of the law on assault, family law, divorce, police and legal procedures. Includes important practical information, such as eligibility factors for legal aid and the services required of a lawyer, and phone numbers of social assistance and legal aid offices and shelters in Manitoba.

Community Legal Education Ontario. *For Abused Women: A Legal Resource Handbook.*

Booklet, 35 pages.

A very thorough and quite plainly worded primer on legal processes and options, providing practical advice. Describes processes and options clearly, but does not linger on the elements of the laws themselves. Excellent follow-up information, including a local resource guide insert and advice on how to support oneself and one's family.

_____. ***Wife Assault.***

Booklet, 8 pages.

Basic information about the law and women's options. Not all terms are clearly explained; not all legal language is simple.

Note included on the effect that a woman's leaving home may have on her immigration status.

Community Legal Information Association (P.E.I.). *Women Assault and the Law.*

Draft booklet.

Good contrast presented in beginning of booklet between consequences of laying charges or allowing abuse to escalate. Subsequent practical advice at summary level. Narrative format hampers comprehension in the draft version; subtitles are needed. Heavy emphasis on process.

Glossary.

Regional phone numbers.

Education Wife Assault. *Wife Assault in Canada.*

Fact sheet, 4 pages, April 1985.

Basic information on myths and realities of wife assault, including homicide

statistics. Treats legal and police processes briefly.

Health and Welfare Canada. *How the Law Can Help Battered Women.*

Pamphlet, 1982, produced with the Department of Justice Canada .

Outdated pamphlet gives information on laws that have since been changed. Some of the approach taken to explain the law and the legal system is useful.

Immigrant Women Against Abuse (Ottawa). *You Are Not Alone.*

Booklet, 8 pages.

Basic information about police procedures and court process.

Ottawa-area referral phone numbers.

Legal Services of British Columbia. *Wife Assault: Information on your rights.*

Booklet, 16 pages, 5th edition, 1988.

Focuses on legal and police processes and defines terms. Does not describe the content of laws per se.

National Association of Women and the Law. *The P. E. I. Legal Handbook for Battered Women.*

Booklet, approximately 30 pages.

Table of contents and Page 1 reviewed only. Excellent organization of material. Small type.

National Film Board of Canada. *For Richer, for Poorer.*

Video, 29 minutes, 1988.

Not reviewed.

Depicts a middle-class woman's efforts to find housing and deal with the welfare system, food banks and the legal system. She must also become self-supporting as she becomes independent.

Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. *Wife Battering: A Criminal Offense.*

Booklet, 29 pages.

A well-written, down-to-earth handbook that explains the law and legal and police procedures clearly and simply. The booklet is straightforward, stating such things as, "Sometimes men deliberately wound their partners on these areas (breasts and sexual organs), because they know that their partners will be too embarrassed to mention it to the police." Useful pointers on what to ask of the police and of a lawyer.

Provincial services listed.

Ontario Women's Directorate. *Wife Assault: Let's Break the Silence.*

Brochure, 24 pages.

Defines abuse as a crime and points to availability of shelters and legal aid, recourse to police.

Mentions need for legal advice if woman is not a Canadian citizen. List of shelters in Ontario.

_____. ***Wife Assault: The Criminal Justice System.***

Fact sheet.

Designed to encourage women to report abuse.

Includes some reference to situation of immigrant and refugee women.

Ottawa Police Force. *Wife Assault.*

Pamphlet.

Leads off by stating that, when men do not suffer consequences for their assaults on their wives, the assaults increase in number and severity. Ends with the Chief of Police inviting women to let the police help. Describes arrest and reporting protocol. Describes some legal options, such as restraining orders.

Resource list.

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick. *A Legal Rights Handbook for Abused Women.*

38 pages, bilingual.

Very good presentation of options for abused women. Good question format. Beautiful, clear design.

Index, services list.

Public Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia. *Dynamics of Wife Battering.*

Video, 28 minutes, 1990.

Not reviewed.

Video uses a dramatic presentation, followed by a panel discussion, to present the social and legal issues faced by women who are battered.

_____. **(Legal Handbook for Women)**

Book, approximately 220 pages.

Table of contents reviewed only.

Exhaustive review of legal processes, laws affecting women, roles of victims/witnesses, procedures for offenders.

Bibliographies.

Regional Committee on Wife Assault (Ottawa). *A Message for All Women.*

Pamphlet.

Focuses on emergency needs and includes local services and phone numbers. Legal advice is recommended for a variety of issues.

Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan. *A Guide to the Law for Battered Women.*

Booklet, 22 pages.

A good, detailed, plain-language description of the law and legal process. Particularly effective definition of "assault" and description of sentencing options.

Yukon PLEI. *Women can't be beat.*

Video.

Video uses service providers effectively to provide information about the law and the legal system. Makes the point that people generally do not like to go to the police when their friends or family members break the law. Comparison is made to drinking and driving offences. Presents women's rationale for not pressing charges and points out that use of the legal system is often the only way to stop abuse.

_____. ***Women can't be beat.***

Information kit.

Kit includes effective, informal, chatty presentations of the law and women's options. Persuasive information manual to accompany video. Accessible, plain-language materials include fact sheets entitled, "Law Made Easy". Package includes theory, practice, facts and practical advice.

3.1.4 PLEI Materials that Can Be of Use to Assaulted Women

PLEI organizations in every province and territory prepare and distribute many documents that provide general information about the law and the legal system. To the extent that these materials treat subjects such as peace bonds, laying an information, or appearing as a witness, they may be useful to women who have reported assaults by their spouses. These materials are not necessarily addressed specifically to women. Some examples follow.

Attorney General, Ontario. *We Help You Feel more Comfortable in the Court Process.*

Not reviewed.

*Available in six languages.

Community Legal Education Association (Manitoba). *Understanding the Law: Peace Bonds and Restraining Orders.*

Booklet, 11 pages, bilingual.

Useful information on two important subjects for victims of wife assault. Format could be improved.

Community Legal Education Ontario. *Who gets the children?*

Booklet, 6 pages.

A focused, clear description of rights, responsibilities, rules of law and procedures.

Manitoba Law Foundation. *Women's Legal Handbook.*

Book, 101 pages, 1991 edition.

Comprehensive guide to women's rights includes brief treatment of wife abuse and glances over concerns of immigrant women.

Extensive resource lists for Manitoba.

Ontario Women's Directorate. *Introduction to Family Law.*

Not reviewed.

Legal information for immigrant women, assaulted women and women seeking custody of their children.

*Available in 11 languages.

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick. *Assault.*

Pamphlet.

A nice, detailed guide to Canada's assault laws. Down-to-earth question-and-answer format.

Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan. *Peace Bonds and other ways to protect yourself from violence.*

Pamphlet.

Good step-by-step guide to obtaining a peace bond, including a description of its usefulness.

Public Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia. *Peace Bonds.*

Booklet, 14 pages.

Useful, clear information about subject of concern to victims of wife abuse.

_____. *Being a "witness".*

Booklet, 14 pages.

3.2 Materials for Service Providers

Some of the best information on legal issues affecting immigrant and refugee women is presented in materials for service providers. The information is generally not simplified, but it is very useful.

3.2.1 PLEI Materials on Immigrant Women and Wife Assault

Calgary Coalition on Family Violence. *Let's Work Together to Stop Family Violence: Service Providers' Training Manual.*

1990.

Not reviewed.

Community Legal Education Ontario. *Abused Women: Legal Clinic Guidelines for Summary Advice and Referral.*

Mimeo, 8 pages.

Excellent protocol for legal clinic workers. Helps workers identify possible signs of abuse and suggests strategies to obtain information from and offer help to women. Provides practical advice to ensure safety and security for women and their children. Good summary information on legal issues and legal aid.

*Notes legal concerns that women may express about immigration and other issues that may signal cases of possible abuse.

_____. *Assaulted Women: A Manual for Advocates.*

Binder, kit, approximately 200 pages.

The most comprehensive information available on all legal issues and procedures of concern to abused women. An excellent support for service providers.

*A detailed section provides a realistic, technical description of legal issues of concern to immigrant and refugee women and the consequences for immigration and refugee status, and deportation.

References and supplementary documents.

Education Wife Assault. *A Skillshop for Immigrant Community Educators: Workshop Manual.*

Manual, 94 pages, 1990.

Designed to build confidence and creativity among service providers, this manual appears to be a useful follow-up to the workshop. It appears less useful on its own.

Immigrant and Visible Minority Women Against Abuse. *Towards Equal Access: A Handbook for Service Providers.*

Book, 176 pages.

Excellent, comprehensive review of situation and issues of concern to immigrant and refugee women who are subject to wife assault. Information covers awareness issues, crisis intervention strategies and services available. Very good survey of legal issues of immigration and refugee status and family and criminal law.

MacLeod, Linda and Maria Shin. *Isolated, Afraid and Forgotten: The Service Delivery Needs and Realities of Immigrant and Refugee Women Who Are Battered.*

Report, 41 pages.

*Very useful survey of services and model programs for immigrant women who are subject to wife abuse. Excellent discussion of Employment and Immigration Canada's approach to sponsorship breakdown and of immigrants' information needs before and after coming to Canada.

Resource lists.

3.2.2 Materials on Wife Assault

British Columbia Medical Association. *Dealing with Wife Assault: A Guide for Medical Personnel.*

Booklet, 29 pages, December 1989 reprint.

A useful, brief guide and notebook for medical personnel. Should be used as a companion to *Wife Assault: Victims Support Worker Handbook* (see below), which gives additional, much-needed background information.

Canadian Association of Social Work Administrators in Health Facilities. *Domestic Violence: Protocol Manual for Social Workers in Health Facilities.*

Booklet, 46 pages.

General guide with step-by-step procedures and checklists for dealing with all forms of family violence.

Canadian Nurses Association. *Family Violence: Clinical Guidelines for Nurses.*

Booklet, 46 pages.

A sensitive, challenging description of myths and general information about wife abuse and other family abuse.

References.

Useful checklists and assessment screening tool.

Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women. *The Community Kit: A Guide to Developing a Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women in Your Community.*

Draft kit, 150 pages.

Comprehensive guide to reviewing and reshaping community services for abused women. Includes sample surveys, checklists, guidelines and interview schedules.

Dunaway, Joanne. *Wife Assault: Victims Support Worker Handbook.*

Book, 51 pages.

Published by British Columbia Ministries of Attorney General and Solicitor General. Much background information, including details of British Columbia wife assault policy. One-half of the book consists of background information, the other half is practical information. Strangely, a section on "meeting the needs of assaultive men" appears on pages 16 and 17; that on women on pages 36 and 37; and on children, on pages 38 and 39. Generally not easy to sort through or follow: too much information, not enough distilling of information, not enough plain language.

Legal Services Society of British Columbia. *Legal Process for Battered Women: A Manual for Intermediaries.*

Book, approximately 127 pages, 1990.

Table of contents only reviewed.

Comprehensive review of laws and processes of concern to battered women.

Ontario Medical Association. *Reports on Wife Assault.*

Booklet, 21 pages.

An excellent review of physical, emotional and legal aspects of wife assault. Suggests emergency room protocol; describes legal process and physician's role in detail; presents case studies to help identify possible problems and interventions.

Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. *Beyond Words: A Training Video for Cultural Interpreters.*

Video, 28 minutes, 1987.

Not reviewed.

Training video and user's guide to help train cultural interpreters working with victims/survivors of wife assault. Video raises ethical issues and the need for training for cultural interpreters.

Public Legal Education Society of Nova Scotia. *Laying Down the Law: An Advocate's Manual on Family Violence.*

Book, approximately 70 pages.

Table of contents reviewed only.

Detailed review of laws on family violence.

Bibliography.

Ruitort, Monica and Shirley Endicott Small. *Working with Assaulted Immigrant Women: A Handbook for Lay Counsellors.*

39 pages, Education Wife Assault, 1985.

Not reviewed. Out of print.

Violence Overcome in Creative Ensemble. *Raise your Voice to End Wife Assault: A Community Action Resource Kit.*

Booklet, 17 pages.

A very useful, practical kit of ideas for implementation by sectors including the clergy, friends of victims and people with language and cultural skills. Persuasive and positive.

*Encourages people to help out with translation, interpretation for victims who speak languages other than English or French.

Waldman, Geraldine. *Law Concerning Domestic Violence.*

Mimeo, 28 pages.

Exhaustive enumeration of the laws pertaining to wife assault. Not in plain language. Terms not explained. Suitable as background information for service providers or researchers.

Yukon PLEI. *It's Not Okay.*

Booklet, approximately 30 pages, 1984.

Table of contents and introduction reviewed only. Focuses on process.

3.2.3 General PLEI Materials

Community Legal Education Association (Manitoba). *Legal Process for Victims of Crime: A Handbook for Service Providers.*

Binder, 115 pages.

Technical approach to defining and describing the law. Does not describe the implications of legal provisions but describes legal precedents.

3.3 Background Information and Research on Wife Assault

3.3.1 Materials on Immigrant Women and Wife Assault

A.R.A. Consultants. *Wife Battering Among Rural, Native and Immigrant Women.*

Report, 1985.

Not reviewed.

This study identifies and examines the criminal justice services that are available to native, immigrant and rural women who are subject to wife assault. It also identifies actions that can enable these victims/survivors to gain access to the criminal justice services they need.

British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence. *Is Anyone Listening?*

Report, 366 pages.

Good survey of legal issues and procedures. Comprehensive report on all types of family violence and sexual assault in British Columbia. Sensitive and thorough treatment of background information.

*Good survey of issues affecting immigrant and refugee women and Women of Colour. Bibliography.

Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women. *A Progress Report.*

Report, 28 pages, bilingual.

Good recognition of diverse needs of immigrant women. Good definitions of types of abuse.

Chinese Family Service of Greater Montreal. *Conjugal Violence in Chinese-Quebecoise Families.*

Report, 30 pages.

A very informative description of individuals' experiences and views, used to illuminate the challenges faced by women in the Chinese-Quebecoise community. Calls for more legal information in women's first language because of their restricted access to ESL/FSL courses.

Education Wife Assault. *The Specific Problems of Battered Immigrant Women: A Review of the Literature Available.*

Mimeo, 11 pages.

Summarizes research on the issues; mentions women's need for legal information, especially in light of concerns on immigration.

_____. ***Working with Immigrant Women.***

Mimeo, 8 pages.

*Useful background information on the services needed by immigrant women and the language and cultural skills they need in service providers. Some discussion of immigration rules and practices and other legal issues.

Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia. *Comparative Justice Systems Project.*

Report to the Department of Justice Canada, approximately 220 pages.

This valuable report summarizes focus group discussions about the law and the legal system, held with members of British Columbia's Chinese, Indian and Latin American communities. Highlights the need to be aware of each community's perceptions of the legal system in their country of origin and how that affects their attitude toward and understanding of the Canadian system.

*Emphasizes the need for plain-language PLEI in heritage languages for women living with wife assault, importance of giving the same message to men and women, and the usefulness of videos to reach women with low literacy skills in English or French.

National Council of Canadian Filipino Associations. *Tama Na!! Report on Proceedings: Wife Assault and Violence Against Women in the Filipino-Canadian Community.*

Proceedings, approximately 80 pages.

Useful overview of family violence issues in the Canadian Filipino community. Surveys services in several provinces.

Ottawa-Carleton Regional Coordinating Committee on Wife Assault. *Brief to the House of Commons Sub-committee on the Status of Women Regarding Immigration Law and Violence Against Women.*

Brief, April 15, 1991.

Not reviewed.

Pope, Lori. *Immigration Law and Wife Assault.*

Article, March 1991, in *Diva*.

Not reviewed.

Public Ugat Education and Information Service of New Brunswick. *Woman Abuse Consultation.*

Report, 10 pages.

Consultation undertaken on the content of the draft document "A Legal Rights Handbook for Abused Women". Useful comments on legal issues such as peace bonds, charges, legal aid.

*Recommends that information on legal options for immigrant women be provided to immigration officials.

Shin, Maria Y. *Violence Against Immigrant and Racial Minority Women: Speaking with Our Voice, Organizing from Our Experience.*

Report, 77 pages.

Excellent, thorough political report of the problems faced by, and the needs of, immigrant women facing abuse. Good review of model programs. Takes note of the burden faced by multicultural service providers when governments and others ask for their free advice and help to adjust "mainstream" programs designed and run without their input.

Bibliography.

Status of Women Canada. *Wife Battering in Immigrant Communities.*

Report, 35 pages, 1985.

*Report explains immigrant women's disadvantages vis-à-vis the justice system and support systems for victims/survivors of abuse. References to EIC policies and practices appear to be out of date, but the discussion is clear and useful. Calls for PLEI to be available in ESL classes, and in women's countries of origin at the time they apply for sponsorship.

Wiebe, Kathy. *Violence Against Immigrant Women and Children.*

Vancouver Rape Crisis Centre, 1985.

Not reviewed.

3.3.2 Materials on Wife Assault

Attorney General, Ministry of (British Columbia). *Wife Assault Information Kit.*

Book, 75 pages.

A collection of Canadian and U.S. articles up to April 1986. Other sources are more recent and relevant.

Canadian Council on Social Development. *Vis-à-Vis Wife assault and the criminal*

justice system.

Newsletter, 12 pages, bilingual.

Provocative and valuable critique of criminal justice system and peace bonds.

Denham, Donna. *Report of Federal Government Consultation on Family Violence with National Non-governmental Organizations*

Approximately 100 pages, bilingual.

Useful report on survey results and outcome of consultation meeting with NGOS. Calls for federal action to provide information in support of immigrant communities.

Family and Social Services, Alberta. *Wife Abuse.*

Fact sheet, 5 pages.

Useful statistics and background information for Alberta.

Finkelhor, David. *Common Features of Family Abuse.*

Booklet, 11 pages.

Excellent, informative review of theoretical literature. Defines abuse as power and looks at institutional responses to various forms of abuse. Useful for suggesting alternative strategies for researching abuse.

Bibliography.

Health and Welfare Canada. *Family Violence: A Review of Theoretical and Clinical Literature*

Book, 115 pages, bilingual.

An excellent summary and analysis of theories and research on family violence. Can be very useful to set the tone for background information provided in documents for victims and service providers.

Bibliography.

MacLeod, Linda. *Battered but not Beaten: Preventing Wife Battering in Canada.*

Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 1987.

Not reviewed.

_____. *Wife Battering and the Web of Hope: Progress, Dilemmas and Visions of Prevention.*

Mimeo, 56 pages, published by Health and Welfare Canada.

Very useful compilation of facts and review of research results. Presents historical

record of the treatment of wife abuse in the justice system.

McDonald, Katherine A. *Practical and Legal Issues Facing Families Suffering Abuse.*

Discussion paper, 8 pages.

Starts with technical and legal definitions of wife abuse, includes discussion of emotional and psychosocial factors that affect victims, and need for public information and an effective justice system response.

Ontario Women's Directorate. *Wife Assault: Dispelling the Myths.*

Fact sheet, 8 pages.

Presents standard myths, key justice issues and other information and statistics in point form.

Mentions fears of immigrant and refugee women.

_____. *Wife Assault: The Impact on Children.*

One-page fact sheet.

Brief, useful summary of statistics and theories on the effects on children of witnessing assaults on their mothers.

Sharp, A.D. *Working Together. 1989 National Forum on Family Violence.*

Proceedings, 300 pages.

Although comprehensive, including a section on the criminal justice system, minimal attention is paid to concerns of immigrant women.

Thomas-Bernard, Wanda. *Why Do Men Abuse Their Wives?*

Discussion paper, 7 pages.

Presents basic, accepted background on theories and reality of wife abuse, including cycle of abuse wheel.

White, Evelyn C. *Chain Chain Change: For Black Women Dealing with Physical and Emotional Abuse.*

Book, 79 pages.

Deals with American law and the experience of abuse from the perspective of black women. Useful for all women, but there is no discussion of immigrant women's experience. Of particular note is the discussion of the pros and cons of attending a racially mixed support group.

Wilson, Bertha. "Family Violence".

Speech, 9 pages.

Connects issues of family violence and the law to larger societal issues.

York University. *Violence Against Women: Strategies for Change.*

Collection of articles, 136 pages, 1991.

Limited utility. Arguments in articles by Maria Shin and others are presented in more and better detail in other sources.