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## To our Readers

The Interdepartmental Working Group of the Family Violence Initiative is pleased to present the **1997/1998 Family Violence Initiative Annual Report**. We have prepared this Annual Report for Treasury Board Secretariat in accordance with the requirements of the *Family Violence Initiative Interdepartmental Accountability and Reporting Frameworks* that were developed this past fiscal year.

**The following departments, agencies  
and Crown Corporations contributed to the Annual Report:**

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Correctional Service of Canada

Department of Canadian Heritage

Department of National Defence

Department of Justice Canada

Health Canada

Human Resources Development Canada

Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Statistics Canada

Status of Women Canada

*They are collectively referred to as "departments" in this Report.*

## Purpose of this Annual Report

This Report provides an overview of the achievements of the Family Violence Initiative in the fiscal year April 1997 to March 1998. It is the first interdepartmental annual report on the Family Violence Initiative.

## What You Will Find Inside

The first section of the Report, *Family Violence in Canada: A Changing Landscape, A Continuing Challenge*, reviews the past decade of federal action under the previous phases of the Family Violence Initiative – 1988/89-1991/92 and 1991/92-1995/96.

The second section of the Report, *the Federal Family Violence Initiative*, describes how the current phase of the Family Violence Initiative builds upon, yet differs from, its predecessors.

The third section of the Report, *Family Violence Initiative Progress: 1997/98*, highlights this year's achievements. The final section of the Report, *Next Steps: Advancing the Family Violence Initiative Agenda*, outlines some of our priorities for 1998/99.

Some departments did not have access to additional family violence resources until late in this start-up year. Many activities have just begun. Results will be available in 1998/99.

## Why Have We Prepared an Interdepartmental Annual Report?

In the past two phases of the Family Violence Initiative, departments were responsible for monitoring their own progress annually. Interdepartmental evaluation reports were prepared mid-way and at the end of each funding phase.

We believe that an annual, interdepartmental reporting process will better help us to:

- support a common vision to reduce family violence
- consolidate the federal strategy
- monitor our progress
- identify and address issues and gaps, and
- realize a results-oriented approach to evaluating our action on family violence.

In 1997/98, the departments participating in the Family Violence Initiative developed the *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework* and *Reporting Framework*. These Frameworks describe how we will track and report the Family Violence Initiative's progress annually until 2001/02.

## An Important Note

Of course, attitudinal and behavioural changes take some time. It may be several years before some indicators of success show trends.

We will provide annual updates on our progress. In 2001/02 we will prepare a five-year Summary Report on the overall results since this start-up year.



## Family Violence in Canada: A Changing Landscape, A Continuing Challenge

### How Widespread is Family Violence?

Family violence continues to be a widespread problem affecting Canadians from all walks of life. Violence may take many forms including intimidation, emotional abuse, social isolation, financial abuse, and neglect as well as physical and sexual assault. Many people are working steadily to prevent family violence in Canadian communities. Yet each day, media reports, a conversation with a friend, co-worker or neighbour, or personal experience remind us that the goal of eliminating family violence in our society is still far away.

In the absence of national trend data, it is difficult to say whether family violence is increasing or decreasing in Canada. The national Violence Against Women Survey (VAWS), conducted in 1993, found that 29% of women in Canada who had ever been married or lived in a common-law relationship had been abused by a male partner. Statistics Canada collects reports from a sample of 61 police agencies across Canada, representing 29% of all reported crimes in Canada. Analysis of these reports from 1993 to 1996 shows that the incidence of spousal assault reported to the police dropped by 7%. Between those years, the number of spousal assault victims who suffered major injuries declined by 24%, while those who had no visible injuries increased by 12%.

While these results may seem somewhat encouraging, family violence is still largely under-reported to police. According to the VAWS, three-quarters of all female victims of spousal violence did not report the incident to the police. And almost half of abused women who feared for their lives did not call police for protection or help to end the violence.

Research has confirmed the damage that exposure to violence against their mothers can have on children's development and future behaviour. Men who, as children, witnessed their mothers being assaulted, are three times more likely to be violent to their partners than men who, as children, did not witness such violence. It has been difficult to compile national statistics on the extent of child abuse and neglect in Canada because of ethical considerations and differences in the ways provinces and territories define, detect, report and collect data about it. The Uniform Crime Report Survey (1996) shows that children under age 18 were victims in 22% of all incidents of violent crime reported to a sample of police forces. Eighteen percent of physical assaults reported to police were against children, and 20% of those assaults were carried out by a family member. Sixty percent of reported sexual assaults were carried out against children, one-third of them perpetrated by a family member.

Although there are very few statistics on the abuse of older adults, Canadians are well aware that older people are also victims of physical and financial abuse and neglect. A 1992 Canada Health Monitor Survey found that 19% of Canadians know of cases where adult family members are finan-

*The Violence Against Women Survey found that [in] 39% of violent marriages, children "...witnessed violence directed against their mothers by their fathers. This is equivalent to at least 1 million children who have been exposed to some level of violence in their homes."*

From: Statistics Canada, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*, 1998.

*A 1995 study estimated partial social services/education, criminal justice, labour/employment and health/medical costs of violence against women across Canada to be at least \$4.2 billion per year.*

From: Greaves, L. et al, *Selected Estimates of the Costs of Violence Against Women*.

*“The total of the measurable costs [of violence against women] relating to health and well-being alone amounts to \$1,539,650,387 per year.”*

From: Day, T. *The Health-Related Costs of Violence Against Women in Canada: the Tip of the Iceberg*.

cially abusing seniors, 15% of Canadians know of cases of neglect, and 7% of Canadians know of cases of physical abuse. In 1996, older adults were victims of 2% of violent crimes reported to police. Family members were involved in 20% of all violent crimes against people 65 years and over. Four out of five of the accused in these cases were adult children (44%) or spouses (34%) of the victims.

We know that both the emotional costs and the economic costs of family violence are substantial. A 1995 study estimated partial costs of violence against women in Canada to be at least \$4.2 billion per year. We do not currently have cost estimates for child abuse and the abuse of older people. They may be expected to be equally significant.

### The Family Violence Initiative – Our Progress in Perspective

Ten years ago, the federal government launched the Family Violence Initiative to address family violence in Canada. Since that time, our perspective on family violence has evolved. Consider, for instance, how multi sectoral, interdisciplinary approaches to family violence have become the norm. We have learned that everyone must work together to prevent family violence. We have seen the benefits of consultation, collaboration and partnership with provincial/territorial, First Nations, and municipal governments, and with the private and non-governmental sectors. Equality-seeking groups, ethnocultural and community organizations, professional associations and academic institutions collaborate across many sectors, including health, social service, education, housing and justice. Individuals, organizations and communities help build solutions.

We have learned to work in a nonlinear fashion. Focussing on many aspects, including public awareness, the criminal justice and housing sectors, data collection, research and evaluation of solutions, the Family Violence Initiative has funded over 3,500 projects. These projects have created new interdisciplinary partnerships, broadened public and professional awareness, and contributed to solutions that are practical, adaptable and community owned. Aboriginal and ethnocultural communities have built solutions suited to local circumstances, strengths and culture.

According to the 1998 Transition Home Survey, since emergency shelters opened their doors to abused women in the early 1970s, federal departments, provincial/territorial agencies and community groups together have set up more than 500 facilities. With help from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s Project Haven and Next Step Programs, shelters now exist in rural areas and First Nations communities which historically were under-served. As well, 3,000 shelter units have been improved or made more accessible through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s Shelter Enhancement Initiative. The stock of longer-term safe housing has increased by a third, to almost 500 units since 1991. An evaluation of the Next Step Program found that, for many women in second stage facilities, access to this Program was critical to their decision not to return to an abusive relationship. The demand for safe shelter is still greater than the supply. However, safe shelters in this country now accommodate about 90,000 women and children annually.

Reforms to the Criminal Code have created a new offence of criminal harassment and strengthened peace bond and sentencing provisions for the protection of victims of family violence. Risk assessment, treatment and healing programs, research, and training for front-line and case workers address family violence among the federal offender population. In the past 10 years, changes to criminal justice practices, combined with legislative reforms, have resulted in a legal system that is more responsive to the needs of victims of family violence, in terms of both protecting against family violence and improving the justice system's response to incidents of family violence.

Through data collection strategies like the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey, the Transition Home Surveys, and departmental evaluation studies, we have had more reliable national baseline information to use in developing policy and programs across all sectors.

## Chronology of the Federal Response to Family Violence in Canada

<b>1978</b>	First federally funded shelters for abused women constructed under the Non-Profit Housing Program
<b>1982</b>	National Clearinghouse on Family Violence established
<b>1986</b>	Child Sexual Abuse Initiative announced
<b>1988</b>	First phase of the Federal Family Violence Initiative announced
<b>1989</b>	Working Together: the 1989 National Forum on Family Violence held
<b>1991</b>	Second phase of the Federal Family Violence Initiative (A Call to Action) announced
<b>1992</b>	Five Research Centres on Family Violence and Violence Against Women announced
<b>1993</b>	Final Report of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women released
<b>1993</b>	First national survey of violence against women, the Violence Against Women Survey, released
<b>1995</b>	Federal Plan on Gender Equality – which includes the reduction of violence in society, particularly against women and children, as a key objective – released
<b>1997</b>	Current phase of the Family Violence Initiative begins

*"Shelters across Canada provide many services to residents as well as to other members of their communities. On May 31, 1995, a snapshot was taken of 405 residential facilities providing services for abused women and their children across Canada. In the 12 months prior to this date, the 365 reporting shelters recorded over 85,000 admissions. In addition, on a typical day they received approximately 3,000 requests for services from non-residents."*

From: Statistics Canada



## Reducing Family Violence – A Continuing Challenge

We know that family violence is a major challenge confronting us all and that it will remain on the public agenda for the foreseeable future. We know that increased reports of family violence do not necessarily indicate an increase in the phenomenon any more than decreased reports indicate a diminishment of its actual occurrence. Increased reports may in fact be a good sign, showing that people are more likely to report the matter, regardless of any change in incidence.

We are steadily building the knowledge base, infrastructure and services to respond to family violence, but there are still many gaps. It is clear that much remains to be done. Systemic challenges to family violence prevention persist. The biggest challenges concern underlying inequalities related to geography, age, gender, culture, sexual orientation and race and the need to improve access to family violence information and support systems. We need to address new dimensions of the problem, such as children's exposure to violence. Practical solutions need to be developed, tested, evaluated and shared across the country. We need to improve access to information on family violence. And national baseline data on family violence need to be collected to help us understand the issues and measure our progress.

## The Federal Family Violence Initiative

### The Federal Strategy

The federal government has renewed its commitment to reduce family violence in the Canadian population, particularly as it relates to women and children. Because this is a long-term problem, the commitment is also long-term. The federal strategy promotes public awareness of the risk factors of family violence and the need for public involvement in responding to the problem; strengthens the ability of the criminal justice and housing systems to respond; and supports data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

This strategy marks a new stage in federal efforts to reduce family violence. For a decade the federal government used the time-limited *special initiative approach* to profile family violence issues and stimulate action. Federal departments carried out individual and joint activities that were coordinated by Health Canada to avoid duplication. Partly because of special initiative funding, the issue of family violence has been integrated into ongoing programming in some departments. We have learned that the best way to address family violence is to support a common vision and a coordinated approach.

With a few exceptions, all federal activities related to the reduction of family violence – that is, those carried out under departmental mandates as well as any specially-funded activities – will be integrated into a single strategy. This approach is known as *horizontal issue management*. The federal government is using this approach for issues that cross traditional departmental and sectoral boundaries and involve many players.

### Reporting Our Results

Participating departments report annually on results of the Family Violence Initiative for Treasury Board Secretariat. The Report's content accords with the information and performance measures departments agreed to provide in the *Family Violence Initiative Interdepartmental Accountability and Reporting Frameworks*. In 2001/02, departments will review the results of the preceding five years' activities and present them in a Summary Report. These Reports will be public documents.

### Which Departments Participate in the Family Violence Initiative?

By April 1997, 11 federal departments, agencies and corporations agreed to participate in the Family Violence Initiative. Their mandates relate to health, housing, culture and heritage, justice, law enforcement, corrections, gender equality, First Nations, immigration, social policy, and national information collection and dissemination. These departments have signed an *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework* for the Family Violence Initiative. This Framework describes the goals and expected results which the Family Violence Initiative hopes to achieve in the coming years.

*Through the Family Violence Initiative, the Correctional Service Canada (CSC) has developed a comprehensive strategy to address family violence in the offender population. Family violence is now an essential part of correctional programming. Offenders are routinely assessed at intake for risk of family violence, and mechanisms are in place to allow intervention in cases where risk is identified.*

*In 1990/91, CSC had two family violence treatment demonstration projects, which accommodated only 20-30 offenders per year. In 1997/98, CSC provided family violence prevention and treatment programs to over 1,300 offenders.*

## Departmental Signatories to the *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework*

*On behalf of the Federal Government of Canada, Health Canada coordinates the Family Violence Initiative and operates the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence.*

### **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation**

delivers the Shelter Enhancement Initiative and in certain circumstances provides capital funding for new emergency shelters and second stage housing

### **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**

promotes awareness of family violence issues through citizenship and immigration policies and programs

### **Correctional Service of Canada**

addresses offender family violence issues through research, treatment programs and staff training

### **Department of Canadian Heritage**

supports family violence prevention projects for off-reserve Aboriginal women, prevention activities for non-English/French speaking members of ethnocultural communities via ethnic media and English/French as a Second Language programs, aims at reducing media violence, and to a limited extent, conducts research and evaluation on family violence

### **Department of Justice Canada**

reviews, researches and reforms criminal legislation and policy, funds community-based family violence projects and provides public legal education and information support on family violence issues

### **Health Canada**

researches the population health consequences of family violence, develops resources and promotes policies, programs and projects that contribute to family violence prevention

### **Human Resources Development Canada**

collects and disseminates family violence information related to social policy

### **Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada**

funds First Nations' community-based projects on family violence, emergency shelters and community projects on prevention, intervention, treatment and research

### **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

supports community-based workshops on victims' issues, sexual assault, and relationship violence and assists communities in using problem-solving approaches to family violence

### **Statistics Canada**

works to improve the availability of national level data on the nature and extent of family violence

### **Status of Women Canada**

supports projects that lead to systemic changes and alternative, long-term prevention strategies

## Federal Resources Allocated for Family Violence

In 1997/98, federal funding specific to family violence amounted to \$30.7 million. This figure includes direct allocations for shelter enhancements and family violence treatment for federal offenders, and transfers to First Nations shelters and family violence prevention projects on reserve. It also includes an additional annual allocation of \$7 million which, as of April 1, 1997, seven departments will share to address identified gaps, coordinate the Family Violence Initiative, and operate the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence.

We know, however, that the above figure is just a portion of federal spending on family violence. It is difficult to identify the total amount of federal resources spent on family violence. Departments carry out many other programs and activities which contribute to the reduction of family violence. For example, much of the regular work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police includes responding to family violence. The Department of Justice Canada addresses victimization issues, sentencing, self-defence and provocation, and reforms to criminal law and policy, and also administers the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention and the Aboriginal Justice Strategy, all of which affect, but are not directed exclusively at, family violence prevention. The Department of Canadian Heritage funds media violence and community development projects, many of which help to prevent family violence. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provides subsidies for social housing for tenants, including women and their children who have left violent family situations. Citizenship and Immigration Canada informs and educates newcomers to Canada about family violence issues. Status of Women Canada funds projects which, in the long term, are intended to prevent violence against women. The Correctional Service of Canada funds sex offender treatment programs, programs for survivors of abuse, and parenting programs, which also contribute to family violence prevention. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Revenue Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade participate in the Our Missing Children's Program, which works in partnership with many non-governmental and private organizations to identify and return children who have been abducted, or who have run away from home. And many other federal policies, programs and strategies – including those related to determinants of health, child development and equality – complement or contribute indirectly to efforts to prevent and reduce family violence.

## Family Violence Initiative – 1997/98 Allocations

<i>Department, Agency or Crown Corporation</i>	<i>Identified Direct Resources (\$M)</i>	<i>Additional Allocation Resources (\$M)</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation</b>	1.9	6.7	8.6*
<b>Citizenship and Immigration</b>	–	*	*
<b>Correctional Service of Canada</b>	–	1.2	1.2*
<b>Department of Canadian Heritage</b>	0.46	*	0.46*
<b>Department of Justice Canada</b>	1.45	*	1.45*
<b>Health Canada</b>	2.14	0.5	2.64*
<b>Human Resources Development Canada</b>	–	*	*
<b>Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada</b>	–	13.7	13.7
<b>Royal Canadian Mounted Police</b>	0.45	*	0.45*
<b>Statistics Canada</b>	0.35	*	0.35*
<b>Status of Women Canada</b>	0.25	1.6	1.85*
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>30.7</b>

Note: All figures are estimates. This is only a partial estimate.

– indicates that no additional annual funding allocation is received.

\* indicates that the figure *does not include* all indirect or complementary allocations that are allocated by the department.

### How Do Federal Resources Help Prevent and Reduce Family Violence in Canada?

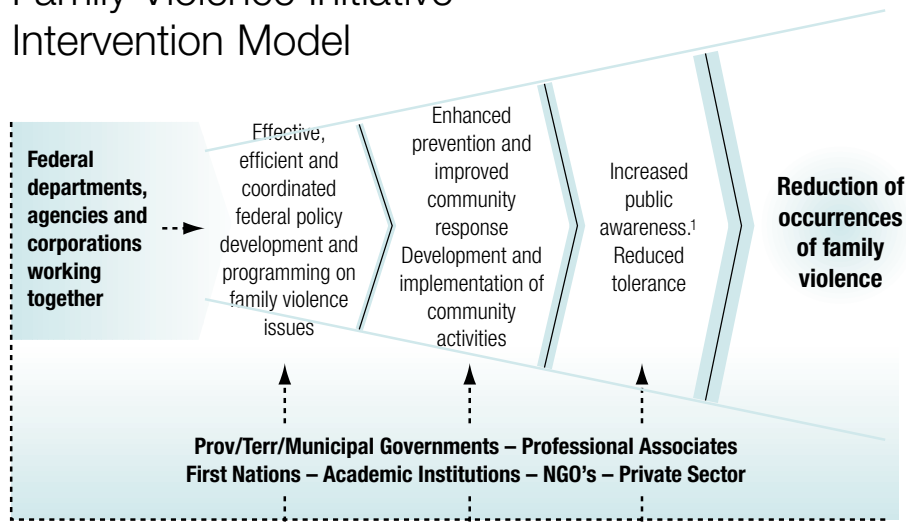
Throughout its history, the Family Violence Initiative has supported the development of knowledge and best practices and provided expertise and resources for family violence prevention activities. Many provincial, territorial or municipal governments co-funded projects. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) contributed expertise, in-kind and volunteer time. The private sector also contributed to many projects. Shelters for abused women and children particularly benefit from the combined resources of the federal and provincial/territorial governments and groups based in the community. Our partnerships with the broadcasting community produced and aired Public Service Announcements about family violence to help to raise awareness.

## What are the Expected Key Results of the Family Violence Initiative?

The long-term goal of the Family Violence Initiative is to reduce family violence in Canada. Our intervention approach is based on the understanding that the federal government is only one of the many players involved in responding to family violence. The role of the federal government relies to a great extent on its capacity to interact, find common solutions, create partnerships and deal with family violence issues with other players such as provincial, territorial and municipal governments, First Nations, NGOs, professional associations, academic institutions and the private sector. How well we, as federal departments, work together, and how much we influence and engage other players, is critical to achieving results.

The following model illustrates the Key Results the Family Violence Initiative seeks to achieve. The Key Results follow a logical sequence of outcomes that will lead to the reduction of family violence in Canada. The model further illustrates that at many points, the achievement of Key Results depends on the work of all players noted earlier.

## Family Violence Initiative Intervention Model



<sup>1</sup> Increased public awareness may result in increased reporting initially.  
Adapted from: Family Violence Initiative Interdepartmental Accountability Framework.

At the front end of the model are all of the federal departments, agencies and corporations that are working together through the Family Violence Initiative. Underpinning the model are the players such as provincial, territorial and municipal governments, First Nations, NGOs, professional associations, academic institutions, and the private sector with whom we interact, form partnerships, and work together on solutions.

The first Key Result we want to achieve is the creation of “*effective, efficient and coordinated federal policy development and programming on family violence issues*”. This means working together more closely than ever before as a *federal strategy* – focussing our efforts on planning and coordinating our activities and developing, exchanging and using information. Departments will continue to enhance their work together. We will do so in the context of federal priorities in the areas of horizontal management, fiscal restraint, social union and citizen engagement.

Central to the work of the Family Violence Initiative is the creation, synthesis and dissemination of family violence knowledge about such products as models of intervention and guidelines on best practices. Much of this knowledge is created through alliances with other partners. In turn, it can be adopted and used by other players to develop programs and policy. Providing knowledge is thus a major way to influence the work of others.

Engaging other players is critical to achieving the second Key Result, “*enhanced prevention, and improved community response to family violence*”. This result emphasizes citizen engagement. The federal government’s work in the justice and housing sectors, though relevant to other Key Results, is also very much linked to this result.

A third, related, Key Result is the “*development and implementation of community activities*”. We contribute to community family violence activities across Canada by strengthening ties with and among all players, thereby again enhancing citizen engagement. Where appropriate, we also support community-based project development. Much of our success depends on how effectively we encourage other players to develop policies and programs and to allocate resources to family violence.

The fourth Key Result involves two related outcomes: “*increased public awareness of family violence issues*” and “*reduced tolerance for family violence*”. These are the longer-term outcomes: a Canadian public which views family violence behaviour as unacceptable and supports community efforts to prevent and respond to it.

We believe the federal approach will ultimately contribute to the fifth, overall Key Result, “*reduction of occurrence of family violence*”. Because family violence is so widespread and deeply ingrained in our society, it will certainly take many years of concerted action to reduce its incidence.

## Links to Other Federal Strategies

The Family Violence Initiative is linked to other federal strategies that are related to violence prevention. Elements of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention (1998), the Aboriginal Justice Strategy (1996), and the Media Violence Strategy (1993), address family violence issues. The New Identities for Victims in Life-threatening Relationships Working Group examines ways to help individuals escaping life-threatening relationships to obtain new legal identities. The Interdepartmental Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation addresses that issue from health, legal and cultural perspectives.

Links between the Family Violence Initiative and other federal strategies take various forms, such as the sharing of information among officials, formal mechanisms of consultation and collaboration, and the promotion and distribution of documents of one initiative by the mechanism of another. For example, the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence distributes material produced by the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention.



## Family Violence Initiative Progress: 1997/98

**Progress Toward:** Effective, Efficient and Coordinated Federal Policy Development and Programming Related to Family Violence

### Overview

The past year marked the transition from a *time-limited* initiative to a *long-term* federal commitment to reduce family violence. We streamlined the previous Family Violence Initiative's coordinating structure to better manage family violence issues. We expanded our membership base from 11 to 12 actively participating departments. We created an *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework* – the first of its kind in the federal government – to measure our progress.

We invested in the information base (the Family Violence Data System) and networks needed to carry forward family violence policy development and programming. We worked with other players, including our provincial and territorial colleagues and experts in the field, on challenging policy issues such as effective prosecution of family violence and criminal harassment cases. We put in place and improved upon existing mechanisms of federal, provincial and territorial government communication, policy coordination, consultation and collaboration. A national strategy now seems possible.

### Outlook for 1998/99

We are confident that the structures and mechanisms we have put in place this year will support federal family violence policy development and programming. We are confident that, in coming years, more federal departments will become actively involved in supporting the Family Violence Initiative.

### Highlights

#### **Creation of a Flexible, Working-Level Interdepartmental Management Structure**

Health Canada chairs an Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) responsible for coordinating the Family Violence Initiative. Under the direction of the IWG, an Interdepartmental Evaluation Working Group addresses performance, accountability and evaluation. *Ad hoc* working groups are created to address specific issues. We link to other federal working groups when appropriate.

#### **Creation of the First Family Violence Initiative *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework* and Family Violence Initiative *Interdepartmental Reporting Framework***

Departments reached consensus on an *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework*, the first of its kind at the federal level. The Framework describes the objectives and Key Results for the Initiative, lists specific departmental commitments related to additional resources they received, and establishes performance indicators and mechanisms to demonstrate results. Departments that signed the *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework* demonstrated their commitment to being accountable

jointly for federal family violence prevention related policies and programs. They also developed a *Reporting Framework* which outlines how they will measure and report annually to Treasury Board Secretariat on their progress.

### **Creation of Mechanisms to Coordinate Policy Development**

This past year, we met, collectively, with our provincial/territorial colleagues – our first multi-departmental, working-level meeting since 1994 – to exchange information and to discuss legal issues, data collection, evaluation strategies and emerging issues. Among the issues of concern that emerged were the use of family group conferencing in family violence cases, and how to address the impact on children of exposure to violence. Since that time, we have initiated research and evaluation studies to more closely examine these issues. We will meet with our provincial and territorial colleagues to discuss further forms of partnership in the fall of 1998.

We convened two policy focus groups – one on Violence Against Women, and one on Abuse of Older Adults – which identified priorities in areas such as public awareness, prevention, intervention and research. Some recommendations have already been translated into projects that are building public awareness, providing tools, promoting best practices, and encouraging partnerships.

We also convened an Expert Group on costing violence against women, children and older adults to discuss the conceptual, methodological, and ethical challenges of calculating the economic cost of violence. Projects relating to costing child abuse and abuse of older adults are being developed.

Reports on the results of these meetings and resultant policy research studies are available, or will soon be distributed, through the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. They may be of interest to those working in the areas of family violence policy development, programming and legislation. They may also serve to inform non-governmental organizations and individuals about related family violence issues.

### **Enhanced Knowledge of Emerging Issues and Gaps in Family Violence**

In the past decade, we have learned a great deal about the dynamics and consequences of family violence, but there are still gaps in our knowledge. We lack critical information on emerging issues. We are missing baseline information on family violence. We need to know more about the impact of our efforts and activities. We need to know more about how to reach particular populations, including ethnocultural communities, youth, rural women and Aboriginal people.

This past year, we have addressed a number of critical knowledge gaps. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation conducted research on homelessness and family violence. Health Canada developed a discussion paper setting out current issues related to neglect and abuse of older adults. The Department of Justice Canada launched a review of custody and access issues, one aspect of which is the effect on such cases of children's exposure to violence. It is also reviewing the impact of conditional sentencing in cases of family violence and sexual assault. The Correctional Service of Canada is examining the effectiveness of model family violence treatment programs for federal offenders. The results of many of these studies are, or will be available in 1998/99. They will be used to inform further policy and program development.

**Criminal Justice Reform and Interjurisdictional Collaboration**

The Department of Justice Canada, in collaboration with its provincial and territorial partners, helped promote a coordinated interjurisdictional response to family violence by strengthening the criminal justice system’s response to family violence.

In May 1997, the Criminal Code was amended to address child prostitution, child sex tourism, criminal harassment and female genital mutilation. The Department of Justice Canada is monitoring the impact of these new provisions.

In March 1998, the Department of Justice Canada hosted a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Forum on Spousal Assault cases. This Forum brought together senior officials from policing, prosecutions, corrections and policy to discuss common issues and concerns and to exchange best practices relating to spousal assault cases. A comprehensive set of federal/provincial/territorial policies and best practices were produced for the Forum and have, together with the Forum itself, served to inform policy decisions in individual jurisdictions and resulted in improved opportunities for continuing collaboration among jurisdictions.

Together with its provincial and territorial counterparts, the Department of Justice Canada commenced a project to examine how to enhance the protection of children and youth from abuse and neglect, including protection from sexual exploitation. This project is using a multidisciplinary, intersectoral perspective.

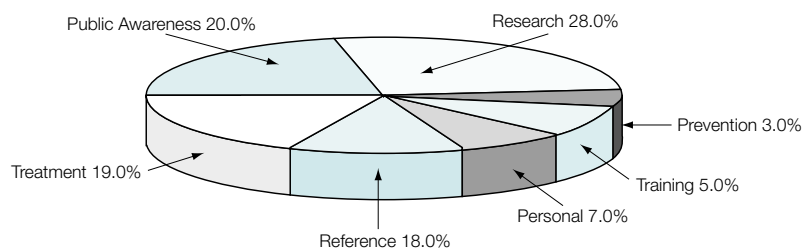
An ad hoc Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group was struck to oversee the development of best practices relating to the investigation, charging and prosecution of criminal harassment cases.

**Expanded Resources to Inform Policy and Program Development on Family Violence**

On behalf of the Family Violence Initiative, Health Canada manages the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (NCFV), a resource centre on family violence prevention and a distribution centre for Family Violence Initiative products.

This past year, the NCFV responded to more than 100,000 requests from social service, health, criminal justice and other professionals, governments, researchers, the media and the public. NCFV materials are primarily used for public awareness, research, treatment, and reference purposes.

How clients use NCFV publications:

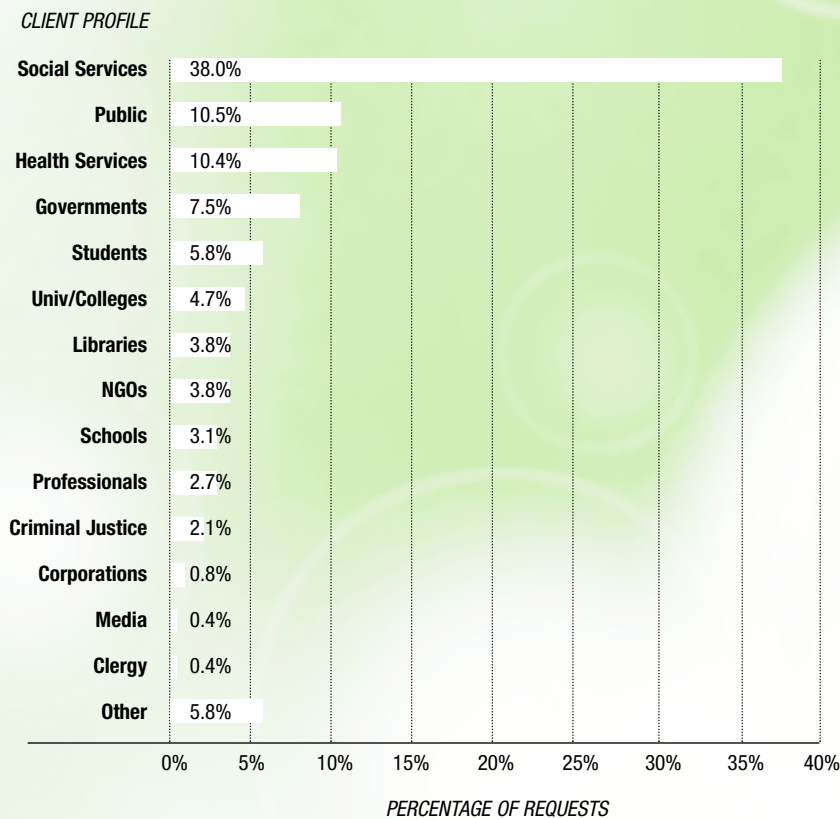


The NCFV added 599 items to its resource library in 1997/98. As well, many resources produced through the Family Violence Initiative were added to the publications distributed by the NCFV. This includes information on family violence from the Aboriginal perspective; the health system implications of risk, vulnerability and resilience; provincial child maltreatment data collection; crime prevention and the importance of investing in families; a reference guide for health practitioners on the consequences of child maltreatment; research perspectives on husband abuse; the needs of developmentally delayed sex offenders; abuse in lesbian relationships; family group decision making; abuse and neglect of older adults; state of the art child abuse prevention information; youth and violence; and national statistics on family violence.

In 1998/99, a National Advisory Committee will be established to provide advice to the NCFV.

*An independent evaluation conducted in 1997/98 reported that NCFV users find the 19 NCFV Fact Sheets and its most frequently requested product, a series of booklets on child sexual assault prepared by the Vancouver Incest Sexual Assault Committee, to be practical, reader-friendly, relevant, educational and very useful for treatment, prevention and education.*

## NCFV Publications by Client Profile



### **New International Planning and Action on Family Violence**

For many years Canada has played a significant international role in raising awareness of family violence issues and providing leadership, knowledge and expertise on family violence to other countries.

In 1997/98, Canada helped focus international attention on the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The Department of Justice Canada actively participated in negotiations concerning the elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child relating to the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Negotiations will continue into 1999/2000. If successfully completed, the Optional Protocol will establish new international standards that will enhance implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Status of Women Canada contributed to the successful agreement at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (Session 42) on the need to promote coordinated research and develop common definitions and guidelines for the collection of data on violence against women, including, and especially, information on the impact of measures and policies undertaken by governments to address violence against women.

Status of Women Canada provided funding to support Canadian preparations for the “Out of the Shadows” Conference held in March 1998. The Department of Justice Canada, Health Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police supported the Canadian hosting of this conference. A follow-up to the 1996 World Congress Against the Commercial/Sexual Exploitation of Children, the conference was a national and international first, bringing youth involved in the sex trade in the Americas together with political leaders, policy makers and experts to discuss child sexual exploitation.

*Many countries see Canada’s 1993 Violence Against Women Survey as a model. They turn to us for technical expertise in family violence survey development, questionnaire design, and methodological issues.*

### **Technical Expertise Shared with International Partners**

Statistics Canada continued to share its technical expertise in survey design, development and implementation with international bodies such as the World Health Organization (which is designing a population survey of the prevalence and health consequences of violence against women in families in developing countries), the International Research Network on Violence Against Women, the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Institute, and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority – organizations which are planning or are carrying out their own violence-related surveys.

## **Progress Toward:** Enhanced Prevention of and Improved Response to Family Violence

### Overview

Throughout the Family Violence Initiative we have balanced prevention activities with the pressing need to improve the response to family violence. Often, these efforts inter-relate. Practitioners need information and education to help them respond appropriately to cases of family violence. This information also strengthens their ability to prevent family violence. As we learn more about the issue, it becomes all the more important that we share prevention and intervention information, so it can be applied.

This past year, we developed and, where possible, disseminated tools and information to professionals in the field, including:

- prevention resources
- information on effective prevention and intervention models, “state-of-the-art” knowledge and “best” practices.

We supported opportunities for professionals to improve their awareness and develop the skills to respond.

The demand for shelter continues to be of pressing concern, especially in rural and remote communities. The need for safe, accessible, culturally sensitive shelters in First Nations communities is of particular concern.

### Outlook for 1998/99

Finding the best ways to prevent family violence and improve responses to it is an ongoing challenge. And getting the right information into the right hands is critical. Many of the tools and models that were developed last year will become available in 1998/99.

We will continue to invest in new ways to prevent family violence. We will ensure that prevention knowledge and tools are widely accessible through the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. Once these resources are in the field we will, where feasible, evaluate their impact.

CMHC’s Shelter Enhancement Initiative will focus on the renovation of existing shelters to meet health and safety standards and security requirements, and to address the special needs of women and their children, people with disabilities, and older clients.

## Highlights

### **A Wider Range of Resources on Family Violence Prevention**

This past year, we produced a range of resources that will help criminal justice, social service and health professionals. Most of these will be available from the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence in 1998:

- Guidelines for recruiting, screening and training volunteer victim service workers within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to help them identify and respond appropriately to family violence situations.
- Internationally accredited standards and guidelines for family violence programs for offenders in federal correctional institutions.
- Information on family violence training resources for service providers working with older people.
- Handbooks and guides to assist health and social service professionals in identifying and responding to issues such as abuse during pregnancy; videos on violence against disabled children and youth, and the shaken baby syndrome.

### **Evaluated Prevention and Intervention Models to Advance Practice**

This past year, we funded evaluations of several promising prevention and intervention models. The reports will be available through the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence later this year. We also synthesized the results of innovative projects funded under the previous Family Violence Initiative. We believe this work will advance best practices in many aspects of family violence prevention and intervention.

- A multi-site study on violence prevention and detection is assessing whether university health sciences curricula reflect an interdisciplinary approach to family violence. The results will help institutions develop better curricula.
- A Department of Justice Canada evaluation of the effectiveness of the Saskatchewan Domestic Violence Act will help policy makers, police and justices of the peace to apply this legislation. It will also help other provinces that are using this act as the basis of their own legislation.
- Comparative evaluations of two child abuse response models – the Regina Integrated Child Abuse Unit and the Saskatoon Project – will provide information on the effectiveness of police/social service and multidisciplinary team approaches to child abuse, and whether their use should be expanded.

### **Increased Family Violence Awareness Training and Skills Development among Practitioners**

We developed training tools and supported skills development workshops for practitioners focussed primarily on criminal justice personnel and volunteers. An RCMP Investigative Guide for Sexual Offences provides front-line officers with information about the appropriate handling of sexual offences. A Department of Justice Canada guide explains how to apply gender equality analysis in the prosecution of family violence cases. The Correctional Service of Canada training programs for new

recruits and front-line staff provide information on how to address offender family violence issues. Community-based workshops on victims' issues for RCMP officers, victim services coordinators and volunteers and "train-the-trainer" workshops on dating violence hosted by the RCMP in communities across Canada, ensure that staff and volunteers are properly equipped to address these issues.

### **Improved Access to Emergency and Second Stage Housing for Abused Women and their Children**

Women and their children in family violence crises rely on emergency shelters set up to provide safe haven in communities across Canada. For those who choose to leave their abusers, second stage facilities help them make a safe and supported transition to new life circumstances. Continuing to support, develop and enhance safe shelter and housing for victims of family violence is fundamental to an improved response to family violence.

The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has made a substantial investment in building and enhancing shelters in Canada since 1978. Its commitment to providing and enhancing housing for women and children in crisis continues through the Shelter Enhancement Initiative. CMHC works closely with provincial authorities responsible for housing. It provides capital funding to build and enhance shelters, while provincial governments contribute operating funds.<sup>1</sup> Provincial and territorial non-governmental organizations also contribute funding. At the core of the provision of shelter services, of course, is the work of community volunteers.

This past fiscal year, CMHC upgraded 237 second stage housing units and 1732 emergency shelter bed units to meet health, safety and security standards and the needs of women and their children, including women with disabilities and older women. It also committed to construct 10 new family violence emergency shelters in First Nations communities which will open in 1998/99. Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada will provide operating funds for these facilities.

<sup>1</sup> The provincial governments of Quebec and New Brunswick cost-share and deliver the Shelter Enhancement Initiative under federal/provincial partnership agreements.

*According to Statistics Canada's national survey on transition homes, "2,361 women accompanied by 2,217 children were living in shelters across Canada when a snapshot was taken on May 31, 1995. Four in five women were there to escape from an abusive situation, the majority from abuse by a marital partner (64%) or ex-spouse (21%)."*

*"..the vast majority [of the 2,217 children in shelters on May 31, 1995] were under 10 years of age. Fully 93% of children were accompanying women admitted into shelters because of abuse. Thirty percent of these women stated that they were protecting their children from psychological abuse, 16% were protecting their children from physical abuse, 14% from threats, 7% from neglect and 6% from sexual abuse."*

From: Statistics Canada, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 1998.*



## **Progress Toward:** Development and Implementation of Activities to Reduce Family Violence

### Overview

Over the past decade, we have helped to create national momentum on family violence. We have done so by seeking out and engaging other players and developing new, collaborative strategies. We have funded many community organizations to develop demonstration projects, using local expertise and in-kind and volunteer contributions. Many of these projects still receive community support.

This past year we have focussed on building partnerships and alliances that will help to address population groups who have been identified as particularly vulnerable, such as girls and young women, children who are sexually exploited and youth. We have continued to provide funding to First Nations communities in their efforts to address family violence.

### Outlook for 1998/99

Partnership-building is an ongoing part of our business. We need to sustain this momentum and encourage all players to develop policies, programs and activities that will reduce family violence.

### Highlights

#### **Family Violence Prevention Partnerships**

Many partnerships forged in the previous Family Violence Initiative continued to flourish. Through various projects they continue to address remaining gaps and pursue promising new directions. For example, the previous Family Violence Initiative funded Saskatchewan's Provincial Partnership Committee on Family Violence. This committee, recently renamed S.T.O.P.S. to Violence, receives provincial funding to guide the province's work on family violence.

From 1992 to 1995, funding was provided to establish five Research Centres on Family Violence and Violence Against Women. Each Research Centre, based on partnerships among front-line workers, government officials and academics, continues to carry out participatory research, the results of which are available from the NCFV.

Recently, the Research Centres formed an Alliance which is now working in partnership with Status of Women Canada to develop recommendations for a national strategy on violence prevention and the girl child.

#### **Federal/Provincial/Territorial Collaboration to Prevent Violence Against Women**

In Halifax in October 1997, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women Working Group on Violence discussed a proposal for sharing information on and evaluating progress toward preventing violence against women, including such violence within the home.

*The Research Centres on Family Violence and Violence Against Women united the experiences of community workers and academic researchers to study causes of family violence and to develop solutions. They have generated several million dollars for research, dissemination of results, and education. The Research Centres' model of partnership and participatory action research has fostered a mutually respectful research process geared to excellence.*

**National Coordinated Law Enforcement Strategy Against the Sexual Victimization of Children**

The sexual exploitation of children, including issues such as child pornography, prostitution, sex tourism, abduction, and the detection of paedophiles/predators, requires a coordinated law enforcement response. This past year, the use of the Internet in child sex exploitation was the focus of a research study coordinated by the Canadian Police College of the RCMP. Law enforcement officials will be able to use the results of this study to develop a strategy to address this issue.

**Continued Support for Community-based Approaches to Violence Prevention in Aboriginal Communities**

Family violence in Aboriginal communities continues to be of pressing concern. This past year Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada continued to fund shelters and prevention projects on reserve. The Department of Canadian Heritage continued to support community-based family violence prevention activities for Aboriginal peoples living off reserve. These family violence activities funded by these departments included: public awareness and education campaigns, conferences and workshops, stress and anger management seminars, and community needs assessments. These activities help to raise community awareness of, and build local solutions to, family violence.

**Youth Engaged in Family Violence Prevention**

We recognize that youth need to be involved in family violence prevention. This past year, we supported youth involvement in a variety of ways, including youth focus groups on family violence; school-based violence projects to prevent youth victimization and further involvement in crime; peer leadership training, and strategies to help youth manage anger and reduce interpersonal conflict.

*Peer training is a promising way to prevent family violence. The Equay-Wuk (Women's Group) Inc. of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, funded the Kush-Kee-Hoh-Win project that trained 10 Aboriginal youth in family violence prevention and intervention skills from the Aboriginal perspective. In turn, these youth held workshops with other Aboriginal youth within their own communities.*

## **Progress Toward:** Increased Public Awareness of and Reduced Tolerance for Family Violence in Society

### Overview

Awareness of family violence helps to promote sustainable attitudinal and behavioural changes. Over the years, public awareness has remained a focus of the Family Violence Initiative. Community-based research, the development of culturally appropriate awareness resources, and public legal education influence public awareness and have a mobilizing effect. We have learned that effective public education requires partnerships. Building partnerships with critical players to create awareness and promote ownership of family violence problems and solutions is part of our work.

It is already clear that, over the past decade, public support for action on family violence has grown. There was enthusiastic media support for the Canadian Association of Broadcasters and their federal partners' public service announcements: "Speak Out Against Violence" (in 1994) and "Violence: You Can Make a Difference" (in 1996). An independent evaluation of the 1996 campaign found the broadcasting community to be very willing to collaborate with the federal government to promote public awareness of family violence.

It is also clear that there is a need for targeted approaches where mainstream approaches have not reached everyone. This past year, we have focussed on expanding partnerships, developing new public legal education materials, and improving public access to family violence information, particularly among populations who are hard to reach through mainstream approaches.

Currently, there are no national mechanisms to measure changes in awareness of and attitudes toward family violence. Nor are there mechanisms to measure levels of public support for family violence policies and programs, or to nationally track media coverage of family violence issues. This past year members of the Interdepartmental Evaluation Working Group on Family Violence were able to lay the ground work for a public awareness research strategy.

### Outlook for 1998/99

In 1998/99 we will launch public awareness materials that were developed this past year and are targeted to ethnocultural minority communities. We will also implement the public awareness research strategy. These efforts will help to fill two gaps: the need to reach out to ethnocultural minority communities effectively, and the need for baseline data that can be used to guide public awareness work.

## Highlights

### **Expanded Partnerships with Ethnocultural, Aboriginal, and Rural Communities**

The Department of Canadian Heritage has initiated a family violence prevention campaign targeted to ethnocultural communities, especially community members who aren't fluent in English or French. Partnerships were developed this year with community-based organizations in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, the three largest immigrant centres, to develop heritage language television and radio programs about family violence for airing on ethnic broadcast media. These programs will be reinforced by a multilingual Public Service Announcement about family violence, which is being developed free-of-charge by CFMT International, Canada's largest multilingual broadcaster, and a special, multilingual family violence issue of Canadian Scene, a free national news and information service for approximately 450 ethnic newspapers and magazines read by approximately 2.5 million people. These projects are being developed with assistance from a national advisory committee that includes representatives of ethnic media, second language training programs for immigrants, and family violence experts. The committee held its first meeting in March 1997.

In March 1997, Status of Women Canada sponsored a Round Table on the Portrayal of Young Women in the Media, held in Vancouver. The Round Table brought together advertising and media industry representatives, academics and Media Watch to discuss issues such as the relationship among the portrayal of young women as victims, violence against women, and the sexualization of younger women. This dialogue will continue in 1998/99.

The Department of Justice Canada conducted two qualitative studies of violence against women in rural settings in Ontario and British Columbia, the former in collaboration with the Community House Program of Rural Ontario. The research has already begun to mobilize community action and will provide policy makers with more complete information on the needs of rural women. The results of these studies will be available in 1998/99.

We partnered with non-governmental organizations and the private sector to air a media relations campaign, She's So Funny – A Benefit for Women's and Children's Shelters Across Canada, which was broadcast on the Women's Television Network.

Federal support to First Nations by Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada for prevention projects and shelters on-reserve, combined with federal support by the Department of Canadian Heritage to Aboriginal organizations for prevention projects off-reserve, created a range of prevention materials and strategies, including culturally appropriate information and workshops on family violence for on-and off-reserve Aboriginal individuals and communities.

The Department of Canadian Heritage supported a number of community-based family violence prevention projects including the production of a multilingual brochure by the Child Welfare League of Canada on alternatives to physical discipline in children. The brochure will be completed and distributed nationally in 1998/99.

**New Public Legal Education Materials on Family Violence for Recent Immigrants and Refugees**

Education initiatives for recent immigrants and refugees focussed on educating people about the rights and responsibilities of Canadians related to family life in Canada, including information on family violence issues. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) developed a pre-departure orientation module on family life in Canada, to be delivered overseas to visa-ready immigrants. CIC also developed a handbook to assist refugees in the resettlement process, including information on family violence and the relevant laws in Canada. These materials will be available in 1998/99.

**Enhanced Public Access to Family Violence Information**

The Department of Justice Canada enhanced public access to family violence information through a variety of means, including research on policies and services that would make the criminal justice system and justice-related services more accessible for abused immigrant women, and the production of a range of brochures and fact sheets on family violence public legal information, in several languages. These information products will be available in 1998/99.

The Department of Justice Canada sponsored the addition of "Frequently Asked Questions on Family Violence" to the University of Alberta's Internet Site. Increasingly more family violence information is available through the Internet, including through the web site of the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence.

**A National Public Awareness Research Strategy Established**

This past year, we developed a public awareness research strategy to systematically collect and measure public awareness information. The strategy which will be implemented in 1998/99 will yield national level information on changes in awareness, tolerance, and public knowledge of family violence. It will also monitor trends in media coverage of family violence. This research will help to create a knowledge base on family violence activities across Canada and on current issues in scholarly thinking regarding family violence.

## Progress Toward: Reduced Occurrence of Family Violence

### Overview

The goal of reducing family violence in Canadian society will require fundamental changes in attitudes and behaviours. Reaching this goal is a long-term process. It will result from the collective efforts of all players – within the Family Violence Initiative and others throughout Canadian society. The Key Results outlined in the Family Violence Initiative Intervention Model show how the federal strategy will contribute to the reduced occurrence of family violence.

To enable Canadians to benchmark our progress toward reducing the occurrence of family violence, it is necessary to have a reliable and complete picture of its incidence. This past year, we have concentrated on finding ways to improve family violence data in Canada, especially data concerning older people, men and children. More reliable family violence information will help to evaluate interventions, increase public awareness, stimulate dialogue, and foster social change.

### Outlook for 1998/99

In the next fiscal year, member departments of the Family Violence Initiative will work together to conduct several surveys that will provide a more complete and reliable picture of family violence. Through self reported victimization surveys such as the General Social Survey, we will begin to have more reliable trend data. This information will help everyone to monitor our progress in reducing the occurrence of family violence.

### Highlights

#### **Publication of the First Volume in a Series on Family Violence: *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile***

Statistics Canada consolidated national statistical information on family violence in [Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile](#). The report summarizes what is currently known about the extent and nature of spousal violence, abuse of older people, child abuse and homicides in the family, using police-reported data, homicide data, information from the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey, and information from previous Transition Home Surveys. The report is available free-of-charge from the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence.

#### **Improved Data Collection Mechanisms to Address Information Gaps**

Because the Family Violence Initiative is managed horizontally, it is possible for departments to pool their financial resources, knowledge and expertise to carry out projects to meet collective goals. This past year we used this approach to bring the right players to the table to design national data collection to mutual advantage.

We modified questions on Statistics Canada's General Social Survey – Victimization Cycle to ask women and men aged 15 and over about experiences of physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. The survey will be administered in 1999. Preliminary analysis will be available in 2000. We explored ways to modify the National Population Health Survey to measure abuse against older people who live in institutions. A feasibility report will be completed in the summer of 1998. We are also conducting a feasibility study to determine the most reliable and valid ways to ask sensitive questions about child abuse.

With our provincial and territorial colleagues we have found a way to gather more reliable estimates of the scope and characteristics of reported child abuse in Canada through a Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect. The study will be conducted in the fall of 1998. Preliminary results will be available in the winter of 1998/99.

We have also worked with provincial/territorial officials and Transition Home Associations to redesign the Transition Home Survey. The survey will be implemented in 1998/99. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will use the information to guide its Shelter Enhancement Initiative.

## Next Steps: Advancing the Family Violence Initiative Agenda

### Keeping it in Perspective

This past year we invested in resource development and supported prevention projects in communities across Canada. We continued our program of shelter enhancements and criminal justice reform.

We will soon be able to share the results of much of the research conducted this year. Many of the resources created – handbooks, prevention models, videos and guidelines – will be published in both official languages. These resources will be available to all Canadians through the responsible departments and through the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. We expect that these products will be widely shared and will contribute to greater prevention efforts. We will monitor and evaluate their use and impact.

Much of our work was of a “behind the scenes” nature – setting up the management structure for this phase of the Initiative, securing additional resources, planning national data collection, undertaking research and evaluations, and developing resources.

We are optimistic that the investments we made in setting up the Family Violence Initiative will serve the public well over time. We are firm in our belief that a *horizontal management approach* is the best way to manage family violence issues at the federal level. We are now better equipped to work strategically and to report on our performance in the future. The *Interdepartmental Accountability Framework* has laid the basis for evaluating the Family Violence Initiative’s performance.

### Where We are Headed

In 1998/99, we will further improve the coordination of federal policy development and programming in the area of family violence. We will hold an interdepartmental strategy planning session in the fall of 1998 to develop a strategic interdepartmental plan. We will continue to fund shelter enhancements in partnership with other jurisdictions as funding permits. We will continue to advance and monitor criminal justice reform. We will continue to build the knowledge base, resources, and tools that Canadians need to understand and respond to family violence. We will continue to work with other levels of government, Aboriginal peoples, NGOs, professional associations, the private sector and others, to improve programs and ultimately reduce family violence.



