

*Government
action plan 2004-2009*

on
domestic
violence

Prevention and promotion

Detection and early identification

Psychosocial intervention

Judicial and correctional intervention

Adaptation to special realities

Essential conditions for successful action

Implementation, evaluation and follow-up

Document produced by:
The communications division
of the Ministère de la Justice

The public affairs and communications division
of the Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration

Graphics: Immaculae conception graphique
Printing: Imprimerie Vitray

To obtain other copies of this document,
please send an order by fax to: (514) 873-7349
or by mail to: Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration
Direction des affaires publiques et des communications
360, rue Mc Gill (4^e étage)
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 2E9

This document is also available on
the website of the signatory government departments.

Legal deposit—4th quarter 2004
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
ISBN: 2-550-43793-4

© Gouvernement du Québec

Full or partial reproduction of this document is authorized with mention of the source.

FOR ANY DISPUTE CONCERNING THE INTERPRETATION OF THE COMMITMENTS
MADE IN THIS PLAN OF ACTION, THE FRENCH TEXT PREVAILS.

on
domestic
violence

*Government
action plan 2004-2009*

Prevention and promotion

Detection and early identification

Psychosocial intervention

Judicial and correctional intervention

Adaptation to special realities

Essential conditions for successful action

Implementation, evaluation and follow-up

Foreword

The *Government action plan 2004-2009 on domestic violence* consists of 72 commitments, over half of which are new measures that will allow the government to improve his action in this area.

As early as the 1970s, an examination of the social dimension of domestic violence took place in Québec, leading various government authorities to acknowledge not only the extent and gravity of this form of violence, but also their own responsibility in eradicating it. Experience has shown that only the mobilization of the Québec population as a whole can, in the medium and long term, combat domestic violence in all areas of society. This is why it is so important to rally all individuals, both women and men, around this common goal.

Not only does domestic violence weigh heavily on the lives of those who are subjected to it or who witness it, but it also limits the potential for the social and economic development of Québec society.

In recent years, the Québec government has introduced means of action and supported various initiatives to provide assistance for women victims of domestic violence. In 1995, Québec adopted a policy on intervention in domestic violence, and a related plan of action.

As we mentioned in the 2004 policy document *Shine among the best*, social justice and equality between women and men are the basic values on which the actions of our government are founded. The very existence of domestic violence is an obstacle to the achievement of equality between women and men.

Although considerable progress has been achieved in the fight against domestic violence in Québec, we recognize that further action is needed. Even today, membership in a particular social group, status and financial standing offer no protection against domestic violence. However, recent research has shown that young women, Native women, immigrant women and women from cultural communities are especially vulnerable to this form of violence.

Over the next five years, we will increase our efforts to improve the safety of victims of domestic violence and children who are exposed to it, consolidate victim assistance and protection services, and meet the assistance and support needs of violent spouses.

Eight government departments, including three secretariat and their respective assistance and protection networks are accountable for the commitments made in this plan of action. The commitments reflect the four key focuses of the domestic violence policy: prevention, detection, adaptation to special realities and sociojudicial intervention.

In response to the needs identified by organizations specializing in domestic violence in the public, parapublic, community and research sectors, special attention has been paid to define commitments that provide priority to the safety and protection of victims. The situation of children exposed to domestic violence is also targeted by several measures, including the development of skills relating to early identification and intervention with children by case workers.

Michelle Courchesne
Ministre des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration

Philippe Couillard
Ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux

Pierre Reid
Ministre de l'Éducation

Benoît Pelletier
Ministre délégué aux Affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes et aux Affaires autochtones

Carole Théberge
Ministre responsable de la Condition des Aînés et ministre déléguée à la Famille

The adaptation of interventions to deal with special realities is also one of our government's key concerns. Until now, few measures have been designed for the specific clientele most vulnerable to violence. The new plan of action includes several commitments aimed specifically at this specific clientele. For example, several measures involve the adaptation of sociojudicial interventions to meet the needs of Native communities.

To reduce tolerance within society towards domestic violence, the unacceptable and criminal nature of violence must be clearly stated. The criminal justice system will continue to prosecute cases involving violent incidents, to ensure the safety of victims and their families, and to increase the trust placed by victims and the general public in the administration of justice.

Equality between women and men and the eradication of all forms of violence can only be achieved with the support of the Québec population as a whole. We ask all people providing assistance and protection services in the area of domestic violence through various networks in the public, parapublic and community sectors, as well as all citizens, to join forces to ensure that, together, we rid Québec society of all forms of violence.

Jacques P. Dupuis
Ministre de la Justice et Procureur général

Jacques Chagnon
Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Claude Béchar
Ministre de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille

Jean-Marc Fournier
Ministre des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du Loisir

Acknowledgements

The preparatory work for the drafting of this plan of action was carried out by the Comité interministériel de coordination en matière de violence conjugale, familiale et sexuelle. The participating members were:

Ministère de la Justice	Jean Turmel, co-chair
Secrétariat à la condition féminine	Hélène Cadrin, co-chair
Ministère de la Justice	Martine Bérubé, secretary
Ministère des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du Loisir	Denis Brown and Louise Houde
Ministère de l'Éducation	Raymonde Villemure
Ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille	Françoise Vekeman
Ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille	Serge Paquin and Nancy Trépanier (successively)
Ministère de la Justice	Claudine Laurin
Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration	Manon Godin
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux	Micheline Genest and André Gariépy (successively)
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux	Annie Labranche and Lucie Vézina (successively)
Ministère de la Sécurité publique	Claudia Lévesque
Ministère de la Sécurité publique	Louise Motard
Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones	Pierrette Beaudoin
Secrétariat aux aînés	Rosita Harvey

Acronyms

CAVAC	Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels
CPE	Centre de la petite enfance
CQLC	Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles
DGSC	Direction générale des services correctionnels
INSPQ	Institut national de santé publique du Québec
MAMSL	Ministère des Affaires municipales, du Sport et du Loisir
MEQ	Ministère de l'Éducation
MESSF	Ministère de l'Emploi, de la Solidarité sociale et de la Famille
MJQ	Ministère de la Justice
MRCI	Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration
MSP	Ministère de la Sécurité publique
MSSS	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
OPHQ	Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
SA	Secrétariat aux aînés
SAA	Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones
SCF	Secrétariat à la condition féminine

Abbreviations

COMITÉ INTERMINISTÉRIEL

Comité interministériel de coordination en matière de violence conjugale, familiale et sexuelle.

The main task of the committee is to monitor the implementation of the *Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale* (government guidelines on domestic violence) and the *Orientations gouvernementales en matière d'agression sexuelle* (government guidelines on sexual assault) and the related plans of action.

POLICY

Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale: Prévenir, dépister, contrer.
Gouvernement du Québec, 1995, 77 pages.

This policy is available (in French only) in the "documents" section of the website of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux at: www.msss.gouv.qc.ca

Preparation of the 2004-2009 plan of action

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE *COMITÉ CONSEIL EN MATIÈRE DE VIOLENCE CONJUGALE* (ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) THAT TOOK PART IN THE CONSULTATIONS

- À Cœur d'homme (Réseau d'aide aux hommes pour une société sans violence)
- Association des directeurs de police et pompiers du Québec
- Association des Centres jeunesse du Québec
- Association des CLSC et des CHSLD du Québec (ACCQ)
- Association des ressources intervenant auprès des hommes violents (ARIHV)
- Association québécoise des Centres de la petite enfance (AQCPE)
- Bureau des substituts du procureur général de Montréal
- Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec
- Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels de l'Estrie (CAVAC)
- Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite aux femmes (CRI-VIFF)
- Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles
- Concertation inter-régionale des Centres de la petite enfance (CIRCPEQ)
- Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ)
- Conférence des régions régionales
- Direction générale des services correctionnels Capitale-Nationale et Chaudière-Appalaches
- Direction régionale des services correctionnels
- École nationale de police du Québec (ENPQ)
- Établissement de détention de Saint-Jérôme
- Fédération des CLSC
- Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec
- Fédération des ressources d'hébergement pour femmes violentées et en difficulté du Québec
- Fédération des unions de famille
- Femmes Autochtones du Québec inc.
- Groupe d'intervention en violence conjugale chez les lesbiennes (GIVCL)
- L'R des Centres de femmes du Québec
- Maison d'hébergement Transit 24
- Office des personnes handicapées
- Régie régionale de la santé et des services sociaux (RRSSS-Outaouais)
- Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec
- Regroupement provincial des maisons d'hébergement et de transition pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale
- Service de police de la ville de Montréal (SPVM)
- Sûreté du Québec

MAIN DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

Recommandations du coroner Bérubé sur les événements survenus à Baie-Comeau le 9 septembre 1996. Coroner's report. April 21, 1997. 68 pages.

Évaluation de la l'intervention gouvernementale en violence conjugale. Regroupement provincial des maisons d'hébergement et de transition pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, December 1999. 16 pages.

Compte rendu de la réunion du comité conseil sur la mise en œuvre de la politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale. Minutes of a meeting held on November 15, 2000 in Montréal. 6 pages.

La concertation intersectorielle en matière de violence conjugale au Québec : Portrait des mécanismes en place et point de vue des participantes et des participants. Research report submitted to the interdepartmental coordination committee on domestic and family violence as part of the evaluation of the *Policy on intervention in domestic violence*. RONDEAU, Gilles, Guylaine SIROIS, Nataly JACQUES and Solange CANTIN, Équipe de recherche VICTOIRE, Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire sur la violence familiale et la violence faite aux femmes, Direction de la santé publique, de la planification et de l'évaluation de la Régie régionale de la santé et des services sociaux de la Montérégie, January 2000. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, abridged version. 80 pages.

Sortir de la violence conjugale en 2001 : toujours une course à obstacles. Commissioners' report. PAGÉ, Lorraine, chair. Presented to the Regroupement provincial des maisons d'hébergement et de transition pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, November 2001. 11 pages.

Final Report of the Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice. December 2002. 147 pages.

Proposition de mesures adaptées à la réalité autochtone dans la Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale. Femmes autochtones du Québec inc. (FAQ). 23 pages.

Énoncés stratégiques « Dépister, prévenir et contrer la violence » Stratégie globale d'intervention en matière de violence auprès des autochtones en milieu urbain. Regroupement des Centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ), proposal presented to the Government of Québec, November 2002/January 2003. 24 pages.

Rapport du comité tripartite Femmes - Justice. Presented to the interdepartmental coordination committee on domestic, family and sexual violence, February 24, 2003. 51 pages.

Rapport du groupe de travail sur les services offerts aux femmes victimes de violence conjugale et leurs enfants, March 2003. 41 pages.

Compte rendu de la réunion du comité conseil sur la mise en œuvre de la politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale. Minutes of a meeting held on March 17, 18 and 19, 2003 in Montréal. 20 pages.

L'intervention en violence conjugale : un modèle axé sur la responsabilisation et le changement social. Presentation by Pierre Turcotte of the organization À CŒUR D'HOMME, réseau d'aide aux hommes pour une société sans violence, to the interdepartmental committee on September 9, 2003. 8 pages.

Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile. Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, 2003. 74 pages.

La réforme de la loi sur le divorce « La sécurité d'abord » analyse et recommandations concernant le projet C-22. Regroupement provincial des maisons d'hébergement et de transition pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, August 2003. 36 pages.

Compilation des recommandations faites au comité interministériel pour l'élaboration du second plan d'action de la politique en matière de violence conjugale. Interdepartmental committee, November 2003. 94 pages.

Investir en violence conjugale, un investissement rentable. Report submitted to the Minister of Finance. Regroupement provincial des maisons d'hébergement et de transition pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, January 2004. 21 pages.

Table of Contents

Foreword	2
Acknowledgements	4
Acronyms	4
Abbreviations	4
Preparation of the 2004-2009 plan of action	5
Member organizations of the Comité conseil en matière de violence conjugale (advisory committee on domestic violence) that took part in the consultations	
Main documentary sources	
Prevention and promotion	
Awareness and information	8
Activities and tools	8
Support	9
Detection / early identification	
Intervention development	10
Psychosocial intervention	
Information on resources and services	10
Support	10
Training	11
Judicial and correctional intervention	
Information for victims	12
Training	13
Improvements in professional practices	14
Adaptation to special realities	
Promotion and prevention	16
Support	16
Psychosocial intervention	17
Judicial and correctional intervention	17
Essential conditions for successful action	
Inter-sector joint action	18
Statistics on domestic violence	18
Assessment of the risk of dangerousness	18
Implementation, evaluation and follow-up	
Promotion of the policy and plan of action	19
Comité interministériel de coordination en matière de violence conjugale, familiale et sexuelle	19
Comité conseil en matière de violence conjugale	19
Evaluation	19
APPENDIX 1 MSSS actions in connection with measure 1	21
APPENDIX 2 MEQ actions in connection with measure 8	22
APPENDIX 3 MAMSL actions in connection with measure 11	23
APPENDIX 4 MSSS actions in connection with measure 16	24
APPENDIX 5 Training elements in connection with measure 33 of MJQ	25
APPENDIX 6 MSP actions in connection with measure 35	26
APPENDIX 7 MJQ actions in connection with measure 36	27
APPENDIX 8 MRCI actions in connection with measures 48 and 51	28
APPENDIX 9 MRCI actions in connection with measure 58	29
APPENDIX 10 MJQ actions in connection with measure 62	30

Prevention and promotion

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
AWARENESS AND INFORMATION		
<p>1 Develop, update and distribute tools for use by the media to make them aware of their role in the proper coverage of events connected with domestic violence. (See APPENDIX 1)</p>	<p>Promote proper coverage of events connected with domestic violence, in a way that avoids sensationalism, trivialization and sexism.</p>	<p>MSSS Coll. : INSPQ</p>
<p>2 Help distribute information to personnel in the field of education on the most effective preventive approaches.</p>	<p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p> <p>Encourage the younger generation to adopt relationship models based on respect for human rights, individual responsibility and respect for differences.</p>	<p>MEQ</p>
<p>3 Support the introduction of awareness, training and information activities about domestic, family and sexual violence for personnel working in daycare services and MESSF personnel working in the area of daycare.</p>	<p>Take steps to make the detection of victims, children exposed to domestic violence and violent spouses an individual and collective responsibility.</p>	<p>MESSF Coll. : groups, associations, daycare services, family-oriented community organizations</p>
<p>4 Organize a government campaign to raise awareness about domestic violence and violence in dating relationships.</p>	<p>Reduce the occurrence of domestic violence.</p> <p>Reduce social tolerance of violence in general and domestic violence in particular.</p>	<p>MJQ and MRCl (SCF) Coll. : all departments and secretariats</p>
ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS		
<p>5 Provide case workers with tools and information on the issue of violence through training based on the « École en santé » approach.</p>	<p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p> <p>Encourage the younger generation to adopt relationship models based on respect for human rights, individual responsibility and respect for differences.</p>	<p>MEQ and MSSS</p>
<p>6 Continue to offer training in different regions based on the document <i>L'éducation à la sexualité dans le contexte de la réforme de l'éducation</i> which deals, in particular, with sexual violence, violence in dating relationships and the exploitation and commercialization of sexuality, in order to better equip personnel in education and health and social services networks.</p>	<p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p> <p>Encourage the younger generation to adopt relationship models based on respect for human rights, individual responsibility and respect for differences.</p>	<p>MEQ and MSSS</p>
<p>7 Promote use by schools of the questionnaire on the social and educational environment to gain a better understanding of the atmosphere in a given school and to intervene effectively, especially as part of the strategy <i>Agir autrement</i>.</p>	<p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p>	<p>MEQ</p>

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
<p>8 Promote the integration of notions and attitudes based on egalitarian relationships between the sexes and the prevention of violence in the education system. (See APPENDIX 2)</p>	<p>Encourage the younger generation to adopt relationship models based on respect for human rights, individual responsibility and respect for differences.</p> <p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p> <p>Help children exposed to domestic violence.</p> <p>Provide assistance for teenagers.</p> <p>Support women and men who live in situations where they are at risk for violence.</p>	<p>MEQ</p>
<p>9 Include domestic violence prevention activities as part of the overall and integrated offer of promotion and prevention services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in perinatal and early childhood services; • in schools. 	<p>Promote the development of social skills, non-confrontational behaviour and egalitarian relationships between the sexes.</p> <p>Encourage the younger generation to adopt relationship behaviour models based on respect for human rights, individual responsibility and respect for differences.</p>	<p>MSSS (network and community organizations)</p> <p>Coll. : MEQ</p>
<p>10 Produce and distribute an information leaflet on egalitarian relationships between the sexes and responsible adult behaviour toward children, for use by personnel in daycare services, parents with children in daycare, groups and associations, family-based community organizations and MESSF personnel working in the area of daycare.</p>	<p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p>	<p>MESSF</p> <p>Coll. : groups, associations, daycare services, family-oriented community organizations</p>
<p>11 Organize and support activities to promote non-violence in sports and recreation. (See APPENDIX 3)</p>	<p>Reduce social tolerance of violence.</p> <p>Encourage the younger generation to adopt relationship models based on respect for human rights, individual responsibility and respect for differences.</p>	<p>MAMSL</p>
SUPPORT		
<p>12 Support regional and local initiatives from within the community designed to prevent and oppose domestic violence.</p>	<p>Promote community mobilization and commitments by organizations to intervene to oppose violence in general, and domestic violence in particular.</p> <p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women.</p> <p>Promote projects adapted to community needs.</p>	<p>MSSS (network and community organizations)</p>
<p>13 Promote the financing of pilot projects or initiatives launched by community organizations that deal with the prevention of domestic violence, in compliance with the guidelines contained in the departmental policy on crime prevention.</p>	<p>Reduce social tolerance of violence in general and domestic violence in particular.</p> <p>Prevent the transmission of domestic violence patterns from one generation to the next.</p>	<p>MSP</p>
<p>14 Support partners in the field of sport in their initiatives designed to further the advancement of women in sport.</p>	<p>Facilitate less inequality and act to improve living conditions.</p> <p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p>	<p>MAMSL</p>

Detection / early identification

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
INTERVENTION DEVELOPMENT		
15 In collaboration with the daycare network, develop an intervention strategy based on the guiding principles of the Policy and on the mission of daycare services and family-based community organizations.	Integrate detection and early identification into the professional practices of all the participants involved.	MESSF Coll. : groups, associations, daycare services, family-oriented community organizations
16 Develop the skills of case workers in detecting, in an early manner, signs of domestic violence among adults and signs of exposure to domestic violence among children, while ensuring adequate support. (See APPENDIX 4)	Produce an overview of theoretical and empirical knowledge concerning the best practices in early detection of domestic violence, and specify ways to act. Support and consolidate the application, by case workers in the networks concerned, of early intervention practices in the area of domestic violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through awareness activities and training; • through the development and use of appropriate tools. 	MSSS (network and community organizations) Coll. : INSPQ
17 Introduce, into the <i>daycare services-CLSC agreements</i> , the idea of specific collaboration following the early identification of children exposed to domestic violence.	Ensure that partners collaborate and that their interventions are complementary.	MESSF and MSSS

Psychosocial intervention

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND SERVICES		
18 Update information on resources and services offered by the health and social services network in the field of domestic violence. Make this information available to case workers in each network.	Inform the general public and case workers about existing resources and services offered to women who are victims of domestic violence, children exposed to domestic violence and violent spouses, in order to increase the visibility of the resources and improve accessibility. Ensure that the information is adapted and transmitted to Native women and specific clientele with particular problems.	MSSS MESSF, MJQ, MSP, MSSS and MRCI
SUPPORT		
19 Support community organizations and institutions as they meet the needs of the population for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reception services; • support services; • referral services; • accompaniment services; • follow-up services. 	Ensure that organizations and institutions meet the needs of victims of domestic violence for security, protection and psychosocial support. Ensure that organizations and institutions offer specific services adapted to the needs of children exposed to domestic violence. Ensure that organizations and institutions meet the needs of violent spouses while helping them take responsibility for their violent behaviour.	MSSS

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
<p>20 Provide financial support for individuals receiving employment insurance benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when they have taken refuge in a shelter for victims of domestic violence, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing an allowance for temporary limited capacity for employment for (at the most) three consecutive months; - providing a special allowance of \$100 per month; • by providing special benefits for moving expenses if they are forced to move following an incident of domestic violence (interpreted as a question of health or salubrity and justified by a medical certificate). 	<p>Provide access to a range of services able to meet various needs.</p>	<p>MESSF</p>
<p>21 Grant an exemption to victims of domestic or family violence who are receiving employment insurance benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from the parental contribution, for young adults who can show that they were subjected to parental violence; • for the value of their home (up to \$80,000) for one year following the date on which they move out for health or safety reasons. 	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Provide access to a range of services able to meet various needs.</p>	<p>MESSF</p>
<p>22 Grant employment insurance benefits to victims of domestic violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • without requiring them to enforce their rights to support payments, as is usually the case; the Ministère reserves the right to enforce them itself; • without requiring them to repay sums received without entitlement, for victims who can show that they were unable to declare their actual situation because of violence directed at them or their children, by their spouse. 	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Provide access to a range of services able to meet various needs.</p>	<p>MESSF</p>
TRAINING		
<p>23 Provide all case workers in health and social services network concerned by the question of domestic violence with continuing professional training in domestic violence intervention, adapted to specific types of clientele.</p>	<p>Equip case workers to intervene more effectively with women who are victims of domestic violence, children exposed to domestic violence and violent spouses.</p>	<p>MSSS (network and community organizations)</p>
<p>24 Provide training activities in the field of domestic violence for income security agents.</p>	<p>Ensure the quality of actions taken to detect domestic violence and make referrals to appropriate resources.</p>	<p>MESSF</p>

Judicial and correctional intervention

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS		
<p>25 Maintain financial support for <i>S.O.S. violence conjugale</i>, an emergency hotline throughout Québec.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Direct victims to appropriate assistance resources.</p>	<p>MJQ</p>
<p>26 Increase financial support for crime victims assistance centres (centres d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels, or CAVAC) offering reception, information, monitoring and specialized intervention services for victims, and continue to develop the CAVAC network.</p>	<p>Encourage victims to seek assistance from judicial authorities and reduce the rate of dropping criminal charges.</p>	<p>MJQ</p>
<p>27</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with the implementation of commitments made in the <i>Statement of Services Available to Citizens of the Ministère de la Justice</i> concerning victims, in all court houses and at all service points. 2. Ensure that the INFOVAC-PLUS program is applied in all judicial districts, and that all victims, or their families if applicable, are sent the form <i>Victim impact statement</i>, and pay special attention to victims who must change their address, to ensure that they are given all available information. 3. Establish a simple, secure and accessible mechanism to allow victims who change their address after filing a complaint to be informed of the progress of their case. 4. Take steps to ensure that the Attorney General's prosecutor assigned to the case provides the victim with relevant information when a decision is made not to press charges. 5. Give victims, as soon as possible and except in exceptional circumstances, an opportunity to meet the Attorney General's prosecutor assigned to the case, and inform them about the judicial process, except in Montréal where the <i>Côté cour</i> program provides special services. 6. Facilitate access to information about the rights and recourses of victims who wish to file a complaint against a police officer, and about the role of the Police Ethics Commissioner. 	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p> <p>Encourage victims to seek assistance from judicial authorities and reduce the rate of dropping criminal charges.</p> <p>Help Attorney General's prosecutors exercise their discretionary powers.</p>	<p>MJQ</p> <p>Coll. : MSP</p>
<p>28 Systematically inform the victim, depending on the respective jurisdictions of the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles (CQLC) and the Direction générale des services correctionnels (DGSC), whenever an offender:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is granted temporary absence for reintegration into the community; • is granted parole; • is released; • escapes or is unlawfully at large. 	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p>	<p>MSP (DGSC and CQLC)</p>

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
<p>29 Inform the victim of the conditions of the probation order or conditional sentence order and, where applicable, update the victim on actions taken with regard to the offender.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p>	<p>MJQ Coll. : MSP</p>
<p>30 Facilitate access to the <i>Service d'évaluation pour mise en liberté provisoire des conjoints violents</i>.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p>	<p>MSP (DGSC)</p>
<p>31 Assess the behaviour of persons sentenced to supervised probation, a conditional sentence or imprisonment for offences connected with domestic violence.</p> <p>Direct these persons to specialized resources, as needed.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p>	<p>MSP (DGSC)</p>
TRAINING		
<p>32</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take part in the work of a committee to harmonize the training provided in colleges and at the École nationale de police du Québec. 2. Update the basic training program for patrol officers to take into account changes made to police practices in the area of domestic violence. 3. Review the basic training program for detectives to include information on domestic violence. 4. Help police forces undertake their responsibility to provide continuing professional training for police officers in the field of domestic violence. 	<p>Raise the awareness of and train police officers, so that they can contribute, within the limits of their responsibilities, to the fight against domestic violence.</p>	<p>MSP</p>
<p>33</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and offer a specific training program for all new Attorney General's prosecutors who intervene in cases of domestic violence, and ensure that they update their knowledge. 2. Ensure that the contents of these training programs promote the values and principles set out in the Charters and the Policy, and that they include the elements listed in APPENDIX 5. 3. Use expert advice from resources specializing in domestic violence when reviewing these programs. 	<p>Make Attorney General's prosecutors aware of the specific features of domestic violence and of the needs and concerns of victims with regard to the judicial system.</p> <p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p> <p>Help Attorney General's prosecutors exercise their discretionary powers.</p>	<p>MJQ</p>
<p>34 Continue specific training sessions for DGSC personnel working with violent spouses.</p>	<p>Increase the knowledge of case workers concerning the domestic violence issue in order to make their interventions more effective through better assessment of offenders.</p>	<p>MSP (DGSC)</p>

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
IMPROVEMENTS IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES		
<p>35 Update the <i>Guide des pratiques policières en matière de violence conjugale</i> and ensure that it is distributed to police forces. (See APPENDIX 6)</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Encourage victims to seek assistance from judicial authorities and reduce the rate of dropping criminal charges.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p> <p>Help police officers exercise their discretionary powers.</p>	MSP
<p>36 Review the directives for Attorney General's prosecutors to give priority to the safety and protection of victims and their families. (See APPENDIX 7)</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Encourage victims to seek assistance from judicial authorities and reduce the rate of dropping criminal charges.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p> <p>Help Attorney General's prosecutors exercise their discretionary powers.</p>	MJQ
<p>37 Establish a program to be designated by the lieutenant governor of Québec, in accordance with subsection 722(2) of the <i>Criminal Code</i>, in relation to the <i>Victim impact statement</i>, review the content of the form, and determine the criteria for its use.</p>	<p>Encourage victims to seek assistance from judicial authorities and reduce the rate of dropping criminal charges.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p>	MJQ
<p>38 Ensure that enough information is obtained from police officers to assess the risk of harm to the victim or the victim's family if the accused is released on bail.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Encourage victims to seek assistance from judicial authorities and reduce the rate of dropping criminal charges.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p>	MJQ
<p>39 Ensure (the CQLC) that the conditions imposed by the CQLC are consistent with those determined by the court.</p> <p>Check (the DGSC) the consistency of the conditions imposed on the offender, at all stages in the judicial and correctional proceedings and bring any inconsistency to the attention of the court.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p>	MSP (DGSC and CQLC) Coll. : MJQ
<p>40 Using a coding system agreed on by the MJQ and the MSP, facilitate the identification of cases involving domestic violence in which individuals have been sentenced to imprisonment, a conditional sentence or a supervised probation order.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Adapt interventions to each offender.</p>	MJQ and MSP
<p>41 Ensure (the CQLC) that the representations made by the victim, on an equal footing with any other information entered in the offender's record, are taken into consideration, when decisions are made in application of the conditional release program.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Adapt interventions to each offender.</p>	MSP (CQLC)

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
<p>42 Refer offenders to specialized programs and services for the offence concerned, where required.</p>	<p>Adapt interventions to each offender.</p> <p>End violence and make abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.</p>	<p>MSP (DGSC)</p>
<p>43 Inform case workers in the assistance and protection services of the government departments and bodies concerned of the objectives of the <i>Act to amend various legislative provisions as regards the disclosure of confidential information to protect individuals</i>¹.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Raise the awareness of and train case workers in the private, social, community, school, police, judicial and correctional sectors, as well as all health-care professionals, so that they can contribute, within the limits of their respective responsibilities, to the fight against domestic violence.</p>	<p>MJQ</p>
<p>44 Examine the professional practices and information exchange mechanisms used in cases of domestic violence to ensure that, in family and youth protection matters, the various orders and decisions made by courts and other administrative authorities are taken into account when they affect the case.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Ensure that court interventions are coherent and complementary in cases of domestic violence.</p>	<p>MJQ</p>
<p>45 Following a request from the court, provide necessary information about the offender.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Ensure that court interventions are coherent and complementary in cases of domestic violence.</p>	<p>MSP (DGSC)</p> <p>Coll. : MJQ</p>
<p>46 Examine the possibility of amending the Civil Code of Québec to allow the cancellation of residential leases on grounds of domestic violence and sexual assault where the safety of the victim or the victim's children is threatened.</p> <p>Take into account, when examining this question, the legal and financial consequences of implementing such a measure.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Encourage victims to seek assistance from judicial authorities and reduce the rate of dropping criminal charges.</p>	<p>MJQ</p> <p>The commitment will be realized within six (6) months.</p>

1 L.Q. 2001, c. 78.

Adaptation to special realities

COMMITMENTS		OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
PROMOTION AND PREVENTION			
47	Reach Native communities and specific clientele experiencing special realities ² through promotion and prevention activities at the regional and provincial levels.	Promote egalitarian relationships between the sexes and non-confrontational behaviour.	MSSS (network and community organizations)
48	Offer students in Francization classes information and awareness sessions on domestic and family violence, and take part in the work of committees examining issues connected with violence. (See APPENDIX 8)	Provide better access for immigrant women and Québec women from cultural communities to the services available, by informing them about their rights, resources, etc.	MRCI Coll. : MSSS and MJQ
SUPPORT			
49	Support research projects focusing on interventions with elderly people who become victims of domestic violence.	Develop the knowledge needed to intervene effectively with this target group.	MSSS (network and community organizations)
50	Work with the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec to document the question of domestic violence against women with disabilities. Ask for the collaboration of organisations concerned by the situation of Native women and work with the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones to document the question of domestic violence against Native women.	Document problems, in qualitative and quantitative terms, among women with disabilities and Native women. Develop specific measures to combat domestic violence against women with disabilities and Native women.	MSSS Coll. : OPHQ MSSS Coll. : concerned organizations and SAA
51	Provide financial assistance for organizations acting on an individual basis with people living in situations of domestic violence. (See APPENDIX 8)	Provide better access for immigrant women and Québec women from cultural communities to the services available, by informing them about their rights, resources, etc.	MRCI
52	Provide financial assistance for Femmes autochtones du Québec inc. in its activities to promote non-violence in order to help it pursue its mission. Support training, information and assistance activities for case workers in shelters for Native women victims of violence	Recognize that interventions within Native communities must take Native values and culture into consideration.	SAA SAA Coll.: MSSS
53	Support research projects focusing, among other subjects, on interventions with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children exposed to domestic violence; • teenagers and spouses displaying violent behaviour; • women who are victims of domestic violence and who have a range of other problems. 	Increase knowledge about various aspects of the problem of domestic violence, about promising or effective approaches to intervention, and about the best indicators for monitoring problem trends.	MSSS Coll. : SAA, MRCI and MEQ (education network)
54	Provide financial assistance for a pilot project to fight violence, submitted by the Senneterre Native Friendship Centre, with the help of other Native friendship centres in Québec and the Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones.	Recognize that interventions within Native communities must take Native values and culture into consideration.	SAA

² Elderly women, women with disabilities, Native women, immigrant women, Québec women from cultural communities, lesbians, gays, and men abused by their spouses.
See page 46 and following of the Policy.

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
<p>55 Depending on the availability of human, material and financial resources, provide assistance for interventions by the Cree and Kativik school boards and the Naskapi school, after drawing up an inventory of actions taken by those communities to fight violence.</p>	<p>Promote the establishment of egalitarian relationships between men and women, and boys and girls.</p> <p>Provide assistance for teenagers.</p>	MEQ
PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION		
<p>56 Improve knowledge about the needs of specific clientele experiencing special realities³ to allow case workers to adapt their interventions and tools to the special realities of specific clientele.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Ensure that professional practices include a focus on adapting interventions to the special realities of specific clientele.</p>	MSSS (network and community organizations)
<p>57 Identify and implement overall solutions adapted to the specific needs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communities in remote regions; • Native communities; • women with disabilities. 	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of women and children in emergency situations and, among other aspects, deal with difficulties connected with transportation, confidentiality and remote locations.</p>	MSSS (network and community organizations)
<p>58 Act on the measures contained in the MRCI's immigration plan whose objective is to prevent and fight domestic violence against immigrant women and women from ethnocultural communities. (See APPENDIX 9)</p>	<p>Provide better access for immigrant women and Québec women from ethnocultural communities to the services available, by informing them about their rights, resources, etc.</p>	MRCI
<p>59 Encourage the establishment of an issues table bringing together various Native organizations to look at the problem of domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Recognize that interventions within Native communities must take Native values and culture into consideration.</p>	SAA
JUDICIAL AND CORRECTIONAL INTERVENTION		
<p>60 Continue actions to gradually improve access for Native people to the CAVAC network and encourage the hiring of personnel who is aware of the needs of Native victims.</p>	<p>Recognize that interventions within Native communities must take Native values and culture into consideration.</p>	MJQ
<p>61 With regard to Native police forces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When renewing three-party agreements, negotiate a requirement that Native police forces adopt directives for intervention in cases of domestic violence based on the relevant guidelines in the <i>Guide des pratiques policières</i>. 2. Raise awareness among Native police forces about the importance of declaring, under the <i>Uniform Crime Report Survey</i>, all crimes committed in a domestic violence context. 	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Ensure that Native communities have access to the same services as those offered to the general population.</p> <p>Recognize that interventions within Native communities must take Native values and culture into consideration.</p> <p>Increase knowledge about the problem of domestic violence in Native communities.</p>	MSP
<p>62 Implement special measures to adapt and improve the criminal justice system in Native communities. (See APPENDIX 10)</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Recognize that interventions within Native communities must take Native values and culture into consideration.</p> <p>Ensure that individuals affected by domestic violence, especially those living in rural or geographically isolated regions, have access to services they need.</p>	MJQ Coll. : MSP

3 Elderly women, women with disabilities, Native women, immigrant women, Québec women from cultural communities, lesbians, gays, and men abused by their spouses.
See page 46 and following of the Policy.

Essential conditions for successful action

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
INTER-SECTOR JOINT ACTION		
<p>63 Consolidate regional inter-sector joint action by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring the coordination of actions against domestic violence taken by local health services and social services networks in each region, and ensuring regional coordination of partners. 2. Participating in the issues table on domestic violence in each region. 3. Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the various partners and the nature of their connections, to ensure that services are complementary and that interventions are coherent. 4. Continuing to promote the signing and implementation of agreements between police forces and CLSCs or community organizations concerned by the problem of domestic violence. 	<p>Ensure joint action between partners and complementary intervention.</p> <p>Adopt an overall, coherent approach both within sectors of intervention and between sectors.</p> <p>Ensure service coordination.</p> <p>Raise the awareness of and train case workers in the private, social, community, school, police, judicial and correctional sectors, as well as all health-care professionals, so that they can contribute, within the limits of their respective responsibilities, to the fight against domestic violence.</p>	<p>MSSS (network)</p> <p>MESSF, MJQ, MSSS, MSP, MEQ, MRCI and the organizations concerned</p> <p>MSP</p>
STATISTICS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		
<p>64 Produce and distribute police statistics on domestic violence.</p>	<p>Increase knowledge about the problem of domestic violence.</p>	<p>MSP</p>
<p>65 Design and implement a tool for use by the Ministère de la Justice in compiling detailed statistics on domestic violence.</p>	<p>Increase knowledge about the problem of domestic violence.</p>	<p>MJQ</p>
ASSESSMENT OF THE RISK OF DANGEROUSNESS		
<p>66 Appoint a resource person to support correctional case workers in litigious cases under the <i>Act to amend various legislative provisions as regards the disclosure of confidential information to protect individuals</i>⁴.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p>	<p>MSP (DGSC)</p>
<p>67 Analyze the tools used to assess the risk of dangerousness of violent spouses and promote their use, where applicable.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p>	<p>Comité interministériel</p>

4 L.Q. 2001, c. 78.

Implementation, evaluation and follow-up

COMMITMENTS	OBJECTIVES	RESPONSIBILITY + COLLABORATION
PROMOTION OF THE POLICY AND PLAN OF ACTION		
<p>68 Promote the measures adopted under the new plan of action and stress the underlying principles of the Policy.</p>	<p>Make the main objectives targeted by the implementation of the plan of action against domestic violence better known.</p> <p>Make government actions against domestic violence better known.</p> <p>Reach specific clientele at greater risk or more vulnerable to domestic violence.</p>	<p>All departments and secretariats</p>
COMITÉ INTERMINISTÉRIEL DE COORDINATION EN MATIÈRE DE VIOLENCE CONJUGALE, FAMILIALE ET SEXUELLE		
<p>69 Maintain the committee whose main role is to monitor the implementation of the <i>Politique d'intervention en matière de violence conjugale : Prévenir, dépister, contrer</i> and of the <i>Orientations gouvernementales en matière d'agression sexuelle</i>.</p>	<p>Encourage and support joint action by partners in all sectors and at all levels.</p> <p>Ensure the coordination of government actions.</p> <p>Ensure joint action between partners and complementary intervention.</p>	<p>All departments and secretariats</p>
COMITÉ CONSEIL EN MATIÈRE DE VIOLENCE CONJUGALE		
<p>70 Maintain the advisory committee on conjugal violence, whose mandate is to advise the comité interministériel on orientations, priorities and possible actions.</p>	<p>Adopt an overall, coherent approach both within sectors of intervention and between sectors.</p>	<p>Comité interministériel, representatives of community, governmental and para-governmental organizations</p>
EVALUATION		
<p>71 Verify the application of police practices dealing with domestic violence, and evaluate the agreements between police forces and CLSCs or community organizations concerned by the problem of domestic violence.</p>	<p>Ensure the safety and protection of victims and their families.</p> <p>Systematically evaluate domestic violence programs and services to victims, children exposed to domestic violence and violent spouses.</p>	<p>MSP</p>
<p>72 Draft an evaluation plan for the implementation of the various departments' commitments, and identify relevant indicators.</p> <p>Produce a report on the implementation of the government commitments set out in this plan of action.</p>	<p>Draft an evaluation protocol to measure the degree to which objectives are achieved, describe areas where what has been achieved does not match what was planned, and measure, if possible, the degree to which targeted commitments have been met.</p> <p>Report on the results achieved and the actions completed.</p>	<p>MJQ and MRCI</p> <p>Coll. : Comité interministériel</p>

MSSS actions in connection with Measure 1

MEASURE 1: Develop, update and distribute tools for use by the media to make them aware of their role in the proper coverage of events connected with domestic violence.

In collaboration with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec, develop an information kit on domestic violence for use by the media.

The information kit produced for use by journalists and spokespersons who meet the media will ensure the transmission of a coherent, uniform and harmonized message on domestic violence.

The development of the information kit will include several stages:

1. Gathering of recent data on domestic violence.
2. Provincial and regional consultations.
3. Production of two documents: a long and a short memorandum.
4. Preparation of a distribution plan (press conference, presentation at a symposium, discussion workshops, etc.).
5. Distribution.

MEQ actions in connection with Measure 8

MEASURE 8: Promote the integration of notions and attitudes based on egalitarian relationships between the sexes and the prevention of violence in the education system.

1. Ensure that universities recognize the importance of including a violence awareness component in their teacher training programs.
2. Distribute a handbook to elementary school teachers promoting egalitarian values between the sexes, based on the new *Québec Education Program - Preschool and Elementary Education*.
3. Ensure that the learning objectives relating to human rights and the related responsibilities are integrated into the *Québec Education Program - Preschool and Elementary Education* and the *Québec Education Program - Secondary Education*.
4. Integrate notions and attitudes connected to egalitarian relationships between the sexes, and respect for differences, into the new *Québec Education Program - Secondary Education*.
5. Integrate a component dealing with egalitarian relationships between the sexes and all forms of violence against women into the personal and social development subject area in general adult education.
6. Suggest egalitarian relationships between the sexes as a theme in MEQ examinations and some competitions in which the MEQ is involved.
7. Offer advanced training sessions for employees at school boards and private schools (general youth education and vocational education) and adult education centres personnel, on the following topics:
 - the program *Dating Violence Among Adolescents* (VIRAJ);
 - the program *Why do you think yes when I say no? - Gender and sexual harassment among students*;
 - the program *You and Me - Egalitarian and conflict-free relationships among children*;
 - awareness sessions on sexual assault among young people;
 - violence and sexism in music videos.
8. Design and implement awareness-raising sessions for vocational and technical education teachers to combat gender and sexual harassment in student groups in which women are the minority, and adapt these sessions for use in adult education.
9. Integrate a component dealing with egalitarian relationships and gender and sexual harassment into the advanced training sessions provided for teachers in connection with winning careers for girls.
10. Adapt the prevention program *Dating Violence Among Adolescents* for college-level students.
11. Adapt the awareness session on the prevention of violence designed by the *Table de concertation sur la violence, les jeunes et le milieu scolaire*, and make it available in adult education centres.

MAMSL actions in connection with Measure 11

MEASURE 11: Organize and support activities to promote non-violence in sports and recreation.

1. Invite partners from the world of sport to create a movement for ethics in sports.
2. Develop communications activities to promote the positive values of sport, and especially non-confrontational behaviour.
3. Produce a code of sports ethics to specify the behaviour considered acceptable by all case workers and participants in the world of sport.
4. Support partners in the field of recreation and sports who present projects to prevent and eradicate violence.

MSSS Actions in connection with Measure 16

MEASURE 16: Develop the skills of case workers in detecting, in an early manner, signs of domestic violence among adults and signs of exposure to domestic violence among children, while ensuring adequate support.

Work with the INSPQ on a project to establish and promote conditions for the successful identification of cases of domestic violence, based on the current situation in CSSSs (CLSCs) in order to consolidate support for clinical workers. The objectives of the project are to:

1. Highlight best practices for identifying cases and intervening in situations of domestic violence.
2. List tools available in Québec to support clinical workers in cases of domestic violence.
3. List current practices and activities in CSSSs (CLSCs) for the identification of cases and interventions in the field of domestic violence.
4. Identify the needs of clinical workers in CSSSs (CLSCs) for the identification of cases and interventions in the field of domestic violence.
5. Identify actions and strategies to improve the identification of cases and interventions in the field of domestic violence.
6. Explore the relevance and conditions needed for the successful implementation of a project based on the conclusions and recommendations of the project.

Support and consolidate an approach based on early intervention in cases of domestic violence for case workers in the health-care network and community organizations to allow staff to intervene adequately and refer cases to other resources, as required.

Training elements in connection with Measure 33 of MJQ

MEASURE 33: Ensure that the content of the training programs promotes the values and principles set out in the Charters and the Policy, and that it includes the following elements:

TRAINING FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PROSECUTORS

Training for Attorney General's prosecutors should target:

- a better understanding of domestic violence issues;
- the development of suitable attitudes;
- the provision of concrete tools;
- awareness of commonly-held myths and prejudice;
- a reduction in the feeling of helplessness.

The training should deal with:

- the cycle of domestic violence, the dynamics of violence in general, and the realities faced by some victims;
- commonly-held myths and prejudice;
- the consequences and discriminatory nature of domestic violence for victims, and victims' needs and rights;
- the specific needs of women who are victims of double discrimination;
- the existence and use of applicable agreements;
- the impact of non-intervention by police officers;
- the role of "first intervener" (police officers) in situations of domestic violence;
- the correct attitudes to adopt when dealing with domestic violence;
- behaviour patterns to avoid in order not to increase victimization and discrimination;
- the issues and specific difficulties faced by Attorney General's prosecutors (such as the fact that victims know their aggressors, contradictory feelings, fear, confusion following an aggression, multiple interventions with the same individual);
- the importance of systematically referring the victims of domestic violence to assistance services;
- practical cases that highlight the reality of victims who are afraid to press charges and cooperate.

MSP actions in connection with Measure 35

MEASURE 35: Update the *Guide des pratiques policières en matière de violence conjugale* and ensure that it is distributed to police forces.

1. Specify that police officers must identify the principal aggressor when circumstances tend to show that both parties must be charged.
2. Specify that police officers must inform victims about, and encourage them to take advantage of, the services available and organizations able to offer assistance.
3. Specify that police officers must inform victims of the file number for their case, and give the contact information needed to follow-up their case.
4. Specify that police officers must ask victims to inform them of any change of address and telephone number, so that the police can keep them informed about progress in their case.
5. Specify that police officers must ensure that investigations into cases of domestic violence are systematically completed using all available evidence.
6. Specify that police officers must obtain written authorization from victims using the appropriate form, where the police investigation requires access to the medical file connected with the incident of domestic violence.
7. Specify that police officers must obtain authorization from an Attorney General's prosecutor when an investigation requires access to other personal files.
8. Specify that police officers must allow victims to be accompanied by the person of their choice, except at meetings bearing on the facts of the case.
9. Specify that police officers must inform victims as quickly as possible when an arrest is made after the filing of a complaint and there was no police intervention at the time of the incident.
10. Specify that police officers must inform victims in all cases when their spouse is released from the police station.
11. Specify that police officers must, in all cases in which there is an alleged breach of conditions, make the necessary verifications and report to the Attorney General's prosecutor.
12. Develop and make as appendix an investigation form adapted to incidents of domestic violence, to gather all necessary information for the investigation and also to better assess the risk for the safety of victims and their children.
13. Specify the procedure to be used by police officers in allowing victims to recover their personal effects from their home.

MJQ actions in connection with Measure 36

MEASURE 36: Review the directives for Attorney General's prosecutors in order, in particular, to give priority to the safety and protection of victims.

1. Add the aggressor's profile of violence to the factors to be taken into consideration in the directive defining the selection of modes of prosecution.
2. Stress the need to file an application to proceed by way of direct indictment when justified to protect the victim's safety.
3. Allow victims to be accompanied by the person of their choice, except at meetings bearing on the facts of the case.
4. Provide for victims to be referred to the chief Attorney General's prosecutor when they disagree with a decision made by the Attorney General's prosecutor assigned to their case not to authorize prosecution.
5. Take steps to ensure that bail conditions are stated clearly, to avoid possible reinterpretation.
6. Add an obligation to inform the victim, except in exceptional circumstances, of a plea bargain prior to the conclusion of an agreement.
7. Encourage Attorney General's prosecutors to highlight, at sentencing, the fact that the mistreatment inflicted by the offender on his or her spouse or children constitutes an aggravating factor within the meaning of section 718.2 (ii) of the *Criminal Code*.
8. Take the necessary steps to ensure that Attorney General's prosecutors recommend the seizure and confiscation of weapons, in all cases where it is required or authorized by law, at all stages in the judicial process.

MRCI actions in connection with Measures 48 and 51

MEASURE 48: Offer students in Francization classes information and awareness sessions on domestic and family violence, and take part in the work of committees examining issues connected with violence.

1. Offer 179 two-hour information sessions on domestic and family violence to students in Francization classes in Greater Montréal, and information and awareness sessions on domestic violence to students in advanced courses at the Carrefour d'intégration de Sherbrooke.
2. Take part in the work of the Comité sur l'intervention auprès des personnes réfugiées victimes de violence (committee on interventions with refugees who are victims of violence) and the Comité consultatif sur l'accessibilité des services de santé et des services sociaux aux communautés ethnoculturelles (advisory committee on access to health services and social services by members of ethnocultural communities).

MEASURE 51: Provide financial assistance for organizations acting on an individual basis with people living in situations of domestic violence.

Subsidize organizations such as:

- the Centre multiethnique de Québec (CMQ);
- the Service d'aide à l'adaptation des immigrants et immigrantes (SAAI);
- the Service externe de main-d'œuvre (SEMO).

MRCI actions in connection with Measure 58

MEASURE 58: Act on the measures contained in the MRCI's immigration plan whose objective is to prevent and fight domestic violence against immigrant women and women from ethnocultural communities.

1. Provide financial support for community organizations whose mission is to raise awareness among immigrants and people from cultural communities about their rights and recourses, and to facilitate access to existing assistance and protection services.
2. Raise awareness among case workers in the health and social services network concerning the particular difficulties faced by immigrants and people from cultural communities, and the values to promote among such individuals.
3. Support the preparation of a domestic violence prevention program for young people from cultural communities, using an approach based on the values, traditions and beliefs of those communities and of the host society.
4. Document the situations faced by immigrants and people from cultural communities in the area of domestic violence.

MJQ actions in connection with Measure 62

MEASURE 62: Implement special measures to adapt and improve the criminal justice system in Native communities.

1. Organize sessions to raise awareness about Native realities, especially concerning issues related to offences against the person in Native communities, for Attorney General's prosecutors and all case workers in the judicial system working with Native people, in accordance with their needs.
2. Promote the mentoring of new Attorney General's prosecutors working in Native communities.
3. Ensure, in regions where it is needed, that an Attorney General's prosecutor accompanies circuit courts, considering the large number of cases and the short period of time available for meeting with victims.
4. Offer a transportation service to allow Native victims to safely attend court hearings outside their community.
5. In regions where the size of the Native population so warrants, ensure that existing or future CAVACs have permanent Native case workers, or personnel aware of the needs of Native victims, and ensure that their services are promoted among the Native population.
6. Develop information tools about the judicial process, designed to respond to the concerns and questions of the individuals concerned.
7. Take steps to ensure that Native victims can receive accessible information about the judicial process, information on their case in their own language, provided orally by case workers employed by victim assistance services, or in writing, or, where it is not possible, provided by the Attorney General's prosecutor, at all stages in the judicial process.
8. Standardize temporary release forms, and have them translated into Native languages as needed.
9. Ensure that a court worker or para-legal advisor explains to the offender and to the victim, separately, the parole conditions fixed by the judge, and provide an interpreter to translate the explanations and make sure they are understood.
10. Take steps to ensure that parole conditions are systematically forwarded to concerned Native police forces.
11. Continue to develop a bank of court interpreters for all First Nations, and provide for the periodic training of Native interpreters.
12. Continue actions, where circumstances allow it, to equip premises used by circuit courts with waiting areas reserved for victims.
13. Where offenders are subject to a court order restricting their possession of firearms to possession for reasons of subsistence, ensure that these firearms are deposited at a police station or in other secure place and are accessible only for subsistence.
14. Support discussions by Native women about issues relating to the administration of justice in their communities.

Lined writing area with horizontal lines.

Notes

