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Programming Responses for Intimate Partner Violence

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Department of Justice Canada
2016

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INTRODUCTION

The Department Justice Canada has a mandate to ensure a strong justice system response to family violence with appropriate criminal laws and procedures that ensure offender accountability. While there is no specific family violence offence in the *Criminal Code*, there is a wide range of offences related to the use of physical and sexual violence that are applicable within intimate partner relationships. Such offences are referred to in this report as intimate partner violence (IPV). *Criminal Code* sentencing provisions consider IPV as an aggravating factor and have been designed to provide sanctions that are both punitive and rehabilitative. This report was undertaken for the Research and Statistics Division and the Family, Children and Youth Section of the Department of Justice Canada to provide a better understanding of the current landscape of programming aimed at perpetrators of IPV across Canada. The report also augments the now archived *2008 Directory of Canada's Treatment Programs for Men Who Abuse Their Partners*, one of a series of directories prepared under the Family Violence Initiative of the Government of Canada.

CONTEXT

Justice-linked intervention responses to IPV have been developed and implemented in virtually all regions of Canada. With respect to federal offenders, Correctional Service Canada (CSC) is legally mandated to provide programs and services that address offenders' criminal behaviour and contribute to their successful transition into the community. For the majority of those convicted of IPV-related offending, services provided by CSC are augmented by community-based treatment.

Many of Canada's provinces and territories have developed IPV action plans, either current or in the recent past, that are relevant to understanding the nature of justice-linked IPV services. IPV action plans both *reflect* and *direct* the priorities for justice-linked services. Provincial and territorial action plans were most often developed as a result of strong advocacy by, and in close collaboration with, grassroots and community level organizations. As such, these plans reflect the unique culture, needs, and political landscapes of different regions of Canada.

IPV action plans also substantially direct the funding and availability of justice-linked family violence services across the provinces and territories. For example, provincial level decisions around the existence and nature of designated IPV courts (or court processes) substantially influence how men interact with the criminal justice system (CJS) and therefore how they access services mandated by the CJS. In some provinces, the Justice of the Peace (JP) or Judge has the ability to order treatment prior to a conviction for an IPV-related offence, including addictions treatment. In these provinces, community-based services are designated to meet this need. In other cases, police identify high-risk families where no charges have been laid for intervention. In this context, community agencies have services to engage at-risk men in treatment. Other policy-related differences concern the integration (or lack of integration) of child protection, addictions treatment, and broader social services (e.g., housing) into justice-linked intervention responses to IPV. Although, recommendations with respect to therapeutic intervention or programming for offenders are generally a small part of IPV action plans, the overall priorities of

the action plan are directly reflected in the justice-linked services provided to address family violence.

In this report, we begin our review of services in each province and territory with a brief description of the broader IPV action plans, legislation and/or processes that reflect and direct justice linked intervention services. Links to original documents are provided whenever possible. We recognize that this “top-down” organization can obscure the historic and ongoing influence of grassroots and community organizations on setting and implementing policy. Given the considerable body of implementation literature showing that with greater stakeholder involvement, IPV action plans are more comprehensive, stronger, and more likely to be implemented (Burby 2003; Hawking, Catalano and Arthur 2002), it is critical to remember the bidirectional influence of government and agencies on policy creation, implementation, and oversight.

Following the section on context, the justice-linked IPV intervention response in each province and territory is described. A summary of key aspects of the response is provided in Table 1. As part of this summary, information is provided on the intervention services themselves. This includes a listing of major intervention service providers, how they are funded, and who they serve. Additionally, the length, organization, and conceptual models that currently guide intervention are summarized. On the basis of program descriptions (available online and as discussed in interviews with key informants), intervention modalities are classified into the categories listed below. We recognize that many intervention programs use more than one modality and in some cases, two or more modalities are fully integrated (e.g., addictions and IPV services, Alberta YWCA Calgary).

- Psychoeducational model focuses on providing education on the nature of violence and abuse and alternatives to such behaviors. In IPV treatment, psychoeducational programs are often based on the Duluth model which adds a focus on re-educating men to hold less sexist attitudes, form more egalitarian relationships, and better recognize and confront male privilege personally and in society.
- Cognitive-behavioural approaches focus directly on changing unhelpful/maladaptive thinking and behaviour. This treatment modality is present- and goal-focused and often incorporates segments on anger regulation where participants are taught self-monitoring, methods to alter maladaptive thinking, and skills for appropriate expression of anger and related emotions.
- Narrative therapy (within a feminist perspective) assists participants to review their beliefs about themselves in relation to their world, challenging those beliefs that are distorted, and helps them to access their preferred self. In IPV treatment, narratives around gender are often emphasized.
- Risk, Needs, Responsivity model refers to a broader organization of services where attempts are made to match the intensity and focus of the intervention with the offender’s level of risk, focus service on factors that directly relate to reduced risk of recidivism (called criminogenic needs) and deliver intervention in a manner that is most accessible to the offender’s learning style and strengths.

- Life-skills approaches target problem solving in all domains, teach skills such as job searching, computer literacy, and budgeting, and link men to resources to meet their specific needs, such as housing or employment.

Intervention programs for IPV are one component of a broader justice response and must be understood within the context of these systems. Accordingly, we also review key aspects of how the justice system interacts with IPV intervention programs. We consider how risk assessment information is used to direct response, the provisions made for accountability to victims, and the nature of community coordination including how information is shared across and between systems.

A high level of overlap between IPV and child maltreatment has been repeatedly documented in research and official statistics. Co-occurrence of IPV and child maltreatment is a challenge to Canadian systems, which have typically responded to these issues independently. For this review, we examined the extent to which parenting interventions relevant to IPV exposure and maltreatment are available as a component of justice-linked responses to IPV. Particular attention was paid to identifying robust responses; in other words, those that integrate and/or coordinated justice/probation and child protection responses as well as provided relevant intervention programming to support healthy parenting.

Finally, when possible, we highlight aspects of program evaluation and innovation for each province and territory.

OBJECTIVES

This report was designed to review and summarize programming provided in court-based, clinical, and community settings and directed towards perpetrators of IPV identified by the justice system. Focus was placed on programs for majority offenders; specifically, heterosexual men involved in the criminal justice system as a result of offending against women. Programs for perpetrators seeking services voluntarily or referred via community agencies or child protection services may be mentioned, but were not the focus of our review. Similarly, interventions specific to women offenders and LGBTQ offenders were not specifically reviewed. Services developed for specific language and cultural minority groups are reviewed and described when they are a key component of a justice-linked intervention response, but otherwise are not covered comprehensively. Finally, this report is limited to justice-linked responses that are community based; programs offered to offenders while incarcerated were not reviewed.

METHODOLOGY

Justice-linked intervention services across Canada were reviewed based on the following data: 1) policy and practice documents that direct and describe justice-linked interventions for IPV in each province or territory; 2) review of online material from agencies providing justice-linked services to perpetrators of IPV; 3) interviews with key informants from each province and territory (see Appendix B for a complete list); and 4) review of research on Canadian programs. Online reviews and interviews with key informants covered the following:

- Source of funding
- Intake protocols
 - Source of referrals
 - Information sharing protocols
- Service components
 - Service model
 - Theoretical framework
 - Risk assessment
 - Provisions for victim service/safety planning
- Community integration/collaboration¹

FINDINGS: PROGRAMMING RESPONSES FOR PERPETRATORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

ALBERTA

Context

Legislation: *Protection Against Family Violence Act, 2000*
<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/p27.pdf>

Provincial Action Plan: *Family Violence Hurts Everyone: A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta (2013)*
<http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/family-violence-hurts-everyone.pdf>

Domestic Violence Court: Available in eight jurisdictions: Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Fort McMurray, Airdrie, and Medicine Hat.

In 1984, Alberta established the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence, which was the first of its kind in Canada. In 1990, the United Nations commended Alberta for its progress in addressing family violence through the efforts of this office.

Alberta’s current action plan defines IPV as “The abuse of power within relationships of family, trust or dependency that endangers the survival, security or well-being of another person”. The action plan’s guiding principles include: commitment to safety in the home; focus on primary prevention; acknowledgement that IPV is a fundamental violation of human rights; a commitment to collaborative, evidence-informed, client-centered, and a gender-based approach to acknowledge the different situations and experiences of women, men, boys and girls. The plan utilizes a lifespan perspective, and a commitment to culturally appropriate responses with shared responsibility for ending IPV including a whole-government approach.

¹ Upon completion, this report was sent to representatives of the provinces and territories for review; BC, AB, SK, MB, QC, PE, NS, NT, ON and YK responded with comments and/or additional information.

Five strategic priorities are identified:

1. Strengthen efforts to prevent family violence
2. Enhance services, support and the justice response for victims and offenders
3. Partner with diverse communities
4. Promote family and community safety through policy, legislation and public engagement
5. Evaluate, measure and demonstrate success

The Action Plan identifies risk factors at an individual, relationship, community, and societal level for both perpetrators and victims. Strategic Priority 2 is dedicated to enhancing services, supports, and the justice response for victims and offenders of family violence. Risk factors are discussed, such as poverty, housing, and unemployment as key issues that prevent victims from leaving their abusive partners. Strategies that follow include provision of basic needs, housing, education, and employment services for victims.

The Action Plan addresses maintaining and enhancing an effective justice response to IPV. For example, strategies to enhance police risk assessment, coordinate information sharing between criminal and family courts, provide victims access to legal advice, develop and implement strategies to assist with an effective and appropriate justice response for victims and offenders are outlined.

In 2009, the Province began the process of developing standardized service guidelines to ensure greater consistency in justice-linked IPV processes and programming across the 15 communities in which Alberta Health and Wellness funds services. The resulting document, the Provincial Family Violence Treatment Program (PFVTP), sets out minimum standards for referrals, assessment, treatment, monitoring of compliance, and reporting related to programs for offenders. All contracted IPV service providers are expected to comply with the standards. Standards are reviewed on an annual basis to keep current with expanded knowledge related to IPV. PFVTP services exist in every jurisdiction that has a domestic violence court as well as some others. Specifically, PFVTP programs currently exist in Calgary, Edmonton, Peace River, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Hinton, Wetaskiwin, Drumheller, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Airdrie, Morley Reserve, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Brooks.

Programs also operate outside of the PFVTP. These programs are situated in community counselling centers and within some John Howard Society agencies. In some cases, these services are delivered by Family and Community Support Services, as described below. The Safe Communities Secretariat provides funding to increase and expand counselling services outside the PFVTP. (See Appendix A for a list of counselling services).

Risk assessment. Police based screening begins with the Family Violence Investigative Report, which is completed in all cases of IPV to identify offender risk and safety planning for victims. This assessment is included in the offender's court brief. Extremely high-risk cases are referred to the Integrated Threat and Risk Management Centre (I-TRAC), a multi-disciplinary threat assessment unit that provides a range of services related to risk assessment, such as case management, safety planning, expert testimony, referrals to community resources, and specialized police units.

Probation screens all offenders for IPV using the SPIn (Service Planning Instrument). This tool identifies service needs based on risk and protective factors in the following categories: criminal history, response to supervision, aggression/violence, substance use, social influences, family, employment, attitude, social/cognitive skills, stability, and mental health. The assessment is updated every six months. Offenders are also screened using the Domestic Violence Inventory (a self-report measure which has scales in truthfulness, violence, alcohol, drugs, control, and stress coping ability). Depending on the level of risk, probation may case conference with the police domestic violence unit to address the offender's supervision needs.

At the intake stage of treatment (within the PFVTP framework), participants' risk is assessed by treatment providers using the SARA (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide) and B-SAFER. Offenders are also screened for addictions and mental health issues.

Domestic Violence Court. In communities where there is a domestic violence court, offenders who admit to the facts or are convicted of an IPV-related offence are divided into two court streams according to their level of risk for recidivism. Lower risk offenders are afforded the opportunity to enter into a 'therapeutic stream' where they admit to the facts of the charge and complete a treatment program. If the offender agrees to enter this stream, the charge is withdrawn and the offender enters into a peace bond with conditions to keep the peace, report to probation, and attend mandated treatment. Treatment includes specialized IPV programs, substance abuse treatment and/or parenting courses.

Men who are ineligible or opt out of the 'therapeutic option' are mandated into treatment upon conviction. In both cases, men are monitored through conditions of their probation order.

Structure. Communities that operate within the PFVTP adhere to specific guidelines that address how information will be shared between agencies. At its inception the PFVTP working group established an agreement under which all funded agencies were able to share information (vetted by the Privacy Commissioner – Privacy Impact Assessment). Local protocols have emerged throughout the province that allow communities to work in collaboration and share information primarily with the consent of the offender, or without consent in cases of extreme risk.

Treatment. Treatment within the PFVTP program is considered as either base or enhanced. The base model is a psychoeducational, 15-week group format (minimum of 15 weeks of 2 hour group treatment or a suitable variation of 30 hours of treatment). The preferred model is more variable and includes best-practices and evidence based therapeutic models that may be eclectic or hybrid in approach.

Groups include, at minimum, a psychoeducational component that encompasses the PFVTP core concepts. Eight core concepts are covered within the treatment program: exploring and defining abuse, responsibility and accountability, emotional regulation, skills development, boundaries, safety, substance abuse and addiction, and parenting.

Whether base or enhanced, participants are screened for risk at intake as well as for addictions and mental health issues using the SARA, B-SAFER and SPIn. Concurrent addictions and

mental health treatment is provided for those who require it through links to specialized community services. Offenders may also be referred to culturally based services as appropriate.

Group therapy is the preferred treatment modality; however, there are cases when individual counselling is deemed to be more appropriate, such as when there are significant barriers to group participation (including poor English). An offender may be offered individual counselling in addition to or as an alternative to group. In either case, the offender must complete a minimum of 15 weeks of treatment. Groups are offered in closed format and have between 8 and 15 participants (allowing some flexibility for drop-outs).

Of particular note in terms of innovative programming within PFVTP is the “*Sobering Effect*” program offered by the YWCA Sheriff King Home in partnership with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission in Calgary. *Sobering Effect* is a 14-week domestic violence and substance abuse program - one of the only such integrated programs in Canada. Men attending this program have files opened in both agencies and make contact with the program 3 times a week for 14 weeks.

Parenting/Impact of child witnessing. The parenting component of the PFVTP treatment group assists participants to learn new ways of interacting with and parenting their children. The impact of exposure to family violence on children, strategies to assist children exposed to family violence, and the intergenerational transmission of family violence are covered under this segment.

Integration. Every police service in Alberta is required to work in partnership with community service providers, systems, and agencies and is encouraged to establish IPV coordination committees. Many communities also have specialized IPV response teams that coordinate services to victims and assess and monitor high-risk IPV offenders. In jurisdictions where there are IPV courts, justice partners and community-based service providers work collaboratively to provide services. In Calgary, HomeFront was established to ensure coordination and integration of services within the justice system and between the justice system and the broader community. HomeFront continues to be a highly successful and innovative initiative.

Accountability to Victims. PFVTP agencies conduct partner contact as part of their core services. This contact occurs at a minimum of three occasions during an individual’s treatment. Victims are offered safety checks and referrals for support. In Calgary, HomeFront offers a comprehensive, coordinated service for victims, working closely with the Calgary Counselling Centre and the YWCA.

Non-PFVTP Services

Funding. In some communities, agencies offer programs outside of the PFVTP guidelines and are ineligible for Alberta Health funding. These agencies piece together funding from different sources including alternate government funding, user fees and fundraising.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) exist in some communities throughout the province. FCSS is tasked with providing preventative social services at a local level in a manner

that is tailored to each community's needs and resources. They are funded in a provincial (80%) and municipal (20%) cost sharing arrangement. FCSS provide services directly or they contract services from other community agencies. IPV treatment services fall under FCSS in some communities. Men are referred to these programs as part of a probation order.

There are a range of strategies employed by non-PFVTP service providers with respect to user fees. Some agencies charge a fee both to mandated and voluntary participants, while others offer services free for mandated participants (who are funded by the Ministry) and only charge voluntary participants (who would otherwise be unfunded). In Camrose, the Family Violence Action Society provides free services regardless of the participant's court status.

Treatment. Agencies accept referrals from probation, child protection, community agencies and in some cases self-referrals. The programs use a range of treatment modalities including narrative therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, IPV-informed couples therapy, life skills training, and individual counselling.

Accountability to Victims. For communities operating outside of the PFVTP, victim contact is most often the responsibility of the probation officer.

Evaluation.

Tutty, L. M., and Koshan, J. (2013). Calgary's specialized domestic violence court: An evaluation of a unique model. *Alberta Law Review*, 50(4), 731-755.

Evaluation of the Calgary Specialized Domestic Violence Trial Court and Monitoring the First Appearance Court: Final Report, 2011
<http://homefrontcalgary.com/main/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/HomeFront-Evaluation-Final-Report-March-2011.pdf>

Irene Hoffart and Michelle Clarke, HomeFront Evaluation. Final Report, 2004
<http://homefrontcalgary.com/main/assets/files/HomeFront%20Evaluation%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Leslie Tutty, Cindy Ogden and Jacqueline Warrell, "Paths of Change: A Follow-up Qualitative Evaluation of Men Mandated to the Sheriff King Offender Groups"
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/resolve/files/resolve/paths-of-change-qualitative-research-.pdf>

Tutty, L. M., Jesso, D., Ogden, C., and Warrell, J. G. (May, 2011). *Responsible Choices for Men: A follow-up qualitative evaluation of men mandated to the Calgary Counselling Centre*. Calgary, AB: RESOLVE Alberta. Online at:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/resolve/files/resolve/responsible-choices-for-men-a-follow-up-qualitative-evaluation-of-men-mandated-to-the-ccc.pdf>

McGregor, M., Tutty, L., Babins-Wagner, R., and Gill, M. (2002). The long term impact of group treatment for partner abuse. *Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health*, 21, 67-84. Doi: 10.7870/cjcmh-2002-0006

Tutty, L. M., Bidgood, B. A., Rothery, M. A., and Bidgood, P. (2001). An evaluation of men's batterer treatment groups. *Research on Social Work Practice, 11*(6), 645-670.
doi:10.1177/104973150101100602

Innovation. A particularly notable innovation in Alberta is its integration of addiction and IPV treatment. Addiction treatment is a component of the PFVTP (based on a biopsychosocial approach). Treatment is provided by a specialized service provider who works in partnership with the IPV service provider. All attempts are made to integrate service delivery. The HomeFront program is also innovative in its work to integrate court and community services.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Context

Legislation: *Family Law Act, 2013*

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/11025_01

Provincial Action Plan: *British Columbia's Provincial Domestic Violence Plan (2014 - 2017)*

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/podv/pdf/dv_pp_booklet.pdf

Domestic Violence Court: Available in some communities.

Provincial Domestic Violence Plan

In February 2014, the B.C. government released its three-year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan (the plan). The \$5.5 million plan delivers on government's commitment to make B.C. a safer place for women, children and families who are affected by domestic violence.

The plan is the result of government, public, and anti-violence stakeholder consultations and includes the creation of additional domestic violence units, programs for Aboriginal families, direct services for perpetrators, and improved access to services and social housing for survivors in rural, remote communities.

The plan addresses the very serious issue of domestic violence in Aboriginal communities by investing in culturally appropriate approaches. It is also inclusive of approaches that address the unique needs of immigrant and refugee women, and women with disabilities.

On August 5, 2015, the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) released its *First Annual Report*, which reflected the work completed between April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015 and included initiatives/activities that continue into Years 2 and 3.

Work on the commitments for Years 2 and 3, as outlined in the plan, are well underway. The four focus areas for the investment of \$5.5 million are:

- Direct services for women, children and men (\$1 million)
- Direct services for Aboriginal children, youth and families (\$2 million)
- Direct services for perpetrators of domestic violence (\$1 million)
- Direct services for rural/remote communities (\$1.5 million)

PODV will release its *Second Annual Report* in summer 2016 to reflect the work completed in 2015/16.

The Provincial Domestic Violence Plan and First Annual report are available on the PODV website at <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/podv/>.

Domestic Violence Courts

Domestic violence courts exist in some communities in British Columbia. There are currently three distinct Domestic Violence Court models in the province, which differ in their goals and approach.

Established in 2009, the Domestic Violence Court in Duncan is a judge-led initiative that takes a collaborative and therapeutic approach to justice by bringing together various community services and government agencies. The primary objective of the court is to stop violence in relationships and keep families safe. All domestic violence offences, except the most serious offences, and *Criminal Code* section 810 applications can be scheduled in this court. Representatives from various service providers and community agencies attend the court to meet with victims and accused persons.

The Domestic Violence Court in Nanaimo was established in 2013 through a collaborative effort of the local Community Coordination for Domestic Safety (CCDS) Committee, whose membership includes representatives from government agencies and community service providers. All domestic violence related offences for adult accused persons, except for murder offences, and *Criminal Code* section 810 applications can be scheduled in this court. Similar to the Duncan Court, community service providers play a significant role in providing supports to victims and accused persons.

Domestic Violence Docket Courts have been established in Kelowna and Penticton and are primarily designed to increase efficiency and case management of domestic violence cases that have a high level of trial uncertainty so that resources in other courts can be used for cases with higher trial certainty. A Provincial Court Practice Direction sets out the types of cases to be scheduled in the docket courts and provides specific case management and scheduling requirements. Generally, the cases scheduled in docket courts are limited to less serious domestic violence offences. Cases can only be scheduled in the docket courts for trials or continuation dates unless ordered otherwise by the court. Only one Crown witness is required for each case for the initial trial date, unless otherwise set by the court.

See the Ministry of Justice's [Specialized Courts Strategy](#) (2016) and [Framework for Domestic Violence Courts in British Columbia](#) (2014) for additional information.

Risk Assessment

A number of different risk assessment tools are used throughout the province.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has developed standardized training for all frontline police on conducting evidence-based, risk-focused domestic violence investigations. Police are trained to use the *BC Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors (SDVRF)*, a tool which identifies risk factors in the broad categories of relationship history, complainant's perception of risk, suspect history, and access to weapons. Some police, including more specialized units, use more advanced tools for structured domestic violence risk assessment, including B-SAFER.

Community Corrections commonly uses SARA and the Community Risk Needs Assessment tool, which guide case management and assist probation officers in defining an appropriate level of supervision and intervention strategies.

The Ministry of Justice, Family Justice Services Division utilizes a standard initial needs screening which includes two questions for history and immediate risk of family violence. Clients that proceed to meet with a Family Justice Counsellor complete a more comprehensive risk assessment tool that was developed specifically for use within their system (Family Justice Services Assessment Form).

Court-Mandated Treatment Programs

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General funds court-mandated programs.

Structure. Court-mandated treatment is provided in two parts, collectively known as the *Relationship Violence Prevention Program*. The first part, *Respectful Relationships (RR)* is delivered by Corrections Branch staff to medium and high-risk offenders (as assessed by corrections). The second segment, *Relationship Violence Program (RVP)*, is contracted out to Stroh Health Services in 45 communities throughout the province for moderate and high-risk offenders upon completion of *Respectful Relationships*. Information regarding the offender's progress is shared with corrections throughout participation in RVP and a final report is submitted at program completion. Attendance is reported after every group, as well as any concerns regarding escalation of risk.

Additionally, RR is co-facilitated in designated Aboriginal communities by Probation Officers and Aboriginal Justice Workers (AJW) with a specific focus on culturally appropriate facilitation. Since 2005, 130 AJWs have been trained in RR. AJWs utilize that training by co-facilitating offender programs with probation officers and provide a cultural focus to the program. AJWs also facilitate domestic violence programs in their communities providing services to women, men, young people and couples.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has also contracted with a number of agencies in the Lower Mainland to deliver the RVP Cultural Edition to men in a range of

languages including Punjabi, Farsi, Cantonese and Mandarin in either a group or individual format.

The *Relationship Violence Prevention Program* (RVPP) was evaluated in 2008 by BC Corrections. Specifically, results found a 50% reduction in spousal-assault related recidivism and a 60% reduction in general recidivism for men who completed RVPP in the community as compared to a comparison group of men who just received community supervision. Effects persisted over a two-year follow-up period, with lessor recidivism among men who complete both components of the program.

Respectful Relationships and *Relationship Violence Program* are offered in a number of jurisdictions throughout Canada in a standardized format. A description of these programs is provided in Box 1.

Box 1

Respectful Relationships

Format:

10-week closed group, 2 hours per week delivered by trained Corrections Branch staff. 8 – 10 individuals per session.

Therapeutic modality:

Psycho-educational, cognitive behavioural model.

Program Elements: Understanding abusive behaviour; the impacts of violence on victims and children, strategies to manage emotions and behaviour; problem-solving skills

Section Two: Relationship Violence Program

Format:

17-week closed group. 8 – 10 members.

Therapeutic modality:

Cognitive behavioural program that utilizes goal-oriented teaching methods.

Program elements: What creates conflict; personal awareness; influence of family and friends; challenging thinking; identifying and managing emotions; jealousy; sex and intimacy; review and integration; communication skills; problems solving; resolving conflict; fatherhood; and relapse prevention.

Parenting/Impact of child witnessing. A session on fatherhood is included in the *Relationship Violence Program*. This session covers the following topics: children learn what they live; the abuse of children wheel; the nurturing wheel; parenting guidelines; 5 good reasons to stop spanking; how to deal with your child's difficult behaviour; positive discipline; and using a time-out.

Accountability to Victims. Victim contact is often the role of victim services, Corrections, and Bail Supervisors, however some service providers incorporate contact with victims into their program. The purpose of this contact is generally to explain the program, to aid in risk assessment, and to ensure that the victim has access to safety planning and resources. Some community-based services provide parallel groups and individual support for victims.

Community-Based Perpetrator Treatment Services

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is currently undertaking work on the development of intervention programs for perpetrators of domestic violence prior to involvement in the criminal justice system, including the enhancement and evaluation of culturally appropriate programs for Aboriginal communities. In April 2015, \$1 million was made available to support this work as part of the Provincial Domestic Violence Plan.

Currently, community-based perpetrator treatment service providers and private practitioners provide treatment for men who are not court mandated in locations throughout the province. These programs are typically funded through the agency's fundraising efforts, small grants, or client user fees.

While there is no direct link between these community-based programs and the Courts, some participants involved in the criminal justice system access or are referred to these agencies for service. Information sharing is limited between BC Corrections and the agency providing services and generally shared only with the consent of the participants. The agency provides participants with a letter confirming attendance in the program. They do not provide assessments or letters of support. Programs vary in therapeutic orientation, duration and the information that is covered.

Two of the larger, community-based programs are described below:

Northern Society for Domestic Peace

Domestic Peace Program

Smithers, BC (<http://www.domesticpeace.ca/about.html>)

Funding. The Domestic Peace Program is funded through a BC Gaming Commission grant and the agency's fundraising.

Structure: The Domestic Peace Program provides services to high-, moderate- and low-risk IPV offenders. The program is considered voluntary, however referrals are made to the program for court mandated offenders by probation. The program does not provide assessments to the court but will confirm attendance following the completion of 12 sessions. The program is available to men for as long as they require.

Risk Assessment. Risk assessment is an ongoing process entrenched in working with the client. Counsellors utilize formal tools such as the "Abuse Inventory" (developed from the SARA and ERA), as well as the B-SAFER and SARA and the Signs of Safety (Andrew Turnell). They also

may engage collateral contacts, such as the participant's current/separated partner, to ensure they have a fulsome picture of the participant's risk profile.

Treatment. Prior to attending the Domestic Peace Program, participants complete a minimum of 12 hours of individual counselling. Services are founded in a 'response-based approach'. The therapeutic focus is on choice and volition, positioning themselves as the subject of their actions, both violent and nonviolent and embracing the ability to consistently choose to treat their partners respectfully. ("Approaching the Subject of Violence: A Response-Based Approach to Working with Men who Have Abused Others", Nick Todd, Gillian Weaver-Dunlop and Cindy Ogden, Violence Against Women 2014, 1117). Participants complete an evaluation at the end of the program. Follow-up is done at 6 months and 1-year post completion.

Accountability to victims. Participants must agree to partner contact in order to be eligible for service. Victims are contacted by the therapist working with the participant to assess concerns and offer support, such as safety planning and links to community services. The agency also provides treatment services to victims, therefore can 'wrap around' the family where needed. In cases where the victim is not a client of the agency, victim contact happens at the beginning of program and at program completion.

Integration. The Northern Society for Domestic Peace operates within a collaborative framework. The Community Coordination for Women's Safety committee membership includes key stakeholders including police, victim services, corrections, and child protection services. The committee focuses on systemic change. The community recently established an Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) to address the needs of high-risk offenders.

Northern John Howard Society

Stop Taking it Out on Your Partner

Prince George, BC (<http://thestopprogram.com/>)

The Northern John Howard Society provides a program in Prince George entitled "*Stop Taking it Out on Your Partner*" (PG STOP).

Funding. PG STOP has been providing services to voluntary participants for 20 years. It is currently funded through grants and the local United Way.

Structure. While men's participation in the program is voluntary, the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation and Probation and Parole refer many court mandated offenders to the program. Information is shared with the referral source only with the consent of the participant. Following program completion, participants are provided with a pass or fail. Those who do not successfully complete the program are permitted to repeat it.

Risk Assessment. Services are provided to high- moderate- and low-risk offenders. Risk assessment is not formally completed, however counsellors utilize professional judgment to monitor the changing risk profile of participants.

Treatment. The program draws on a variety of therapeutic treatment modalities, including psychodynamic, humanistic, and cognitive behavioural therapy. The materials are divided into 8 units delivered over 15 weeks in three-hour sessions. Topics include anger management, using anger in a positive way, emotional control, positive self-talk, how the emotional system works, anger and response/reaction, anger log, time out technique, toxic shame, self-esteem, forms of violence, effect of violence on children, communication, active listening, empathy and conflict resolution and ‘letter of responsibility’. Participants are able to see the counsellors individually for follow up when they have completed the program.

Accountability to Victims. Victims are contacted and granted access to a support group for spouses. To ensure continuity, the counsellor that works with the offender will facilitate the partner group.

Evaluation. The Stop Taking it Out on Your Partner program was evaluated in 2013 (*Reducing the recurrence of domestic abuse among male intimate partners: a case study of the PG STOP violence program of the Northern John Howard Society of British Columbia*, Chiduzie Ezedebaego, UNBC Masters student).

<http://www.thestopprogram.com/images/sampledata/PDF/thesis.pdf>

MANITOBA

Context

Legislation: *The Domestic Violence and Stalking Act*

Domestic Violence Court: Available in Winnipeg

Provincial Action Plan: Manitoba – Multi-year Domestic Violence Prevention Strategy (2012)

http://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/stoptheviolence/domestic_violence_prevention_strategy_2012.pdf

Manitoba’s Action Plan was developed through a public consultation process focusing on what needed to be improved in prevention and direct services, a review of funded services, and a literature review focusing on how to promote healthy, equal relationships.

IPV is defined as “in most cases, perpetrated by men and mainly against women and children. Violence exists in many types of intimate relationships: in heterosexual and same-sex relationships (currently or formerly dating, married or living together). While certain factors may increase the risk of abuse, domestic violence happens to people from all walks of life”. The document notes that 80% of victims in dating and spousal violence are women; that women are more likely than men to be severely assaulted, sexually assaulted, choked or threatened with a weapon; and more than twice as likely to be injured.

Supports and services for victims and families are woven into the Plan.

The goals of interventions for “people with abusive behaviours” are focused on eliminating abusive behaviour, managing risk, and holding offenders accountable. Therapeutic recommendations include endorsement of community based counselling programs to eliminate abusive behaviours. Offender management and accountability recommendations target an enhanced criminal justice response, specifically domestic violence courts, specialized domestic violence police units, specialized Manitoba Justice Victim Services – Domestic Violence Support Service, prosecution and probation units, case management of high-risk men, standardization of risk assessment tools for police (Family Violence Checklist), and the Front-End Project, which was designed to eliminate trial delays.

Risk Assessment: Risk is assessed by police services using the *Family Violence Risk Checklist* for all domestic violence related occurrences.

(<http://www.learningtoendabuse.ca/sites/default/files/Inventory%20of%20spousal%20violence%20risk%20assessment%20tools%20used%20in%20Canada.pdf>).

Probation uses the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) to assess offender risk and determine appropriate case management strategies and programming needs. Community based programs do not typically utilize formal risk assessment tools but monitor the offender's progress using unstructured professional judgment.

Manitoba Justice Victim Services uses a variety of tools to assess risk including the Danger Assessment and the Family Violence Risk Checklist. Victim Services Workers use these tools in combination with their professional judgment gained through years of experience and training, to provide Crown attorneys with detailed information highlighting risk to victims.

The Manitoba Justice - Domestic Violence Support Services helps victims of domestic violence when criminal charges have been laid, or may be laid against their partners. Manitoba Justice Victim Services Workers explain the cycle of violence, how the cycle may affect victims and their families and how to escape from it. They also help victims to develop protection plans to increase their personal safety. The program also provides support to families who receive police services for domestic violence incidents that do not result in charges or arrests (Winnipeg only).

This program in partnership with the Winnipeg Police identifies families that are high-risk for IPV but where there are no grounds for criminal charges. The potential victim in the family is provided with support through the Domestic Violence Support Service.

Domestic Violence Court. The Winnipeg Domestic Violence Court has an early intervention and a rigorous prosecution stream. The Domestic Violence Unit of the Manitoba Prosecution Service reviews each IPV case prior to the accused’s first appearance to designate the most appropriate court stream.

Post charge diversion is recommended for those who are first time, low risk accused individuals who are willing to accept responsibility for the offence. Prior IPV or other violent offences, use of weapons, and/or serious physical injuries to the victim, disqualify the accused from having the charges diverted. Those deemed eligible for post charge diversion are mandated to obtain counselling that includes domestic violence counselling through the Salvation Army Choose 2

Change program or such other program deemed appropriate by the prosecutor. If the accused successfully completes the programming and if the accused, in the appropriate case, agrees to enter into a peace bond for a period of one year, then the Crown will stay proceedings on the charge.

The prosecution court stream targets moderate to high-risk accused and those who opt out of diversion. Offenders are mandated into treatment following conviction to the *Introduction to Healthy Relationships* followed by the *Making A Connection* program, the *Evolve Men's Program* or culturally specific intervention.

Introduction to Healthy Relationships (IHR) is a 3-hour information group, which is funded by Manitoba Justice for low to medium risk offenders in any stage of change, with additional follow-up with the Probation Officer in the community. Offenders are asked to complete a survey identifying their “stage of change” with respect to their relationship and readiness to make changes in their life. Offenders are taught what a healthy relationship is, where people learn about relationships and discuss gender socialization, trauma and the impact of domestic violence on children and victims. The cycle of abuse and CBT model of human behaviour (thoughts, feelings, behaviours, consequences) are introduced.

A small number of adult offenders are designated by Probation Services to be high risk offenders in the area of domestic violence. These offenders are supervised by a specialized unit within Probation Services. This specialized unit obtains input during regular monthly meetings from police, Victim Services, a Corrections Officer from Headingly Correctional Center, and a prosecutor from the Domestic Violence Unit. Electronic Monitoring may be an element of probation supervision of these high risk offenders.

The Thompson Domestic Violence Treatment Option (DVTO) Court is a post-charge diversion court option for first time, low-risk offenders within the City of Thompson. Offenders are screened by the Crown to determine eligibility to enter the DVTO Court. Similar to the Court in Winnipeg, offenders are ineligible who have caused significant physical injury to their victim. Offenders who opt out of the DVTO Court or are ineligible are remanded to the prosecution stream.

The Manitoba Metis Federation Community Justice Worker completes the intake process for offenders in the DVTO stream and refers them to Men are Part of the Solution (MAPS). If the offender successfully completes the program they return to the DV Court for disposition of the charge.

Moderate- to high-risk offenders are sentenced to treatment provided by probation or are referred to MAPS upon conviction.

Low Risk

Choose 2 Change

The Salvation Army

<http://mb.salvationarmy.ca/>

Risk Assessment. The program uses indicators to assess risk, such as stage of change, level of responsibility, substance use, cooperation, and behaviour in the group.

Funding. Choose 2 Change program receives no external funding and charges participants on a fee for service basis.

Structure. Choose 2 Change receives referrals from the *Alternatives* court program. The program also accepts self referrals and referrals from community agencies. Information is shared with the *Alternatives* program regarding the offender's participation. Specific information regarding the offender is not shared.

Treatment. Choose 2 Change is a closed psychoeducational group, which employs some cognitive behavioural and narrative elements. The program consists of a 2-hour intake/assessment, 21 hours of group work and a 2-hour closing meeting. The group work takes place over 3 sessions, each 7-hours in duration. The program covers different types of abuse, effects of abuse, beliefs and values, socialization and gender roles, self-talk, warning signs, time outs, cycle of abuse, substance abuse, children and non-violent parenting, and healthy relationships.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. Information related to the impact of witnessing IPV on children and non-violent parenting strategies are incorporated into the treatment group.

Accountability to Victims. Manitoba Justice Victim Services attempts to meet with all victims of domestic violence and refers matters appropriate for Choose to Change to Prosecutions Services. Victim Services also attempts to notify all victims that their (ex)partners have entered the Choose to Change program.

Integration. The program works in collaboration with justice partners associated with the *Alternatives* program.

Evaluation. The *Choose 2 Change* program is currently undergoing evaluation through *Resolve* (a tri-provincial research network formally known as the Manitoba Research Centre on Family Violence and Violence Against Women <http://prairieaction.ca/projects/resolve-network>).

Moderate- and high-risk

Offenders at moderate and high-risk to reoffend are referred, post-conviction, to a number of possible programs including Making a Connection (MAC), Evolve and culturally specific treatment.

Making A Connection (MAC)

Community and Youth Corrections

http://www.gov.mb.ca/cgi-bin/print_hit_bold.pl/justice/criminal/corrections/index.html

Risk Assessment. The LS/CMI is used by probation to identify specific criminogenic needs and informs the case management process for each offender. A final report is given to the probation officer upon program completion.

Funding. The *MAC* program is funded by Manitoba Justice.

Structure. *MAC* is specifically for high to very high risk offenders who are minimally in a contemplative stage of change and mandated to attend treatment post-conviction. Offenders must complete the *Introduction to Healthy Relationships* program prior to entering *MAC*.

Treatment. The *MAC* program consists of 17, 2.5 hour sessions. The program draws on motivational interviewing, solution focused therapy, narrative therapy, and risk-needs-responsivity principles. Offenders examine different aspects of their lives, including criminality; past and present relationships; the impact of their behaviour on others; defence mechanisms; and communication. Trauma, grief, loss, and self care are also explored. The segments on behaviour, values, beliefs, self-talk, and managing emotions are delivered using CBT principles. Healthy relationships, balance, warning signs, time out plans and relapse prevention are reinforced. The group uses controlled breathing practice in every session. Offenders are not blamed or forced to disclose the circumstances of the charge; however, they are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. The program includes information on attachment theory and trauma which may lead to some discussion of parenting, however, there are no specific segments addressing parenting.

Victim Accountability. The program does not have any contact with victims. Victims are contacted and supported by Victim Services.

Integration. The Domestic Violence Advisory Committee (DVAC) provides direction to Senior Management in the development and implementation of policy and programming across the Community Safety Division (formerly Manitoba Corrections) for the province and liaises with other government and non-government stakeholders.

The Evolve Men's Program

Klinik Community Health Centre in Winnipeg. <http://www.klinik.mb.ca/landing.html>.

Risk Assessment. The program targets offenders post-conviction who represent all levels of risk (as assessed by the referral source).

Funding. *Evolve* is funded by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (a provincial government body overseeing the implementation of health and social services programs across the Winnipeg health region).

Structure. Offenders are referred to the program primarily by probation (post-conviction) and child protection services. The program also accepts referrals from community agencies and self

referrals. Information is shared with the referring agency when requested and with permission of the offender.

Treatment. The work is informed by Narrative therapy practices (Alan Jenkins), and psychoeducational theory. Prior to entering the group, offenders attend 2 intake interviews. Depending on their needs, offenders are offered individual therapy to prepare them for the group. The total program is 10 – 12 months in duration followed by individual therapy where indicated. Continued participation in the program is voluntary.

Evolve is delivered in a 2-stage format.

Stage one: The Preparatory Stage: This program is an open group format which runs for 20 weeks, two hours per week, with a maximum of 10 participants. Delivered in a psychoeducational format, the group covers the following topics: boundaries, stress management, mindfulness, feelings, brain functioning, problem solving, healthy relationships, male social expectations, assertiveness, communication, change, self-care, and relaxation.

Stage two: Men's Closed Group. This is a 20 week closed group (3 hours/week), which is co-facilitated by a therapist and a peer mentor (program graduate). Men share their life story, current situation and why they are there, their experiences of abuse in their lives, express repressed feelings, especially shame and practice being vulnerable. They are expected to write a letter about their abusive behaviour from the perspective of their partner and children and share with it the group. Maintenance and relapse prevention plans are discussed.

Parenting/Impact of child witnessing: Information related to the impact of witnessing IPV on children and non-violent parenting strategies are incorporated into the treatment group.

Accountability to Victims. Victims are contacted while the offenders are attending the closed group to share threats of harm or any concerns related to the victim's safety. Victims are offered *Evolve Women's Program* and couples counselling is available where requested and appropriate (i.e., no threat of harm).

Integration. *Evolve* works in collaboration with the Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba, the Addiction Foundation of Manitoba and the Men's Resource Centre.

Evaluation. The *Evolve* program for moderate risk offenders was evaluated as a pilot project. (<http://www.klinik.mb.ca/docs/FINAL%20REPORT%20rev%204.pdf>)

Men are Part of the Solution (MAPS)

www.menarepartofthesolution.com/programs

Funding. MAPS is funded primarily by the Thompson Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

Structure. Referrals are received from probation, social agencies, lawyers, public health, and self referrals.

Treatment. Participants are seen individually for a pre-group screening interview which is done by the Manitoba Metis Community Justice worker attached to the Thompson DVTO Court.

Treatment is provided in 2 segments and takes approximately 4 months to complete. Segment one consists of 12 weeks (2.5 hours per week) of group therapy. The group is either open or closed and has 8 to 10 participants. Using a psychoeducational treatment modality, the group addresses anger cues, time-outs, self-care, self-talk, beliefs, cost and rewards of anger, feeling vocabulary, funnel, shame and guilt, the pressures of masculinity, values, identity, relationship loss, self-esteem and health relationships.

The second segment of the program consists of 8 individual counselling sessions (1.5 hours per week).

Follow-up short-term counselling is available for group participants upon completion of the program.

Culturally Specific Programming

Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF)

www.mmf.mb.ca/departments_portfolios_and_affiliates_details.php?id=3

MMF Domestic Violence Program

Funding. MMF does not receive funding for this program.

Structure. Services are provided in Interlake, Thompson, Winnipeg, The Pas and Dauphin. Manitoba Metis Federation provides intake services for the Thompson DV Treatment Court, referring offenders for treatment. In jurisdictions where there is no DV Court option, MMF provides services through the Aboriginal Justice Courts. Offenders are referred for treatment from probation, the Courts and self-referrals. Information is shared through service agreements with the Court. MMF has established partnerships with Addiction Foundation of Manitoba for addiction assessments and services throughout the province.

Treatment. Treatment is provided in a group format, drawing from anger management and CBT treatment modalities. The group includes 14 sessions provided in a closed format with a maximum of 10 participants. Topics covered are anger management, the cycle of violence, values and beliefs, communication skills, conflict resolution, defence mechanisms, timeout and safety planning and the impact on children witnessing domestic violence.

Accountability to Victims: The program does not have contact with the victim, however services are often provided to couples who will attend an anger management group together after the offender has completed the DV Program.

Spirit of Peace (First Nations Program)

Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre

<http://www.mamawi.com/>

Risk Assessment. Counsellors monitor risk using unstructured professional judgment and will refer to specialized services as required, such as mental health and addiction services.

Funding. Spirit of Peace receives funding from the Federal and Provincial government.

Structure. Referrals are received from the courts and from probation for mandated IPV offenders. The program accepts all IPV offenders and does not differentiate among levels of risk. The program also accepts voluntary clients, who most often self refer. Information is shared with probation only with the offender's' consent.

Treatment. The Spirit of Peace program is 8 weeks, 5 hours per week in duration. Utilizing psychoeducational and narrative therapy, the program covers the following areas: cycle of violence, why people remain in abusive relationships, managing toxic anger, anger incident review, time outs, relationships and jealousy, letting go of the need to control, zero tolerance, crisis preparation planning, substance abuse and violence, changing beliefs, impact of IPV on children, sharing circle, anger and relapse prevention. Smudging and sweetgrass ceremonies begin each group, Aboriginal customs, practices and values are woven into the group content.

Parenting/Impact of child witnessing. Information related to the impact of witnessing IPV on children is incorporated into the treatment group.

Accountability to Victims. Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre offers a women's and children's group. Counsellors working with offenders do not have contact directly with victims.

Innovation. The Winnipeg Police Service identifies families who have been involved with the police and are considered to be at risk of IPV. The family member identified as most likely to be victimized is offered assistance for herself and also potentially for her partner.

NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR

Context

Legislation: *Family Violence Protection Act*

Domestic Violence Court: Not currently available.

Provincial Action Plan: *Taking Action Against Violence: Violence Prevention Initiative (2006 – 2012)* (http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/initiative/actionplan2006_2012.pdf)

Taking Action Against Violence is built on the premise that the social and cultural roots of violence are based in gender inequality and that women from diverse backgrounds are especially vulnerable (ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic status). The mission and mandate statements do not specifically address therapeutic services for perpetrators, however the guiding principles address enforcement and accountability.

Taking Action Against Violence was led by a committee of Ministers (Health, Community Services, Education, Human Resources, Labour and Employment, Aboriginal Affairs) and was chaired by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

Key investments resulting from the plan include public education, operational funding for transition houses and support for community collaboration in the form of Regional Coordinating Committees. There are 10 committees throughout the Province made up of representatives from community-based service providers and justice partners. The Plan also supported the creation of a Community Advisory Committee composed of representatives from organizations working with government and regional coordinating committees to act as a liaison and the conduit of information between government and front-line organizations.

The Justice Minister's Committee of Violence Against Women meets to discuss issues related to the justice system response to IPV. It is composed of the Justice Minister, justice officials, police agencies and representatives from community groups such as the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women, John Howard Society and the Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation.

Family Justice Services, the service which assists families in resolving separation and divorce, screen for domestic violence and refer to Victim Services where concerns exist regarding the safety of women and children. Victim Services is mandated to create safety plans or refer to community services as indicated.

Until losing funding in 2013, the Province had a Domestic Violence Court. The Lt. Gov. promised to reinstate the court and expand it to reach more of the Province.
(<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2013/just/1120n10.htm>)

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) and the RCMP have designated Domestic Violence Coordinators who are mandated to work collaboratively with community partners.

Risk Assessment. The RNC designated a Domestic Violence Coordinator in 2013. Police use the Family Violence Investigation Report (FVIR) for all domestic violence occurrences. FVIR highlights history of IPV, escalation, victim's perception of IPV and any aggravating factors that potentially impact the victim's safety.

Funding. Services for DV offenders referred by probation are provided through the *Learning Resource Program* (LRP) of the John Howard Society in three locations in the Province - Cornerbrook, St. John's, and Stevensville. These programs are funded for treatment of court-mandated clients by the Department of Justice. The provincial government subsidizes the "Advanced Education and Skills" program offered by John Howard.

Structure. The John Howard Society receives referrals from Probation and Corrections Canada who assess the offender's risk using the LSI. The agency also accepts self-referrals from men who wish to access services on a voluntary basis. Every month an assessment of the offender's progress is completed, addressing needs and risks using the SARA. This report is shared with the referring agency.

In the case of high-risk offenders, a monthly progress report is also shared with the Family Violence Risk Threat Assessment team with the consent of the offender and the victim. The Family Violence Risk Threat Assessment team is comprised of John Howard Society, Victim Services, the RCMP, RNC (Royal Newfoundland Constabulary), the Crown Attorney, and Child, Youth, and Family Services. The team identifies high-risk domestic violence offenders (on bail, just out of jail and on probation) and meets to monitor the offender and to support the victim.

Treatment. All offenders receive the *Respectful Relationships* program (see British Columbia for a complete description). This program is delivered by probation.

Probation refers moderate to high-risk offenders to the John Howard Society, *Learning Resource Program (LRP)*. Probation shares any previous risk assessments, the offender's current LSI assessment, any previous recommendations for treatment, and the offender's criminal history. John Howard Society uses the SARA to determine program needs. With the exception of the Caring Dads program, the LRP is not specifically for IPV offenders. The groups offered are designed to be either moderate or high intensity and are structured to meet the group's particular needs. In some instances, the agency will provide individual counselling. Groups are based in a cognitive restructuring treatment modality. The core groups are:

Anger Management: a program for moderate-risk and high-risk offenders who have difficulty in managing their anger.

Advanced Education and Skills: The Modular Aptitude Assessment Program consists of basic job readiness skills, resumé writing, and specific job skills obtained through various workshops and work placements.

Caring Dads: See Ontario for program description.

Group for Criminal Behaviour Awareness: is a continuous intake, 20- to 25-week program offered in conjunction with anger management, and designed to target antisocial attitudes and values, pro-criminal associations, substance abuse, and antisocial behaviour patterns.

Sex Offender: The LRP is the treatment program through which secondary-risk assessments are provided for sex offenders.

Maintenance: The Maintenance program supplements group therapy by providing high-risk clients up to 6 additional sessions with a counsellor either during or following completion of a specific program. The objective of maintenance is to develop relapse prevention strategies, reinforce knowledge, skills and positive changes achieved through the group therapy process.

Individual Counselling: For individuals whose needs do not fit into an existing group, the agency offers individual counselling.

Once an offender has completed the program, a discharge report is submitted to the referring agency summarizing the offender's' progress in the program and making recommendations regarding other programs that may be considered.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. *Caring Dads* (see Ontario for program description).

Accountability to Victims. Partner contact and partner support are not included as a component of service for either low or moderate-high risk offenders. However, the John Howard Society does work in collaboration with women's services to ensure that changes related to risk are shared and that victim safety planning is completed. In addition, for high-risk offenders, victim services are included as part of the Family Violence Risk Threat Assessment team.

Integration. The John Howard Society is a member of the Family Violence Risk Threat Assessment team.

Innovation. To address geographical barriers, the agency is exploring the use of video conferencing for IPV and sexual violence treatment and video conferencing for counselling. Video conferencing is also used to conduct suicide risk assessment for high-risk inmates while incarcerated.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Context

IPV Legislation: N/A

Domestic Violence Court: A Domestic Violence Court exists in Moncton and services the counties of Kent, Westmorland, and Albert.

Provincial Action Plan: *A Better World for Women: Moving Forward (2005 – 2010)*.
<https://www.gnb.ca/0012/Violence/PDF/movingforward-e.pdf>

The Government of New Brunswick established a Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women in 2000 to develop an action plan addressing violence against women. The group presented recommendations in 2001. The first 3-year action plan, "*A Better World for Women*" was launched to address these recommendations.

"*A Better World for Women: Moving Forward*" is the Province's second plan. Targets of the Plan include the establishment of a specialized court model to enhance women's safety, education and prevention, leadership and coordination and transitional supports for women, and services to women and children.

Services and supports for victims and children exposed to IPV are discussed throughout the Plan. Strategies regarding treatment for perpetrators are entrenched within the IPV court model.

Provincial coordination exists in New Brunswick through the "Provincial Partnerships In Action Committee". This Committee is coordinated by the Women's Equality Branch, Executive Council Office, and the Government of New Brunswick. The Committee is the parent body of

the IPV committees across the province that are made up of key stakeholders representing government and non-government agencies.

The Domestic Violence Court was established in Moncton in 2007. The court model includes coordinated services for victims. Probation officers, who function as case managers, assess risk, treatment needs, arrange for and monitor the offender's progress and report back to the court. Monitoring typically begins 6-weeks post sentencing, or for incarcerated offenders, 2-weeks post-release. Offenders are required to attend 1 to 3 monitoring sessions. As with other domestic violence court models, the Moncton court provides expedited access to IPV intervention programs for low risk offenders who accept responsibility for the offence and meet eligibility criteria for program admission

The Domestic Violence Court facilitates sharing of information between the criminal and family divisions through the Court Coordinator. Information, such as child protection orders and custody and access restrictions are shared to align criminal and civil restrictions in IPV cases.

Risk Assessment. In 2014 the provincial government adopted the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) as the standardized risk assessment tool for police services. Probation uses 2 tools; ODARA, and the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI). These instruments assist in identifying a number of potential treatment needs including addiction treatment, mental health services, domestic violence intervention and prevention programs. Probation refers offenders to treatment based on their needs and level of risk and reports the offender's progress to the Court through monitoring sessions.

Treatment for offenders streamed through the DV court in Moncton are provided by the John Howard Society's Domestic Violence Program for Men and Women or the Centre de ressources et de crises familiales Beauséjour. Treatment across other regions of the province are provided by a number of other independent agencies for probation mandated clients.

Funding. All interventions for mandated IPV offenders are funded by the Department of Public Safety.

Interventions Associated with Moncton's DV Court

There are two streams of services provided for domestic violence programs. The John Howard Society delivers a low-risk program for both men and women. The Beauséjour Family Crisis Resource Centre Inc. delivers a program for moderate- and high-risk offenders (Narrative Therapy Domestic Violence - High Intensity Intervention).

John Howard Society (JHS)

Moncton, New Brunswick

<http://www.johnhowardsnb.com/>

Moncton Probation refers offenders to the appropriate program and attendance is mandatory. JHS provides a final report addressing progress and goals obtained by the offender. The report is shared with Probation.

Risk assessment. JHS does not conduct risk assessment. Group facilitators monitor client's risk during group using unstructured professional judgment and report any escalation in risk to the probation officer immediately.

Domestic Violence Program for Men – Low Intensity

Treatment. The Domestic Violence Program for Men - Low Intensity consists of 10 sessions, each 2 hours in duration. Topics include defining different types of abuse and recognizing associated behaviours, cycle of violence, power and control, communication, changing beliefs and behaviours, conflict, journey to health through grief and loss, sex role stereotyping, self-talk and planning for the future. The group utilizes a CBT treatment modality.

Narrative Therapy Domestic Violence - High Intensity Intervention

Structure. Mandated offenders are referred to the program by Public Safety, Probation Services. Information about the offender's attendance and any behavioural concerns are shared with the offender's probation officer. At week 8 a 'cost/benefit analysis' is completed and shared with probation. Offenders are given a pass/fail at the end of the program as well as a clinical report that outlines his progress and outcomes achieved.

Treatment. The program is based on the Bridges program (narrative therapy and CBT) and is designed specifically for high-risk offenders. The program is 16 weeks in duration, 2-hours per week. Prior to attending group, offenders participate in 3 individual sessions to prepare them for the group.

Information covered in the group includes re-authoring identity, abuse and gender, taking responsibility, defining distractions, relapse prevention planning, how to heal and repair from abuse, how to listen, how to share, economic respect, sexual respect and a letter of apology.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. Information regarding the effects of abuse on women and children are incorporated into the group treatment.

Accountability to Victims. Partner contact is done through the agency's women's outreach services. There is no information sharing between women's outreach and the men's intervention programs.

Centre de ressources et de crises familiales Beauséjour

Shediac, New Brunswick

<http://www.criseshediacrisis.org>

Risk assessment. Beausejour relies on the risk assessment done by the police and the Probation Officer. Men who score in the moderate to high range on ODARA are referred to the program.

Funding. Beausejour is funded through the Department of Public Safety.

Structure. The program receives referrals from the Moncton Domestic Violence Court. Information regarding attendance is shared weekly with probation in addition to any behavioural concerns. The Agency submits a mid-program assessment and a final report at program completion to the Probation Officer.

Treatment. The program is based on the Bridges program (narrative and CBT) and is designed specifically for high-risk offenders. The program consists of 16 weekly sessions, each 2 hours in duration. Offenders must participate in 3 individual sessions prior to beginning the group. Group sizes range from 5 - 8 participants up to a maximum of 12. The group is based on Narrative Therapy and includes 4 stages: Preparing to Take Responsibility; Stage 2: Formalize Relapse Prevention Plans-Past Incidents of Abuse; Stage 3: Studying the Effects of Abuse; Stage 4: Healing and Repairing the Effects of Abuse. The following elements are part of the curriculum; cost benefit/ analysis of violence, taking responsibility for our behavior, types of violent behaviours, attitudes and beliefs associated with domestic violence, socialization, understanding the impact of abuse on others, cognitive restructuring using CBT, emotions management (anger, jealousy, shame and guilt), problem solving, communication techniques, healthy relationships, intimacy and sex, social expectations and our behaviors, empathy interview (role reversal), forgiveness, healing, making better choices and, writing the next chapters in your life.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. The program has incorporated materials from the *Caring Dads* program.

Accountability to victims. The program does not have contact with victims. The Department of Public Safety, Victim Services offers the full range of services to victims including referrals to counselling, court preparation, crime compensation program, victim impact statements and notification of offender release. Recognizing that the victim is a voluntary client, and therefore the decision maker, Victim Services Coordinators explain safety planning and encourage the victim to participate in the completion of an Aid to Safety Assessment and Planning (ASAP) evaluation and the Danger Assessment. The Victim Services Coordinators provide advocacy and support throughout the criminal justice process.

Programs with no association to Moncton's DV Court

Other regions of New Brunswick are not served by the DV court. In these areas, a number of agencies provide service to probation-mandated offenders. There has been a consistent effort in New Brunswick to keep treatment for low and high-risk offenders separate and funding may be provided to different agencies to serve offenders at differing risk levels. Currently, New Brunswick is reviewing and modifying its approach and there is a great deal of uncertainty around services. Two of the agencies with established histories and programs for offenders are described below.

Options Men's Program

Empathic Life Solutions

<http://empathicsolutions.ca>

Moncton, NB

Risk Assessment. The program does not conduct risk assessments or provide a differential response based on level of risk.

Funding. The *Options Men's Program* is funded by the Department of Social Development (DSD).

Structure. Referrals are received by DSD social workers, community therapists, physicians and men who self-refer. Information is shared with referral sources through consent of the client. Probation services may also refer participants, however justice referred participants are a minority of those served by the Options Men's program.

Treatment. The program includes 12 weekly sessions, each 2 hours in duration. The group content is based primarily in Narrative and Cognitive-behavioural Therapy. Information covered includes values for intimate relationships, values as a father, social expectations of men, expectations of men's and women's roles in relationships, re-authoring shame, values for self, defining abuse, taking responsibility, distracting ideas and behaviours, warning signs of escalation, managing escalation of emotions, challenging thinking, empathy, effects of IPV on victims and children, healing or repairing effects, apology, forgiveness, managing expectations, and specific actions regarding making changes.

Impact of child witnesses: *Caring Dads* (see Ontario) is currently being offered through the *Options Men's Program*.

Accountability to Victims. Victims are offered a parallel group called *Options Women's Group*. Options use the Danger Assessment in victim safety planning.

Alternatives Program

Restigouche Family Services

Campbellton (NB) (506) 753-4161

<http://www.bdaa.ca/biblio/apprenti/sante/petits/15.htm>

Risk Assessment. Offender risk is assessed by the Restigouche Family Services using SARA. The intervention plans for individual offenders are based on this assessment and risk information is shared with those who provide support to victims. Risk assessment is repeated at the middle and end of the program or as required.

Funding. Services are funded by the Department of Social Development and the Department of Public Safety.

Structure. Offenders are referred to the *Alternatives Program* by probation and attend on a mandatory basis. The program also accepts referrals from community agencies or men who self-refer and attend voluntarily. Information is shared with the referral source with the consent of the client.

Treatment. *Alternatives* is a 15-week program based largely on the principles of Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy. Topics covered include anger and aggression management, brain

functioning and habit formation, managing stress, self-talk, power and control, healthy relationships, communication skills, effects of domestic violence on children, parenting basics, emotion management, irrational beliefs, resolving conflicts and past experiences.

Individual treatment is also available for offenders who are not appropriate for group counselling.

Parenting/Impact of child witnessing. Information regarding the impact on children and basic parenting skills are incorporated into the program content.

Accountability to Victims. Group facilitators contact victims as part of service.

Evaluation. Moncton's domestic violence court was evaluated in 2011 and became a permanent feature of the NB justice response to domestic violence. The evaluation looked at data for offenders accessing the Court between 2007 and 2010. The evaluation was unable to answer the question - 'is the Court working' but was able to provide useful descriptive data regarding who was referred to the Court. The evaluation also described the recidivism rate for offenders in the first year post-intervention at 33%, and in the second year, at 30%. In year 3, the recidivism rate dropped to 11%. Of those men that reoffended, 69% offended more than once.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/eco-bce/WI-DQF/pdf/en/2011-01VictimsOffenders.pdf>

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Context

Legislation: *Protection Against Family Violence Act*, 2003 came into force in 2005.

Territorial Action Plan: *NWT Family Violence Action Plan.*

<http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/publications/reports/nwt-family-violence-action-plan-phase-ii-2007-2012-enhancing-and-expanding>

The Coalition Against Family Violence (CAFV) is a territorial interagency group that brings together individuals, non-government and government departments and agencies to share information and undertake projects.

In 2003 the CAFV submitted A Framework for Action: A Call to Action to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). Since that time, the GNWT has worked collaboratively with the Coalition on the implementation of two Action Plans on Family Violence: The GNWT Response to the NWT Action Plan on Family Violence: A Framework for Action (2003-2007) and The Family Violence Action Plan Phase II (2007 – 2012). These action plans had a direct impact on family violence in the NWT.

During the first Action Plan the following goals were accomplished:

- The Implementation Steering Committee was created, with membership from 5 GNWT Departments including Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; Justice; the Executive; the Housing Corporation; and 2 CAFV NGO representatives. The purpose of this committee was to ensure that the vision of the Action Plan was carried out.
- The *Protection Against Family Violence Act (PAFVA)* was enacted, which included the implementation of a 24 hour crisis line that allows victims to access services under the Act. A public education strategy was implemented to increase public awareness of the Act.
- Preliminary work was completed for the Yellowknife Interagency Family Violence Protocol. Based on this work, a toolkit for family violence protocol development was compiled to encourage other communities to establish similar protocols.
- Staff positions dedicated to addressing family violence were created at the GNWT Departments of the Executive and Justice.
- Best practices research on programs designed for person who choose to abuse their intimate partners was completed, as well as recommendations for next steps in developing such programming in the NWT.

With Family Violence Action Plan Phase II funding, the GNWT focused on stabilizing NWT shelters, enhancing community services and providing programming for high-risk men who use violence. In addition, a competency based curriculum and accompanying facilitator's guide was developed for shelter workers.

Victim services are available in-person in eight communities in the NWT with telephone outreach contact available to victims in other communities. Services include court accompaniment and preparation, assistance with Victim Impact Statements, information about the criminal justice system, emotional support, referrals and after-hours crisis support.

The RCMP use ODARA to assess risk in all IPV occurrences. Victim services and shelter workers are also trained on ODARA.

Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court

The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court (DVTO) is a voluntary program designed for low to medium risk offenders. When an accused is charged with an assault that is domestic in nature, and released on a peace officer undertaking, they are directed to report to Probation Services. Their conditions of release and information regarding the DVTO are discussed. At first appearance, the Crown determines eligibility. If the accused is found eligible and wishes to participate in the DVTO, they are referred to Probation Services to undergo a suitability assessment.

If the accused is deemed suitable, a guilty plea must be entered and the individual must participate in and complete an eight week Planning Action Responsibly Toward Non-Violent

Empowered Relationships (P.A.R.T.N.E.R.) group program. The groups are mixed gender (both male and female offenders) and are run approximately three times per year in Yellowknife, with between five to nine participants per group. In 2015, the P.A.R.T.N.E.R. program was expanded to the Hay River Region, with programs run in October 2015 and March 2016. Offenders are required to report back to DVTO Court at the midpoint of the program to update the Court on current progress. If a participant is found to not be complying with program requirements, or chooses at any time to withdraw from the program, they are sent back to the Territorial Court.

One unique feature of the DVTO Court is the probation officer's authority to vary a no-contact condition without having to return to court. Candidates who successfully complete the program have the benefit of the Court taking this into consideration at sentencing.

DVTO sits in Yellowknife, Behchokò, and Hay River, with services available to residents of nearby communities who are able to travel. In Hay River, services are also provided to clients resident in K'atl'odeeche (Hay River Reserve) and Enterprise. The Court and supporting services are located in Yellowknife and Hay River.

Risk Assessment. SARA is used by Probation Services as part of the suitability assessment for offenders who are being considered for the DVTO.

The group sessions cover four components: 1) Understanding the dynamics of both Intimate Partner Violence and Non-Violent Empowered Relationships. Recognizing that the offender is responsible for the choice they make in their relationships; 2) Understanding the impact of the offender's choice to use violent and nonviolent behaviours; 3) Understanding the beliefs and contributing factors that lead to choosing violence or choosing non-violence; and 4) Committing to non-violence and learning the skills and tools to help the offender make positive, non-violent choices.

Parenting/Effects on child witnesses. Information about the impact of domestic violence on children is incorporated into the program.

'A New Day' Pilot Project

'A New Day' Healing Pilot Project targets adult men in the medium to high risk range who use violence in their intimate family relationships. The goals of the pilot are to reduce violent behavior and re-offending rates among violent men. This pilot is delivered by the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in Yellowknife.

Funding. Funding for 'A New Day' is provided by the Department of Justice Community Justice and Policing Division on a pilot basis. The current pilot is scheduled to run until December 31, 2016, after which the program will be evaluated.

Structure. The program serves probation-mandated clients as well as clients who are self-referred or referred from Health and Social Services. 'A New Day' reports back to the referral source through protocols that allow for information sharing.

Treatment. The program is contracted as a 20-week narrative therapy group and includes 4 individual sessions as part of the intake process. The ‘A New Day’ pilot will be evaluated in 2016.

Offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their violence, use positive behaviour, and reflect on what they want in relationships. There is a lot of flexibility within the model based on individual needs. The group covers the following topics: admit abusiveness, admit behaviour was wrong, acknowledge abuse was a choice, recognize effects on partner and children, identify pattern of controlling behaviour, make amends, accept consequences and be accountable.

Parenting/Effects on child witnesses. Information regarding the impact on children of exposure to IPV is incorporated into the group.

Accountability to Victims. There is partner contact and safety planning throughout the offender’s involvement with the programs.

Integrated Case Management Pilot Project

The Government of the Northwest Territories’ Integrated Case Management (ICM) Pilot Project is led by the Department of Justice in partnership with the departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services, as well as the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority and the NWT Housing Corporation. This project is for existing GNWT clients with two or more complex needs who reside in Yellowknife, Dettah, N’dilo and who require supports that do not duplicate existing services. The goal of the ICM pilot is to develop and establish a more coordinated, streamlined approach to service delivery for clients with complex needs in the GNWT by providing the following:

1. Client access through systems navigation
2. Identifying barriers and gaps in policy and service delivery through enhanced collaboration and communication
3. Service delivery through Integrated Service Planning

‘Pathfinders’ work with the clients to access client centered services and individualized service plans and in conjunction the ICM Working Group with representatives of all parties listed. ICM services are not specific to domestic violence or offenders. The ICM pilot is scheduled to end on March 31, 2017.

NOVA SCOTIA

Context

Legislation: *Domestic Violence Intervention Act, 2001*

Domestic Violence Court: Nova Scotia is currently piloting a Domestic Violence Court based in Sydney (including the Cape Breton Regional Municipality). Other regions do not have a specialized court or prosecution process.

Provincial action plan: *The Domestic Violence Action Plan: All persons in Nova Scotia should live free from domestic violence and abuse (2010).*

http://novascotia.ca/just/publications/docs/Domestic_Violence_Action_Plan_EN.pdf

Nova Scotia's provincial action plan defines IPV as "harmful behaviour that happens in our homes, in our families and in our intimate relationships". IPV is described as being deliberate and purposeful violence occurring in the context of an intimate relationship where one exercises power over the other. The plan acknowledges that men are most often perpetrators of IPV and that children and young people "may experience harm by being exposed to violence in adult relationships".

The key principles of the action plan include safety of women and children as a priority in government policies and programs. Increasing case coordination and access to programs and services for victims and strengthening case processing, coordination, and management to hold those who commit abuse accountable and to support their rehabilitation. The Plan promotes the piloting of the Caring Dads program to "increase the parental capacity of fathers".

Risk Assessment. Police throughout Nova Scotia uses ODARA to assess risk. Probation services uses SARA to assess risk in IPV cases.

The High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework allows the Department of Justice and Community Services to share critical information in cases that are deemed high-risk (score above 7 on ODARA). Critical information includes re-offence; release; breach; no-contact orders; victim begins dating; victim moves; application for an emergency protection order is made; court dates approaching; change in custody/access or family court proceedings are initiated. Signatories to the protocol are police, victim services; child welfare, corrections, transition house and men's intervention programs.

Risk assessment is done by probation in partnership with the police to determine which stream is most appropriate for the offender using the ODARA and SARA.

Domestic Violence Court. Nova Scotia's DV court differs from those of many other jurisdictions in that offenders at a range of risk levels are eligible for the DV stream so long as they plead guilty to the offence and would likely receive a community based sentence. Offenders who opt out of the DV court or are ineligible enter the regular prosecutorial system.

There are 3 court streams for offenders in the DV court catchment jurisdiction. The lowest risk individuals participate in the Level 1 program, offered by the Second Chance Society. This group program runs for five weeks and has continuous intake. It uses five modules of the Respectful Relationship program developed in British Columbia. Higher risk offenders attend the 10-week Respectful Relationship program, also delivered by Second Chance Society. The highest risk offenders complete the Respectful Relationship program with the Second Chance Society then

go on to the Relationship Violence Program offered through Family Services of Eastern Nova Scotia.

The court monitors offenders' progress and participation. All offenders, even those still in the midst of treatment, must reappear in the court within three months. They may also be called to appear in court if the service provider reports that they have failed to attend programming. At sentencing, the judge receives the agreed statement of facts and the outcome of the treatment before passing sentence.

Intervention Services Associated with the DV Court

Funding. Intervention services associated with the domestic violence court are funded by the Department of Justice and are located in Sydney. Referrals to the programs are also accepted from child welfare and community counselling agencies. Self-referrals are also accepted. Information regarding evolving risk is shared according to the High Risk Protocol.

CornerStone Cape Breton Association

Sydney, NS

Second Chance is designed for low risk offenders. It is a psychoeducational program that is 5 weeks in duration. The group covers the ABCD thinking, what is a respectful relationship, definition of abuse, thinking errors, understanding anger, time out and cool down, intergenerational cycle, impact on children, communication and empathy. These materials have been based on the *Respectful Relationships* program. The 5th session is an individual meeting to evaluate progress and set goals.

Respectful Relationships is a 10-week program (See BC for a description of *Respectful Relationships*).

CornerStone also offers a program called Continued Support and Intervention Circle for Men (CSI-Circle for Men). This is an open therapist-facilitated peer support group that meets weekly.

Family Services of Eastern Nova Scotia

Sydney, NS

Other offices in Port Hawkesbury, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Glace Bay and Inverness
<http://www.fsens.ns.ca/>

Relationship Violence is a 17-week program, which is based, in a cognitive behaviour therapeutic model (See BC for description of the *Relationship Violence* Program).

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. Some information regarding the impact on children exposed to IPV is incorporated into the *Respectful Relationships* and *Relationship Violence* treatment groups. Family Services of Eastern Nova Scotia also offers a group intervention programs to support cooperative parenting through separation and divorce and an education and skills-building group for parents of young children.

Accountability to Victims. All services in Nova Scotia include some form of victim contact. Agencies generally conduct phone outreach to victims for safety planning and referral. The justice-linked DV court response relies on letters to victims.

Evaluation. There is an ongoing evaluation of the domestic violence court (Diane Crocker, Saint Mary's University).

Services in regions outside the DV Court jurisdiction

Funding. Services outside the DV court jurisdiction are funded by the Department of Community Services. The exception is the Mi'Kmaq Family Healing Centre. Programs may also fundraise, charge client fees and/or have grants through various agencies, including the United Way, for specific programs.

New Start Society

Dartmouth, NS

<http://www.newstartcounselling.ca/>

Risk assessment. The program provides services to offenders of varying levels of risk. No formal risk assessment is done through the program, however therapists monitor risk of self-harm, ongoing violence, dangerous thoughts and behaviours.

Structure. Participants attend on a voluntary basis. Referrals are received from Probation and child welfare. Self-referrals are also accepted. *New Start* shares information with the referral agency around attendance and client progress only with the consent of the participant.

Treatment. *New Start* is a 16-week closed, therapeutic group based on Narrative Therapy (Tod Augusta Scott). The group has 10 – 12 participants. Individual counselling is also available and is offered with no cap on the number of sessions a participant can access.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. Information regarding the impact on children of exposure to IPV is incorporated into the treatment group.

Accountability to Victims. Counselling is available for partners (face-to-face or telephone). The therapist that works with the victim is not the same therapist that works with the perpetrator.

Integration. *New Start* is a member of the Metro Agency on Family Violence and attends monthly meetings to address systemic issues. *New Start* may also be involved with clients being monitored by the High Risk Protocol of Nova Scotia.

Bridges Institute

Truro, NS

<http://www.bridgesinstitute.org/>

Risk Assessment. Bridges does not conduct any independent risk assessment. The program accepts men of all levels of risk as assessed by the referral source.

Structure. Referrals are received from community partners, child welfare, and probation. Self-referrals are also accepted. Offenders referred by probation are court mandated to participate. Information is shared with the referring agency with the participant's consent.

Treatment. The Bridges Institute offers individual, couple, family, and group counselling to male offenders. Treatment is based on a restorative justice approach and mostly uses a narrative and feminist approach to help offenders take responsibility for their choices and be accountable for repairing the harms they have created. Men attending Bridges may be referred to a group counselling program to address their abuse. Group treatment begins with three preparatory individual sessions followed by 20 weeks of feminist-informed narrative group therapy. The group is presented in a 4 stage process: 1) Preparing to take responsibility; 2) Formalize relapse prevention plan – study past incidents of abuse; 3) Studying the effects of abuse; and 4) Demonstrate respect – healing/repairing the effects of abuse. Alternatively, men might be referred to individual, couples or family counselling.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. Information regarding the impact on children exposed to IPV is incorporated into the treatment group.

Accountability to Victims. Female victims are offered individual services and regular contact with counsellor.

Integration. Bridges is the coordinating member of the inter-agency family violence team in their area and supports regular meetings to address systemic issues. Bridges may also be involved with clients being monitored by the High Risk Protocol of Nova Scotia.

New Leaf

Pictou County Opportunity for Men Association

<http://www.newleafpictoucounty.ca/>

Risk Assessment. New Leaf does not conduct any independent risk assessment. The program accepts men of all levels of risk as assessed by the referral source. In addition, New Leaf is part of the Integrated Case Management Pilot Project (ICMP), an initiative between justice, social services, housing and health. Case managers referred to as 'Pathfinders' work with clients with multiple, complex needs to assist with systems navigation and obtaining needed services. While not specifically an IPV initiative, many of the clients reviewed by the ICMP are DV offenders.

Structure. The *New Leaf* program is an open group with the minimum number of sessions required for mandated clients as determined by the referring agency.

Treatment. The program utilizes an adult experiential model of education treatment modality, using counsellors instead of therapists who are trained in a dialogue for peaceful change. Because the group is open, there is no specific order in which the information presented. Topics covered include cycle of violence, healthy relationships, impact of violence, and types of abuse.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses: A parenting program, *Parenting with a Purpose*, was a group specifically for fathers who were violent. The group has been discontinued due to lack of funding.

Accountability to Victims. Victim contact is done by a female staff person for the purpose of assessing risk and explaining the services available at the women's shelter (Tearmann House). The women's shelter sets up an information meeting with the woman if she wishes and staff from *New Leaf* attend where possible.

Integration. Pictou County Opportunity for Men Association works within a coordinated community response, which includes case conferencing and monthly High Risk Assessment meetings. The agency is also a member of the Interagency Committee on Domestic Violence.

New Directions

Autumn House/Cumberland County Transition House Association
Amherst <http://thans.ca/get-help/find-a-shelter/autumn-house/>

Risk Assessment. *New Directions* is part of the Cumberland County Interagency of Family Violence (all key stakeholders) and High Risk Committee. The Committees meet quarterly and share information regarding risk, which is faxed to committee members on an ongoing basis. *New Directions* uses a tool that they developed to assess suitability for the group.

Structure. Participants are referred by probation and child welfare (mandatory) or can self-refer (voluntary). Information is shared monthly with the referring agency about the participant's attendance and general progress.

Treatment. *New Directions* is a 25-week program based in a psychoeducational framework. Two weeks of the program are dedicated to parenting.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. The agency has recently received training on *Caring Dads* and plans to offer it in collaboration with a partner agency.

Accountability to Victims. As part of service, clients consent to partner contact. Victims are met by program staff to share information about the program, gather information about the client and safety plan. The Danger Assessment is used for assessing risk. Victim contact happens throughout the program.

The Journey of Two Wolves (Tapusijik Paqtismk)

Mi'kmaq Family Healing Centre
Truro, NS
<http://www.mmnn.ca/about-mmnn/>

Risk Assessment. The program does not assess risk. Assessment is done by the referring agency that has case management oversight. The shares assessments of participants' progress only with participants' consent.

Funding. *The Journey of Two Wolves* program is funded by Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia, which in turn, is funded by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

Structure. The program accepts both mandatory and voluntary participants. Mandatory offender referrals come from probation and the child protection services. Information is shared with the referral agency through consent of the offender. Participants are provided with a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

Treatment. The program is 12 weeks long and utilizes Narrative Therapy and CBT treatment modalities. Topics covered include time-outs and cool downs, family violence, values and beliefs, impact on children, power and control, emotional awareness, grief and loss, gender socialization cultural socialization, communication, anger management and stress management.

Unlike most intervention programs across Canada, the Mi'kmaq program makes a point of using facilitators who have experienced IPV. Male leaders in their offender groups have been IPV perpetrators and female leaders have been victims of IPV.

Accountability to Victims. Victims are contacted by the women's support counsellors from the Mi'kmaq Family Healing Centre to offer support and counselling.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. The Mi'kmaq Family Healing Centre does not offer a specific IPV parenting program. Information regarding the impact of children exposed to IPV is included in the treatment program.

NUNAVUT

Context

IPV Legislation: *Family Abuse Intervention Act, 2008*

Domestic Violence Court: There is no domestic violence court in Nunavut; however, the territories' alternate justice framework provides a somewhat similar justice-linked intervention option. A domestic violence treatment option is available in Rankin Inlet. In this area, lower risk offender may enter a guilty plea and attend the Rankin Inlet program. If the offender successfully completes the Rankin Inlet Spousal Abuse program the charge is disposed of by means of a conditional discharge which includes a period of probation.

IPV Action Plan: No current plan.

The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* was Nunavut Legislature's attempt to implement legislation that allowed an alternative to formal legal proceedings to address situations of domestic violence. One aspect of this Act particularly relevant to IPV services is Community Intervention Orders. These orders require the abuser and survivor to attend traditional Inuit counselling with a specified traditional counsellor. To obtain a Community Intervention Order, a one-page form must be filled out and faxed to the offices of the Justices of the Peace. The office immediately

sets up a time for an *ex parte* hearing, to be held over the phone. If the Justice of the Peace is satisfied, the order is granted immediately. Within five days, the order is reviewed by a judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice.

Although Nunavut's *Family Abuse Intervention Act* includes many innovative attempts to address IPV, there have been numerous criticisms of the strategy and, even more importantly, of its implementation. Anti-colonial and anti-essentialist feminist theories have both been applied to understanding these critiques (Durrant 2014). As part of the implementation, the Nunavut government added supports to the legal system to better address the needs of victims of IPV. The legislation specified that family members, lawyers, RCMP officers and "prescribed persons" are permitted to apply for orders with the consent of the applicants. In addition, the government created the position of Community Justice Outreach Worker (CJOW) in every hamlet to facilitate victims' use of the Bill and help to facilitate access to these orders.

Risk Assessment. Police services in Nunavut use the Domestic Violence Investigation Checklist (DVIC). While not a formal risk assessment tool, the DVIC assists police in ensuring that police investigations are comprehensive.

Traditional Inuit Counselling

A Community Intervention Order (CIO) may include the provision that the applicant (victim) and respondent (perpetrator) attend counselling with a traditional Inuit counsellor. Unfortunately, the "specified traditional Inuit counsellor" referred to in the act is undefined and is not a position that formally exists. There is concern that Inuit elders, who presumably are to undertake this counselling, do not have the training or support needed to counsel domestic violence victims or perpetrators. Moreover, there has apparently been some reluctance of elders to become involved in "family issues". It is perhaps in part, for these reasons, that there have been very few Community Intervention Orders made since this Act came into force.

Rankin Inlet Spousal Abuse Program

Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

<http://www.pulaarvik.ca>

Structure. The Rankin Inlet Spousal Assault Program (RISAP) started in 2007. It is still Nunavut's only dedicated domestic violence counselling program. This program is available pre-sentencing for offenders who have been charged with a domestic assault and have entered a guilty plea and also to offenders mandated as part of a probation order.

Treatment. The program is a mixture of traditional knowledge and more conventional counselling. The agency provides 6 one-hour sessions of individual counselling and 29, 2-hour group sessions (held twice weekly). Topics include warning signs, relationship rules, circle of violence, cycle of abuse, power and control wheel, timeout wallet card, equality wheel, decision making and dominance, and self-talk. Elders are often invited to the group counselling sessions to talk about family life, resolving disputes without violence, and to instill pride in traditional practices. Offenders accessing the program pre-sentencing return to court following program completion. The Rankin program provides a parallel program for victims of abuse and in some

cases family members. They also provide couples the option of working together to resolve issues.

Accountability to Victims. Services in Nunavut are built with the assumption that both members of a couple are likely to need support. The system also recognizes that women and men will most often continue living together, in part as a result of lack of available housing alternatives. As a result, women's shelters are less likely to be used as a way for victims to transition out of the relationship; rather, they allow victims a place of respite.

Victims of spousal abuse are also provided with counselling and support through the Rankin program. The agency engages in work to build awareness of family violence issues in the community.

Evaluation. The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* was evaluated by the Genesis Group and was submitted to the Nunavut legislature in 2010. From journalistic reporting, it seems that the report was quite critical; however, an online link to this report could not be found for a more thorough review.

ONTARIO

Context

IPV Legislation: N/A

Domestic Violence Court: Domestic Violence Courts and Court processes are available throughout the province.

Provincial Action Plan: Domestic Violence Action Plan Progress Report, 2012

http://www.women.gov.on.ca/owd/docs/dvap_update_2012.pdf

The Ontario Domestic Violence Action Plan covers a broad area of services and Ministries that intersect with IPV and outlines the commitment to oversight through a Ministerial Steering Committee. The Ontario plan is based on a number of overarching principles:

- a right to safety, stating that women have a right to live safely,
- equality, the document recognizes that violence against women is based on fundamental inequality between men and women,
- public leadership, recognizes the government's role in providing leadership in ending domestic violence,
- shared responsibilities, commits to working with a broad cross section of society to create partnerships,
- personal accountability, focuses on the abuser and the application of effective interventions and prevention
- diversity and equity of access, is a recognition of the vast diversity of needs in the province and a commitment to address the uniqueness of communities
- holistic response, acknowledges a broad array of intersecting issues related to domestic violence including employment, housing and child care

- balanced approach, addresses the needs to focus on both the abuser and the victims' needs

The plan calls for continuous evaluation and improvement of programs for abusive partners and victim supports.

Each of Ontario's 54 court jurisdictions offers a Domestic Violence Court Program. The components of this program include: (a) Partner Assault Response (PAR) program(s), (b) Crown Attorney's with additional legal training related to domestic violence, (c) specialized evidence gathering protocols for police, (d) case management policies and procedures for Probation and Parole staff, (e) designated Victim Witness Assistance Program staff to assist and support victims throughout the court process and provide information, support and referrals, and (f) a Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee comprised of justice sector and community representatives to support the ongoing effective operation of the domestic violence court program.

Risk Assessment. Police services across Ontario utilize a standardized risk assessment checklist for DV related occurrences. The Domestic Violence Supplementary Report (<http://www.fact.on.ca/Info/dom/police00a.pdf>) is currently being phased out in favour of an updated tool that closely aligns with the SARA (DVRM). Police services also utilize the ODARA.

Probation officers use the Level of Service Risk Inventory (LSI) for all offenders. Although there are information sharing agreements to ensure that risk assessment information is shared with PAR programs, the implementation of these protocols are inconsistent across the province. PAR programs do not complete additional formal risk assessment.

Most communities in Ontario have a court-based domestic violence committee that monitors high-risk offenders. Membership on these committees generally include police, Crown, probation, court based victim services and in some jurisdictions, PAR programs. Community-based case conferencing committees for high-risk families also exist in some jurisdictions and often utilize the B-SAFER or SARA to assist in case planning. Membership on these committees generally include all agencies that provide IPV services, police and child protection services. In some jurisdictions, victims participate in community-based high-risk case conferences.

Domestic Violence Court. The Crown Attorney considers offenders for early intervention if an offender has no convictions for IPV-related offences, has not caused significant injuries or harm, has not used weapons, and chooses to plead guilty. Offenders who enter the early intervention program are generally remanded on conditions to attend and complete a PAR program. In some jurisdictions, early intervention offenders are sentenced immediately and attendance at PAR is mandated as a condition of a probation order. If successful, they are granted a conditional discharge, absolute discharge or peace bond. If the offender does not complete or re-offends during the program, the original charge is reinstated and new charges may be laid.

Offenders who do not wish to participate or are not eligible for the early intervention stream are prosecuted through the coordinated prosecution stream. The coordinated prosecution stream

utilizes specialized evidence collection and investigation procedures by police in order to maximize the amount of supporting evidence that is presented to the court (for example 911 tapes, video-taping of victims statements, photographs of injuries, medical reports and witness statements).

The courts also provide access to justice-linked intervention services through peace-bonds. Peace-bonds are generally used when there is a low probability of conviction. In some jurisdictions in Ontario, the accused enters into a peace bond with conditions to attend a PAR program.

While attending the PAR program, information regarding the participant's progress is shared with the referral source on consent of the program participant. Protocols are in place to ensure that certain mandatory information is shared between Crown Attorneys, Victim/Witness Assistance Program staff, Probation staff and PAR programs. High-Risk Committees exist in all court jurisdictions in Ontario and PAR program membership on the High Risk Offender Committee is generally on a case-by-case invitation only.

Funding. Partner Assault Response (PAR) programs are offered as part of the Domestic Violence Court process and are funded through the Ministry of the Attorney General, Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division. In Ontario there are 63 Partner Assault Response Programs (PAR) attached to provincial court jurisdictions. Designated Crown attorneys are jointly responsible with Victim/Witness Assistance Program staff for implementing the domestic violence court program. Organizations delivering PAR programs are not funded to provide the service to voluntary clients or clients under other social mandates

Structure. Offenders are referred to PAR programs as a condition of: (a) a peace bond (section 810 of the *Criminal Code*), (b) a Revised Recognizance of Bail and agreement to attend and complete a PAR program (known as Early Intervention), or (c) a sentence order following a guilty plea or finding of guilt following a trial (known as Coordinated Prosecution).

Treatment. Regardless of the referral stream, offenders enter the same 12-week PAR program. These programs are offered in both closed and open formats depending on the agency. Groups include a minimum of 15 participants. In larger centres, groups of 20 to 25 men are not uncommon.

The curriculum for PAR is pre-set with 9 mandatory topics. The topics are: 1) Domestic Violence – Defining Abuse; 2) How Beliefs and Attitudes Affect Behaviour; 3) Effects of Abuse on Children, Partners and Self; 4) Understanding Triggers / Warning Signs; 5) The Impact of Substance Abuse; 6) Healthy Relationships; 7) Respectful Communications 8) Dealing with Conflict; 9) Responsibility and Accountability .

PAR is a group education/counselling program that provides offenders with an opportunity to examine their beliefs and attitudes and learn non-abusive ways of resolving conflict.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. *Caring Dads* is available in some court jurisdictions (London, Chatham/Kent, St. Thomas, Sarnia/Lambton, Clinton/Huron, Stratford/Perth,

Woodstock, Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph, Orangeville, Niagara, Burlington, Toronto, Kingston, Cornwall, Ottawa, Pembroke, Thunder Bay, Aitkokan/Rainy River, Kenora/Dryden). Probation officers supervising DV offenders and child protection workers frequently refer offenders to Caring Dads.

Caring Dads is a group intervention program for fathers who have abused or neglected their children, exposed them to abuse of their mothers, or are at high-risk for these behaviours. The Caring Dads program differs from other parenting programs in its attention to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment and its strong integration with child protection services. The Caring Dads program is offered to groups of approximately 12 fathers over 15 2-hour group sessions and 2 individual sessions. www.caringdads.org

Accountability to Victims. Partner Contact is a mandatory component of the PAR program. Funding is provided to offer victims and/or current partners with safety planning and support, referrals to community resources and information about the offender's progress throughout the duration of the program.

Evaluation. A number of evaluations of Ontario's DV response have been conducted including the following:

Cassell, J., Green, V., and MacGregor, N. (2015). Intimate Partner Violence and the Scales of Justice: Monitoring the Specialized Domestic Violence Court Program in Toronto, Ontario. Retrieved from: <http://www.womenatthecentre.com/wp-content/uploads/Still-Unbalanced.pdf>

Johnson, H., and Fraser, J. (2011). Specialized domestic violence courts: do they make women safer? Community Report: Phase I. Retrieved from <http://www.oaith.ca/assets/files/Publications/Criminal%20Law/DVC-Do-theyMake-Women-Safer.pdf>

PAR programs have also been evaluated, including an evaluation of attitudinal change of PAR program participants across 10 agencies, an evaluation of the PAR system, and a study of recidivism.

Quann, N. (2006). *Offender Profile and Recidivism among Domestic Violence Offenders in Ontario*. Department of Justice Canada. Retrieved from http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/crime/rr06_fv3-rr06_vf3/toc-tdm.html

Scott, K. (2006). Final Report - Attitudinal change in participants of partner assault response (PAR) programs: Phase II. Retrieved from <http://www.oaith.ca/assets/files/Publications/ReviewPARSprograms.pdf>

Scott, K., King, C., McGinn, H., and Hosseini, N. (2013). The (Dubious?) Benefits of second chances in batterer intervention programs. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1657-1671. <http://jiv.sagepub.com/content/28/8/1657>

Integration. Varies within jurisdictions.

Innovation. The *High Risk Safety Project* was aimed at addressing the needs of accused at moderate to high risk of reoffending immediately following a DV charge. This program offered referrals to offenders at the time of release from bail to individual counselling focused on assessment and reduction of dynamic risk for reoffending. Evaluations showed substantial reductions in reoffending in one and two-year follow-up for these high-risk offenders. Results are available in the following publication:

Scott, K., Heslop, L., Kelly, T., and Wiggins, K. (2015). Intervening to prevent repeat offending among moderate- to high risk domestic violence offenders: a second-responder program for men. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 59(3), 273-294.
<http://ijo.sagepub.com/content/59/3/273>

Kizhaay Anishnaabe Niin (I am a Kind Man) is an initiative created to provide an opportunity for communities to engage Aboriginal men and youth in understanding violence against Aboriginal women and support them in joining together to end the violence.

The *Integrated Domestic Violence Court* provides a single judge to hear both the criminal and the family law cases (excluding divorce, family property and child protection cases) that relate to one family where the underlying issue is domestic violence. The goals of this court are a more integrated and holistic approach to families experiencing domestic violence, increased consistency between family and criminal court orders and quicker resolutions of the judicial proceedings.
<http://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/integrated-domestic-violence-court/>

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Context

Legislation: *Victims of Family Violence Act (1996)*

Domestic Violence Court: N/A

Provincial Action Plan: Strategies for Addressing Family Violence in Prince Edward Island (2015)-http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/PAC_Strategy16E.pdf

The Family Violence Prevention Strategy (FVPS) defines family violence as “any violence by one family member against another”. This definition includes IPV, child abuse, a child’s abuse of a parent, sibling violence and violence against older adults.

The Strategy’s guiding principles include:

- Any form of violence in relationships is not acceptable
- All people and families are valued
- Everyone is entitled to a safe and secure environment
- Everyone, including victims, survivors, witnesses and offenders, is entitled to accessible and appropriate high-quality service and information which is consistent and respectful

- Preventing violence is a shared responsibility

The Strategy identified key goals in awareness, education, and public engagement; coordination and training; interventions and service delivery; policies, protocol, and legislation; and research and evaluation. The strategy also includes promotion of healthy relationships and engagement of men and boys. Services for victims are entrenched in all aspects of the Strategy. Provision for services to offenders are designed to reduce the risk of reoffending and are reflected in the service delivery recommendations.

The Premier's Action Committee of Family Violence Prevention (1995) was appointed to coordinate and implement the original FVPS recommendations. A multi-sectoral committee has continued to be active with representation from police, criminal justice, government, service providers, and community organizations.

Risk Assessment. Municipal police services and the RCMP in PEI use the Domestic Violence Investigation Checklist. While not a formal risk assessment tool, the DVIC assists police in ensuring that police investigations are comprehensive and that risk factors are considered.

Probation services conduct risk assessment using the Level of Service Inventory – Revised, and the Decision-Making Protocol for Domestic Violence (D-MAP DV). This information is shared with the Turning Point intervention program and is used as part of intake assessment.

Turning Point, is an intimate partner violence intervention/ counselling program within the Department of Justice and Public Safety. Individual assessments are conducted several weeks prior to group intervention. Information is collected on history of violence, violence in past relationships, controlling and other abusive behaviours, criminal history, communication style, presence of children, access to weapons, addictions, mental health history, family background, trauma, employment, housing education, literacy and personal interests. In addition, the agency reviews Emergency Protection Orders, details from police reports, Crown briefs, Probation Orders, victim impact statement and previously completed risk assessments. On the basis of the intake and risk assessment, the offender may be screened into a group program or referred to more appropriate resources. Individual counselling within the IPV program is also an option.

Turning Point

Murchison House

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/infopei/index.php3?number=11150>

Funding. Services are funded by the provincial Department of Justice and Public Safety and are delivered in Charlottetown, Summerside, and Montague.

Structure. Referrals to Turning Point programs are primarily received from probation. Referrals from child protection, family services, addictions, mental health treatment agencies as well as self-referrals are also accepted.

When a referral is received for court mandated clients, probation will share information such as charge status, relationship status, contact conditions, criminal history, other agency involvement,

details regarding the substantive offence, including victim impact statements and any other relevant information related to risk.

Treatment. The *Turning Point* IPV program is 14 to 16 three hour weekly sessions with an average of 6 to 10 participants in each group. The treatment modality utilized is psychoeducational and CBT. Topics include: what is abuse, power imbalances, patterns of partner violence, managing intense emotions, violence and substance use, socialization, communication, problem solving, self-care, and managing stress.

Parenting/Impact on child witnesses. Information regarding the impact of violence on children is incorporated into the treatment group.

Accountability to Victims. Victims are contacted as part of the client's assessment and the agency uses factors from various risk assessment tools to assess risk. Service involves regular check-ins with the referral source to share information that may be relevant to victim safety.

Evaluation. A process and outcome evaluation is currently being conducted with a final report expected early 2017. Previously, a program evaluation was completed in 1994 by Dr. Thomas Gaber.

QUÉBEC

Background

Domestic violence legislation: No legislation

Domestic Violence Court: N/A

Provincial Action Plan: 2012-2017 Government Action Plan on Domestic Violence (Action Plan) http://www.scf.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/publications/Violence/Plan_d_action_2012-2017_version_anglaise.pdf.

This third Action Plan is based on the *Policy on Intervention in Conjugal Violence: Preventing, Detecting, Ending Conjugal Violence* (Intervention Policy) adopted by the Government of Québec in 1995

(http://www.scf.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/publications/Violence/Prevenir_depister_contrer_Politique_VC.pdf). Highlights of the Intervention Policy are available in English at http://www.scf.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/publications/Violence/Policy_on_intervention_in_conjugal_violence_Preventing_Detecting_Ending_Highlights.pdf.

The Action Plan includes 135 commitments in 4 strategic directions (1) prevention of violence and promotion of non-violence; (2) early detection and identification; (3) psychosocial intervention and (4) police, judicial and correctional intervention. The guiding principles of government action on domestic violence are the following:

- Society must reject and denounce any form of violence.
- Society must promote respect for people and their differences.

- The elimination of conjugal violence depends primarily on gender equality. IPV is criminal.
- IPV is a means of dominating another person and asserting power over that person.
- The safety and protection of abused women and children are priorities for intervention.
- Any intervention with victims must be based on respect for their independence and on their ability to regain control over their lives.
- Any intervention must take into consideration, and aim to mitigate, the effects of IPV violence on children.
- Abusers are responsible for their violent behaviour; intervention must be aimed at making them recognize and assume responsibility for their violence.

Intervention with aggressors aims to encourage them to take responsibility for their actions. Some of the proposed measures divert offenders to specialized services that are tailored to the conditions of their release which may include mandatory attendance; these services also seek to strengthen intersectoral cooperation, both locally and regionally.

The Action Plan also sets out an approach specifically targeted to the culture of First Nations and Inuit Peoples, for example by adapting intervention tools for IPV and by promoting consistency and making interventions complementary in all sectors. An Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee on conjugal, domestic, and sexual violence was formed to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Plan.

Risk assessment. Québec police services are required to use a checklist for police investigations into domestic violence when dealing with any incident related to a domestic violence situation.

Community organizations that provide IPV services do not use any specific tool to measure or evaluate risk. The information is only shared in cases of acute risk, and the consent of the offender is not required.

The Carrefour sécurité en violence conjugale (<http://csvc.ca/a-propos/>) is a working group whose mission is to train the various stakeholders involved in domestic violence to use risk assessment tools, to provide them support, and to enhance cooperation among them.

Throughout the province, there are 33 organizations offering programs for perpetrators of IPV (<http://www.acoeurdhomme.com/besoin-daide>). In addition to group intervention programs, many of them offer men other services, such as violence prevention for teens, therapeutic and support services to men with mental health problems (for example depression or trauma) and individual and group therapies that address issues such as bereavement, loss, separation or dismissal. In Québec City, there is also a group providing services to men who have been victims of domestic violence.

Funding. The programs are funded primarily by la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (the Department of Health and Social Services of Québec). Some organizations supplement their provincial funding through other means, for example, from private sources and customer fees. Information is only shared in cases where risk changes or there is evidence of potential danger.

The programs offered by agencies for IPV include the following components:

Telephone Intervention: first communicating with the men by phone to establish a relationship of trust and to assess risk and whether there is a need for referral to other agencies. Intervention by telephone also allows facilitators to communicate with victims to explain the program, to assess whether they are safe, and to offer resources.

Home and preparedness group sessions: before an offender joins a group, a facilitator meets him at least twice to provide support and assistance, to see if he is ready to join a group, to assess his needs, motivation, and the type of violence he used, and also to refer him to other agencies if appropriate. Participants receive an 'awareness notebook' which is used as a tool to measure the impact of violence in their lives.

Prior therapy to group therapy: men who need more preparation before joining a group meet in private to try to resolve some problems, set goals, and help to break down their resistance. Two to eight sessions of this nature may take place, after which the men join a group.

Men can attend *group intervention programs* at any stage of the process (prior to sentencing, pursuant to a condition of probation, on the recommendation of another organization or voluntarily); such programs are intended for offenders who are motivated to change their behaviour and who have no addiction issues or serious mental illness. The groups are "semi-open" because they accept new members if there is room. The program consists of 15 to 25 sessions (usually 20) of 2.5 hours each with between 4 and 8 participants. The groups are usually led by a man and a woman. The objective of group intervention is to help participants identify their patterns of violence, to choose non-violence, and to adopt alternative strategies to resolve conflicts. During the first meeting, participants must present themselves to the group. In subsequent meetings, they share their experiences and consider strategies to prevent recurrence through discussions, simulations, activities and exchange of ideas. At the twentieth meeting, participants are asked to do a self-assessment of their progress. It is possible to extend the participation of members by negotiating additional objectives and setting a deadline for achieving them. The program content is not unified across the province. From one group to another, the method of treatment varies: some stakeholders apply a humanistic therapeutic approach and are process-oriented, while others use a cognitive-behavioral, motivational or narrative, or combine several of these approaches.

Individual therapy: men who do not meet the requirements to join a group are offered individual counselling sessions. Participants who are not progressing enough in group therapy can also be transferred to individual counselling to continue working on their goals.

Post-program monitoring: Participants can attend monthly meetings as follow-up. The purpose of monitoring is to help people to remember what they have learned. Individual sessions are offered 6, 12 and 18 months after the end of the group program.

Parenting/Impact of child witnessing. The issue of the impact of IPV on children who are exposed is normally covered in one or two treatment sessions, although this practice is subject to certain exceptions. Moreover, in Québec City, one organization, *GAPI* offers a group session called "Papa" to men who have used violence in their families and who are enrolled in a family violence treatment program. The themes addressed in group therapy include identifying forms of violence against children, the consequences of this violence, the intergenerational cycle of violence, support for the mother-child relationship, the co-parental relationship with the mother, separation, reunification of the family, and education focused on children's needs. This is a 10 week program based on a cognitive behavioral therapy model.

Accountability to Victims. Most Québec organizations offer support and guidance to victims of violence, usually by phone. Information sessions are also usually offered in conjunction with shelters and other service organizations for women. Some organizations hold information sessions for victims of IPV to review the content and requirements of the program; these sessions are often organized in cooperation with shelters and services for women. In Québec, it is rare that an organization offering services to IPV offenders would also offer support and other services to victims. This responsibility is more likely to fall on shelters and agencies that work with abused women. Information is shared between agencies for men and women only in cases with very high risk.

Evaluation. Studies have been conducted on a number of aspects of Québec intervention programs for IPV. For example, Sonia Gauthier, associate professor, interviewed police officers on their power to release men accused of domestic violence (<http://www.utpjournals.press/doi/abs/10.3138/cjccj.45.2.187>). She also studied the perceptions of stakeholders about the impact of the abandonment of criminal prosecutions (<http://vaw.sagepub.com/content/16/12/1375.short> in English only). Genevieve Lessard examined initiatives to promote greater coordination between the justice system and the youth protection system in cases where children have been exposed to family violence.

SASKATCHEWAN

Context

Provincial Legislation: *Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act*

Provincial Action Plan: The government has not issued a domestic violence action plan.

Domestic Violence Courts: There are three domestic violence courts currently operating in the Province of Saskatchewan: the Battlefords Domestic Violence Treatment Options (BDVTO) Court, the Saskatoon Domestic Violence (SDV) Court and the Regina Domestic Violence (RDV) Court. These therapeutic courts emphasize healing and provide an alternative to traditional court processes. Each court has a domestic violence court coordinator along with specialized judges, Crown prosecutors, Legal Aid lawyers, and probation and victim services workers.

Although there are differences among the courts depending on the resources and needs of the community, they all offer a treatment option with sentencing delayed until after the offender attends programming. They also have similar objectives:

- consistent justice response to crimes involving domestic violence;
- improved victim safety and support;
- timeliness of court process;
- offender accountability;
- cultural responsiveness;
- consistent monitoring and evaluation framework; and
- increased awareness of domestic violence across sectors.

Although different court models have been implemented, all three courts provide intensive support for victims and their families. In addition to its treatment option, the SDV Court has a broader approach that deals with matters set for sentencing and also with domestic matters set for trial or preliminary hearing. It is both a sentencing and case management court for domestic violence matters.

Offenders in all courts who are deemed eligible for the treatment option (based on several factors including criminal history and severity of the offence) and who take responsibility for their offence and enter a guilty plea are screened for suitability for domestic violence programming. Suitability factors assessed include risk, addictions, treatment readiness and ability to attend and participate in group programming. Suitability is partially determined using the Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment (SPRA) and the Ontario Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (ODARA) tools.

Each court continues to use the collaborative model identified during the development of the courts to oversee court policy and procedures and provide front-line services. Representatives from the judiciary; Community Corrections and Innovation and Strategic Initiatives in the Ministry of Justice; police services; the health region; police-based victim services programs and community-based organizations that provide related services. Depending on the court, representatives from other sectors may also participate (e.g., Aboriginal Courtworkers, Child Protection).

Offenders who choose to participate in the treatment option programming appear in court for progress reports regularly. The interaction between the judge and the offender is very important to the success of the program. Each court has a process in place for front line workers to come together as case managers to discuss offender progress and make decisions about future direction for the individual. As well, courts have an established process for reviewing requests to change non-contact conditions that are placed on the offender at the time of release from police custody.

Recidivism studies completed in two domestic violence courts have shown that offenders completing treatment programs recidivated less often and had fewer police call-outs than other groups of offenders. In addition, these studies showed that offenders referred to treatment programs through the domestic violence courts completed treatment more often than those referred otherwise (i.e., post-sentence and self-referrals). As well, standardized instruments are

used by treatment programs to measure attitude and behavior changes in participants. They show significant changes in offenders attending through the treatment option.

The Innovation and Strategic Initiatives Branch of the Ministry of Justice produced a video about the Treatment Option available through the three domestic violence courts (DVC). Through interviews with treatment graduates, victims/survivors, the Judiciary, Crown Prosecutors, Legal Aid and private legal counsel, DVC Coordinators, domestic violence and addictions treatment providers, victim services, child protection services, children's program providers, probation services, and RCMP and municipal police, the video documents the journey of accused and who choose the Treatment Option and the perceptions of the victims. The video is available on www.sasklawcourts.

Interministerial Committee: In addition to the DVC/DVTO committees, the Inter-ministerial Committee on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse consisting of Justice - Attorney General, Status of Women, Justice - Corrections and Policing, Health, Government Relations, Education and Social Services coordinates government services and liaises with community coordination. Provincial committees such as Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence (STOPS to Violence), the Provincial Association of Transition Houses (PATHS) and the Saskatchewan Association of Sexual Assault Centres (SASS) contribute to these efforts.

Community Mobilization Model: In 2011 the Community Mobilization Prince Albert (CMPA) was developed to address high-risk community issues. CMPA is composed of police, corrections, social workers, education, addictions and mental health service providers. While not specifically a domestic violence initiative, the multidisciplinary team meets twice weekly to identify, develop and deploy interventions for acutely elevated risk including risk associated with IPV. Elevated risk is defined as situations where there is significant interest at stake, high probability of harm occurring, severe intensity of potential harm and the situation requires multi-sector solutions. The team has established a filter process that ensures that priorities are maintained and privacy is protected. This process has multiple options for example, agencies can provide de-identified information on the client's risk factors, or basic identifiable information can be shared to identify agencies that should be involved in the planning. CMPA employs one full time worker who coordinates the team's activities. This model has been extended to other locations in Saskatchewan.

Risk Assessment. Police do not use a standardized risk assessment tool in Saskatchewan. As stated above, the Saskatchewan Primary Risk Assessment (SPRA) and Ontario Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (ODARA) tools are used by Community Corrections to inform case management strategies for each offender when they request participation in the domestic violence treatment option. Domestic violence victim service workers attached to the court use the ODARA and consideration of lethality factors as part of the assessment process when a change to the non-contact condition is requested.

Men's Narrative Program to Foster Respectful Relationships

Family Service Saskatoon

[Http://familyservice.sk.ca](http://familyservice.sk.ca)

Funding. This program is funded through fees paid for by the program participants.

Structure. Participants are referred to the program by the Saskatoon DVC. The program also accepts accused not eligible for the DVC stream who self-refer.

Program. Participants are required to attend 2 pre-group sessions with the program coordinator and co-facilitator. Information regarding the offender's participation, level of engagement and completion of written assignments is shared with the referring agency.

Developed from a Narrative Therapeutic modality (adapted from the Bridges program), the program is 5-six hour sessions that take place on alternating Saturdays over a 9-week period (30 hours of group). Men are guided in an examination of their values, successes and challenges with a view to developing and implementing a relapse prevention plan. Topics included are studying abuse (feelings, thoughts and triggers; effects of the abuse on victims, children and themselves), perspective-taking exercises, listening and communication skills development.

Program staff uses unstructured clinical judgment to monitor offender risk. After the 4th session, victims are contacted to discuss safety planning and links to other community agencies for ongoing assistance where indicated.

Integration. Family Service Saskatoon is involved in the DVC working group and are members of STOPS to Violence.

Domestic Violence Education

Community Corrections - Custody, Supervision, and Rehabilitation Services

Funding. This program is currently unfunded.

Structure. The majority of clients are moderate to high-risk offenders referred through Mental Health and Addiction Services, Family Services and probation. Information is shared with the referral source with the consent of the client.

Program. The program consists of 12, 2-hour sessions. It is an educational program with some basic skills training components. Program staff uses ODARA to assess and monitor client risk. Topics covered in the program include defining abuse, communication skills, time-outs, guilt, shame, stress management, beliefs, self-talk, relapse prevention and substance use.

Impact on child witnesses. No parenting program is available.

Accountability to Victims. The program does not have any partner contact.

Alternatives to Violence

Five Hills Health Region (Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan)

<http://www.fhhr.ca/AlternativesViolence.htm>

Funding. The *Alternatives to Violence* program is funded by the Department of Corrections and Public Safety and Mental Health and Addictions Services (MHAS). MHAS has recently contracted with Moose Jaw Transition House to provide services for voluntary clients.

Structure. Mandated clients are referred from Probation through the DVT or attend as condition of probation. Voluntary clients can also request service. Formal risk assessment is done by the DVTO Coordinator or the Bail Supervision Officer using ODARA and SARA. Probation co-facilitates the groups at Five Hills Health Region.

Program. The group is closed and runs for 12 weeks, 2 hours per week. The program was created utilizing a variety of therapeutic approaches including CBT, Narrative, psychoeducational and solution-focused therapy. Topics covered include anger management, types of abuse, cycle of violence, ABC's of thinking (CBT) values in relationships, healthy relationships, assertive communication, impact of violence on children healthy parenting, jealousy, development of a feelings language, self-talk/beliefs. Two guest speakers are included in the program, one man who has successfully completed the program, and a woman whose stepfather murdered her mother.

Impact on child witnesses. Parenting and children exposed to violence programs are offered by Moose Jaw Transition House. Information regarding the impact on children exposed to IPV is incorporated into the treatment group.

Accountability to Victims. The offender's probation officer contacts victims. There is no victim contact for voluntary clients.

Integration. There is no Domestic Violence Court in Moose Jaw, however collaboration happens informally amongst community-based service providers, police and corrections.

Alternatives to Violence

- Regional Health Authorities are funded by the Ministry of Health and are responsible for the day to day delivery of mental health and addiction services.
- Alternatives to Violence Treatment is shared between mental health and addictions and probation services in Regina, Saskatoon and North Battleford where Domestic Violence Courts exist.
- Delivery of Alternatives to Violence Programs also exist in other health regions but are not a core mental health service in some health regions and other health regions provide services on an individual basis.

Battleford Mental Health Centre

<http://www.ehealth-north.sk.ca/facility.aspx?m=4andfacility=381>

Funding. *Alternatives to Violence* program is funded by the Ministry of Health.

Structure. Participants may be referred through the Battleford Domestic Violence Treatment Options (BDVTO) Court. In addition, men who have been convicted of a domestic violence

related offence and sentenced with the condition to attend an IPV program, may be referred through Community Corrections. The program also accepts voluntary participants.

Program. The program utilizes cognitive-behaviour, client-centered and psychoeducational modalities. The group is 16 weeks in duration, with 2-hour sessions once per week. The program consists of 3 segments. For the first 8 weeks the group focus is on anger management. Using a thoughts, feelings, and actions model, participants create an anger management plan that includes what they can do to change. The participants use the abusive event that resulted in them being in the program as a frame of reference for this work, discussing thoughts, feelings and circumstances surrounding the event and alternate outcomes had the circumstances been different. The second segment focuses on healthy relationships. Participants identify components of healthy romantic relationships. The third segment deals with affect regulation. Participants are taught strategies to manage difficult emotions, self-care, and goal setting.

Impact of child witnessing. Parenting and children's programming is offered by Catholic Family Services. Information regarding the impact of witnessing IPV on children is incorporated into the treatment group.

Integration. The program is delivered within the DVTO, collaborative framework. Information is shared by all services involved with the offender every 2 weeks during the DVTO meetings regarding the participant's progress.

Accountability to Victims. The program does not have contact with victims; rather, this contact is the responsibility of Victim Services attached to the DVTO.

Kanaweyimik Family Violence Treatment Program

Battleford, SK

http://www.kanaweyimik.com/program_family_violence.html

Funding. Funding for the Family Violence Treatment Program is provided by Ministry of Justice – Attorney General.

Structure. Kanaweyimik Family Violence Treatment Program serves individuals referred from the Battlefords Domestic Violence Treatment Options (BDVTO) Court, as well as individuals who are self-referred or referred by a community agency.

Program Treatment. Kanaweyimik offers a 25-week program with continuous intake. The model used by the program is holistically based, focused on the mind (psychological self), the body (physical self), the emotions (emotional self), and spirit (spiritual self). A combination of both western therapeutic methods and cultural health practices are used. Men's group sessions are held every Monday and victims' sessions are held every Tuesday.

Impact of child witnessing. Catholic Family Services offers parenting and children exposed to violence programs.

Accountability to Victims. Kanawayimik Family Violence Treatment Program provides services to all family members, which would include victims of violence on a volunteer basis.

Integration. Kanawayimik is part of “The Working Group” that takes a case management role with offenders in BDVTO Court. It includes representatives from Victim Services, Community Corrections, Legal Aid, Crown Prosecutors, and Mental Health. The Working Group meets every second Friday to discuss client progress. For offenders referred from the DVTO, a Kanawayimik counsellor provides progress reports to the court every second Thursday.

Evaluation Annual data reports are compiled for each court. Two courts have participated in a process and outcome evaluation and recidivism studies; one in an implementation evaluation. A research project with the University of Regina is focused on the impact of therapeutic courts on the various systems involved.

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Programming:

Voluntary services are provided to victims of interpersonal violence and abuse through the Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Program [IVA]. The program provides funding for the delivery of 43 IVA services through 33 non-profit organizations in 17 communities for Saskatchewan residents who are at risk of, victims of and survivors of interpersonal violence and abuse. This includes crisis services for women and their children and non-residential services and support for those affected by sexual violence and assault, domestic violence, family violence, dating violence and assault.

YUKON

Context

IPV Legislation: *Family Violence Prevention Act, 2005*

<http://www.canlii.org/en/yk/laws/stat/rsy-2002-c-84/latest/rsy-2002-c-84.html>

Domestic Violence Court: Domestic Violence Treatment Option is available.

Yukon Therapeutic Courts (DVTO and CWC) <http://www.yukoncourts.ca/>

Territorial Action Plan: Victims of Crime Strategy (2009 – 2014)

http://www.justice.gov.yk.ca/pdf/Victims_of_Crime_Strategy.pdf

The Victims of Crime Strategy was designed to formalize and strengthen the government’s service infrastructure, explore new initiatives and establish mechanisms to work collaboratively to support victims of crime. The development of this strategy resulted from a commitment made by the Department of Justice as part of the Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan. Core collaborators included the Women’s Directorate and many organizations that provide services to victims of crime.

The guiding principles of the strategy include:

- Acknowledgement of diverse and complex needs of victims
- A commitment to preserve the dignity of victims and to value their voices and autonomy
- A commitment to collaboration
- Acknowledgement of the long lasting, profound complex and intergenerational impact of residential schools and a commitment to providing culturally sensitive services which are grounded in basic human rights and freedoms.
- Services and programs will be guided by best practices and research.

The Strategy focuses on five themes: strengthening the focus on the needs of victims; focusing on addressing violence against women, which specifically refers to domestic and sexual violence; exploring legislative options; mentorship and capacity building in communities; and integrating response for victims, offenders, families and communities. The possibility of a victim/offender reconciliation program, collaborative case planning and integrated supervision for high-risk offenders are discussed.

Collaboration is promoted by the Framework Committee of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, a working group comprised of representatives from Justice, First Nations, violence against women agencies, police, and health professionals. This committee was tasked with the development of Victims of Crime Strategy.

The Yukon currently has two therapeutic court processes that are available to offenders involved in the criminal justice system.

Domestic Violence Court. The Yukon uses a Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court (DVTO) model was developed in 2000 to address the ongoing concern of the high collapse rate of domestic violence cases. To enter the DVTO court process the accused must accept responsibility for their violent behaviour and agree to participate in programming. In all domestic violence cases, the RCMP refer cases to the court within two weeks of the offence. After appearing before a DVTO court judge the accused, if interested in the DVTO court process, requests a suitability assessment. If the accused is found suitable he/she enters a guilty plea and enters into the DVTO court process. This process usually happens within the first few court appearances.

If accepted into the DVTO court, offenders check in regularly with their bail supervisor, appear before the DVTO court judge every two weeks and begin programming as recommended by their bail supervisor. An accused may be ineligible if he or she is not motivated to take treatment and programming or not willing to enter a guilty plea.

Community Wellness Court: The Yukon Community Wellness Court (CWC) is a judicially supervised court aimed at providing treatment and support for offenders living with an addiction to alcohol or drugs, mental health problems and or an intellectual disability including but not limited to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The CWC court was developed in 2005 with its first sitting in April 2007.

The CWC court combines intensive offender monitoring with a comprehensive approach to addressing the psycho-social needs of participating offenders in order to reduce recidivism.

Offenders charged with domestic violence who have an underlying issue of addictions, mental health or cognitive issues can be referred to the Community Wellness Court for assessment and programming.

Risk Assessment. The Yukon has worked with the RCMP to develop enhanced police investigation, management and reporting procedures for domestic violence. The expanded protocol includes a summary checklist form Violent Incident Relationship Checklist. Risk indicators are used to help determine whether to detain or release the accused, set release conditions and facilitate early contact with Family and Children's Services in cases involving children.

Funding. Programming is offered by the Department of Justice and administered through Offender Supervision and Services.

Structure. The Probation officer assumes the role of case manager and reports back to the court every 2 weeks on the accused progress. It generally takes 4-12 months to complete all required programming for the Domestic Violence Court. It generally takes 12-24 months to complete all of the required programming for the Community Wellness Court.

In both courts, once programming is completed the offender is brought back to court for sentencing on the substantive offence. Typically the disposition can include a variety of sentences and often can include a probation sentence to ensure ongoing support and follow up.

Treatment. Programming for men is tailored to address the individual offender's specific criminogenic risk factors. Programming for clients in DVTO includes the 10 session *Respectful Relationships* and the 17-session *Violence in Relationships* program, and is facilitated by Offender Supervision and Services staff. Programming for women includes the *Emotional Management* program and the 12 session *Relationship Skills for Women* program.

Programming for clients in the Community Wellness Court focuses on criminogenic risk factors and also incorporates other services and programming that can assist the client on their wellness journey. Other programming within the department that is offered includes substance abuse management, sex offender programming and violence prevention programming.

Impact on child witnesses. Information regarding the impact on children witnessing IPV is incorporated into the treatment group. In Yukon, Project Lynx provides victim services and a multi-agency coordinated approach to supporting child and youth victims/witnesses in accordance with National Best Practice for Child and Youth Advocacy Centers.

Accountability to Victims. The DVTO court and Community Wellness Court processes includes Victim Services at the project management and case conference levels. Victim Services staff provide voluntary supports and information for victims.

Victims Services and the Crown Witness Coordinator (PPSC) provide the staff in Offender Supervision and Services with victim information that assists with completing risk assessments.

Victim Services may also support the victim by identifying needs and making appropriate referrals in addition to providing them information about the offender's progress through the therapeutic court process.

Evaluation. The Yukon DVTO court was evaluated by the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, University of Calgary. Overall, the evaluation was quite positive, concluding that this model, which combines a comprehensive justice system approach with a treatment program for offenders, provided an excellent model for dealing with spousal assault and abuse.

<http://www.crilf.ca/Documents/Domestic%20Violence%20Treatment%20Option%20-%20Final%20Report%20-%20Oct%202005.pdf>

The Yukon Community Wellness Court was also evaluated in 2014 by Dr Joseph Hornick. Overall the evaluation was very positive concluding that the CWC court is meeting the goals of reducing recidivism, enhancing the safety of Yukon communities and utilizing alternative justice approaches to address crime in Yukon.

DISCUSSION

This report reviewed and summarized justice-linked programming across Canada. The specific focus of this review was services in court-based, clinical, and community settings and directed it at the majority population of perpetrators of IPV. Results are informative in terms of both commonalities and considerable differences in system organization and content. A few of the major themes of similarity and difference are discussed.

Intervention Service

One of the most striking findings of this review is the extent of variation in justice-linked intervention response to DV offenders across, as well as within, Canada's provinces and territories. The most commonly available program is some version of a psychoeducational, cognitive-behavioural, or narrative group program that includes 8 to 12 participants and lasts between 16 and 20 weeks (32 to 40 hours). A few jurisdictions are offering a shorter program, 10 to 12 weeks (20 to 24 hour), most often targeted to low risk offenders. There is only one service in Canada that mandates a program that is less than 20 hours in duration, the 5-week *Second Chance* program option in Nova Scotia for low risk offenders. There is also only one province, Ontario, where funding has been specifically set for a minimum group size of 15. In terms of program content, regardless of group size, length or modality, programs are likely to cover some combination of the following concepts: understanding abuse, impact of abuse on victims, emotional regulation skills, and problem-solving. Most programs also include information on the effect of IPV on children.

Canada's programs appear to fall almost equally into three main treatment modalities: psychoeducation, cognitive-behaviour, and narrative. There is no obvious relationship between length of program and modality, or between level of risk and modality, though there is a trend for psychoeducational programs to be more often targeted at lower-risk offenders. Interestingly, intervention modality varies as much within provinces as it does between provinces. Although this may be interpreted to suggest that the capacity of individual offenders to choose or be

matched to a modality of their choosing; in reality it reflects approaches by different agencies working in different parts of the region. Seldom would it be possible for offenders to choose to receive intervention in alternate modalities.

Although group intervention remains the predominant modality for justice-linked intervention, a substantial minority of programs (including most programs using a narrative modality) are offering individual sessions in addition to group work. Most often, individual sessions are offered prior to group service and serve a motivational and/or assessment function. The exception to this are agencies devoted to serving Indigenous populations which often take a holistic, family-based approach and tend to offer a range of services to address domestic violence including group work, individual sessions, family and couples therapy.

Finally, it is important to note that most jurisdictions have some level of differential prosecution through DV courts in response to offenders at varying levels of risk on standardized risk assessments. Intervention programs, on the other hand, are mostly non-differentiated. In most regions, offenders assessed as being at low, moderate or high risk for reoffending, and offenders accessing service as a result of a justice mandate, community referral, or self-referral attend the same program and receive the same services. In regions with DV courts, differentiated services are more likely. In such regions, the most common model is for there to be two services: a) a shorter specialized program which is fairly well integrated with the courts and is restricted to low risk offenders and, b) a longer, often community-based intervention that serves moderate and high risk offenders referred by probation along with community, child protection and self-referred clients. Only a minority of jurisdictions and agencies across Canada offer intervention groups exclusive to moderate and high risk offenders (see British Columbia for an example of this model of service).

Accountability to Victims

A foundational component of justice-linked response to IPV is a dual focus on promoting perpetrator accountability and providing services and supports for victims and offenders of family violence. Provincial and Territorial Action Plans in Canada, where they exist, all include a commitment to respond to perpetrators and support victims. Consistent with this commitment, most justice-linked intervention responses across Canada include some provision for victim support. However, the inclusion of victim contact, referral, or support as part of justice-linked intervention programs for perpetrators is not universal. In some provinces/territories, victim contact is a required component of all justice-linked IPV intervention services. For example, in the NWT, victim support is built in as a core aspect of all services. In other provinces, agencies providing intervention to court-mandated offenders rely on probation, police, victim services or a court manager for victim support. Only a minority of programs across the country provide therapeutic support (i.e., services beyond information sharing, safety planning, and referral) to victims of men's abuse. Agencies most likely to provide therapeutic support to both male perpetrators and female victims are those dedicated to serving Indigenous peoples.

Parenting

Research has clearly established that children are negatively impacted by exposure to IPV and there is a high overlap between men's perpetration of violence against children's mothers and their direct physical and emotional abuse of children. Recognizing this overlap, a number of IPV action plans are beginning to include statements about the importance of parenting interventions to prevent potential intergenerational cycles of violence. Whether justice-linked interventions for IPV should or should not include intervention to address challenges in parenting is open for debate. However, what is clear from the current review is that, with very few exceptions, programs addressing IPV are offering limited parenting intervention. In many of the psychoeducational and CBT-based intervention programs, one or two group sessions are devoted to raising men's awareness of the effects of exposure to IPV on children and to discussing the importance of fathers as role models for their children. These two sessions likely provide valuable motivation to men attending groups and also may help to increase awareness about the impact of IPV; however, they are insufficient for addressing post-separation issues or for changing men's problematic parenting (e.g., hostile attribution, low levels of emotional responsiveness). The exceptions are a few agencies across Canada offer the *Caring Dads* program and a few others that offer the option of family-based intervention for IPV offenders.

System Integration

Justice-linked intervention programs are, by definition, embedded in a broader system response to IPV. A number of aspects of this broader system were examined including issues of referral, funding, victim accountability, risk assessment and the level of integration between justice and community services. As might be expected given differences in history and development of services across Canada, there are many differences in the overall systems of justice-linked intervention. These differences can often be linked with domestic violence action plan priorities. For example, when victim support is emphasized in action plans, more services are available for victims. When parenting intersections are highlighted, more linked services are available to address offender's joint involvement in the criminal justice and child protection systems.

Another factor stands out in consideration of results of this review is the extent to which integration is a concern for service providers. There appears to be widespread recognition of the value of sharing information and collaborating across justice and community-based intervention services. However, actual level of integration varies considerably. In jurisdictions with strong justice-intervention program links, men are referred into specific intervention programs, with clear (though not always successful) lines of communication between the intervention programs and justice services. At the other end of the spectrum are systems in which offenders and/or probation officers have to "shop around" for the best service available. A deeper consideration of the advantages, disadvantages and implications of these differences in connection is warranted.

Evaluation

There is a reasonably large body of research on justice-linked response to IPV in Canada. The most extensive research appears to be on DV courts and court processes, though studies also explore specific intervention programs. Much of the research done on programs and services in Canada is published as "gray literature" though sometimes results are also published in peer reviewed journals. A comprehensive review of existing Canadian evaluations may be warranted

as a foundation for continued development of empirically-based best practice standards for justice-linked intervention for IPV perpetrators.

Limitations

This project was ambitious in its attempt to access, review, and describe policy and practice in justice-linked responses to IPV across Canada. Although we were able to discuss our evolving findings with key informants from every province and territory, it is quite possible that aspects of policy or practice were missed. Moreover, as we noted earlier, we did not attempt a systematic review of services for minority (i.e., women, LGBTQ, cultural, linguistic) offenders, and there are likely a number of innovative services to these populations that were not reviewed.

CONCLUSIONS

The current project offered the opportunity to examine justice-linked intervention services for IPV across Canada. It is informative in terms of both the commonalities and differences in IPV response across the country and will provide an excellent springboard for broader discussions of Canada's IPV policy and programming.

Resources

Making the Links in Family Violence Cases: Collaboration among the Family, Child Protection and Criminal Justice Systems, Department of Justice

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/mlfvc-elcvf/vol2/p12.html#sec12>

The Case for a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women, Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses, October 2013.

http://ywcacanada.ca/data/research_docs/00000307.pdf

Making the Links in Family Violence Cases: Collaboration among the Family, Child Protection and Criminal Justice Systems, Volume II, Annexes to the Report of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ad Hoc Working Group on Family Violence

https://www.solgps.alberta.ca/safe_communities/community_awareness/family_violence/Publications/MakingLinksFamilyViolenceCases-Annex.pdf

APPENDIX A: SERVICES BY PROVINCE

ALBERTA

All the service providers under the PFVTP umbrella adhere to the PFVTP Provincial Standards in their treatment programs. Alberta Health Services is either the lead or a partner in their local community in providing addiction and/or mental health services. For more information, here is the link to our page on the AHS external web:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/Page2768.aspx>

Alberta Health Services, Provincial Family Violence Treatment Program – specific agencies funded to provide treatment to perpetrators

Calgary

- Calgary Counselling Service
- YWCA
- Community Links
- Immigrant Services Centre

Edmonton

- Aboriginal Counselling Services
- Family and Children's Services
- Changing Ways
- Alberta Alcohol and Drug Commission

Peace River

- North Peace Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Grande Prairie

- John Howard Society: The Renaissance Program; a 16 week group treatment program
- John Howard Society: The Nexus Program; a 14 week group program for women

Fort McMurray

- Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society – Opportunities for Change; 20 week program which includes 3 mandatory follow up sessions
- Changing Ways for female offenders

Hinton

- Hinton Friendship Centre (satellite programs in Jasper, Edson and Grande Cache)

Wetaskiwin

- Society of Prevention of Family Violence for Wetaskiwin and District; Seeds of Change Program 16-week group

Drumheller

- Community Crisis Centre

Red Deer

- Jim Freeman Psychotherapist Ltd.

Rocky Mountain House

- Mountain Rose Women's Shelter: 16-week program

Airdrie

- Community Links: 14-week group program

Morley Reserve

- The Sony Healing Family Violence Treatment Program

Brooks

- Lifetalk Counselling Service

Lethbridge

- Lethbridge Family Services; 30 hour group treatment, additional individual counselling before and after group where required. Intimate Partner or Couple's Counselling is also provided for couples who choose to remain together
- YWCA Harbour House Outreach Program
- Associates Counselling

Medicine Hat

- Medicine Hat Family Services "The Courage to Change" group
- John Howard Society "Men's Work" aftercare support

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Delta

- Stroh Health Care Consulting Corporation – Family Violence Program

Smithers

- Northern Society for Domestic Peace – Domestic Peace Program

Prince George

- North John Howard Society of British Columbia – PG STOP: Prince George Stop Taking it Out on your Partner

Campbell River

- Laichwiltach Family Life Society – Men's Only Healing

MANITOBA

Manitoba Métis Federation

www.mmf.mb.ca/departments_portfolios_and_affiliates_details.php?id=3

MMF Domestic Violence Program offered in Dauphin, The Pas, Interlake and Thompson

Winnipeg

- Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services – Choose 2 Change
- Klinik Community Health Centre – Evolve Men's Program
- Family Dynamics, Counselling and Community Services – Family Dynamics (Counselling Services)
- Community and Youth Corrections – Making A Connection (MAC)

- Community and Youth Corrections – Introduction to Healthy Relationships (IHR)
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre – Spirit of Peace

Brandon

- Building Bridges Program

Thompson

- Men are Part of the Solution

NEW BRUNSWICK

Shédiac

- Beauséjour Family Crisis Resource Centre – Narrative Therapy Domestic Violence: High Intensity Intervention

Moncton

- John Howard Society Southeastern New Brunswick – Domestic Violence Prevention for Men Low Intensity (DVPM-LI)
- Empathic Life Solutions – Options Men’s Program

Campbellton

- Restigouche Family Services – Alternatives

NEWFOUNDLAND

St. Johns

- John Howard Society

NOVA SCOTIA

Bridgewater

- Family Service of Western Nova Scotia – Alternatives

Sydney

- CornerStone Cape Breton Family Services
- Second Chance
- Respectful Relationships
- Relationship Violence Program

Amherst

- Autumn House/Cumberland County Transition House – New Directions

Dartmouth

- New Start Society - New Start (Counselling Services)

Truro

- Bridges Institute – Bridges

New Glasgow

- Pictou County Opportunity for Men Association – New Leaf

Whycocomagh

- Mi'kmaq Family Healing Centre Transition House – The Journey of Two Wolves – Tapusijik Paqtismk

ONTARIO

Barrie

- New Path Youth and Family Counselling Services of Simcoe County

Bracebridge and Parry Sound

- Muskoka-Parry Sound Community Mental Health Service

Cobourg

- Northumberland Community Counselling Centre

Durham

- Family Services Durham

Lindsay

- John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton

Newmarket

- John Howard Society of York

Peterborough

- John Howard Society of Peterborough

Brantford

- Nova Vita Women's Shelter Incorporated

Cambridge

- Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries

Cayuga and Simcoe

- Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H (Cayuga)

Guelph

- Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellington

Hamilton

- Catholic Family Services of Hamilton

Kitchener

- John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington

Burlington, Milton, Oakville

- Access Counselling and Family Services

Orangeville

- Catholic Family Services Peel Dufferin

Peel

- Family Services of Peel

St. Catharines

- Children's Aid Society of the Niagara Region

Dryden

- Kenora-Rainy River Districts Child and Family Services

Elliot Lake

- Counselling Centre for East Algoma

Fort Frances

- Riverside Health Care Facilities Inc.

Haileybury, North Bay

- Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing

Kapuskasing

- Services de counselling de Hearst-Kapuskasing- Smooth Rock Falls Counselling Services

Kenora

- Other Ways Now Program

Manitoulin (Gore Bay)

- Ngwaagan Gamig Recovery Centre Inc.

Sault Ste. Marie

- Algoma Family Services,

Sudbury

- Sudbury Counselling Centre/ Centre de counselling de Sudbury

Thunder Bay

- Catholic Family Development Centre of Thunder Bay

Timmins

- Catholic Family Development Centre of Thunder Bay

Belleville, Picton

- Conflict Resolution Counselling Services of Quinte

Brockville, Perth

- Leeds and Grenville Mental Health

Cornwall

- Counselling and Support Services of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Kingston, Napanee

- K3C Community Counselling Centres

L'Orignal

- VALORIS pour enfants et adultes de Prescott-Russell / VALORIS for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell

Ottawa

- Catholic Family Service Ottawa / Service familial catholique Ottawa

Pembroke

- Living Without Violence Inc.

Toronto

- Abrigo Centre
- Chinese Family Services of Ontario
- Costi Immigrant Services
- Counterpoint Counselling and Educational Co-Operative Inc.,
- Elizabeth Fry Toronto
- Family Service Toronto
- John Howard Society of Toronto
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services
- Rexdale Women's Centre

London, Chatham, St. Thomas, Strathroy

- Changing Ways London, Inc.

Goderich

- Huron-Perth Centre for Children and Youth

Owen Sound, Walkerton

- Bruce Grey Child and Family Services

Sarnia

- Social Service Bureau of Sarnia-Lambton o/a Family Counselling Centre

Stratford

- Family Services Perth-Huron

Windsor

- Hiatus House (until March 2016)

Woodstock

- Children's Aid Society of Oxford County

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Yellowknife

- A New Day, Tree of Peace Friendship Centre

NUNAVUT

Rankin Inlet

- Rankin Inlet Spousal Abuse Program

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown

- Community and Correctional Services – Turning Point

QUÉBEC

For a complete list of programs, please go to: <http://www.aceurhomme.com/besoin-daide>

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatoon

- Family Service Saskatoon – Men's Narrative Program to Foster Respectful Relationships
- Custody, Supervision, and Rehabilitation Services – Domestic Violence Education

- Saskatoon Health Region – Alternatives

Moose Jaw

- Five Hills Health Region – Alternatives to Violence

North Battleford

- Battleford Mental Health Services – Alternatives to Violence

YUKON

Probation services

- Respectful Relationships and Violence in Relationships

APPENDIX B: KEY INFORMANTS

Sean Armstrong
Edmonton Police Service
Staff Sergeant
Domestic Offender Crimes Section

Kimberley Greenwood
Chief of Police
Barrie Police Service

Trevor Daroux
Deputy Chief of Police
Bureau of Community Policing
Calgary Police Service

Tracy Porteous
Executive Director
Ending Violence Association
British Columbia

Roderick McKendrick
Interpersonal Violence Specialist
Victims Services
Ministry of Justice
Government of Saskatchewan

Leanne Fitch
Chief of Police

Fredericton Police Force

Steve Versteeg
Manager of Projects and Programs
Community Justice and Policing
Northwest Territories

Laura Boileau
Program Coordinator
Tree of Peace Friendship Center
Northwest Territories

Dawn Anderson
Director of Integrated Case Management
Department of Justice
Northwest Territories

Jo-Anne Hargrove
Community and Correctional Services
Justice and Public Safety
Prince Edward Island

Joseph Hornick
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Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family
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Maggie McKillop
Executive Director
Homefront
Calgary, Alberta

Sheralyn Dobos
Program Director
Family Violence Action Society
Camrose, Alberta

Chris Krueger
Community Justice Worker
Manitoba Metis Federation
Thompson, Manitoba

Shannon Allard-Chartrand
Director of Justice Services
Manitoba Metis Federation

Marvin McNaught
Executive Director
Learning Resource Program
NFLD and LBD

Bonnie Beatty
John Howard Society
Edmonton, Alberta

Caroline Foster
Men's Support Counsellor
Autumn House
Amherst, Nova Scotia

Terry Cove
Executive Director
Autumn House
Amherst, Nova Scotia

Kim Sadler
Executive Director
Second Chance
Nova Scotia

Art Fisher
Executive Director
Family Service of Western Nova Scotia
Sydney, Nova Scotia

Wendy Keen
Executive Director
New Start Society
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Tod Augusta-Scott
Executive Director
Bridges Institute
Truro, Nova Scotia

Cathy Grant
Coordinator/Facilitator
Pictou County Opportunity for Men Association
New Glasgow, Nova Scotia

Angela "Doreen" Googoo
Intervention Worker

Mi'kmaq Family Healing Centre Transition House
Whycomomagh, Nova Scotia

Kristal LeBlanc
Executive Director
Beauséjour Family Crisis Resource Centre
Shédiac, New Brunswick

Krista Leger
Associate Director
John Howard Society – Southeastern New Brunswick
Moncton, New Brunswick

Kimberly Wilson
Clinical and Forensic Psychologist
Executive Director
Restigouche Family Services
Campbellton, New Brunswick

Janice Tilley
Facilitator
Empathic Life Solutions
Moncton, New Brunswick

Hennes Doltze
Social Worker Diversions Programs
Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mary-Jo Bolton
Clinical Director
Klinik Community Health Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mel MacPhee-Sigurdson
Facilitator
Klinik Community Health Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Kim Barber
Intake Coordinator
Family Dynamics, Counselling and Community Services
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Michelle Joubert
Director of Community Programming

Community and Youth Corrections
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Ben Dubois
Facilitator
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Hélène Davis
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Family Service Saskatoon
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Cara McDavid
Senior Social Worker
Five Hills Health Region
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Denise Carey
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Leah White
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