

Coroners Recommendations Working Group (CRWG) - A Review of Intimate Partner Violence Deaths 2010-2015 Action Plan - December 19, 2017

The Coroners Recommendations Working Group (CRWG) was formed to provide advice and input to develop options to the Ministry of Children and Family Development's executive in response to recommendations addressed to the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) in the 2016 Coroners Death Review Panel. The CRWG was not a decision-making body.

The CRWG had a number of objectives:

- inform and advise the PODV on specific recommendations that resulted from the 2016 Coroner's Death Review Panel, specifically addressed to PODV. This includes preparing options on how to respond to these highlighted recommendations made by the Coroner;
- where work is already underway across B.C. the CRWG will build off of/incorporate existing work;
- review materials including the relevant procedures, policies and legislations necessary in advance of CRWG meetings to contribute to the activities of the CRWG in developing options.

The Coroner's Recommendations Working Group had representatives from the BC Coroners Death Review Panel held in June 2016 and the Community Coordination for Women's Safety Committee (CCWS).

Relevant ministries and other stakeholders were also represented, including the Ministry of Justice, Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Children and Family Development, community partners, as well as municipal police and RCMP.

The Coroner's Recommendations Working Group also drew on Ad Hoc members, subject matter experts who were brought in as needed.

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#	Recommendation #1	Completed & Ongoing Actions	Planned Deliverables	Projected Dates
1.1	<p>Increase awareness and education to improve understanding of IPV and how to respond. By December 2017, the <i>Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV)</i> in partnership with relevant stakeholders will:</p> <p>Enhance provincial IPV messaging campaigns to increase public awareness of IPV risk factors, how to respond and how to access community based services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MooseHide Campaign</i> enhancements were completed in March of 2017 and the campaign continues. • <i>Be More than a Bystander Campaign</i> enhancements were completed in March of 2017 and the campaign continues, training staff at British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the BC Steelworkers. • <i>#SaySomething Campaign</i> enhancements were completed in July of 2017. B.C.'s 2017 #SaySomething campaign will run from Nov. 24 to Dec. 21 on Facebook and Instagram, as well as mobile media, allowing British Columbians to share campaign videos and speak out on the important issue of sexual and domestic violence. • <i>Erase Bullying Campaign</i> enhancements are to be completed in the near future and the campaign/training continues. • <i>Neighbours Friends and Families Campaign</i>; a train-the-trainer workshop/evaluation for approximately 30 organization leads was conducted in September 2017. Further evaluation and analysis is being conducted to determine if this campaign is appropriate for B.C. • <i>Domestic Violence (DV) in the Workplace Project</i> was developed to revise/enhance the BC Public Service DV in the Workplace Policy including DV Awareness month which was held in October 2017. In addition the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) and the Public Service Agency (PSA) developed a sticker campaign as part of raising awareness of DV in the public service. 4,500 removable adhesive stickers were distributed to government offices across B.C. in December 2017. • <i>Community Champions Tool Kit</i> is implemented and ongoing; it is an evidence-based accessible toolkit to help citizens recognize and safely respond to domestic violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Believe Project</i>. BC Society of Transition Houses' (BCSTH) Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling, and Empowerment (PEACE) programs are enhancing the Violence is Preventable (VIP) program to respond to current experiences of intimate partner sexual violence happening to youth in BC classrooms in grades 6-8. Through the Believe Project funded by a Public Safety & Solicitor General (PSSG) Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) grant (Fiscal Year (FY) 2017/18) BCSTH partnered with a working and advisory group of PEACE counsellors and subject matter experts to develop a curriculum and presentation which will include resources, tools, sample outreach and evaluation materials, and videos that will respond to sexual violence in schools. BCSTH partnered with 26 PEACE programs to be pilot sites across B.C. to deliver this new sexual violence presentation in B.C. schools in their community. As a legacy component of this grant, the BELIEVE Project training webinar will be posted on the BCSTH PEACE YouTube Channel for future PEACE counsellors to access and all the resources will be added to the BCSTH PEACE Practice Toolkit. • <i>Be More Than A Bystander</i> trainers will train 20 United Steelworker spokespeople and create a steelworker specific program for delivery to hundreds of resource industry sites across B.C. through health and safety meetings. 	Fiscal 2017/18

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="658 220 1481 716">• <i>Building Supports: Housing Access for Immigrant and Refugee Women (IRW) Leaving Violence</i> is a collaborative, three-year, community-based project, co-led by the BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH), the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA) and the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women & Children at SFU. FREDA stands for Feminist Research Education Development Action. This project is focused on understanding the barriers to accessing safe and affordable shelter for IRW leaving violent relationships. It produced a promising practices guide, policy recommendations, and a multi-language outreach and public awareness campaign, “<i>You are not alone</i>”, informing IRW about free support and shelter available at transition houses for women and children responding to violence. This project is funded by the Vancouver Foundation and a CFO Grant distributed by PSSG. <li data-bbox="658 756 1467 1252">• <i>Violence is Preventable (VIP)</i> The VIP program is a comprehensive provincial strategy linking B.C. schools with the PEACE Program for Children and Youth Experiencing Violence (formerly the Children Who Witness Abuse Program). Since 2004, 90 PEACE Programs have partnered with educators in grades K – 12 in schools in their community to increase awareness about domestic violence and the impact domestic violence has on children and youth. The VIP program provides presentations in school that increase the awareness of violence against women and the companion PEACE program provides supporting psychoeducational counselling if the presentations result in disclosure of violence. During the 2015/16 school year, 31 PEACE programs delivered VIP presentations in 82 Schools and gave a total of 612 presentations to 424 educators and 6416 students across the province. <li data-bbox="658 1292 1459 1455">• <i>How I Need to Know: Helping People with Disabilities who are Victims of Crime Through the Justice System Process.</i> The project aims to increase access to victim and justice system services and resources for people with disabilities, who are victims of crimes, increase understanding of community-based 		

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		<p>victim services workers to provide accessible and inclusive interventions and supports, and develop cross-sectoral collaboration to better support people with disabilities who are victims of crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Respectful Futures</i> is a prevention focused youth curriculum that was launched in partnership with the Surrey School District in fall 2017. It aims to promote a better understanding of healthy relationships among children and youth in middle and high school, with learning modules focused on topics including the characteristics of healthy relationships, identifying violent and controlling behaviours, building better relationships through better communication, and understanding and managing anger. 		
1.2	<p>Increase awareness and education to improve understanding of IPV and how to respond. By December 2017, PODV in partnership with relevant stakeholders will:</p> <p>Increase service provider (e.g. health, social services and education etc.) ability to identify IPV risk factors and risk of lethality, and how to refer to community based supports and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Collaborating Across Systems: Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence and Child Abuse</i> – Vancouver BC Conference October 2016. • <i>The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence</i> continues to engage with the domestic violence partners by participating in ongoing meetings/trainings/working groups/Federal, Provincial & Territorial committees as part of developing and supporting a systemic response to domestic violence. • <i>Homeless Prevention Program (HPP)</i> funding has been secured through to the 2019/20 fiscal year to allow for continuity in programming. • <i>Perpetrators Programs</i> funding for <i>Supporting Healthy Relationships</i> included one-time grants for 11 organizations to deliver domestic violence prevention/intervention programming to perpetrators prior to the charge, conviction or sentencing stage of the criminal justice process over an 18 month period and an evaluation ending in October 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safe Relationships Safe Children</i> implementation is currently delayed due to the overdose emergency and the requirements to redeploy resources to respond. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are currently in consultations designed to support a renewal of implementation work in 2018. • <i>MCFD DV Cross Sector Training</i> materials have been further developed and updated and training sessions will be offered to domestic violence front-line workers across the sector to encourage collaborative working relationships. • <i>Health Care Sector DV Training</i> is in development and training sessions will be offered province-wide to build awareness, self-care, and capacity of all health sector workers to identify and respond to gender-based violence. The e-learning will include videos, slides, animations, quizzes and exercises. A certificate will be available upon completion of the training. • <i>Family Law Reform</i> (Attorney General - AG) support and consult with anti-violence sector leads on the reforms to family court rules. Consultation began in summer 2017. 	<p>2018</p> <p>Fiscal 2017/18</p> <p>Fiscal 2017/18</p> <p>2018</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Early Years Toolkit (completed March 2017)</i> developed by MCFD and PODV with assistance from anti-violence sector partners is being implemented and ongoing: it supports early years professionals in how they respond to children who are exposed to domestic violence and help parents and caregivers access community based services. • <i>Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS)</i> program delivers Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) training related to risk assessment, safety planning and offender management in conjunction with RCMP, PODV and MCFD, teaching service providers about IPV risk factors, risk management planning and community referrals. • <i>Child Protection Mediation Resources/Training</i> for mediators to better identify and respond to domestic violence in child protection mediation cases. PODV worked to support AG/MCFD in identifying anti-violence sector leads to inform the consultations and participated in a working group that informed the development of a conference for mediators which occurred in fall 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase access to victim and justice system services and resources for people with disabilities who are victims of crime the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence is working with the Disability Alliance of BC to provide in-kind contributions, such as advice from PODV staff, attending meetings, reviewing project documents and disseminating information. 	Fiscal 2017/18
1.3	<p>Increase awareness and education to improve understanding of IPV and how to respond. By December 2017, PODV in partnership with relevant stakeholders will:</p> <p>Implement strategies to improve IPV reporting to and from police.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protection Order Working Group</i> established (fiscal 2015/16) to monitor and support the development for enhancing awareness of <i>Family Law Act (FLA)</i> Protection Orders for law enforcement including enhancing information on databases. • The provincial <i>Third Party Reporting Protocol (TPR)</i> supports Community-Based Victim Services and police to develop local interagency protocols to implement and maintain the TPR protocol. The TPR process may engage some women experiencing sexual assault within a relationship who might not otherwise report to police. 		

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1.4	<p>Increase awareness and education to improve understanding of IPV and how to respond. By December 2017, PODV in partnership with relevant stakeholders will:</p> <p>Demonstrate cultural humility in the development of IPV awareness and prevention initiatives with the goal of creating cultural safety for the intended audience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Indigenous Cultural Competency (ICC) training.</i> MCFD has three streams of ongoing ICC training utilized within the ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Online – San’yas Indigenous Cultural Competency Training: 913 staff trained B. Experiential – The Village: 1145 staff trained C. Mentorship – Leadership 2020 Indigenous Focus: 89 staff trained with 23 in current cycle • <i>Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) Competency Training.</i> MCFD’s online San’yas training is provided by the PHSA. PHSA provides Indigenous Cultural competency to staff in the health sector. <p>As of March 31, 2017 approximately 20,500 participants have completed the training across the regional health authorities, First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), PHSA and HLTH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD staff have access to trauma-training delivered through the Justice Institute of BC, to date, 95 MCFD staff have been trained in trauma-informed practice through this stream. • <i>Direct Services for Aboriginal women, children and families</i> funding under the <i>Provincial Domestic Violence Plan</i> has been secured through the 2017/18 fiscal year. • <i>Direct Services Rural and Remote</i> funding under the <i>Provincial Domestic Violence Plan</i> has been secured through to the 2017/18 fiscal year to allow for continuity in programming. • <i>Direct Services for Indigenous Perpetrators</i> funding under the <i>Provincial Domestic Violence Plan</i> included one-time grants for three Aboriginal Friendship Centres to deliver culturally responsive programming over a 13 month period with an evaluation completed in July 2017. 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Indigenous Community Safety Project (ICSP)</i> provides knowledge sharing to Indigenous leadership in Indigenous communities related to criminal justice, family justice and child protection laws, policies and practices that directly affect police and government responses to domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect. 		

#	Recommendation #2	Completed & Ongoing Actions	Planned Deliverables	Projected Dates
2.1	<p>Strengthen IPV safety planning and early collaborative case management. By December 2017, PODV in partnership with relevant stakeholders will:</p> <p>Develop a plan for common risk identification and collaborative safety planning (short, medium, long term) among service providers and agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PODV, Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC), BCSTH, BC Office for Representative of Children and Youth, and the FRED Centre (SFU) are members of the <i>Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations</i> which has a strong focus on strengthening risk management, risk assessment and safety planning. <i>Community Coordination for Women's Safety (CCWS)</i> program assists communities across B.C. to develop new models or improve upon existing models of cross-sectoral coordinated response to violence against women. CCWS is guided by a Provincial Working Group that includes senior personnel from government, police, child protection, corrections, Indigenous, and community agencies. <i>Missing Women Network</i> provides a communication system between law enforcement, victim services, and key medical, legal, and anti-violence services in the community likely to have contact with women who had experienced (or were at risk of experiencing) violence. The network also prevents abusive partners from exploiting police resources to find and gain access to women fleeing intimate partner violence. 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PODV sent a representative to the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative (CDHPI) DV Homicide Conference in October 2017 and provided feedback to MCFD staff by way of a blog during the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence” campaign. 		
2.2	<p>Strengthen IPV safety planning and early collaborative case management. By December 2017, PODV in partnership with relevant stakeholders will:</p> <p>Assess service providers’ ability to respond to IPV.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Domestic Violence Units (DVU) and Domestic Violence Unit Network</i> ongoing engagement and projects. Support existing DVU’s with cross-ministry partners. DVU’s are an evidence-based model of co-located service delivery that pairs dedicated police officer(s) with community-based victim services, and in some communities, a child protection worker to improve case coordination and collaboration in highest risk cases of domestic violence. DVU’s are operational in 9 communities throughout the province. <i>ICAT Best Practices Manual</i> 2nd Ed completed in summer 2017; implementation and dissemination of document is underway. ICATs bring together service providers from various sectors such as police, victim services, probation, MCFD, transition houses and others to share information, identify risks and create safety plans for specific high risk domestic violence cases. There are approximately 45 fully operational teams throughout the Province. <i>Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICAT)</i> Training modules and sessions have been updated and training is underway and ongoing. <i>Violence against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) Training</i> Local domestic violence coordinating committees or working groups which facilitate information sharing, coordination and accountability and problem-solving at a local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With funding from the Federal Department of Justice, the PSSG is leading a five-year <i>DVU Network</i> to bring all DVUs in the province together to discuss issues of mutual interest and to share best practices. This network is now operational and has been meeting regularly. Evaluation of ICAT process is underway and will inform ICAT best practices and future planning. <i>Independent Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Pilot Project</i>, funded by the Department of Justice Canada, will assess the outcomes of a pilot in which victims and survivors of sexual violence in B.C. receive free independent legal advice and trauma-informed support. The project is being undertaken in partnership with Legal Services Society (LSS). <i>Supporting Healthy Relationships Perpetrators programming evaluation</i>. Supporting Healthy Relationships project provides direct services for perpetrators of domestic violence prior to involvement in the criminal justice system. The 11 domestic violence intervention programs throughout the province of BC are currently under evaluation until October 2018. 	<p>Fiscal 2017/18</p> <p>2018</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Creating Safe Workplaces and Communities</i> project, funded by Status of Women Canada, will work with institutions and systems in the Indigenous, immigrant/refugee, and corporate sectors, to develop policy and training on gender-based violence. • <i>How I Need to Know: Helping People with Disabilities who are Victims of Crime Through the Justice System Process</i>. The project aims to increase access to victim and justice system services and resources for people with disabilities who are victims of crimes, increase understanding of community-based victim services workers to provide accessible and inclusive interventions and supports, and develop cross-sectoral collaboration to better support people with disabilities who are victims of crime. 		
2.3	<p>Strengthen IPV safety planning and early collaborative case management. By December 2017, <i>PODV in partnership with relevant stakeholders will:</i></p> <p>Establish and adopt provincially standardized IPV definitions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions have occurred and are underway around how to arrive at this common definition. It was acknowledged by the BC Coroners Service that a singular definition may not be appropriate in B.C. but further collaborative planning would be helpful. CCWS could be the forum for such a discussion. • The Canadian Domestic Homicide Preventive Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPVP) has identified the challenges around consistent definitions relating to Intimate Partner Violence or Domestic Violence and further work is underway. 		
2.6	<p>Strengthen IPV safety planning and early collaborative case management. By March 2018, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General in partnership with Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Children and Family Development will:</p> <p>Incorporate cultural safety and humility and trauma-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD <i>Indigenous Cultural Competency</i> (ICC) on training framework utilized within the ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ online – San’yas Indigenous Cultural Competency Training: 913 staff trained; ○ experiential – The Village: 1145 staff trained; ○ mentorship – Leadership 2020 Indigenous Focus: 89 staff trained with 23 in current cycle. • <i>PHSA Competency Training</i> MCFD’s online San’yas training is provided by the PHSA. PHSA provides Indigenous Cultural competency to staff in the health sector (HLTH), to MCFD staff and is currently developing modules for the justice sector as well (PSSG/AG). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MCFD Healing Families, Helping Systems A Trauma-Informed Practice Guide for Working With Children and Youth and Families</i> implementation and training sessions offered province wide in fall of 2017/18. • With funding support from the Department of Justice, the Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) Project Steering Committee, chaired by PSSG, launched a 5-year Trauma-informed practice project in 2016. The TIP Project is led by a cross-sector Steering Committee including representatives from Crown, Police, Corrections, Victim Services and Violence Against Women Programs, Private Bar and in an ex-officio capacity, the 	<p>2018</p> <p>Fiscal 2017/18/19</p>

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	<p>informed practices when addressing intimate partner violence through Ministry and funded community programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCFD staff have access to trauma-training delivered through the Justice Institute of BC, to date, 95 MCFD staff have been trained in trauma-informed practice through this stream. • <i>Healing Families, Helping Systems A Trauma-Informed Practice Guide for Working With Children and Youth and Families</i> completed in January 2017. • <i>Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework</i> - The APPF is an overarching framework intended to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children, youth, families and communities through restorative policies and practices. An implementation approach has been developed. Regional and divisional plans will be developed by regional analysts and divisional leads between now and June 2018. The Aboriginal Policy and Practice team will coordinate the implementation of the APPF, develop and implement tools and resources to support the implementation of the APPF, manage communications, and provide support to staff to understand the responsibilities related to the APPF in their area. Five APPF regional analysts will be hired to support cultural capacity, relationship building, reconciliation plans with MCFD, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and contracted sector partners. The work will be guided by an Advisory Circle and progress updates and lessons learned will be shared both externally and internally to ensure transparency throughout the process. • <i>Indigenous Community Safety Project (ICSP)</i> provides knowledge sharing to Indigenous leadership in Indigenous communities related to criminal justice, family justice and child protection laws, policies and practices that directly affect police and government responses to domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect. 	<p>Provincial Court. The goal of the TIP Project is to develop and deliver training, education and awareness curriculum to create trauma-informed justice, public safety and anti-violence community sectors in British Columbia. In 2016/17 the TIP Project activities included cross-sector trauma informed practice symposium (March 2017) and the first stage of development on TIP curriculum was started. For fiscal year 2017/18, the key TIP Project activity has focused on the development of online TIP curriculum for the justice, public safety and anti-violence community sectors. This new curriculum will enable personnel in these sectors to better recognize and understand trauma and its effects on victims and witnesses in order to have a clear understanding of how violence and abuse may shape victim responses.</p>	

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Detail #	Recommendation #3	Completed & Ongoing Actions	Planned Deliverables	Projected Dates
3.1	<p>Enhance IPV Data Access, Quality and Collaboration. By December 2017, PODV <i>Domestic Violence</i> will:</p> <p>Coordinate dialogue between the Office of the Chief Information Officer, justice and public safety sectors to clarify the legislative authorities for sharing of information between providers and service agencies to support victims of intimate partner violence and their children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inter-Ministry ADM Steering Committee On Information Sharing Initiative</i> formed in 2016 from 2015 Justice Summit recommendation to establish a Ministry-led steering committee to improve information sharing and coordination across family, domestic violence and child protection proceedings. • <i>Canadian Domestic Homicide Preventive Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPVP)</i> is a five year project funded by the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council to conduct research on domestic homicides in Canada; to identify protocols and strategies that will reduce risk; and to share this knowledge with the wider community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inter-Ministry Steering Committee on Information Sharing Initiative is working on the Justice Summit Recommendations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promote a culture of legal information sharing where family, domestic violence and/or child protection proceedings intersect; ○ develop the means to share key information where family , domestic violence and./or child protection proceedings intersect via database innovations and other information technology; ○ consider the feasibility of formal role specialization and/or coordination of process where family, domestic violence and child protection intersect. 	Fiscal 2017/18/19