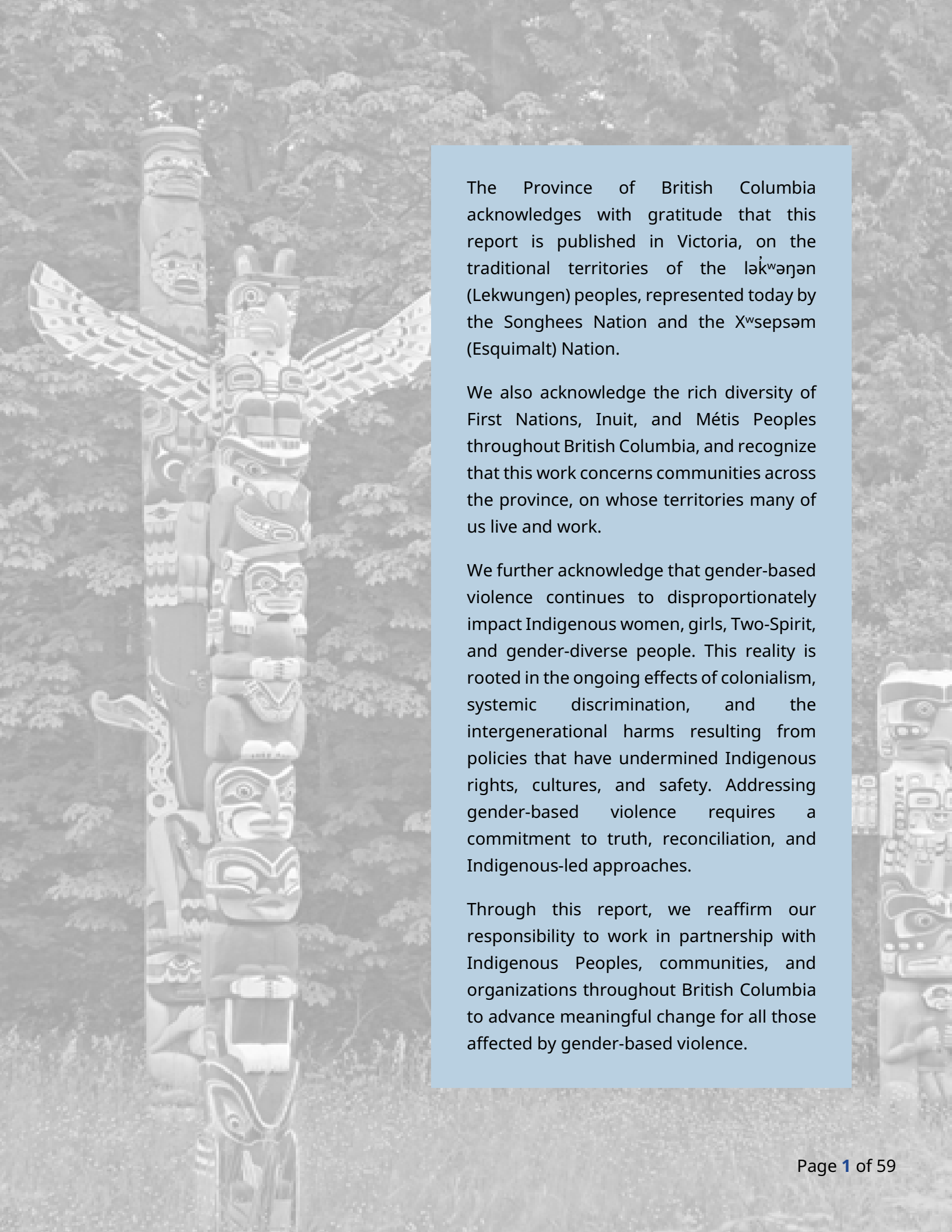


Transforming Justice Responses to Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence

The Stanton Report - British Columbia Legal
System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence
and Sexual Violence Summer Update
September 2026





The Province of British Columbia acknowledges with gratitude that this report is published in Victoria, on the traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən (Lekwungen) peoples, represented today by the Songhees Nation and the X̱wsep̓əm (Esquimalt) Nation.

We also acknowledge the rich diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples throughout British Columbia, and recognize that this work concerns communities across the province, on whose territories many of us live and work.

We further acknowledge that gender-based violence continues to disproportionately impact Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people. This reality is rooted in the ongoing effects of colonialism, systemic discrimination, and the intergenerational harms resulting from policies that have undermined Indigenous rights, cultures, and safety. Addressing gender-based violence requires a commitment to truth, reconciliation, and Indigenous-led approaches.

Through this report, we reaffirm our responsibility to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, communities, and organizations throughout British Columbia to advance meaningful change for all those affected by gender-based violence.

Contents

Statement from the Attorney General	3
Introduction.....	4
Vision and approach.....	5
Connected action plans and strategies	6
National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence	7
Navigating this report.....	9
Priority actions.....	10
Accountability mechanism.....	10
Provincial policy framework	13
Risk-related approaches	14
Work areas.....	18
Family law improvements.....	18
Civil law improvements.....	25
Criminal law improvements.....	28
Prevention	32
Victim and survivor supports	36
Monitoring and evaluation	40
Appendix A: Recommendations from the Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence	43
Appendix B: Recommendations from Our Time to Act; A Review of Intimate Partner Violence-Related Deaths in British Columbia, 2016–2024 (Death Review Panel Report)	57
Appendix C: Selection of justice system annual reports	59

Statement from the Attorney General



Over a year ago, Dr. Stanton provided government with her report on the treatment of victims and survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in British Columbia's legal system. In the report, Dr. Stanton proposed recommendations for how to effectively address and improve that treatment. Since then, we have been hard at work transforming the system to provide better support, safety and justice for victims and survivors.

I have committed to providing regular updates on the work we are doing in response to the recommendations. These updates are opportunities to keep you informed about our work to improve the way in which the legal system responds to intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

I share this update in the spirit of transparency and to highlight our coordinated, cross-government approach to tackling these persistent and systemic issues. Of course, there is still so much to do, but I am proud of the many advancements we have made so far. We have continued to strengthen crucial supports for families experiencing violence as they navigate separation and divorce, including supports available through legal aid services and family court support workers. We have also advanced civil law reforms that make it easier for victims to seek justice when intimate images are shared without consent. At the federal level, after years advocating for changes to the *Criminal Code*, we have recently seen many of those changes become law. The changes will help B.C. better protect victims and survivors of intimate-partner and sexual violence and address systemic delays. We also played a supporting role in the Supreme Court of Canada's recognition of the tort of intimate partner violence.

I look forward to continuing to make meaningful progress through legislation, policy and practical solutions. I am encouraged by the drive to come together to do this complex work in a way that is coordinated and centres the needs of the people accessing the system.

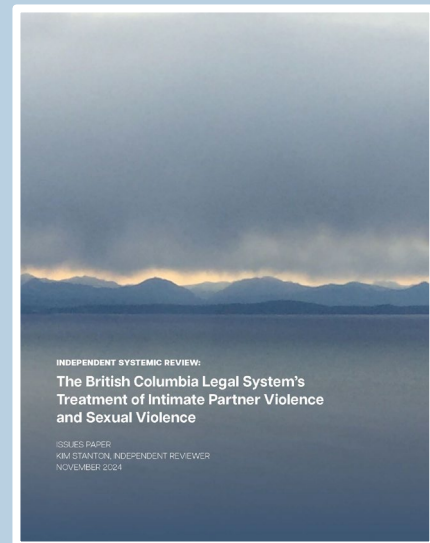
Introduction

In May 2024, the Attorney General appointed Dr. Kim Stanton to conduct an independent review of B.C.'s treatment of victims and survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV) in the legal system, and to propose improvements. Dr. Stanton released the [Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence](#) (the Stanton Report) in June 2025, and government provided [a previous update](#) in December 2025 (the Fall Update).

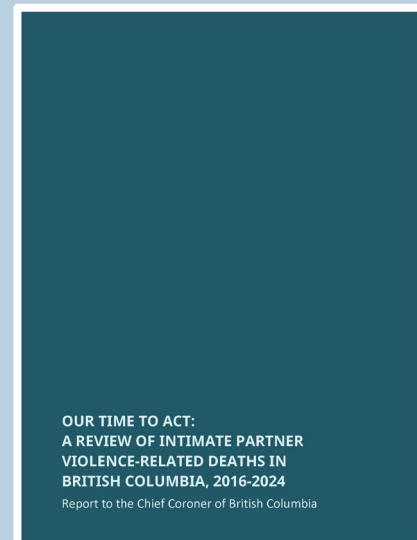
Now, just over one year since the completion of the review, government is providing a second update on progress related to our current priority actions: an accountability mechanism, and a provincial policy framework including risk related approaches to IPV. The report also provides an overview of actions themed under Key Work Areas: Family Law Improvements, Civil Law Improvements, Criminal Law Improvements, Prevention, Victim and Survivor Supports, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Under each theme, the report highlights related activities, progress across work that is complete, underway, and still to come, and intended impacts on people and the broader system. Together, these efforts advance the recommendations of the Stanton Report and other calls for change.

This update also serves to demonstrate how our work responding to the Stanton Report connects to other initiatives aimed at improving the experiences of survivors of IPV and SV. This update includes activities and initiatives that are responsive to the recent report from the BC Coroners Service, [Our Time to Act: A Review of Intimate Partner Violence-Related Deaths in British Columbia, 2016–2024](#) (Death Review Panel Report).



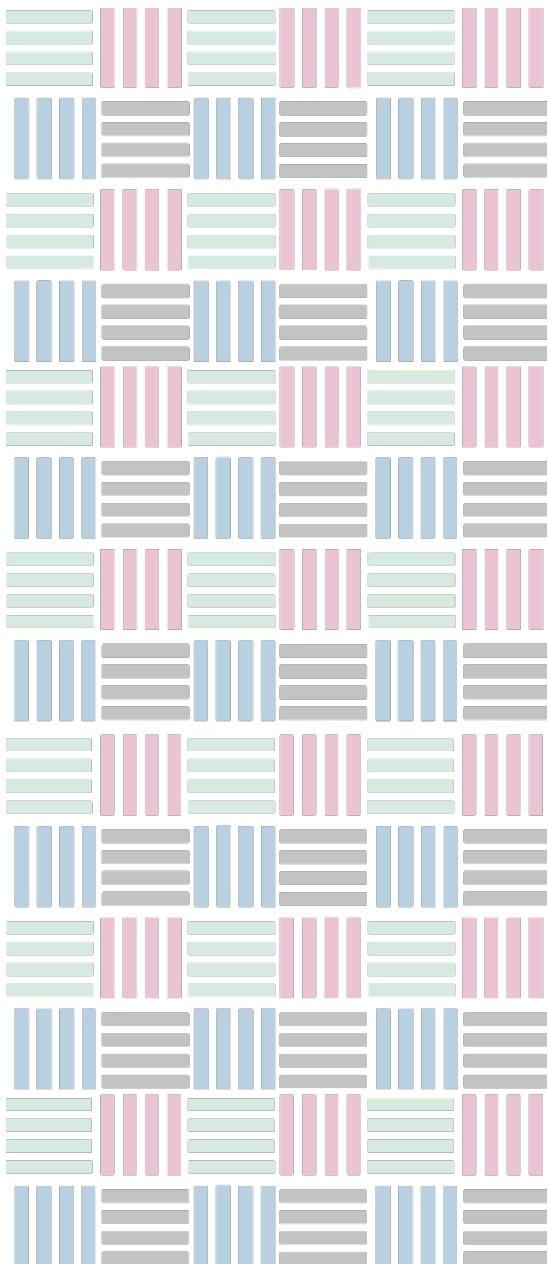
Stanton Report



Death Review Panel Report

► See [Appendix A](#) for a full list of recommendations and actions to date related to the Stanton Report.

► See [Appendix B](#) for a full list of recommendations and actions to date related to the Death Review Panel Report.



Vision and approach

The Ministry of Attorney General has a unique role in addressing IPV and SV in the justice system. This role cannot achieve full potential without the important work of other ministries and community and Indigenous partners. System change comes when we are maximizing our collective experience and expertise and working together to create a stronger, more coordinated system.

Our vision is a system that weaves together interrelated strategies, supports, and initiatives to close the gaps that too many people are falling through. This is achieved through a collaborative approach that brings government and community partners together to identify gaps, address barriers, and strengthen safety and trust in the justice system for individuals impacted by IPV and SV. Although achieving meaningful change will take time, important progress is already being made through both system-wide initiatives and practical actions across sectors.

Shared leadership, accountability, and coordination are essential to building on this momentum and creating lasting change. By aligning the important work underway across partners, we can build a stronger, more integrated system that prioritizes safety, stability, and accountability in addressing IPV and SV.

Connected action plans and strategies

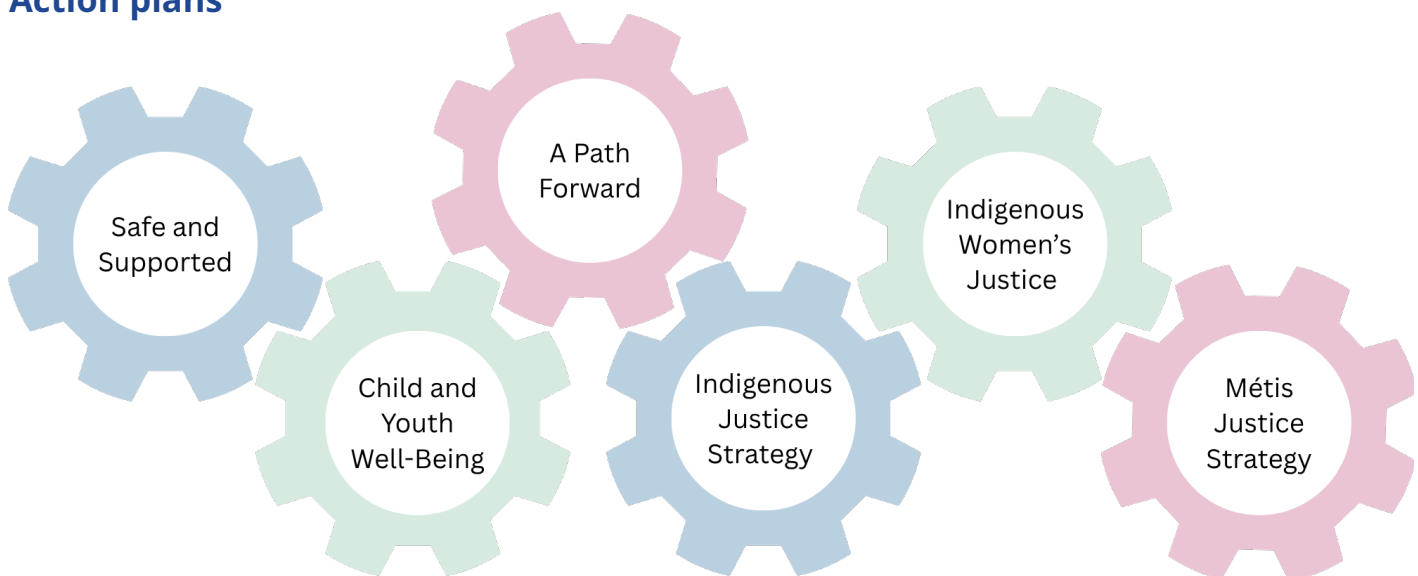
The Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office (GEO) continues to advance [Safe and Supported: B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan](#) and, through [National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence](#) funding, is supporting projects and initiatives to address not only intimate partner violence and sexual violence, but gender-based violence (GBV) more broadly.

With the release of the [Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework](#), the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is leading cross-ministry work to improve the outcomes for children and youth across the province, including preventing and responding to intimate partner, gender-based, and family violence.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) continues to fund and support a wide range of anti-violence services, programs, and initiatives as well as direct services. PSSG also leads the [Path Forward Impact Report](#) which was developed in 2021 to report annually on progress on the provincially relevant Calls for Justice included in Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (the Inquiry) and the 231 Calls for Justice.

Indigenous colleagues and partners are making significant strides with the [Indigenous Justice Strategy](#), the [Indigenous Women's Justice Plan](#), and the [Métis Justice Strategy](#). This includes seeking ways to align their ongoing work and priorities with the recommendations from the Stanton Report.

Action plans



National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence

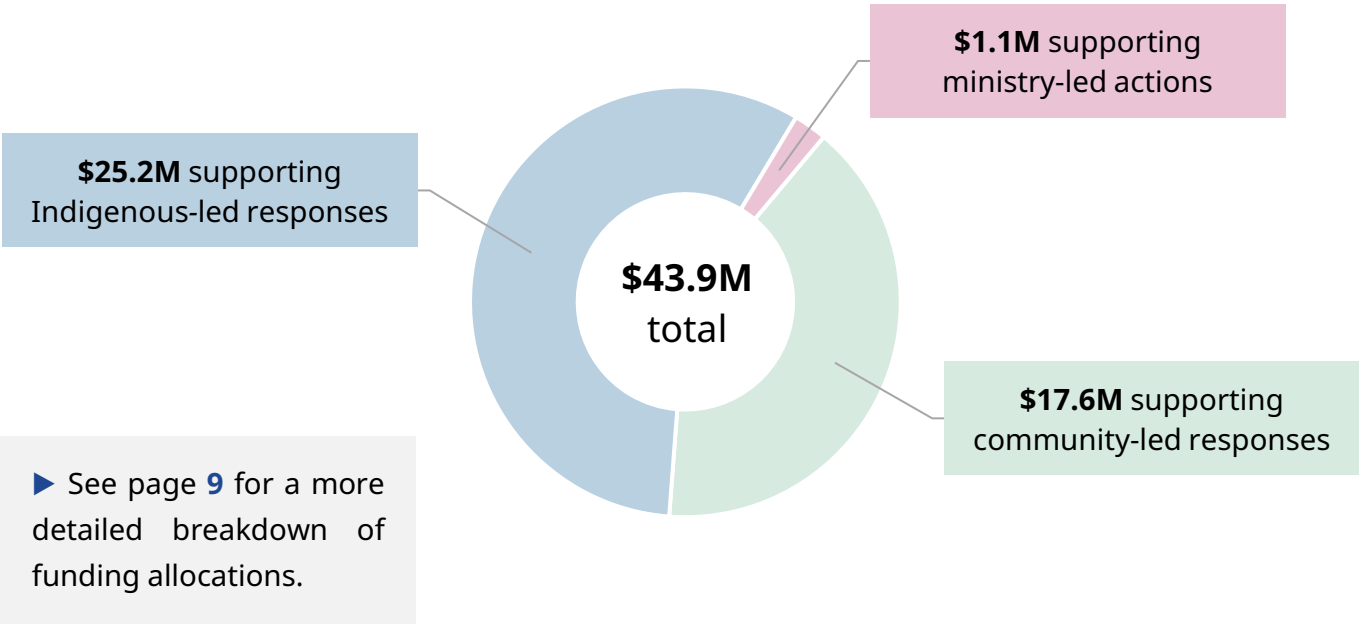
[Women and Gender Equity Canada](#) (WAGE) is responsible for the [National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence](#) (NAP).

Under the [Canada-British Columbia transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the NAP](#), the federal government has invested nearly \$62 million over four years to support the implementation of several key actions in Safe and Supported: B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan. In the first three years of NAP funding, more than \$25.2M (57%) is supporting Indigenous-led responses, almost \$17.6M (40%) is supporting community-led responses, and \$1.1M (2.5%) is supporting actions led by ministries. In the fourth year of the NAP agreement, a further \$11M will support Indigenous-led initiatives, \$6M will support community-led initiatives, and about \$1M will support ministry-led initiatives, including running an IPV public awareness and education campaign and a review of existing prevention services for people who use violence.

In July 2026, the federal government announced that it will renew its investment for an additional four years, providing continued opportunities to strengthen prevention efforts, expand access to supports, and promote healing and accountability for those affected by violence.

Several completed, ongoing, and still to do initiatives included in this update receive NAP funding.

NAP Y1-Y3 funding allocations



NAP Y1–Y3 funding allocations breakdown

\$25.2 million supporting Indigenous-led responses (57%)

- Supporting First Nations cultural practices and ceremony for healing and prevention
- Supporting Métis Nation BC's GBV programming
- Funding for Giving Voice grants for Indigenous-led community-driven healing
- Funding for BC First Nations Justice Council's Indigenous Women's Justice Plan, cultural competency training and Aunties Program
- Supporting the Path Forward Community Fund and Indigenous-led community programs

\$17.6 million supporting community-led responses (40%)

- Providing grants for victim services and violence against women programs and shelters and housing providers
- Supporting non-profit partners in Domestic Violence Units and the Counter Exploitation Unit
- Updating post-secondary sexual violence awareness campaign and accountability mechanisms
- Increasing access to Stopping the Violence counselling
- Expanding Violence is Preventable Program
- Enhancing for Domestic Violence Intervention Programs
- Developing GBV training for shelter and housing providers
- And more...

\$1.1 million supporting ministry-led actions (2.5%)

- Convening a Death Review Panel on IPV deaths
- Improving data collection systems
- Incorporating GBV awareness and mitigation in environmental assessment
- Evaluating Situation Tables and GBV
- And more...

Navigating this report

This report is structured to provide short updates on government’s priority actions, as well as some key work areas. For each action and area, the report will set out a short overview followed by progress report pages that include: links to recommendations, activities completed, underway and still to do, and anticipated impacts to individuals and the system.



Links

Each of our Priority Actions and Work Areas link to recommendations from the Stanton Report and the BC Coroner Service’s Death Review Panel Report. These connections will be shown using the icons below. Each icon uses colour to indicate the report and a number to indicate the specific recommendation.



Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence (Stanton Report)



Our Time to Act: A Review of Intimate Partner Violence-Related Deaths in British Columbia, 2016-2024 (Death Review Panel Report)

Priority actions

As outlined in the Fall Update, government has identified three priority actions: establishing an **accountability mechanism**, developing a provincial **policy framework**, and strengthening **risk-related approaches** within both family and criminal justice processes as part of that framework. These priorities are interconnected and are intended to work together to increase safety, transparency, coordination and accountability.

Accountability mechanism

An effective accountability mechanism requires a designated role responsible for the development, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of a government-wide strategic direction for the justice system's response to IPV and SV. This role should also be responsible for ensuring accountability to that strategic direction and to existing policy and legislation, including promoting alignment and compliance across relevant services and programs.

The objective of a government wide strategic direction is to guide the work of individuals and organizations responsible for addressing IPV and SV issues within the justice system. This direction is intended to drive long-term systemic improvements, including improved coordination across the system, reducing systemic barriers that impede access to justice, and strengthening interventions for people who use violence.

The Stanton Report emphasises that a lack of sustained internal accountability is a significant problem and major obstacle to meaningful change. It highlights that no government entity currently holds the responsibility or authority to guide long-term planning in this area or to develop a coordinated, government-wide policy focused on the justice system. It further notes that there is no mechanism to ensure effective accountability, alignment, or compliance with a shared strategic direction. The Stanton Report recommends the creation of an accountability mechanism that is internal to government with a strong mandate to lead efforts to meaningfully address IPV and SV in the justice system.

The Death Review Panel Report also speaks about the need for accountability and recommends a clear, transparent and measurable strategy that ensures a centrally coordinated provincial response to addressing intimate partner-related violence and deaths.

Government is working to establish and implement a new role to drive accountability across the justice system in response to IPV and SV. This role will have a mandate to develop a strategic plan, and to develop and maintain a provincial policy framework. The provincial policy framework will establish protocols, roles and responsibilities of justice system actors to improve the experience of survivors interacting with the justice system and support prevention initiatives that go beyond the justice sector. The goal is to have this role in place before the end of the year.



Progress update

Priority action: accountability mechanism

The Ministry of Attorney General is establishing a new role with a responsibility for justice system accountability including:

- Developing and maintaining a long-term strategic direction for systemic change in the way the justice system responds to IPV and SV
- Developing and maintaining a comprehensive provincial policy framework which will guide justice system actors in supporting victims and perpetrators of IPV and SV
- Monitoring impact and compliance with the strategic direction and provincial policy
- Releasing periodic reports



Activities

Complete:

- Model development

Ongoing:

- Consultations with internal justice system partners to ensure support for implementation

Still to do:

- Implementation
- Develop strategic direction
- Develop provincial policy



Impacts on people

- Creates better access to justice by helping to identify and address systemic barriers that make it difficult for survivors to report violence, access supports, or participate in the justice process.
- A government-wide approach may increase coordination and reduce differences in how survivors and people who use violence are treated across regions, programs, or agencies.



Progress update

Priority action: accountability mechanism



Impacts on system

- Improved collaboration: Organizations that respond to IPV and SV will have clearer frameworks for sharing information, coordinating services, and measuring outcomes.
- Improved transparency and accountability: Organizations and ministry programs will be expected to demonstrate how they align with strategic direction and government-wide policy.



Links

S2

S9

C1

Provincial policy framework

The justice system's response to IPV and SV is shaped by policies, protocols, and operational practices across multiple sectors and agencies. When these policies are clear, coordinated, and consistently applied, they help create safer, more effective responses for individuals impacted by IPV and SV.

To strengthen this foundation, government is developing a provincial policy framework (policy framework) for IPV and SV. This policy framework will include an IPV policy, a SV policy, more explicit consideration of children youth, and supporting sector-specific guidance that together will provide consistent direction across the justice system.

The policy framework is intended to support more coordinated, accountable, and survivor-centred responses. By clarifying roles and responsibilities, promoting collaboration, and reducing service gaps, it can help ensure survivors receive consistent support and do not have to navigate complex systems on their own. Clear policy direction can improve safety, strengthen accountability, and contribute to more positive experiences with the justice system.

The policy framework recognizes that experiences of violence and access to justice are shaped by intersecting factors such as Indigenous identity, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, immigration status, income, and geography. Embedding this understanding into the policy framework supports more equitable and responsive services for diverse communities across British Columbia.

While the policy framework provides an important foundation, consistent, effective responses also depend on effective collaboration across sectors, communities, and regions. For this reason, development of the policy framework is being supported by complementary efforts to build and strengthen local, regional, and provincial coordination infrastructure, enhance cross-sector partnerships, and improve mechanisms for ongoing collaboration, information sharing, and

Did you know?

B.C. has been a leader in coordinated responses to IPV for more than 30 years. The first Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy was introduced in 1993, building on the 1986 Wife Assault Policy.

The Provincial Policy Framework is grounded in that strong foundation and continues to centre safety, coordination, and risk-informed practice while incorporating current evidence and violence-and-trauma-informed approaches.

This work also recognizes the leadership of the feminist anti-violence movement (and the contributions of survivors) whose advocacy, expertise and lived experience have shaped IPV response for decades.

accountability. These efforts will help to translate policy into practice and support more seamless and consistent experiences for individuals impacted by IPV and SV, regardless of where they seek support.

The policy framework will be implemented under the Accountability Mechanism, which will support monitoring, accountability, and iterative learning to ensure consistent and sustainable implementation.

Risk-related approaches

The third priority action relates to the policy framework. It involves supporting enhanced coordination infrastructure to strengthen risk-related approaches at every stage of the process, and ensure responses are timely, appropriate, and based on a shared understanding of survivor safety. Better coordination will help justice system actors identify risks earlier, respond more consistently, and take proactive steps to prevent harm from escalating, while reducing the burden on survivors during times of crisis.

These three priority actions place safety front and centre in the justice system's response to IPV and SV. Together they establish a clear and directive vision to guide the work of all justice system actors, while creating a dedicated role responsible for advancing coordination, monitoring progress, and promoting accountability. Collectively, they will form the foundation for future actions as we continue to improve the system in both large and small ways.

Fitting the priority actions together

The three priority actions work together to create a system with clear direction and defined responsibilities, and effective risk identification and management. These actions are supported by an entity with clear accountability for ensuring the system meets its objectives and serves the needs of those who rely on it for safety and stability.

A word on training

A successful policy framework requires strong implementation and training. Meaningful accountability starts with justice system actors having the training necessary to do the work the right way.

The Stanton Report recommends strengthening the system wide framework for education and training of institutional actors on topics including the causes and dynamics of GBV, unconscious bias, and the elements of effective trauma-informed practice. The report indicates that a training framework should be included in the IPV policy.

The policy framework is under development, and training, and implementation will be crucial to its success.

Meanwhile several government and non-government actors are reviewing and updating training programs.

Through federal Department of Justice Victims of Crime funding, Public Safety and Solicitor General's Community Safety and Victim Services provides Trauma Informed Practice training that is accessible to justice system partners through the Canadian Police Knowledge Network (online) and the Justice Institute of BC (in person).

NAP funds have enabled the Ministry of Attorney General to support the BC First Nations Justice Council to develop and implement Indigenous cultural competency training for police and to support future GBV training specific to Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people for justice system actors.

S4

S10

C3



Progress update

Priority action: policy framework and risk-related approaches

The policy framework will strengthen coordination, accountability, and consistency across the justice system. The framework will clarify roles and responsibilities, improve information sharing, reduce service gaps, and create clearer pathways for individuals impacted by IPV and SV.

Guided by an intersectional approach, it will support more equitable, culturally safe, and responsive services.

The policy framework will also strengthen risk-informed approaches across the justice system by enhancing risk review and management processes, enabling earlier identification of safety concerns and more coordinated, proactive interventions to improve survivor safety and reduce further harm.



Activities

Complete:

- Risk-related approaches roundtable 1
- Ad hoc regional conversations in northern and remote communities

Ongoing:

- Release policy intentions paper for engagement and feedback on a renewed Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) Policy
- Host Risk-related approaches roundtable 2 focusing on gaps and solutions

Still to do:

- Further regional and topic specific roundtable conversations Finalize IPV policy
- Implement IPV policy
- Develop SV policy
- Implement SV policy



Progress update

Priority action: policy framework and risk-related approaches



Impacts on people

- Enhances survivor safety through earlier identification, assessment, and proactive management of risk, supported by coordinated, timely, and effective responses across the system.
- Advances more equitable and culturally responsive approaches across the justice system by recognizing and addressing the diverse realities and needs of individuals impacted by IPV and SV.



Impacts on system

- Establishes clear roles, responsibilities, and response expectations across the justice system, supporting a shared understanding of accountabilities, decision-making, and actions required at each stage of an individual's interaction with the justice system.
- Reduces service gaps by strengthening connections between programs and systems, while establishing consistent and coordinated processes that minimize duplication and support seamless service pathways.



Links

S4

S9

S14

S15

S16

S17

S18

C1

Work areas

Did you know?

The Ministry of Attorney General has done extensive consultation and engagement on the anticipated *Family Law Act* changes. You can review the Intentions Paper and learn more about what led to these changes online.

Some anticipated changes relating to family violence and protection orders include:

- Updating the definition of family violence to explicitly recognize coercive control, economic and financial abuse, technology-facilitated abuse, and litigation abuse;
- Expanding eligibility for protection orders to include additional family and intimate relationships;
- Adding further examples of risk factors that courts must consider in protection order applications;
- Reducing the burden on survivors seeking subsequent protection orders by extending the default duration of protection orders and creating a presumption in favour of granting a subsequent order where risk remains; and
- Emphasizing that parenting and contact arrangements must prioritize the safety of children and family members where family violence is present.

Family law improvements

The Stanton Report acknowledges several family law related projects that were underway at the time of the Stanton review and makes several observations and recommendations relating to family law. Family law has been identified as a significant work area for the purposes of this report.

Family Law Act

As part of Phase 2 of the *Family Law Act* Modernization Project, the Ministry is advancing legislative changes to strengthen protections for survivors of family violence.

These proposed changes are consistent with recommendations in the Stanton Report, which highlight the need to improve survivors' experiences within the family justice system despite the strong legislative framework already in place.

Supreme Court and Provincial Court processes

The Stanton Report makes additional recommendations and findings relating to family justice that include changes to Supreme Court and Provincial Court rules and other court practices that will alleviate challenges faced by individuals impacted by IPV who are engaged in family law matters.

The Ministry of Attorney General is working with the Provincial Court and Supreme Court on a number of initiatives and adjustments to improve processes, reduce barriers, and better support people as they navigate the justice system

Family legal aid

The Stanton Report also recommended expanding the scope and funding of legal aid for IPV and SV survivors to cover family law services.

In June 2026, Legal Aid BC announced they are transitioning from virtual Family Law Centre (FLC) services in Prince George and Kamloops to in-person services. With new staff, and increased overall capacity, the in-person offices will bring more equitable access to legal services in northern B.C. and the Interior. The new locations are expected to open in late summer 2026.

In addition to opening two new in-person locations, eligibility for services is also being updated. As of June 22, 2026, the list of eligible legal issues has been revised to include parenting arrangements. The FLCs will provide services until they reach capacity, prioritizing clients who live in designated catchment areas and who have fled their abusive partner within the past six months.

Did you know?

In December 2024, Legal Aid BC opened two multidisciplinary Family Law Centres (FLCs) in Surrey and Victoria, which provide services for survivors of family violence to help stabilize their legal and non-legal issues. The FLCs provide in-person services in Surrey and Victoria and provide virtual and mobile services in other communities throughout B.C. In the first full year of operation, the FLCs served 333 clients.

Legal Aid BC also introduced Family Legal Aid Expansion (FLAE) hours in 2024, an additional 25 General Preparation hours for eligible clients experiencing family violence who have a standard representation contract.

To increase access to family legal aid services, the income threshold for eligibility for family law clients was also adjusted on April 1, 2026.

Legal Aid BC also delivers Expanded Family Duty Counsel services as part of the supports available through the Provincial Court Early Resolution Process now available across B.C.

A word on protection orders

Changes to the *Family Law Act* are only one way that we are working to improve the way that protection orders are accessed, understood, and enforced. We continue to hear that, despite the promise of B.C.'s protection order regime, these powerful tools do not always live up to their potential. Improvements to protection orders whether through legislation, processes, or practical implementation solutions is a work area that will be a key focus of the incoming accountability mechanism. Some specific items for improvement include:

- Exploring ways to better support people through the protection order court process
- Making it clearer when protection orders are in force and when they expire
- Improving access to protection orders by law enforcement
- Improving timely and consistent access to protection orders across the province

S10

S12

S13

A word on harmful myths and stereotypes in family law

The Stanton Report recommended that the government design law reforms in civil (including family) and administrative law matters regarding IPV and SV to mirror the protections in criminal law against the improper application of myths and stereotypes.

To protect against the improper use of myths and stereotypes in legal matters there needs to be restrictions on the admissibility of evidence that tries to put in doubt the credibility of a survivor of IPV and SV based on whether and how they chose to address the violence.

Limiting the application of myths and stereotypes within the justice system reduces barriers to survivors being believed about the existence and effects of IPV and SV, ensures the justice system considers only relevant factors when assessing the impacts of violence on survivors, and is a step towards increasing trust in the justice system's response to IPV and SV.

Government is considering the issue and working on possible recommendations for legislative changes that would help ensure that family violence allegations are assessed fairly and not based on common myths or stereotypes. This includes consideration of ways to prevent decision-makers from relying on factors such as a person's sexual history, not speaking up or reporting the abuse right away, delaying seeking help, or staying in a relationship with the person who caused harm.

S11



Progress update

Work area: family law improvements

Family law improvements include policy, legislation, process, and service changes. Family law continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of families and to advance systemic and practical solutions that increase safety, stability, and meaningful access to justice for those families that need it.



Activities

Complete:

- Phase 1 *Family Law Act* Modernization
- Consultation on *Family Law Act* Modernization Phase 2
- Eligibility criteria for FLC and FLAE services expanded
- Expanded Family Duty Counsel services for Provincial Court Early Resolution Process
- Expanded notification when protection orders are issued

Ongoing:

- Introduce *Family Law Act* changes at earliest opportunity
- Continue to work on process changes with Provincial and Supreme Court
- Continue to advance practical changes to protection order regime
- Transition from virtual Family Law Centres services in Prince George and Kamloops to in-person services
- Continued engagement with Rise Women's Legal Centre (Rise) on courthouse infrastructure improvements. Following Rise's 2022 recommendations, Rise conducted a 2025–2026 comprehensive assessment and pilot phase was undertaken to identify and test practical solutions at selected court locations.
- We also recently introduced a new virtual counter service, which connects people with court registry staff remotely, reducing the volume of in-person visits and helping prevent matters from being filed through the wrong channels.



Progress update

Work area: family law improvements



Activities (continued)

Still to do:

- Develop regulations associated with *Family Law Act* Modernization Phase 2 changes
- Continue *Family Law Act* Modernization with Phase 3
- Review findings of Rise's report on pilot results.



Impacts on people

- Improves safety and access to justice for survivors by recognizing more forms of family violence and expanding access to protection orders.
- Better protects children and families by prioritizing safety in parenting and contact arrangements.
- More people in underserved regions of the province can navigate the family justice system with legal support through new in-person Family Law Centres, increased service capacity, and higher income eligibility thresholds.



Progress update

Work area: family law improvements



Impacts on system

- Strengthens the family justice system through clearer legislative guidance on family violence and risk assessment.
- Supports more consistent and trauma-informed decision-making by courts and justice professionals.
- Strengthens the family justice and legal aid system by shifting from virtual to in-person service delivery in underserved regions and increasing overall service capacity.



Links

S10

S12

S13

S19

S20

Civil law improvements

The Stanton Report makes several observations and recommendations regarding civil law. It references the *Intimate Images Protection Act* and Intimate Images Protection Service as positive steps in supporting people who have had their intimate images shared without their consent, including emotional support and resources, legal information, assistance with applications for Intimate Images Protection Orders, and service of those orders. When setting out elements for inclusion in a renewed policy framework, the Stanton Report recommends including intimate images protection and exploring ways to prevent the misuse of nondisclosure agreements. The Stanton Report also references what was, at the time, the pending Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) case regarding creating a new tort of family violence.

Did you know?

The *Intimate Images Protection Act* came into force and the Intimate Images Protection Services was established in 2024 in B.C.

The Intimate Images Protection Service provides coordinated support to people in B.C. who have had someone share (or threaten to share) their intimate images without their consent.

More information is available [online](#).

B.C. has seen advancements in these areas since the release of the Stanton Report and continues to explore ways that the civil justice system can better address IPV and SV.

Did you know?

The Supreme Court of Canada recently established a new civil law tort claim of intimate partner violence in the case of *Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia*, 2026 SCC 16. The Minister of Attorney General had the privilege of intervening in the case, alongside many anti-violence organizations from across B.C., to support the new tort.

The decision not only highlights the serious and unique harms of intimate partner violence and coercive control but also provides survivors with a way to seek compensation from their abuser for such harms.

The Ministry is monitoring IPV tort claim cases and will engage with its Federal, Provincial and Territorial partners to discuss any issues that may arise as a result of the new claim and its impact on survivors and on the justice system.



Progress update

Work area: civil law improvements

Just as with family and criminal law improvements, it is important to ensure that accessible and meaningful civil law tools are available to those who have experienced violence and that those tools continue to meet the needs of those accessing the system.



Activities

Complete:

- The SCC decision establishing a new tort of family violence
- Increasing the amount of damages a survivor can claim through the online Civil Resolution Tribunal to \$75,000 from the previous limit of \$5,000

Ongoing:

- Review and monitoring of legal, policy, and process changes required to facilitate access to the new family violence tort
- Consultation and exploration of ways to prevent the misuse of non-disclosure agreements in B.C.

Still to do:

- Consider further protections against improper use of myths and stereotypes in civil law processes



Impacts on people

- Continuous improvement of the justice system increases safety and stability for the people accessing it.
- Ensuring people have choice in how they access the justice system after experiencing IPV or SV helps them obtain the appropriate support, services, and closure that best meet their needs.



Progress update

Work area: civil law improvements



Impacts on system

- Justice systems that are responsive and accessible increase public trust and confidence, which in turn enhances safety and stability for those who rely on it.



Links

S9

S10

S11

S19

S21

Criminal law improvements

The Stanton Report includes recommendations relating to criminal law improvements, including those relating to policing, Crown counsel, and the judiciary. The Report makes clear the importance of respecting the independence of these vital justice system actors. It is also important to underscore that changes relating to the *Criminal Code* are the responsibility of the federal government.

British Columbia has played a national leadership role in identifying gaps in the *Criminal Code* and advocating for federal reforms to strengthen public safety and protect victims. The Province has consistently pressed the federal government for stronger tools to address repeat and violent offending, intimate-partner violence, extortion and other serious crimes. This advocacy contributed to the passage of the federal Bill C-14, the *Bail and Sentencing Reform Act*, which received Royal Assent in June 2026 and includes reforms B.C. had identified as priorities, including stronger reverse-onus bail provisions and measures addressing repeat offending.

In the summer of 2026, the federal government made a number of amendments to the *Criminal Code* that have direct impact on criminal justice in B.C. Policing, Crown, and Courts all have a role to play in the implementation and application of those changes. Some recent *Criminal Code* changes include:

- Bill C-14, the *Bail and Sentencing Reform Act* - In cases involving choking, suffocation, or strangulation, the burden is now on the accused to justify whether they should be released on bail, rather than on prosecutors to argue for detention. The burden will shift to the offender to justify their continued release if they are convicted and awaiting sentencing and Crown Counsel seeks revocation of their bail.
- Bill C-16 and Bill C-255 – Elevating murders linked to coercive control, sexual violence, or exploitation to first-degree murder, and strengthening how the justice system responds to victims.

Did you know?

In British Columbia, police services follow binding [provincial policing standards](#) on various topics, which are available online.

The BC Prosecution Service also makes the [Crown Counsel Policy Manual](#) available online.

Taken together, these recent advances at the federal level through Bill C-14, Bill C-16 and Bill C-225 demonstrate the tangible results of B.C.'s sustained advocacy with the federal government. B.C. continues to identify specific gaps in the criminal law, bring forward practical legislative solutions, and successfully advocate for changes that are now part of Canada's *Criminal Code*.

A word about restorative and transformative justice

Traditionally the terms restorative and transformative justice both refer to alternatives to punitive systems by focusing on repairing harm, fostering accountability, and addressing root causes of conflict.

Restorative justice is an approach to justice that seeks to repair harm by providing an opportunity for those harmed and those who take responsibility for the harm to communicate about and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime. It emphasizes healing interpersonal harm through voluntary dialogue. Restorative justice is often seen as an alternative or diversionary process: an option to avoid the criminal justice system.

Restorative approaches to justice are about creating new pathways to addressing GBV that would be transformative of the context, causes, and conditions of violence.

Transformative justice seeks to change the systemic, economic, or social structures that enabled the harmful behavior in the first place. Part of transformative justice is a further need to address the harm that is exacerbated or inflicted by the system itself as people are accessing it.

The Stanton Report speaks about restorative justice and restorative approaches to justice and called for a working group to further explore the use of these responses to IPV and SV. B.C. currently participated in restorative justice working groups and funds a number of restorative justice programs, including in response to power-based crimes like IPV and SV. Typically, these programs are seen as alternatives to or diversion away from the criminal justice system.

There is an interest in exploring ways in which we can support effective alternative processes and work to improve the ways that the criminal justice system addresses IPV and SV.

The ideal state is a system that provides meaningful options to victims and survivors of IPV and SV. Advancements in restorative justice, restorative approaches, and transformative justice – taken together – create a comprehensive system that meets the dynamic and complex needs of people impacted by, or who use, these types of violence.

In order to provide safety, stability, and meaningful choice the public must trust that

- accessing the legal system is a safe option for victims and survivors
- interventions are evidence based and focused on safety, accountability, and behavioral change
- victims and survivors have appropriate agency and choice while respecting the fundamental principles of justice

The goal is not to decriminalize IPV and SV – it is to build trust that the system is able to meet the varied and complex needs of the people who engage with it.



Progress update

Work area: criminal law improvements

The BC Prosecution Service is continually reviewing its policies and practices to ensure they accurately reflect developments in Canadian criminal law, respond appropriately to emerging issues or community needs including scientific developments, and reasonably balance individual rights and the public interest.



Activities

Complete:

- On July 17, 2026, the BC Prosecution Service published updates to the [Intimate Partner Violence](#) (IPV 1) and [Sexual Offences](#) (SEX 1) policies (and six other policies) to reflect amendments to the *Criminal Code*, and released a [media statement](#) to explain the revisions.
- BC Prosecution Service updated its policy to expand guidance on testimonial accommodations, publication bans, and the sharing of information with victims.
- On May 5, 2026, the BC Prosecution Service published an updated [Victims of Crime](#) (VIC 1) policy and released a [media statement](#) to explain the revisions.

Ongoing:

- BC Prosecution Service will continue to monitor and review its policies on an ongoing basis.
- Policing and Security Branch engages policing, community, and subject matter experts when updating provincial standards and training.

Still to do:

- Continue to work with justice system actors in the criminal law sector to identify areas for improvement.



Impacts on people

- Improved victim engagement in the prosecutorial process



Progress update

Work area: criminal law improvements



Impacts on system

- Promotes principled prosecutorial decision making and independent, fair, and effective prosecutions
- Promotes public safety
- Increases public confidence in the rule of law and in prosecutions.



Links

S14

S15

S16

S17

S18

S21

Prevention

Public awareness and education

The Stanton Report recommends that the government prioritize prevention initiatives—including public education, youth education, services for people who use violence, and training for institutional actors—to reduce GBV before it escalates to legal-system involvement. It further recommends investing in quality, accredited programs for men who use violence as a cost-effective prevention measure that can reduce future harm and lower the long-term social and financial costs of responding to violence.

NAP funds have been used to expand programs, such as the Violence is Preventable program that brings counsellors to schools to deliver presentations about intimate-partner violence, and connects to counsellors any K-12 students experiencing or witnessing violence.

Did you know?

Under the Canada-British Columbia transfer payment agreement on the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to End Gender-based Violence, the federal government has invested nearly \$62 million over four years to support the implementation of several key actions in Safe and Supported: B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, including prevention initiatives.

NAP funds also supported development of a sexual violence awareness [campaign](#) for the post-secondary sector that will be launched in fall 2026. This post-secondary adaptation of Be More Than a Bystander provides post-secondary institutions, students, and student associations information and practical tools to recognize and interrupt sexual violence. The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills also runs awareness campaigns at post-secondary institutions and annually acknowledges the third week in September as Consent Awareness Week.

In the coming year, federal funds will also be used to support the development of a cross sectoral IPV public education and awareness campaign led by the Ministry of Attorney General.

Programs for people who use violence

A core part of prevention is promoting accountability, behavioral change, and healing for people who have used violence.

Did you know?

The Civil Forfeiture Grant Program provides one-time funding to support community safety related initiatives across the province. Since the program's inception, over \$100 million in funding has been awarded to support community-based projects across B.C. Funding is allocated through streams chosen on an annual basis that align with ministry priorities.

The Domestic Violence Prevention / Intervention Programming (DVPIP) funding stream provides one-time grants to support the direct delivery of group programming to individuals who commit violence in intimate partner relationships. Programming is delivered prior to the charge, conviction, or sentencing stage of the criminal justice system. In 2025/26, 13 projects were funded for a total of \$510,669.

NAP funding and one-time grant funding under the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program's Domestic Violence Prevention/Intervention Programming (DVPIP) are expanding the reach of domestic violence intervention programs delivered by community partners across B.C. In the case of NAP funding, this funding is helping to reduce wait times and improve access to services for fathers, ensuring they receive timely support to stop abusive behaviours and foster safer family environments. The DVPIP funding stream of the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program supports the delivery of programming prior to the charge, conviction, or sentencing stage of the criminal justice process. These initiatives can include programming for non-offending parents and culturally specific supports and aim to enhance the safety and wellbeing of victims who have experienced, or are at-risk of experiencing, domestic violence.

BC Corrections' correctional and probation officers deliver the Respectful Relationships (RR) program to men convicted of intimate partner violence in custody or under community supervision. RR is a two-part program that helps individuals identify abusive behaviour, understand its harmful impact, and learn how to avoid it in relationships. The program is delivered to high- and medium-risk men based on their individual risk and needs assessment.



Progress update

Work area: prevention

IPV and SV prevention measures may take different forms and use different strategies, but they all aim to prevent violence and create safer, healthier communities. These measures range from public education and awareness initiatives to early intervention behavioral change, risk reduction, and support services.



Activities

Complete:

- MCFD expanded domestic violence intervention programs
- The Civil Forfeiture Grant Program provided \$510,669 in funding to 13 DVPIP projects cross-province in 2025/26.

Ongoing:

- Several programs, services, and initiatives are expected to utilize National Action Plan funding in support of prevention and public awareness projects.
- Continue to expand the BC Society of Transition Houses' Violence is Preventable (VIP) school-based prevention program for children and youth
- SV public awareness campaigns for the post-secondary sector.

Still to do:

- Development of a cross sectoral public awareness IPV public education and awareness campaign
- Conduct a review of behavioral change programs for people who use violence, in particular exploring best practices for voluntary or self referral programs.
- Support a victim services worker to accompany Surrey Police on presentation to schools regarding exploitation and assault, and support youth who thereafter disclose
- Review existing prevention services for people who use violence



Progress update

Work area: prevention



Impacts on people

- Increased knowledge and awareness of healthy relationships, consent, and warning signs of intimate partner violence and sexual violence help people recognize and intervene early, provide people with tools and pathways to support, and destigmatize asking for help
- Timely prevention supports stop abusive behaviours and foster safer family environments



Impacts on system

- Increasing understanding of the harmful impacts of violence in relationships and providing tools for how to avoid it in relationships help people prevent violence before it happens reducing the need for them to access the system



Links

S4

C4

C5

Victim and survivor supports

The Stanton Report makes several recommendations regarding services for victims and survivors including: providing stable core funding to anti-violence organizations so they can hire, retain, and train community-based support workers, ensuring access to support services throughout both the criminal and family law systems, making enhancements to coordination at the local and regional level, and wrap around supports like the Child and Youth Advocacy Centres, Indigenous Justice Centres, and Family Law Centres. There is significant overlap between services for victims and survivors and the to be developed? New provincial policy framework.

The first three years of federal NAP funding have supported community-based domestic violence units (DUVs) to offer more than 1,700 additional clients quicker service, counselling, and rental subsidies. NAP funding has also helped to increase virtual and in-person counselling capacity of *Stopping the Violence Counselling* programs across B.C., making services more accessible to under-served communities, including the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, seniors and people with disabilities, and in rural and remote regions of B.C. In the coming year, NAP funds will continue to be used to address critical waitlists and to increase access to in-person and virtual counselling for underserved communities.

Did you know?

PSSG currently provides over \$60 million annually in funding to support more than 475 victim service and violence against women programs across the province, including funding since 2023 for 70 sexual assault services programs and five sexual assault centres.

PSSG also provides \$641,416.23 in annual funding to Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) to support community-based responses to violence and improve community safety. This funding enables EVA BC to provide training, operational support, and best practice guidance to existing Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs) and Violence Against Women in Relationships/Violent Incident Response initiatives (VAWIR/VIRs), assist communities in establishing new ICATs, collaborate with government and community partners to address barriers to safety, and deliver the Community Coordination for Survivor Safety (CCSS) program, including community support, information sharing, and sector coordination activities.

In addition, PSSG provides \$1,315,082.03 in stable, ongoing funding for nine Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) across the province. DVUs are specialized teams of community-based victim service workers, child protection workers, and police officers who work together to coordinate responses when the risk of violence is high.

The Ministry of Attorney General's Justice Services Branch (JSB) has identified funds to support the continuation of the Safe Supports project through to 2028. In the coming year, NAP funds will also support expansion of the Safe Supports program to increase access to family court support workers for survivors living in rural and remote regions of the province.

Renewed federal funding will continue to support Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society to enhance their crisis lines, which provide 24-hour provincewide, comprehensive, specialized gender-based violence supports, including risk assessments and immediate safety planning.

The province is doubling the number of women's transition housing spaces to 3,000, with 1,508 units for women and children fleeing violence delivered or underway as of March 31, 2026. And with NAP funding, BC Housing has supported development of new training to support shelter, housing and homelessness service providers to identify and address GBV, with particular attention to the higher risks faced by Indigenous women and the connection between GBV and brain injuries. NAP funds also supported 90 non-profit providers of women's shelters and transition housing with grants to purchase needed furniture and supplies, make accessibility upgrades, and support survivors' financial independence.



Progress update

Work area: victim and survivor supports

Trusted, early intervention and ongoing support are critical to improving survivors' experiences and outcomes across the family and criminal justice systems. Access to consistent, knowledgeable, and timely support can make a significant difference to survivors as they navigate some of the most difficult and high-risk periods of their lives. This need is particularly prevalent in rural, remote, and northern communities, where specialized services may be limited or unavailable, creating additional barriers to safety, support, and access to justice.



Activities

Complete:

- Annual funding of over \$60 million in to support more than 475 victim service and violence against women programs across the province, including funding since 2023
- New GBV training for 70 sexual assault services, shelter, housing and homelessness service providers, and capacity grants to women's shelters and transition housing programs and five sexual assault centres.

Ongoing:

- Address critical waitlists and increase access to in-person and virtual counselling for underserved communities
- Expansion of the Safe Supports program to increase access to family court support works for survivors living in rural and remote regions of the province
- Further support Child and Youth Advocacy Centres
- Continued support for the Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre and the Indian Residential School Survivors Society's 24 hour crisis lines
- Doubling the number of women's transition housing spaces to 3,000

Still to do:

- Explore enhancements to coordination initiatives at the local and regional level
- Continue to identify ways to advance this work area



Progress update

Work area: victim and survivor supports



Impacts on people

- Survivors experience improved safety, wellbeing, and access to justice when they receive trusted, timely, and ongoing support throughout family and criminal justice processes, particularly during high-risk periods



Impacts on system

- Stable funding for anti-violence organizations, victim services, and community-based support workers strengthens service capacity, workforce retention, and the continuity of support across the justice system
- Ongoing investment in collaborative mechanisms improves coordination, information sharing, and cross-sector responses to IPV and SV
- Investing in training and capacity building strengthens the ability of service providers to effectively support victims and survivors



Links

S5

S6

S9

S10

S10

S13

S15

S18

S19

S20

S21

Monitoring and evaluation

The Stanton Report makes several specific recommendations relating to monitoring and evaluation including the development of a broad and collaborative GBV data strategy and the establishment of a standing death review panel.

Monitoring and evaluation are essential components of all system change work. And the Stanton Report calls them “essential but often neglected forms of accountability” (p. 160). We need to be clear on what we are trying to achieve and understand how we are progressing. We also need to organize ourselves in a way that enables us to adapt to continuously meet the needs of the people who rely on the systems.

Monitoring and evaluation includes assessments of specific programs and initiatives. Monitoring and evaluation also includes ensuring justice sector actors are providing insight into their operations.

Did you know?

Most B.C. justice system organizations publish annual reports that provide valuable information on their operations, performance, priorities, and outcomes. These reports are an important tool in increasing transparency and accountability.

► See [Appendix C](#) for more information.

Currently, work is underway on a Provincial Gender-Based Violence Data Project which is a multi-year, phased project, led by the Ministry of Finance’s Gender Equity Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Citizens’ Services’ Data Innovation Program and additional ministry and external partners. The project goal is to integrate and analyze multiple administrative datasets that contain GBV-related data to improve understanding of service utilization and prevalence of GBV.

NAP funds will support a future IPV death review. Work is underway between the Ministry of Attorney General and the Coroner’s Service to determine options for establishing a standing committee.

The establishment of the accountability mechanism will further support monitoring and evaluation activities.

There is more work to do to ensure that existing and ongoing monitoring and evaluation is measuring and tracking useful and relevant information that it is coordinated and complete, and that someone has a responsibility for receiving and acting upon what monitoring and evaluation is telling us. In this way, monitoring and evaluation go hand in hand with the development of the provincial policy framework and accountability mechanism. The policy framework will provide consistent guidance to justice system actors responding to IPV and SV, while the accountability mechanism will ensure alignment, coordination and continuous improvement across the system. Together, these measures will help improve outcomes for individuals affected by violence and strengthen trust in justice system responses.



Progress update

Work area: monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation activities include evaluation of programs and initiatives to ensure investments are having the intended impacts, monitoring for compliance to ensure that policies and processes are being implemented as designed. When combined with transparency and reporting, monitoring and evaluation are important tools to improve outcomes and strengthen trust in the justice system.



Activities

Complete:

- BC Prosecution Service has added a portal on its [website](#) for persons directly impacted by a prosecution to submit complaints.

Ongoing:

- Continuation of the Provincial Gender-Based Violence Data Project
- Establishment of the accountability mechanism
- Development of the provincial policy framework

Still to do:

- Implement policy or legislative changes to support standing death review committee



Impacts on people

- Improves fairness, access to justice, and service outcomes by identifying what is working well and where changes are needed.
- Increases public confidence and trust by demonstrating accountability, transparency, and effective use of public resources.



Progress update

Work area: monitoring and evaluation



Impacts on system

- Provides the system with clear definition of what success looks like.
- Supports evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement by assessing whether programs, policies, and investments are achieving intended results.



Links

S8

S9

S18

C2

Appendix A: Recommendations from the Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
S1	1. The Review recommends that the B.C. government declare that gender-based violence is a provincial epidemic.	Premier Eby called gender-based violence in B.C. an epidemic in his July 2025 mandate letter. The B.C. Government acknowledges that GBV is a systemic crisis and will treat it with the seriousness and sustained attention it deserves.
S2	2. The Review recommends that the B.C. government create a strong internal government accountability mechanism.	Model complete; moving to implementation before end of 2026.
S3	3. The Review recommends the appointment of an independent GBV Commissioner.	The focus at this time is on internal accountability.
S4	4A. The Review recommends that the B.C. government prioritize support for prevention initiatives, including public education, to reduce and prevent violence before it escalates to the point of engaging the legal system.	Almost \$3M of Year 3 National Action Plan Funding has been allocated to prevention, intervention and training activities, and a further \$9.7M has been allocated toward Indigenous-led initiatives, which include prevention and training efforts led by First Nations and Métis and Indigenous organizations.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	4B. The Review recommends that in addition to prioritizing support services for survivors (recognizing that sexual violence and intimate partner violence disproportionately affect women and gender-diverse people), the B.C. government support quality, accredited services for men who use violence. 4C. The Review recommends strengthening the system-wide framework for education and training of institutional actors (including government agencies, police, Crown counsel, courts, and corrections) on the causes and dynamics of gender-based violence, unconscious bias, and the elements of effective trauma-informed practice. This framework should include: • a system of core competencies and certification; and • evaluation of whether education and training for system actors is being utilized, whether the programs are effective, and whether outcomes are improved. 4D. This framework should be included in the updated VAWIR policy to ensure a more consistent and effective approach.	In Year 4, more than \$4.7M of NAP funding is being allocated to prevention, intervention and training activities, with an additional \$11M allocated specifically for Indigenous-led initiatives. MCFD expanded reach and reduced wait times improving access to services for fathers. BC Corrections' correctional and probation officers continue to deliver the Respectful Relationships program to men convicted of intimate partner violence in custody or under community supervision. PSSG's CSVS supports community-based projects like the Domestic Violence Prevention / Intervention Programming (DVPIP). In 2025/26, 13 projects were funded for a total of \$510,669. Through the federal Department of Justice Victims of Crime fund, CSVS supports TIP training that is accessible to justice system partners through CPKN (on-line) and the JIBC (in person). NAP funds have enabled the Ministry of Attorney General to support the BC First Nations Justice Council to develop and implement Indigenous cultural competency training for police and to support future GBV training specific to Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people for justice system actors.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
S5	5A. The Review recommends strengthening established anti-violence community-based organizations across the province by providing stable, core funding to hire, retain, and appropriately train CBSWs to support survivors. • The BC Referral Policy for Victims of Power-Based Crimes needs to be reinforced by police leadership. • CBSWs should be able to attend police and Crown interviews with a survivor if the survivor wishes. • CBSWs should be able to access legal system database information to ensure they can keep survivors safe and up to date on legal processes. One option is the creation of a hub staffed by workers with the necessary security clearance who are trained and available for extended hours to provide necessary information to CBSWs. • An updated VAWIR policy must reinforce the importance of appropriate information sharing between service providers and system actors.	The ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General provides over \$60 million annually in funding to support more than 475 victim service and violence against women programs across the province, including funding since 2023 for 70 sexual assault services programs and five sexual assault centres. In the coming year, NAP funds will continue to be used to address critical waitlist and to increase access to in-person and virtual counselling for underserved communities. In July 2026, the federal government announced that it will renew NAP funding to B.C. for an additional four years, providing continued opportunities to strengthen prevention efforts, expand access to supports, and promote healing and accountability for those affected by violence. The provincial policy framework will further examine many of the recommendations included here.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	5B. The Review recommends that survivor support services with stable and adequate core funding be available to survivors navigating the legal system, whether through civil or criminal processes. In particular, programs underway to support survivors in the family law system [Safe Supports Pilot] should be continued and strengthened. • Linking or integrating family court support workers with initiatives such as Interagency Case Assessment Teams (ICATs) and Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) could enhance the effectiveness of safety planning for high-risk cases. Similarly, including family court support workers in other coordination initiatives such as VAWIR/VIR committees, would provide beneficial integration of family law issues and dynamics into systemic approaches to enhance safety and response at the local level.	
S6	6A. The Review recommends that the B.C. government provide ongoing support for collaborative mechanisms between entities that address gender-based violence including Violence Against Women in Relationships/Violence in Relationships (VAWIR/VIR) tables, interagency case assessment teams (ICATs), domestic violence units (DVUs), and the Community Coordination for Survivor Safety (CCSS) program.	Federal NAP funding is helping to expand access to domestic violence units (DVUs), which are specialized teams of community-based victim services workers. To date, this funding has allowed DVUs to support more than 1,700 clients with triage and quicker service, counselling, practical supports, and rental subsidies. Government provides stable, ongoing funding for nine Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) across the province.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	• An updated VAWIR policy could and should reinvigorate VAWIR/VIR committees. • The model of regional coordination committees could be revived. Leadership at the regional level would assist in effective adoption of an updated VAWIR policy. • ICATs must be made consistently available and resourced throughout the province. • Repeat Violence Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) mandate should be revised to include gender-based violence. • Collaborative offender management and safety planning should be applied in all cases of intimate partner violence. 6B. The Review further recommends that wraparound (hub) models of service provision to survivors be supported and sustained, including Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYACs), Indigenous Justice Centres (IJs), and Family Law Centres.	Government provides annual funding to EVA BC to support existing ICATs with training, operational support and guidance on best practices, to work with communities to establish new ICATs, and to work collaboratively with government and community partners to reduce or eliminate barriers to safety in communities. Government provides annual funding to EVA BC to support VAWIR/VIRs with training, operational support and guidance on best practices. Government provides annual funding to EVA BC for the CCSS program to provide information to and support communities, along with sector coordination activities. The Civil Forfeiture Grant Program provides one-time funding to support community safety related initiatives across the province. Since the program's inception, over \$100 million in funding has been awarded to support community-based projects across B.C. Funding is allocated through streams chosen on an annual basis that align with ministry priorities. CYACs are funded under the CYAC funding stream, which provides grants to services within eligible CYACs in communities across British Columbia. 12 projects were funded under this grant stream in 2025/26, for a total of \$1,920,000. In the coming year, NAP funding will further support CYAC training efforts.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	7. The Review recommends that the province create a standing Gender-Based Violence Death Review Committee. • Amend the <i>Coroner's Act</i> to legislate a standing Gender-Based Violence Death Review Committee.	With NAP funding, B.C.'s Chief Coroner convened a death review panel in fall 2025 to review deaths from intimate partner violence and recommend action to reduce intimate partner violence related deaths in B.C. The Ministry of Attorney General is working with the BC Coroners Service to identify potential policy and legislative changes necessary to advance a standing committee.
	8. The Review recommends the development of a broad and collaborative gender-based violence data strategy across government agencies and legal system institutions, with participation from academic and frontline experts. • Government should create a legislative framework for the collaborative gender-based violence data strategy, including the ability to compel the production or disclosure of data if necessary.	Work is underway on the Provincial Gender-Based Violence Data Project (GBV Data Project), a multi-year, phased project, led by the Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Citizens' Services' Data Innovation Program and additional ministry and external partners. The project goal is to integrate and analyze multiple administrative datasets that contain GBV-related data to improve understanding of service utilization and prevalence of GBV.
	9. The Review recommends that the B.C. government lead a process to update and reinvigorate the VAWIR policy to improve the legal system's treatment of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. • Updated language • Mandated collaboration • Modern updates (Intimate Images Protection Act, Non-Disclosure Agreements) • Incorporation of diverse needs • Consideration of Rural/Urban Differences • Co-development with Indigenous peoples	Ministry of Attorney General is leading the work of developing a provincial policy framework, including a renewed VAWIR policy.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	• Implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms • Regional coordination • Strengthened accountability mechanisms • Renewed focus on transparency and public engagement • Inclusion of a provincial sexual assault policy • Create a legislative mandate for a five-year review and update cycle for the VAWIR policy to ensure that the policy framework keeps pace with changes in law and society.	
S10	10A. The Review recommends that specified listed key amendments to the <i>Family Law Act</i> and associated policy changes be adopted without delay. 10B. The Review recommends that the B.C. government engage with Indigenous partners to implement the Indigenous justice strategies already endorsed by the B.C. government, including the BC First Nations Justice Strategy and the Métis Justice Strategy. 10C. The Review recommends that specified additional amendments to the <i>Family Law Act</i> be implemented at the earliest opportunity. 10D. The Review recommends several changes to family law Protection Orders.	Work on <i>Family Law Act</i> Modernization continues, including recommending changes to the definition of family violence and changes to the protection order regime. In addition to recommending changes to the <i>Family Law Act</i>, several practical and process changes relating to protection orders are being explored. NAP funding is supporting work by the BC First Nations Justice Council to advance Strategy 11 of the First Nations Justice Strategy through the development and implementation of the Indigenous Women's Justice Plan, including co-development of cultural competency training with the Surrey Police Service. The Council is also piloting the Indigenous Justice Centre Aunties Program, which provides culturally grounded, wraparound support to Indigenous survivors as they navigate justice-related systems and services.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
		Through advocacy, accompaniment, cultural support, system navigation, and connection to community resources, the program helps reduce barriers and supports survivors in accessing justice in ways that are safe, respectful, and responsive to their needs.
S11	11. The Review recommends that the B.C. government design law reforms in civil and administrative law matters regarding sexual violence and intimate partner violence in order to mirror the protections in criminal law against the improper application of myths and stereotypes.	The Ministry of Attorney General is considering the issue and working on possible recommendations for legislative changes that would help ensure that family violence allegations are assessed fairly and not based on harmful myths or stereotypes.
S12	12. The Review recommends that the B.C. government co-design changes to Supreme Court and Provincial Court rules and other court practices that will alleviate challenges faced by survivors who are engaged in family law litigation. The Ministry of Attorney General should strike a working group of ministry, courts, family law bar and anti-violence experts to convene with the aim of co-designing changes to Supreme Court and Provincial Court rules and other court practices that will alleviate challenges faced by survivors who are engaged in family law litigation.	While no additional working group has been created at this time, this is being considered as part of ongoing efforts to improve the family law process. Phase 3 of the <i>Family Law Act</i> Modernization project will specifically explore process changes. Recently a new virtual counter service was introduced, which connects people with court registry staff remotely, reducing the volume of in-person visits and helping prevent matters from being filed through the wrong channels.
S13	13A. The Review recommends expanding the scope and funding of legal aid for GBV survivors to cover family law services.	Several legal aid changes have occurred since the beginning of the review, including expanded eligibility criteria for Family Law Centres and Family Legal Aid Expansion services and expanded Family Duty Counsel services for Provincial Court Early Resolution Process.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	Assuming a positive evaluation (using intersectional measures), the Family Law Centre program must be further expanded, and infrastructure for additional virtual services must be put in place across the province, especially in rural, remote, and northern areas 13B. The Review recommends that when the privacy or safety interests of survivors are affected in matters going to trial, independent legal advice should be made available to them (while observing appropriate fair trial safeguards).	
S14	14. The Review recommends that section 5.4.5 of the BC Policing Standards be amended so as to replace the biannual case conference model with a more frequent, collaborative advocate case review model.	Amendments to the Director of Policing and Law Enforcement Services' Standards will be considered as part of the work of developing a provincial policy framework, including a renewed VAWIR policy.
S15	15. The Review recommends that the B.C. government and policing bodies responsible for development of policing standards work with anti-violence sector experts (including Indigenous organizations and representatives of marginalized survivors) to update and improve policing protocols for intimate partner violence investigations. Updated and mandatory training, co-designed and delivered with anti-violence sector expertise, is essential.	PSB engages policing, community, and subject matter experts when updating provincial standards and training. A similar collaborative approach would be supported for future work related to IPV, including engagement with anti-violence sector experts, Indigenous organizations, and representatives of marginalized survivors. This is being considered as part of the development of a broader provincial policy framework, including a renewed VAWIR policy.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	A working group should be struck to determine how to adopt a case review model (as recommended in sexual assault cases) to ensure accountability in the police investigation of intimate partner violence cases.	
S16	16. The Review recommends that Crown counsel policy be updated to clarify that when a decision not to prosecute has been made and the survivor, the public, or another significantly interested person is aware of the police investigation, it is in the public interest that the survivor, public, or other significantly interested person be given adequate reasons for the non prosecution.	On May 5, 2026, the BC Prosecution Service published a revised Victims of Crime (VIC 1) policy which includes guidance on sharing information with victims when Crown Counsel decide not to prosecute, to terminate charges or to proceed on a lesser charge.
S17	17. The Review recommends that a robust cross-sectoral standard and set of guidelines be developed on an urgent basis for police and Crown counsel to treat breaches of conditions with the seriousness required. A working group of ministry, Crown counsel, police, anti-violence sector experts with Indigenous representation should be struck to create a robust, cross-sectoral standard and set of guidelines.	
S18	18A. The Review recommends that a transparent, accessible process be provided for survivors (or their representatives) to make complaints about Crown counsel conduct and decisions.	BC Prosecution Service has added a portal on its website for persons impacted by a prosecution to submit complaints. Several of the issues raised in relation to this recommendation are being explored.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	18B. The Review recommends that Crown counsel develop an automatic review mechanism of sexual violence and intimate partner violence files to identify areas for improvement or reinforcement. 18C. The Review recommends that the BC Prosecution Service annual reports include reporting on the uptake and outcomes of both the complaints mechanism and the automatic review mechanism. Next Steps: Criminal Legal System • Third Party Records Applications: There are concerns about using third-party records applications as a further form of control/abuse. The Ministry of Attorney General should look into whether this could be considered a form of presumptive evidentiary privilege • Forensic Medical Exams: Lack of access to forensic evidence collection is still a barrier, especially in rural and remote communities. Also recommends looking into self-test kits re: PACEkits and evaluating PACEkit pilot project. • Publication Bans: B.C. should ensure that survivors have access to free legal advice to support them in navigating this process and in seeking the revocation of a publication ban. Province should do an evaluation to see how the publication ban is working so far.	

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
	Judicial Peer Mentor Programming/Case Review Model: Formalizing peer mentoring programs is one promising practice that is unlikely to interfere with judicial independence. Chief justices should continue to encourage a culture of judges seeking advice from colleagues identified as having expertise in gender-based violence and encouraging further education on gender-based violence for those judges lacking confidence and/or experience in these areas. Also notes that the judiciary could develop its own case review model in the form of periodic case reviews by the education committee.	
S19	19. The Review recommends that the Ministry of Attorney General and the B.C. courts work together (in consultation with anti-violence experts and practitioners) to create a Court Coordinator role to gather and manage information across different legal processes. A joint ministry/courts working group, with advice from anti-violence experts and practitioners could be formed to look into models for coordinating information between criminal, family, and immigration law systems while addressing safety and privacy concerns and earlier and more case management in relation to concurrent proceedings.	The Ministry of Attorney General is interested in exploring ways in which we can support effective alternative processes, including increased case management and coordination, and work to improve the ways that the criminal justice system addresses IPV and SV.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
S20	20A. A joint ministry/courts working group, with advice from anti-violence experts and practitioners could be formed to look into models for coordinating information between criminal, family, and immigration law systems while addressing safety and privacy concerns and earlier and more case management in relation to concurrent proceedings. 20B. The Review recommends that testimonial aids be available in both criminal and family law proceedings. • Regional Court Hub Models: The government should explore whether it is possible to utilize regional hub models (similar to CYACs) to address needs relating to court access and court services access. This could include secure spaces for virtual service delivery, the provision of testimonial aids, childcare and adjacent services, such as supervised parenting services. • Specialized Court Models: Each of the following three specialized court models warrants further consideration by government and the judicial system: Unified Family Court (UFC); One Judge-One Family Model; Integrated DV Courts. • Specialized Staff and Mechanisms: Standalone specialized courts may not be viable for rural, remote, or northern communities. Some experts and advocates suggest that individual specialists and sexual violence and IPV mechanisms should be spread throughout the system.	Continued engagement with Rise on courthouse infrastructure improvements. Following Rise's 2022 recommendations, Rise conducted a 2025–2026 comprehensive assessment and pilot phase was undertaken to identify and test practical solutions at selected court locations. The Ministry is awaiting Rise's report on pilot results, and work to identify and prioritize infrastructure improvements remains ongoing.

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
S21	21. The Review recommends that the Ministry of Attorney General create a working group to explore the use of restorative responses to sexual violence and intimate partner violence in BC. The working group should have representation from a range of institutional actors (including the judiciary), the anti-violence sector and Indigenous organizations.	B.C. is active in restorative justice working groups. There is interest in further exploring opportunities to advance restorative justice while also looking to improve the approach of the criminal justice system.

Appendix B: Recommendations from Our Time to Act; A Review of Intimate Partner Violence-Related Deaths in British Columbia, 2016–2024 (Death Review Panel Report)

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
C1	1. Implement a clear, transparent and measurable strategy that ensures a centrally coordinated provincial response to addressing intimate partner-related violence and deaths in British Columbia.	The establishment of an internal government accountability mechanism with responsibility for a strategy and provincial policy framework is moving to implementation before end of 2026.
C2	2. Create and resource a standing committee mandated to individually review all intimate partner violence-related deaths in an effort to identify existing systemic gaps and enhance the province's response.	With NAP funding, BC's Chief Coroner convened a death review panel in fall 2025 and will convene another future panel to review deaths from intimate partner violence and recommend action to reduce intimate partner violence related deaths in B.C. The Ministry of Attorney General is working with BC Coroners Service to identify potential policy and legislative changes necessary to advance a standing committee.
C3	3. Enhance training for law enforcement, first responders, Emergency Department staff and front-line service providers to ensure that instances of intimate partner related violence are more readily identified, and that survivors are more consistently supported.	Through the federal Department of Justice Victims of Crime fund, funding, PSSG's CSVS supports TIP training that is accessible to justice system partners through CPKN (on-line) and the JIBC (in person).

Icon	Recommendation	Actions to date
		NAP funds have enabled the Ministry of Attorney General to support the BC First Nations Justice Council to develop and implement Indigenous cultural competency training for police and to support future GBV training specific to Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people for justice system actors.
C4	4. Establish and resource an evidence-supported model that promotes grassroots and community-led approaches to preventing intimate partner-related death and supporting survivors of IPV-related violence.	Almost \$3M of Year 3 NAP funding has been allocated to prevention, intervention and training activities, and a further \$9.7M has been allocated toward Indigenous-led initiatives, which include prevention and training efforts led by First Nations and Métis and Indigenous organizations. In Year 4, more than \$4.7M of NAP funding is being allocated to prevention, intervention and training activities, with an additional \$11M allocated specifically for Indigenous-led initiatives.
C5	5. Create and implement a public awareness campaign to increase knowledge of intimate partner violence and pathways to support for people who experience and use violence.	NAP funding will support development of a cross sectoral public awareness intimate partner violence public education and awareness campaign.
	(Unnumbered recommendation) Improve data collection, information sharing and reporting processes to better understand and support diverse communities throughout British Columbia.	Work is underway on the Provincial Gender-Based Violence Data Project, a multi-year, phased project, led by the Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Citizens' Services' Data Innovation Program and additional ministry and external partners. The project goal is to integrate and analyze multiple administrative datasets that contain GBV-related data to improve understanding of service utilization and prevalence of GBV.

Appendix C: Selection of justice system annual reports

[Provincial Court of British Columbia – Reports and court data](#)

[Supreme Court of British Columbia – Annual Reports](#)

[B.C. Court of Appeal – Annual Reports](#)

[BC Prosecution Service \(BCPS\) – 2024/25 Annual Report](#)

[Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner \(OPCC\) – Annual Reports](#)

[Independent Investigations Office of BC – Publications](#)

[Legal Aid BC – Reports](#)

[BC First Nations Justice Council – Reports and publications](#)

[BC Corners Service – Statistical reports](#)

[Ministry of Attorney General – Service Plans](#)

[Ministry of Attorney General – Annual Reports](#)