ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN OF FAMILY VIOLENCE RESEARCH: TOWARD A FAMILY VIOLENCE RESEARCH AGENDA IN ALBERTA

Prepared for:
Alberta Centre for Child, Family & Community Research

Prepared by:
Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family*
Leslie D. MacRae, B.A., M.A. (Candidate 2006), and Joseph P. Hornick, Ph.D.

August 2006

* Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family
One Executive Place
#510, 1816 Crowchild Trail NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 3Y7
The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Alberta Centre for Child, Family & Community Research or the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ......................................................................................................... v

1.0 Introduction .......................................................................................................... 1
  1.1 Background ....................................................................................................... 1
  1.2 Purpose of the Project ..................................................................................... 1

2.0 Research Design .................................................................................................. 3
  2.1 Research Questions .......................................................................................... 3
  2.2 Methodology .................................................................................................... 3
    2.2.1 Literature Search and Consultation with Key Agencies ......................... 3
    2.2.2 Consultation with Service Delivery Organizations .............................. 4
  2.3 Limitations ....................................................................................................... 5
  2.4 Report Organization ....................................................................................... 5

3.0 Family Violence Research in Canada (2004 – Present) ....................................... 7
  3.1 British Columbia ............................................................................................ 7
  3.2 Alberta ............................................................................................................ 11
  3.3 Saskatchewan ............................................................................................... 21
  3.4 Manitoba ........................................................................................................ 24
  3.5 Ontario .......................................................................................................... 26
  3.6 Quebec .......................................................................................................... 32
  3.7 New Brunswick ............................................................................................. 33
  3.8 Nova Scotia .................................................................................................... 36
  3.9 Newfoundland and Labrador ........................................................................ 38
  3.10 Prince Edward Island ................................................................................... 39
  3.11 Nunavut ........................................................................................................ 39
  3.12 Northwest Territories .................................................................................... 30
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of a number of individuals, agencies, and groups who made this report possible. First, we would like to thank Ms Aimee Caster and Ms Nancy Reynolds of the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research, the funder of this project. Their guidance and support were essential to its successful completion, and is greatly appreciated.

We further extend our appreciation to the many key informants who provided information on family violence research projects in Canada. Numerous representatives from provincial and federal governments, universities, and research organizations contributed much needed information about their research activities, adding substantially to the breadth of the scan.

We would also like to express tremendous gratitude to the many agency representatives across Alberta who participated in interviews regarding their views on family violence research needs in the province. Their front-line perspectives of family violence-related issues and information needs provided a valuable contribution to understanding the gaps in research in the province, and will better inform the development of Alberta’s family violence research agenda.

From the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, the authors extend thanks to Ms Joanne Paetsch, Administrator/Research Associate, Dr. Lorne Bertrand, Senior Research Associate, and Ms Linda Haggett, Receptionist/Typist. Their guidance, support, and assistance throughout all stages of the project were vital to its successful completion.

Finally, the authors acknowledge the Alberta Law Foundation for its ongoing funding of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family.
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Issues surrounding family violence have been given ever-increasing attention in Alberta in recent years. Provincial government initiatives to combat family violence emerged in 1984, with the establishment of the Office for the Prevention of Family Violence and an Interdepartmental Government Committee on Family Violence. Following this trend, the Protection Against Family Violence Act came into effect in 1999 (Hurlburt & White, 2003). More recently, concern over family violence has been renewed in a number of circles in Alberta, in the wake of national data suggesting high rates of family violence - particularly domestic violence against women - in the province (Government of Alberta, 2004). In response, the Alberta government consulted with victims of family violence, experts, representatives from community agencies, as well as a broad cross-section of Albertans (including Aboriginal communities), culminating in the 2004 Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying. The goals of this process were to identify existing family violence issues in Alberta and develop a provincial strategy to adequately and actively respond, the overall vision being to create “an Alberta where children and families are free from family violence and bullying” (Government of Alberta, 2004:3). Key areas of action identified during this process were social change, provincial leadership, a collaborative, coordinated community response, establishment of services and supports, and accountability. It was recommended that a major component of this strategy was the development of a provincial research agenda for family violence prevention, to be coordinated by the Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (ACCFCR).

Two primary objectives were identified by the ACCFCR as vital to meeting this end. First, the scope of recent research on family violence issues in Canada needed to be established, with a special focus on Alberta. Knowledge of research activities and agendas across the country was deemed vital to the successful development of an agenda unique to Alberta, one that would both build on and contribute to the established literature in Canada. Second, and also vital to this process, was knowledge of the information needs of service delivery agencies in Alberta. The input of front-line agencies surrounding the service delivery issues they face and the ways that research information (and accessibility of this information) can be made available to address these issues was determined to be imperative to the success and viability of this process.

1.2 Purpose of the Project

To assist in attaining these goals, the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) received funding from the ACCFCR to conduct an environmental scan of Canadian family violence research. The scan involved two major components:

1. A literature search for recent past, current, and future research projects on family violence in Canada, with a special focus on Alberta, inclusive of a broad range of related issues: mental health, addictions, child trauma, community-specific
concerns (Aboriginal, immigrant, military, rural, urban communities), elder abuse, child outcomes, program efficacy.

(2) Consultation with service delivery organization representatives across the province in order to establish family violence research priorities in Alberta from a front-line perspective.

The information obtained from these activities will be used by the Provincial Working Committee on the Prevention of Family Violence to establish research gaps, opportunities and needs for future evidence in Alberta.
2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

2.1 Research Questions

The key research questions guiding the environmental scan were as follows:

(1) What research in the area of family violence has been recently completed in Canada, particularly in Alberta, in the past 2 years? Who were the members of the research team and where were they located? What was the need for the evidence? Who were the key stakeholders/ recipients of the evidence?

(2) What research in the various areas of family violence is currently in progress across Canada, particularly in Alberta? Who are the members of the research team and where are they located? Why is the research being conducted? Who will be the recipients of the evidence developed?

(3) What issues regarding family violence do research groups, organizations, and agencies plan to address in the near future, both in Alberta and across Canada? What will be the focus? Who needs the evidence?

(4) What are Alberta’s family violence research needs? What issues are service delivery organizations facing in their front-line contact with victims and perpetrators of family violence? How might research help them address these issues, both in content and accessibility?

A number of strategies were undertaken in order to successfully address these questions.

2.2 Methodology

The methodology employed to address the research questions outlined above involved two major components: (1) a literature search and consultation with key research agencies; and (2) consultation with service delivery organizations.

2.2.1 Literature Search and Consultation with Key Agencies

In order to obtain recently completed family violence research reports and published academic articles, academic databases and internet search engines were employed. As part of this process, key Canadian research agencies and institutions were identified and targeted for literature, largely via their websites and databases. The search was limited to Canadian projects completed and/or papers published after 2003 (2004 onward).

In order to identify both research currently in progress and planned projects and mandates for various research groups, key informants at both Alberta-based and national research organizations, academic institutions, government sectors (provincial, municipal), and service delivery organizations conducting research were identified and
consulted regarding any ongoing or planned research projects. Contact was often made via an email outlining the details of the scan, with a follow-up telephone call interview which focussed on the following questions:

- What specific family violence research projects (inclusive of a broad range of issues) have recently been completed by your organization?
- What projects are currently in progress?
- What family violence issues do you plan to address in future projects? Do you have any outstanding funding applications?
- What directions do feel your research group and/or province are headed in terms of family violence research? What is your research mandate?

While having a special focus on Alberta-based research, this aspect of the scan provided an outline of specific issues being addressed in other parts of the country. The results of the scan were organized according to jurisdiction and specific family violence issue (i.e., domestic violence, children as victims, elder abuse, Aboriginal family violence, family violence in immigrant families, program efficacy, etc.). This approach provides a context for identifying what issues should be targeted in Alberta.

2.2.2 Consultation with Service Delivery Organizations

Establishing service delivery research needs was critical to the development of a constructive research agenda. Key service agencies working in the area of family violence in Alberta (i.e., women’s shelters, social services, victim services, etc.) were identified, largely aided by the existing network of contacts developed from CRILF’s recently completed, large-scale project on elder abuse in Alberta. We were directed to many other key front-line contacts in the area of family violence across the province via this network. Direct contact was made with each agency representative via email and/or telephone. Key informants were interviewed using an unstructured protocol, the goal of which was to determine the primary issues faced in delivering service to family violence victims and perpetrators, and the type and form of information they required to best respond to these issues. Questions included, but were not exclusive to the following:

- What issues does your service delivery organization face in its work with victims of family violence?
- What sources of information are you currently accessing to aid in responding to these issues?
- Is this information easily accessible?
- What information/research support do you require?
- What form could research information take in order for it to be most useful to your service organization?

The information obtained from these interviews was compiled and summarized. Key concerns were produced from the various responses, and are reported below.
2.3 Limitations

Although few, the researchers encountered some limitations as the project progressed:

(1) Although the scope of the project was largely on Alberta, it was important to scan research and research projects on a national level. However, a thorough, intensive scan was limited by time and budget constraints, and was largely limited to works by major family violence research organizations in Canada. A more comprehensive scan of national projects would be beneficial.

(2) Time and budget constraints also limited our ability to include most projects from Quebec, given that many were only available in French. However, many interview participants representing research groups across the country acknowledged the richness of literature available in Quebec, and expressed interest in being able to access Quebec’s research and research reports in English. A future project that translates some of the French family violence literature would be beneficial to enriching knowledge of family violence issues across the country.

(3) The researchers also encountered obstacles in contacting key agency representatives, both in Alberta and across Canada, given that the project was conducted during the summer months.

2.4 Report Organization

The following sections summarize the findings of our research. Section 3.0 details the family violence research projects found by the environmental scan, organized by province and research theme. Future research directions for each province are discussed, where that information was available. Section 4.0 summarizes the issues, research needs and research accessibility suggestions obtained from interviews with key front-line service providers in Alberta. Section 5.0 provides a brief summary of this report. Published Canadian literature is cited by topic in the bibliography.
3.0 FAMILY VIOLENCE RESEARCH IN CANADA (2004-Present)

The following section lists the results of the literature and internet search, including completed (i.e., from 2004 to present) and ongoing research projects, and a brief discussion of future/planned research for each project. Project listings detail the name of the project, research team, partners, funders, and a brief description. Projects/reports are organized according to jurisdiction and research issue.

3.1 British Columbia

Although not exhaustive, the following outlines recent family violence projects in British Columbia. Research projects encountered in the scan touch on Aboriginal communities (n=1), children and youth (n=3), intimate partner violence (n=2), immigrant communities (n=2), justice/legal topics (n=1), and program, practice and policy (n=3). Future directions for research in BC conclude this section. Among those contacted for information on BC projects were representatives from The FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, the British Columbia Institute Against Family Violence, and the British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Victim Service Division.

Aboriginal Communities

Project Title: “Aboriginal Victim Services and Community Programs: Innovative Models of Service Delivery”
Status: Ongoing (since 2006)
Investigator(s): H. Green & S. Hunt
Funder(s): Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Description: Identifies innovative models of service delivery for Aboriginal victims of violent crime, specifically in rural/remote areas of BC. Reviews literature on Aboriginal program development, victim support, and consults with key informants via interviews, focus groups, and survey methods. The final report will make recommendations for policy and program development to better support Aboriginal victims.

Children and Youth

Project Title: “Interventions for Children Who Witness Intimate Partner Violence: A Literature Review”
Status: Complete (published 2004)
Investigator(s): S. Agar (BC Institute Against Family Violence)
Partner(s): Working Group
Funder(s): BC Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission
Description: Provides an overview of literature on children who witness intimate partner violence to facilitate the development of best practices guidelines, including protocols for service providers, and integration of services.
Project Title: “Running for Their Lives: The Impacts of Family Violence on Health of Street Youth”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): A. McCormick (BC Institute Against Family Violence)
Funder(s): BC Institute Against Family Violence
Description: A literature review summarizing the research related to the health impact of family violence on street youth.

Project Title: “Violence in the Lives of Sexually Exploited Youth and Adult Sex Workers in British Columbia”
Status: Complete (2006)
Investigator(s): Justice Institute of BC
Funder(s): Assistant Deputy Minister’s Committee on Social Issues
Description: Action research approach identified issues, common themes, and described lessons learned at a community level with regards to the experiences of youth and adult victims or witnesses of violence who are sex workers. Victims, as well as front-line workers, police, the Crown, and other members of the criminal justice who intervene with those who have been sexually exploited or work in the sex trade were interviewed.

Intimate Partner Violence

Project Title: “Building Safer Ground”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): F. Jaffer & R. Daniels
Partner(s): BC Coalition Against Violence Against Women and Children
Funder(s): Status of Women Canada
Description: Examines the impact of recent service cuts in BC on women who experience violence.

Project Title: “Women’s Health and Decision Making in Abusive Heterosexual Relationships”
Investigator(s): T. Nicholls, W. Koch & R. Kropp
Partner(s): BC Institute Against Family Violence
Funder(s): Lions Gate Healthcare Foundation for Healthcare Research; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
Description: Examines the impact of serious mental health problems on safety planning, contrasts the accuracy of women’s perceptions of their partners’ risk for future abuse with the SARA, and empirically demonstrates what keeps women in abusive relationships. Data used to develop a risk needs measure for spousal abuse victims.
Immigrant Communities

Project Title: “Empowering Immigrant Women who are Victims of Violence in Intimate Relationships”
Status: To be released, 2006
Partner(s): Justice Institute of BC; Vancouver/Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services MOSAIC; Prince George Elizabeth Fry Society
Funder(s): Canadian Heritage; Vancouver Foundation; Victim Services and Community Programs Division of the BC Department of Justice
Description: Explores empowerment and safety issues for immigrant women who are victims of violence in their intimate relationships. Data were obtained via interviews with 80 women, conducted in five different languages.

Project Title: “Whichever Way They Turn: Addressing Recurring Barriers to Meaningful Change” (working title)
Status: Ongoing (since 2006)
Investigator(s): H. Dhanoa (BC Institute Against Family Violence)
Funder(s): BC Institute Against Family Violence
Description: A literature review of best practices in serving the needs of immigrant and refugee women who experience family violence.

Justice/Legal Topics

Project Title: “Restorative Justice: A Literature Review”
Status: Complete (published 2005)
Investigator(s): A. Cameron (BC Institute Against Family Violence)
Funder(s): BC Institute Against Family Violence
Description: This literature review examines whether current research shows restorative justice to be a safe, effective criminal justice response to cases of intimate partner violence in Canada.

Program, Practice & Policy

Project Title: “ASAP: Aids to Safety Assessment and Planning”
Status: Ongoing (since 2005; report to be published, 2006)
Partner(s): BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Victim Services and Community Program Division; National Crime Prevention Strategy
Funder(s): BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Victim Services and Community Programs Division; National Crime Prevention Strategy
Description: Provides guidelines for victim safety planning in spousal-violence situations. A manual has been developed for use by front-line workers to improve safety assessment and planning with women who experience violence in relationships. A draft companion manual was developed outlining protective measures available to abused women seeking safety (to be piloted in 2005/2006).
Project Title: “ASAP: Aids to Safety Assessment and Planning – for Health Providers”
Status: Ongoing (since 2005; report to be published 2006)
Partner(s): BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Victim Services and Community Program Division; National Crime Prevention Strategy
Funder(s): BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Victim Services and Community Programs Division; National Crime Prevention Strategy
Description: Provides guidelines for victim safety planning in spousal violence situations for women who access health care services. A manual for health care providers will be developed.

Project Title: “Improving Health Care Response to Intimate Partner Violence in BC: A Literature Review”
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): BC Institute Against Family Violence
Funder(s): BC Provincial Health Services Authority
Description: Currently conducting a literature review, with the goal of making recommendations to assist in improving health care responses to intimate partner violence and promote health through violence prevention.

Future Directions

Future research plans for the FREDA Centre for Violence Against Women and Children include:
• Plans to continue work surrounding policy analysis, in particular, the disjuncture between policy and practice as related to violence against women and children.
• Continued focus on girls’ groups, and girls’ perceptions of interpersonal violence. A manual for the creation of girls groups, part of which deals with violence against women, is to be developed.
• Research consistent with the Alliance of Five Research Centres on Violence (FREDA).
• Will partner on an international study of child abuse.

The BC Institute Against Family Violence was also consulted as to it's future directions:
• Continued research regarding the social determinants of health, with a focus on family violence.
• Proposed project: “Violence, Pregnancy and Substance Use: Broadening the Framework for Better Understanding and Knowledge” (submitted to the BC Ministry of Community Services).
Consultation with other agency representatives yielded some further research possibilities:

- Demonstrated need to compile victim services, corrections, and police data to better understand family violence.
- Examining unfounded cases: women who report domestic violence vs. women who do not: Who are women telling?
- Better indicators of what the province is doing to respond to family violence, and how programs/services are making an impact.
- Examining protective order breaches and indicators of risk of breaching.
- The End Relationship Abuse Network Consultation: examining the lack of voluntary programs for male perpetrators of family violence.
- Examining women who are violent (literature review).

3.2 Alberta

RESOLVE Alberta and the University of Calgary Institute for Gender Research are among the key players in Alberta's research activities, as well as the province’s involvement on a national level. The Calgary Counselling Centre also provides the province with valuable research information on practice, given the priority it places on connecting programming with research. Research topics recently and currently addressed in Alberta include Aboriginal child welfare (n=1), children and youth (n=3), intimate partner violence (n=5), elder abuse (n=2), immigrant communities (n=2), and a number of projects evaluating and examining programs, practice, and policy (n=29). Some future directions for Alberta family violence research are discussed.

Aboriginal Communities

Project Title: "Prairie Child Welfare Research Leadership Development Forums in Aboriginal Child Welfare - Alberta"
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): J. Lafrance, B. Bastien, R. Bodor & W. Pelech (University of Calgary)
Partner(s): University of Calgary; Centre for Excellence in Child Welfare
Funder(s): Health Canada; Centre for Excellence in Child Welfare
Description: Participatory action research project aiming to build collaboration among child welfare stakeholders and Aboriginal communities, toward the creation of effective/innovative program responses that lead to reconciliation, healing, and increased community capacity. Part of the CECW's Prairie Child Welfare Research Project.

Children and Youth

Project Title: "Continuing Education for Children in Shelter"
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
Funder(s): Prairie Action Foundation National Community Grants Program Recipients
Description: Province-wide examination of the need for equitable and consistent schooling programs for children in shelters; aims to inform educators on issues related to children exposed to domestic violence.
Project Title: “Seeking Sanctuary: An Exploration of the Realities of Youth Homelessness in Calgary”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): D. Petrie, L. McLean, C MacFarlane, L. Godin, and youth researchers M. Deans, C. Doak, E. Foulds, B. Johns, J. Morrow
Partner(s): Government of Canada; McMan; Calgary Homeless Foundation; Broadview Applied Research Group Inc.
Funder(s): Government of Canada National Homelessness Initiative
Description: The final compilation of the Calgary Non-Status Homeless Youth Study. Project examined the issue of homelessness among Calgary youth under the age of eighteen who do not have Child Welfare status. The study aimed to enumerate non-status homeless youth in Calgary, identify correlates to their homelessness (including family violence and abuse factors), and to develop strategies that will ameliorate youth homeless in Calgary.

Project Title: “Vulnerable Youth in Calgary: Environmental Scan”
Status: Complete (2006)
Investigator(s): M. Cooper (Guyn Cooper Research Associates)
Funder(s): United Way of Calgary
Description: Part of the United Way’s Community Impact Plan for Children and, this project explores available indicators and recent research on the determinants of health and well-being of youth, and examines the developmental risks (i.e., family violence) faced as they grow.

Intimate Partner Violence

Project Title: “Alberta’s Silent Witness Project”
Status: 2005 (Ongoing)
Investigator(s): Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters
Funder(s): Prairie Action Foundation National Community Grants Program
Description: Project aims to increase awareness of family violence in Alberta, to act as a formal source of family violence statistics. Specifically, research will establish clear contexts for the collection of homicide data to ensure accurate information about victims of violence.

Project Title: “Calgary Counselling Diversity Project”
Status: Ongoing (2006)
Investigator(s): RESOLVE Alberta
Partner(s): Calgary Counselling Centre
Funder(s): Calgary Counselling Centre
Description: Literature review of batterer intervention programs for men from diverse cultures.
Project Title: “Danger Assessment”
Status: Ongoing (since 2006)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre
Description: Developing methods to successfully assess the level of danger faced by women victims of domestic violence.

Project Title: “Engaging Female Victims of Violence”
Status: Ongoing (since 2003)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre
Description: Examines how to engage female victims of violence in accessing and maintaining treatment.

Project Title: “Women’s Perspectives on the Homefront Specialized Domestic Violence Court in Calgary”
Investigator(s): L. Tutty & K. Nixon (RESOLVE Alberta)
Funder(s): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – Community University-Research Alliance
Description: Examining women’s perspectives on Calgary’s specialized domestic violence court.

Elder Abuse

Project Title: “Older Women’s Long-term Survival (OWLS)”
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter
Funder(s): Prairie Action Foundation National Community Grants Program
Description: An analysis of the impact of the OWLS group counseling program on older women who have been victims of abuse or who have endured or resisted violence throughout their lives.

Project Title: “The Response to Elder Abuse in Alberta: Legislation and Victim Focused Services Final Report”
Status: Complete (2006)
Investigator(s): M. Pauls & L. MacRae (Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family)
Funder(s): Department of Justice Canada Family Violence Initiative; Alberta Solicitor General, Victims of Crime Fund; Alberta Law Foundation
Description: A provincial research project examining issues surrounding elder abuse in Alberta, such as: legislation and reporting practices; access to services for elderly victims; improving the effectiveness of service to address the needs of victims; and enhancing the knowledge of service providers on legislation, reporting practices, and access and effectiveness of services.
**Immigrant Communities**

**Project Title:** “Evaluation of the CDVC’s Training and Protocols for Immigrant Serving Agencies”  
**Status:** Complete (2004)  
**Investigator(s):** L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta), W.E. Thurston (Institute for Gender Research, University of Calgary) & J. Christensen (RESOLVE Alberta)  
**Partner(s):** RESOLVE Alberta; Institute for Gender Research, University of Calgary  
**Funder(s):** City of Calgary  
**Description:** Evaluating the Calgary Domestic Violence Committee’s training/protocols on family violence for immigrant serving agencies.

**Project Title:** “Immigrant Women, Family Violence and Pathways Out of Homelessness”  
**Status:** Ongoing (since 2005)  
**Investigator(s):** W. Thurston (University of Calgary), A. Caro (Calgary Coalition on Family Violence, D. Este (University of Calgary), T. Godey (Brenda Stafford Centre for the Prevention of Family Violence, Calgary), M. Hamworth-Brockman (Prairie Women’s Health Centre of Excellence – Winnipeg), L. McCoy (University of Calgary), C. Saunter (Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health, Halifax)  
**Funder(s):** National Secretariat on Homelessness; PCERII - Prairie Centre Research Grants  
**Description:** Project investigates the relationship between domestic violence, migration and homelessness of immigrant women.

**Programs, Practice & Policy**

**Project Title:** “8th & 8th Health Centre Domestic Violence/Abuse Screening Guidelines: Implementation and Evaluation”  
**Status:** Complete (2004)  
**Investigator(s):** W.E. Thurston, L. Tutty & A. Eisner  
**Partner(s):** The Institute for Gender Research, University of Calgary; RESOLVE Alberta  
**Description:** Examined and evaluated the domestic violence/abuse screening tool, to be used at 8th and 8th Health Centre in Calgary.

**Project Title:** “A Turn for the Better for Male Victims of Violence”  
**Status:** Ongoing (since 2001)  
**Investigator(s):** Calgary Counseling Centre  
**Description:** Therapeutic group for men who are victims of verbal, emotional and/or physical abuse in intimate relationships. Assists men toward non-abusive futures in intimate relationships, provides methods of coping. Program outcomes are measured on an ongoing basis (pre/post program testing, followup interviews, restesting).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Partner(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;The Action Committee Against Elder Abuse Evaluation&quot;</td>
<td>Ongoing (since 2005)</td>
<td>L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta) &amp; Karen Walroth (Action Committee Against Violence)</td>
<td>RESOLVE Alberta; Action Committee Against Elder Abuse</td>
<td>An evaluation of the Action Committee Against Elder Abuse, a community initiative that raises the profile of elder abuse and works toward the development of protocols and services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Alberta Women’s Shelters Provision of Public Education on Domestic Violence&quot;</td>
<td>Complete (2005)</td>
<td>L. Tutty &amp; J. Christensen (RESOLVE Alberta)</td>
<td>Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters</td>
<td>A sub-project of the Alberta Domestic Violence Environmental Scan; examined Alberta women’s shelters specifically, and their provision of public education on domestic violence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Title: “**Calgary Family and Sexual Violence Sector Review: Building a New Vision**”

**Status:** Complete (2004)

**Investigator(s):** D. Warthe, I. Hoffart, & M. Cooper

**Partner(s):** The City of Calgary Community Strategies (FCSS); United Way of Calgary and Area; Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority

**Funder(s):** The City of Calgary Community Strategies (FCSS); United Way of Calgary and Area; Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority

**Description:** The purpose of the project was to assess the capacity of Calgary’s family and sexual abuse sector to prevent, reduce and ameliorate the effects of family and sexual violence. Recommendations were made toward improving the sector’s capacity to respond to violence through service delivery, better service coordination, and to enhance the coordination of funding and investment strategies.

---

Project Title: “**Domestic Violence Protocol Project in Emergency Rooms**”

**Status:** Ongoing (since 2004; Phase I Process Evaluation, 2005)

**Investigator(s):** W. Thurston (University of Calgary) & L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta)

**Partner(s):** Institute for Gender Research, University of Calgary; S. Conroy & R. Musto, Calgary Health Region

**Funder(s):** Calgary Health Trust; Canadian Institutes for Health Research

**Description:** An evaluation of the efficacy of the domestic violence screening process in Calgary hospital emergency rooms.

---

Project Title: “**Evaluation of “FaithLink”**”

**Status:** Ongoing (since 2005, 3 years)

**Investigator(s):** M. Rothery (RESOLVE Alberta), K. Walroth (Action Committee Against Violence), I. Sevcik (Project Manager) & N. Nason-Clark (University of New Brunswick)

**Partner(s):** Action Committee Against Violence; RESOLVE Alberta

**Funder(s):** Status of Women Canada; Prevention of Family Violence & Bullying Community Incentive Fund

**Description:** An evaluation of FaithLink, a project that connects faith communities and secular agencies in Calgary that provide family violence programs.

---

Project Title: “**Evaluation of Sheriff King Safe Visitation and Monitored Exchange Program**”

**Status:** Complete (2006)

**Investigator(s):** Leslie Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta)

**Partner(s):** RESOLVE Alberta; YWCA of Calgary Sheriff King Home

**Funder(s):** YWCA

**Description:** Ongoing data collection toward evaluating the efficacy of the Sheriff King Safe Visitation and Monitored Exchange Program.
Project Title: “Evaluation of the Community Safe Visitation Program”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): L. Tutty, A. Barlow & D. Jesso (RESOLVE Alberta)
Partner(s): YWCA Sheriff King
Funder(s): City of Calgary
Description: Initial evaluation of Sheriff King Community Safe Visitation Program in Calgary.

Project Title: “Evaluation of Training to Address Elder Abuse”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): D. Jesso & L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta)
Funder(s): RESOLVE Alberta
Description: Masters student theses evaluating front-line training to address elder abuse in Calgary.

Project Title: “Evaluating the Justice and Community Response to Family Violence in Edmonton”
Status: Complete (2001 to 2004)
Investigator(s): K. Nixon & L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta)
Funder(s): Alberta Law Foundation
Description: An examination of Edmonton’s justice and community response to family violence.

Project Title: “First Language Initiative for Men who are Abusive in Intimate Relationships”
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counselling Centre
Description: Ongoing examination of “First Language Initiative for Men who are Abusive in Intimate Relationships,” a program that provides group counselling services to men whose first language is not English. Examines the issues surrounding male perpetrators of violence from various ethnic groups toward the determination of service needs.

Project Title: “Group Drop-Outs”
Status: Ongoing since 2006)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre
Description: Determining ‘who’ the drop-outs are from treatment groups for both men and women.

Project Title: “Men’s Crisis Service”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter
Funder(s): Prairieaction Foundation
Description: Qualitative study examining the impact of the Calgary Women’s Emergency Shelter Crisis Service’s “Response Based” therapeutic program on men and women clients. Results used to further develop this approach.
Project Title: “Needs Assessment of Domestic Violence Services for Drumheller & Region”
Status: Ongoing (since 2006)
Investigator(s): L. Tutty, RESOLVE Alberta
Partner(s): Drumheller and District Association for Prevention of Family Violence
Funder(s): Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Community Incentive Fund
Description: Assesses the need for domestic violence services in the Drumheller Region.

Project Title: “Protection Against Family Violence Act Evaluation”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): Leslie M. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta) & Jennifer Koshan (Faculty of Law, University of Calgary)
Partner(s): Government of Alberta
Funder(s): Government of Alberta
Description: Evaluates Alberta’s Protection Against Family Violence legislation.

Project Title: “Responsible Choices for Women”
Status: Ongoing (since 1994)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counselling Centre
Description: A group treatment program provided to women who are abusive in intimate relationships. Outcomes are measured on an ongoing basis (pre/post program testing, follow-up interviews, partner interviews, retesting).

Project Title: “Responsible Choices for Men”
Status: Ongoing (since 1994)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre
Description: A group treatment program provided to men who are abusive in intimate relationships. Outcomes are measured on an ongoing basis (pre/post program testing, follow-up interviews, partner interviews, retesting). Program evaluated as part of Phase I, comparing mandated (i.e. court ordered) to non-mandated men participating in the program. Recent phase has included personality measures (mental health screening) of mandated men to provide further information.

Project Title: “Responsible Choices for Children and Parents”
Status: Ongoing (since 2000)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre
Description: Program for children age 3-18 who are aggressive at home or school. Both child and at least one parent must be in treatment simultaneously. Program efficacy is evaluated on an ongoing basis (pre/post program testing).
Project Title: “Risk/Danger Assessment Training”
Status: Ongoing (2006-2007)
Investigator(s): J. Reimer (Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters)
Funder(s): Alberta Children’s Services Prevention of Family Violence and Bullying Initiative Community Incentive Fund
Description: An initiative with the goal to extend awareness and build capacity in assessing danger for women and children in situations of domestic violence as a preventative instrument. Project involves training of shelter staff in danger assessment, expert panel discussions on danger assessment, and producing research and policy publications with data on danger assessment collected via the HOMES database.

Project Title: “Safety Under the Rainbow”
Status: Ongoing (since 2006)
Investigator(s): L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta)
Partner(s): Safety Under the Rainbow Initiative; Alberta Civil Liberties
Funder(s): Alberta Community Incentive Fund
Description: Evaluates an Alberta community initiative addressing violence in gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered relationships.

Project Title: “Stages of Change” (for men and women)
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre
Description: Continuous examination of “Stages of Change,” an orientation to service provision that is based on the given client’s readiness for change – both women who are victims of violence and men who are abusive in intimate relationships. Service is customized based on what is learned about each individual and their degree of readiness to change.

Project Title: “Ten Year File Review of the Child Witness Court Preparation Project”
Status: Ongoing (since 2001; Interim Report, 2005)
Investigator(s): Consulting: K. Nixon (RESOLVE Alberta), L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta) & L. Barry (CSICA)
Partner(s): RESOLVE Alberta; Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse; Alberta Law Foundation
Funder(s): Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse; Alberta Law Foundation
Description: A 10-year file review evaluation of the Child Witness Court Preparation program.

Project Title: “Treatment and Non-treatment Group Comparison”
Status: Ongoing (2006)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre
Description: Comparing treatment success between treatment and non-treatment family violence groups.
Project Title: “Women’s Participation in Domestic Violence Health Policy Development” (part of Women’s Domestic Violence Health Project)

Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): W. Thurston (University of Calgary), L. Hunt (Edith Cowan University, Australia), Z. Rasekh (Global Watch Group, Afghanistan), K. Afsana (BRAC, Bangladesh), O. Kovindha (Ministry of Public Health, Thailand), R. Adamsam (Women’s Healthworks, Australia), C. Fisher (Edith Cowan University, Australia), S. Faiz Rashid (BRAC University, Bangladesh), L. Meadows (University of Calgary), S. Robinson (University of Calgary), L. Tunstall (University of Calgary), L. Tutty (University of Calgary), C. Voyageur (University of Calgary), J. Eisenhauer (Canadian Women For Women in Afghanistan), L. Oates (Rights & Democracy), J. Hatfield

Partner(s): University of Calgary; Edith Cowan University, Australia; Global Watch Group, Afghanistan; BRAC, Bangladesh; Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Funder(s): Canadian Institutes for Health Research (part of Global Health Research Program)

Description: A planning project developed via an international research partnership, composed of participants from Calgary, Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, & Thailand. Developing project will examine the participation of indigenous women in the development and implementation of domestic violence policies in the health sectors of these countries. Initial funding to develop an international research team, governance structure, and proposal to the Global Health research Program.

Project Title: “You’re Not Alone for Female Victims of Violence”

Status: Ongoing (1995-Present)
Investigator(s): Calgary Counseling Centre

Description: Therapeutic counselling program for women who are involved in an abusive relationship. Examines issues of abuse in intimate relationships and provides methods of coping with violence, toward non-abusive futures. Program outcomes are measured on an ongoing basis (pre/post program testing, follow-up (program, interviews), retesting).

Future Directions:

RESOLVE Alberta has a number of proposed projects:

- Proposal to the Alberta Heritage Fund Medical Research to interview Aboriginal and Métis women in Alberta (as additional funding for the Healing Journey Longitudinal CURA project). W. Thurston, L. Tutty & L. Radtke.
- Letter of intent to the Alberta Community Incentive Funds to conduct interviews with Aboriginal and Métis women in Alberta as additional funding for the Healing Journey CURA project (not funded).
- Proposal to the National Crime Prevention Fund for three-year funding to continue the HomeFront specialized domestic violence and first appearance court data collection. J. Koshan (Faculty of Law, University of Calgary).
Proposal to the Alberta Law Foundation for funding to continue the HomeFront specialized domestic violence and first appearance court data collection. J. Koshan (Faculty of Law, University of Calgary).

Proposal to Canadian Institutes of Health Research funding for the Different Cultures, United Goals: Strengthening Policies and Actions Preventing Violence Against Women in Canada and China. S.M. Quok (Western University), Dora Tam (Carlton U.), L. Tuttty (U of Calgary), Margaret Jackson (Simon Fraser U.), W. Thurston (U of Calgary), Yuk-chung Chan (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) & Myrna Dawson (U of Guelph).

Canadian Institutes of Health Research funding to evaluate the implementation of domestic violence screening in rural hospitals in the Calgary Health Region. W. Thurston, L.M Tutty, L.M. Meadows, R. Musto, MD & J. Murphy.

Consultation with other agencies in Alberta yielded a number of other potential fields of research:

- More thorough examination of male victims of violence in the project.
- Examining trauma as a variable in the development of domestic violence programs.
- Further comparisons of mandated and non-mandated perpetrators in treatment.
- Further examination of group drop-outs, both male and female; comparison of treatment drop-outs to a non-treatment group.
- Thoroughly examining the role of addiction in family violence.
- Determining community specific needs and issues regarding family violence issues, programs and services, particularly in rural/remote areas.

3.3 Saskatchewan

Although there was not a substantial number of Saskatchewan-based research projects, researchers in Saskatchewan have partnered with other agencies in Canada on national projects (see Section 3.14 Regional/National research). Recent research in Saskatchewan has focussed on Aboriginal communities (n=2), elder abuse (n=2), immigrant communities (n=1), justice issues (n=2), and programs, practice and policy (n=3). Some future directions for Saskatchewan are discussed.

Aboriginal Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>“Evaluation of Saskatchewan Justice Aboriginal Family Violence Strategy”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Complete (2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s):</td>
<td>M. Morrison (University of Saskatchewan), RESOLVE Saskatchewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funder(s):</td>
<td>Saskatchewan Justice; Government of Canada Victims of Crime Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Three-phase project involving the development of family violence programs (in consultation with Aboriginal communities), evaluation of the programs, and recommendations for family violence strategies at the community level. A potential fourth phase of this project is the examination of whether recommendations have been implemented in communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Prairie Child Welfare Research Leadership Development Programs in Aboriginal Child Welfare - Saskatchewan”</td>
<td>Ongoing (since 2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Abuse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Provincial Protocols Concerning Elder Abuse in Saskatchewan”</td>
<td>Complete (2004)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigrant Communities

Project Title: “Saskatoon Immigrant Women’s Experience of Violence and Abuse in Their Communities”
Status: Complete (2004)
Partner(s): University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association
Funder(s): Prairieaction Foundation
Description: Explores the level and types of violence and abuse among Saskatoon’s immigrant families using a participatory action research approach.

Justice Issues

Project Title: “Response of the Saskatchewan Criminal Justice System to Spousal Violence – Northern Saskatchewan Report”
Status: Complete (October 2005)
Investigator(s): Prairie Research Associates
Funder(s): Justice Canada
Description: Examined three northern Saskatchewan communities over a one year period to determine how the criminal justice system responds to family violence cases, from point of contact to case disposition.

Project Title: “Response of the Saskatchewan Criminal Justice System to Spousal Violence in North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon”
Status: Complete (October 2005)
Investigator(s): Prairie Research Associates
Funder(s): Justice Canada
Description: Examined North Battleford, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon over a one-year period to determine how the criminal justice system responds to family violence cases, from point of contact to case disposition.

Programs, Practice & Policy

Project Title: “A Focus on Vulnerable Youth: Saskatchewan Youth Services Model Phase Two Evaluation”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): G. Maslany, L. Theriault, F. Douglas & N. Aitken (Social Policy Research Unit, University of Regina)
Funder(s): Government of Saskatchewan
Description: An evaluation of the Saskatchewan Youth Services Model (YSM) to determine the availability, appropriateness and effectiveness of implemented programs and services, and the extent of collaborative decision-making, integrated case management, early intervention and effective assessment, and other components of the YSM.
Project Title: “Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court in North Battleford, Saskatchewan”
Status: Ongoing (from 2003)
Investigator(s): M. Boyes (University of Calgary)
Funder(s): Saskatchewan Justice
Description: Evaluation of the DVTO Court in North Battleford, inclusive of involved family violence treatment programs and probation assessment. First analysis of data completed December 2005.

Project Title: “Environmental Scan of Services for Victims of Sexual Assault”
Status: Ongoing (2006)
Partner(s): Saskatchewan Justice; RESOLVE Saskatchewan
Funder(s): Prairieaction Foundation
Description: An environmental scan of services available to victims of sexual assault in Saskatchewan.

**Future Directions:**

Some future directions noted by key research representatives in Saskatchewan included:

- Evaluation of the Saskatoon Domestic Violence Court
- Evaluation of the Regina Domestic Violence Court
- Development of a provincial strategy on interpersonal violence
- Ensuring that information on domestic violence is being collected in a manner that benefits communities
- Partnering between the community and research groups in order to produce effective research
- Demonstrated need for more evaluations of programs for family violence
- More in-depth evaluation of family violence legislation
- Recent application to do a continuation of the 1996 Saskatchewan Femicide Study; possible collaboration with the recent national study (Jane Ursel)

### 3.4 Manitoba

Project topics currently being covered in Manitoba include intimate partner violence (n=2) justice/legal topics (n=2), and program, practice & policy (n=3). Much of the current research relates to Aboriginal communities.

**Intimate Partner Violence**

Project Title: “Prevention of Violence Against Separated Women in Canada”
Status: Complete (2005)
Partner(s): University of Manitoba; Elizabeth Hill Counselling Centre, Winnipeg MB
Funder(s): Prairieaction Foundation
Description: Uses Statistics Canada data to examine why 40% of women who are separated from their former partner experience violence by that partner during separation. Suggests how policies and services for prevention can be improved.
Project Title: “Rural and Urban Women’s Post-Violence Experiences”
Status: Complete (2004)
Partner(s): University of Manitoba; Klinic, Winnipeg MB
Funder(s): Prairieaction Foundation
Description: Using 1999 General Social Survey Data to examine urban and rural women’s post-violence experiences on the prairies, including the consequences of violence, help-seeking, and police involvement.

Justice/Legal Topics

Project Title: “Family Court Diversion Project (Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.)”
Status: Ongoing (2006-2007)
Partner(s): Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc., First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
Funder(s): Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. (from Status of Women Canada)
Description: An Aboriginal community-based project that focuses on the development of collaborative responses to understanding and developing appropriate action to address the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal women and children involved in the child protection system in Manitoba. Project components include a literature review on child protection diversion options for Aboriginal families, interviews with child welfare protection and legal service providers as well as community-based interviews and focus groups with on and off-reserve Aboriginal groups.

Project Title: “The Winnipeg Family Violence Court”
Status: Ongoing
Investigator(s): J. Ursel (RESOLVE Manitoba), K. Gorkoff (RESOLVE Manitoba), S. Brickey (University of Manitoba) & L. Murdock (University of Manitoba)
Funder(s): Manitoba Department of Justice
Description: Project that has tracked family violence cases through the Winnipeg family violence court for the last nine years.

Program, Practice & Policy

Project Title: “Aboriginal Child and Family Services Evaluation Project”
Status: Ongoing (2005)
Investigator(s): M. Bennett, First Nations Research Site, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society
Funder(s): University of Manitoba
Description: Evaluates Aboriginal child and family services in Manitoba.
Project Title: “Phase II Evaluation of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Family Violence Program: Stony Mountain Project”
Investigator(s): S. Perrault (Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata) & J. Proulx (RESOLVE Manitoba)
Funder(s): Correctional Services of Canada
Description: Expands on the existing family violence program being delivered at Stony Mountain penitentiary. Project includes evaluation and modification of newly expanded sessions.

Investigator(s): J. Ursel (RESOLVE Manitoba)
Funder(s): L’Entre Temps
Description: An evaluation of programs and services available for women and children at “L’Entre Temps,” a French Canadian shelter in Winnipeg for women and children who are victims of family violence.

3.5 Ontario

Projects identified in Ontario examined issues affecting children and youth (n=7), the experiences of immigrant women (n=1), intimate partner violence (n=7), justice and legal issues (n=2) and program, practice and policy (n=4).

Children and Youth

Project Title: “Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Best Evidence to Inform Better Practice”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): A. Cunningham & L. Baker (Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System)
Funder(s): National Crime Prevention Centre, Department of Justice Canada
Description: A review of literature on child exposure to domestic violence, combined with extensive clinical experience, to create a framework for understanding, studying and intervening with children who have lived with family violence. Final report entitled, “What About Me: Seeking to Understand the Child’s View of Violence in the Family.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Partner(s)</th>
<th>Funder(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“The Impact of Child Maltreatment on Adolescent and Adult Health Outcomes”</td>
<td>Ongoing (2003-2008)</td>
<td>C. Wekerle, N. Comeau, P. Conrod, G. Flett, D. Goodman, P. Hoaken, P. Links, G. Millar, E. Sta Mina, S. Stewart, G. Swihart &amp; A-M. Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Emerging Team</td>
<td>Project involves a collaborative team of experts in social sciences, medicine, and health from universities, hospitals, and community organizations to determine the impact of child maltreatment on the health of adolescent and adult survivors. Explores links to negative outcomes, such as addiction, partner violence, and self-harm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Title:</td>
<td>“London Child Protection Mediation Project”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s):</td>
<td>A. Cunningham (Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System) &amp; J. van Leeuwen (Children’s Aid Society of London &amp; Middlesex)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s):</td>
<td>Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies; Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funder(s):</td>
<td>Legal Aid Ontario; Department of Justice Canada; Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>A pilot study testing the feasibility and desirability of mediation in child protection cases.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>“Maltreatment and Adolescent Pathways (MAP) Project”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Ongoing (2005-2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s):</td>
<td>Centre for Excellence for Child Welfare; Department of Psychology, York University; Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences and Department of Pediatrics, McMaster University; Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funder(s):</td>
<td>Canadian Institutes of Health Research Operating Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>A longitudinal study examining risk and resilience factors among youth age 14-17 years who are in the care of child welfare services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>“A Regional Qualitative Study of Child Welfare Outcomes in Ontario”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Ongoing (2006-2009, pending proposal acceptance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s):</td>
<td>B. Kennedy (Association of Native Child and Family Services), B. McKenzie (University of Manitoba), M. Bennett (First Nations Research Site) &amp; N. Trocme (McGill University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s):</td>
<td>Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario; University of Manitoba; First Nations Child and Family Caring Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funder(s):</td>
<td>Ministry of Child and Youth Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Examines child welfare outcomes measures, specifically the Looking After Children (LAC) and Outcome Indicator Matrix (OIC), in the Aboriginal context. Project will aim to increase the effectiveness of these measures when applied to child and family outcomes in the Aboriginal context, as they are implemented into Ontario’s Children’s Aid Societies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigrant Communities

Project Title: “Nowhere to Turn: Intimate Partner Violence Against Immigrant and Visible Minority Women”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): E. Smith (Canadian Council on Social Development)
Funder(s): Department of Justice
Description: Comprehensive project identifying issues, attitudes, barriers and gaps in service making immigrant and visible minority women vulnerable when faced with family violence.

Intimate Partner Violence

Project Title: “Engaging Men and Boys in Eliminating Violence Against Women”
Status: Ongoing
Investigator(s): P. Jaffe
Funder(s): unknown
Description: Examines the development of diverse, multisector strategies to engage men and boys in eliminating violence against women by bringing men together to develop a strategic plan for Ontario.

Project Title: “Getting Out and Staying Out: Issues Surrounding a Woman’s Ability to Remain Out of an Abusive Relationship”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): K.E. Horrill & H. Berman (Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children)
Funder(s): Scotia Bank Community Research Grant
Description: Using in-depth interviews, examined issues related to a woman’s ability to stay out of an abusive relationship, and nurses’ influence on women during and after leaving.

Project Title: “Intimate Partner Violence within the Tamil Community in Toronto”
Status: Ongoing (2006)
Investigator(s): I. Hyman, R. Mason, S. Guruge, & H. Berman
Partner(s): Family Service Association of Toronto; Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children;
Funder(s): Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Gender and Health
Description: Qualitative project aiming to better understanding of the language, perceptions, definitions, and experiences of intimate partner violence in the Tamil community, with comparison to the country of origin. Also works toward improving assistance for victims of family violence in the Tamil community – providing information for outreach services, guiding culturally appropriate health care, and enhancing community awareness of intimate partner violence.
Project Title: “Making Appropriate Parenting Arrangements in Family Violence Cases: Applying the Literature to Identify Promising Practices”
Status: Complete (Final Report 2005)
Investigator(s): P.G. Jaffe, C. Crooks (Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children) & N. Bala (Queen’s University)
Funder(s): Department of Justice Canada
Description: Literature review and analysis of family violence, child custody and access and high conflict divorce literature to assist policy makers and practitioners in dealing with issues that arise from post-separation parenting arrangements in cases where family violence is involved.

Project Title: “Women Abuse and Ontario Works in a Rural Community: Rural Women Speak About Their Experiences with Ontario Works”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): C. Purdon (Women of Today Huron)
Funder(s): Status of Women Canada
Description: Examined the experiences of abused rural women in Huron County in their contact with Ontario Works toward recommendations for change.

Project Title: “Woman Abuse: Exploring the Connections to Women’s Experiences of Mental Health and Homelessness”
Status: Complete (April 2004)
Investigator(s): M. Kennedy (Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children)
Funder(s): Scotia Bank
Description: Provides a starting point to the development of a more comprehensive understanding of the connections between women’s experiences of abuse, mental health and homelessness.

Project Title: “Walking on Eggshells: Ontario Women’s Experiences of Ontario’s Welfare System”
Status: Complete (April 2005)
Investigator(s): J. Mosher (York University), P. Evans (Carleton University) & M. Little (Queen’s University)
Partner(s): E. Morrow (Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses), J. Boulding & N. VanderPlaats (Ontario Social Safety Network)
Funder(s): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Description: Examined experiences of women in or previously in abusive relationships in accessing support from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program after fleeing abusive relationships.
Justice/Legal Topics

Project Title: “Criminal Justice Outcomes in Intimate and Non-intimate Partner Homicide Cases”
Status: Ongoing (from 2003)
Investigator(s): M. Dawson
Funder(s): Department of Justice Canada
Description: Examines and compares the criminal justice outcomes (charges, convictions, sentencing) of intimate and non-intimate partner homicides in the city of Toronto from 1974-2002.

Project Title: “The Changing Organizational Context of Criminal Courts in Canada”
Investigator(s): M. Dawson
Funder(s): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Description: Ongoing project examining specialized domestic violence courts in Ontario.

Program, Practice & Policy

Status: Complete (2006)
Investigator(s): A. Jenney (Child Development Institute), R. Alaggia (University of Toronto), J. Mazzuca (Child Development Institute) & M. Redmond (University of Toronto)
Funder(s): United Way of Greater Toronto; Child Development Institute; University of Toronto
Description: A qualitative study involving women, children and service providers to examine the impact of the Ontario Government’s changes to the Child and Family Services Act designed to better protect children.

Project Title: “Ontario Women’s Shelter Evaluation Pilot Study”
Status: Ongoing
Investigator(s): B. MacQuarrie & R. Harris (Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women)
Funder(s): Canadian Institutes for Health Research
Description: Evaluation pilot study of Ontario Women’s Shelter.

Project Title: “Pilot Implementation of the Caring Dads Program”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): K. Scott (Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children)
Funder(s): Scotia Bank Community Research Grant
Description: Implementation and evaluation/research of the Caring Dads Program, a 15-week intervention program for abusive and at-risk fathers.
3.6 Quebec

Discussions with key agency representatives in Quebec revealed an impressive network of research organizations and experts that are highly involved in family violence research, not only in Quebec, but in partnership with other agencies across the country (see Section 3.14 Regional/National Research). These organizations include the Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur la Violence Familiale et la Violence Faite aux Femmes, the Centre for Research on Children and Families, the Association des Centres Jeunesse du Québec, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement Social des Jeunes, the Groupe de Recherche et d'action sur la Victimisation des Enfants et Alliance de Recherche en Développement des Enfants dans leur Communauté, and the Groupe de Recherche en Développement de l'enfant et de la Famille, amongst others. Unfortunately, however, translation of research information, projects and literature written in French was outside the scope and budget of this project. It is worth mentioning that many of the key informants contacted across the country expressed high regard and enthusiasm toward Quebec's rich family violence research, raising the potential need for translation. This finding supports any future endeavours to pursue translation of the French family violence literature and bilingual collaboration with these agencies.

Although much of the online information is only available in French, we were able to get a sense of some of Quebec’s research activities through conversation with agency representatives, particularly the Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur la Violence Familiale et la Violence Faite aux Femmes (CRI-VIFF), and the Centre for Research on Children and Families.

CRI-VIFF

Given the depth of family violence research conducted by the CRI-VIFF, and active involvement in research across the country, a discussion of their current research endeavours is important to this scan. The CRI-VIFF’s research activities cover three broad categories:

- Research on Women: The women’s research group focuses primarily on family violence as it affects women. The team is currently working on a project examining marginalized women (i.e., prostitutes, elders, Aboriginal women) who are victims of family violence.
• Research on Children: This group focuses primarily on family violence as it affects children and youth. Two main streams of research are currently being conducted: (1) how domestic violence influences mothers’ parenting skills; and (2) finding ways to help child victims of family violence by helping parents. One project developed examines the coordination of child protection services where family violence is involved.

• Research on Men: This group examines the link between men’s socialization and their role in family violence. This growing field of research at the CRI-VIFF addresses an obvious need in this area across the country. Current work examines help-seeking by men, and works toward best practices to encourage men to stay in treatment.

It is the hope of the CRI-VIFF to bring these three teams together to develop a theoretical model of analysis and intervention that would account for all three of these aspects.

The CRI-VIFF is also interested in work on immigrant and refugee women experiencing violence, namely, how violence is lived in different geographical locations around the world.

Centre for Research on Children and Families (McGill University)

The CRCF is involved in many activities related to family violence research, particularly as it relates to child maltreatment. The research team works closely with Batshaw Youth and Family Services in Montreal toward capacity building, program evaluation and aiding service providers in accessing relevant academic data and information. The research team is also actively involved in the SSHRC-funded project “Evidence Based Management in Child Welfare,” a collaborative effort of the CRCF, the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement Social des Jeunes Analysis, the University of Toronto, and the University of Calgary, with Batshaw Youth and Family Services, the Centre for Excellence in Child Welfare, the Association des Centres Jeunesse du Québec, and the Alberta Ministry of Children’s Services participating as partners. The aim of the project is to develop and implement a focused research mobilization strategy in child welfare using existing models from the health sector. With the involvement of clinicians, managers and researchers, the project will combine best available evidence at all levels of policy and service delivery decision-making to maximize child welfare response. CRCF is also in the preliminary stages of involvement in an evaluation of a violence prevention program for African Canadian families in Montreal, and continues analysis of the 2003 Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect.

3.7 New Brunswick

Research on family violence in New Brunswick is quite extensive, with the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research being actively involved at not only a provincial but national level (see Section 3.14 Regional/National Projects).
Research specific to New Brunswick covers a broad range of topics: caregiving (n=1), children and youth (n=1), intimate partner violence (n=2), justice and legal issues (n=1), and programs, practice and policy (n=1).

**Caregiving**

**Project Title:** “The Influence of Past Relationship and Obligation on Health and Health Promotion in Female Caregivers of Adult Family Members”

**Status:** Ongoing (2003-2006)

**Investigator(s):** J. Wuest (Canadian Institutes for Health Research), M. Hodgins (Canadian Institutes for Health Research), M. Merritt-Gray (University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing), P. Seaman (University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing), J. Malcolm (University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing) & K. Furlong (University of New Brunswick)

**Funder(s):** Canadian Institutes for Health Research

**Description:** Explores prevalence of women caring for family members with whom they’ve had previously strained relationships, how obligation affects decision to provide care, and to understand the consequences of this sort of care provision on women’s health and health promotion.

**Children and Youth**

**Project Title:** Child Abuse and Neglect Research Team, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research

**Status:** Ongoing (2003-2006)

**Research Team:** K. Kufeldt (University of New Brunswick), J. Armstrong (Health and Child Welfare Consultant, Whitby, ON), L. Blackmore (Canadian and New Brunswick Foster Family Associations), D. Cheers (Barnardos Australia and the LAC Project Australia), C. Daigle (Family and Community Services, Government of New Brunswick), R. Klein (Memorial University Social Work), L. Manser (National Youth in Care Network), F. Martin (Family Services of Haliburton County), L. McGilligan (Family and Community Services, Government of New Brunswick), M. Muzychka (Health and Community Services Government of New Brunswick), P. Thomas (Dalhousie Law School) & R. Twigg (University of Regina)

**Funder(s):** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

**Description:** A project assessing developmental outcomes of children in foster care in both Canada and Australia, with data obtained being compared to the NLSCY study as a control. The team also promotes international collaboration toward improving services and understanding the effects of alternative policies and procedures. Further, promotes the use of “Looking After Children.”
Intimate Partner Violence

Project Title: “Achieving Non-Violence in Abusive Partner Relationships and Women’s Health”
Status: Ongoing (2003-2006)
Investigator(s): J. Wuest (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) & M. Merritt-Gray (University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing)
Funder(s): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
Description: An exploratory feminist grounded theory study to examine ways that women achieve non-violence in intimate partner relationships, to identify conditions that interfere in the achievement of non-violence, and to explain how women’s health affects and is affected by their working toward non-violence.

Project Title: “The Tantramar Family Violence Team”
Status: Ongoing
Investigator(s): D. Doherty (PLEIS), J. Hornosty (University of New Brunswick) & C. Pouline (University of New Brunswick)
Funder(s): National Crime Prevention Centre Community Mobilization Program
Description: A research team comprised of community and university researchers, as well as representatives from Sackville Memorial Hospital and the Tantramar Caring Community Committee. The purpose of the team is to develop collaborative family violence interventions, particularly for abused rural women using health services in the Tantramar region. Project is funded for two phases, the first of which involved the development of research ethics proposals, an extensive literature review, and reports on health service responses to family violence. The second phase involves focus groups and qualitative data collection toward a community response to family violence intervention and prevention.

Justice/Legal Issues

Project Title: “New Brunswick Specialized Domestic Violence Court Evaluation Phase I”
Status: Ongoing (since January 2006)
Investigator(s): C. Gill & H. McTiernan (Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research)
Partner(s): Family Violence Court Steering Committee, Government of New Brunswick
Description: Evaluation of the pilot project for the New Brunswick Specialized Domestic Violence Court
Programs, Practice & Policy

Project Title: “PRISM: Probing Rural Issues – Selecting Methods to Address Abuse of Women and Girls: Evaluating Better Practices and Reflexive Approaches”
Status: Complete (2002-2004)
Investigator(s): E. Blaney (Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research)
Funder(s): Status of Women Canada
Description: Building on previous discussions of key stakeholders in Atlantic Canada (2000), the 2002 PRISM project examined the experiences of rural women and girls enduring violence and suggested better practices and reflexive approaches. Resources and materials for use by family violence and violence prevention policy makers, program/service designers and service deliverers were developed.

Future Directions:

- Examination of conditional sentencing in domestic violence and related cases: Research team has been established by the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research.
- Continued leadership of the National Observatory on the Justice System’s Response to Intimate Partner Violence.

3.8 Nova Scotia

Those research initiatives discovered in Nova Scotia largely relate to justice and legal issues as they pertain to family violence. Projects examining domestic violence court options, family violence case progression through the justice system, and evaluation of legislation are near completion. One project also addressed the topic of service provision and elder abuse. From discussions with representatives from the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, a number of key future directions were noted.

Elder Abuse

Project Title: “Offering the Help that is Needed: Service Delivery to Mistreated and Neglected Older People in Rural Communities”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): J. Harbison (Dalhousie University)
Funder(s): Faculty of Health Professions Research Development Funds
Description: Examining service delivery to victims of elder abuse and neglect in rural communities in Nova Scotia.
Justice and Legal Topics

Project Title: Evaluation of Domestic Violence Intervention Act Emergency Protection Order Legislation
Status: To be released September, 2006
Funder(s): Nova Scotia Department of Justice
Description: Evaluation of Nova Scotia’s Emergency Protection Order Legislation as it relates to domestic violence intervention.

Project Title: “Exploring Court Options for Processing Domestic Violence Cases”
Status: Ongoing (2006)
Investigator(s): V. Pottie Bunge, S. MacInnis-Langely, R. Roe & J. Cavicchi
Funder(s): Nova Scotia Department of Justice
Description: Comprehensive, cross-jurisdictional review of court options for domestic violence cases in Nova Scotia. Currently in draft form.

Status: To be released September, 2006
Investigator(s): P. Smith
Funder(s): Nova Scotia Department of Justice
Description: Third phase of a three-phase, longitudinal study that tracks a sample of family violence cases through the system, from police contact to court decision to sentencing, to see what policies are working in Nova Scotia.

Future Directions:

Research developments in Nova Scotia include:
• Involvement in a National Femicide Study.
• A study examining a one-day snapshot of offenders in Nova Scotia, with partial focus on connections to family violence.
• Evaluation of the province-wide High Risk Domestic Violence Case Coordination Protocol, Nova Scotia’s framework for action against family violence.
• Further examination into the development of specialized domestic violence courts in Nova Scotia.
• Continuation of the pilot implementation of the Early Case Resolution Project (2005), which provides expedited resolution to domestic violence cases in Nova Scotia.
• An environmental scan of crime in Nova Scotia (including family violence), and the social causes of crime, toward the development of safer and stronger communities.
3.9 Newfoundland and Labrador

Two family violence-related projects were found in Newfoundland and Labrador, both relating to the provincial violence prevention initiative.

Project Title: “Final Report: Violence Prevention Initiative Results and Recommendations of Community Consultations and Provincial Forum”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): J. Helleur & Associates Inc.
Partner(s): Government of Newfoundland/Labrador Violence Prevention Initiative
Funder(s): Government of Newfoundland/Labrador Violence Prevention Initiative
Description: A project for using community stakeholder information to aid in the development of the future role and mandate of the provincial Violence Prevention Initiative, a five-year (2000-2005) multi-department, government-community partnership designed to address family violence in Newfoundland/Labrador.

Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): Goss Gilroy Inc
Partner(s): Institute for Human Resource Development; B. Boland; D. Gallant and Associates
Funder(s): Government of Newfoundland/Labrador Violence Prevention Initiative (Women’s Policy Office)
Description: A mid-term evaluation of the design, implementation and activities of the Violence Prevention Initiative, a five-year (2000-2005) multi-department, government-community partnership designed to address family violence in Newfoundland/Labrador.

Future Directions:

Newfoundland and Labrador are in the beginning stages of implementing a family violence prevention initiative. Research priorities for family violence in Newfoundland, as determined by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, include:

- Development of violence indicators to monitor progress of violence prevention activities.
- Increase Newfoundland/Labrador’s capacity to collect and make use of data on violence, including the development of initiatives to undertake research with specific populations toward determining the effectiveness of violence prevention programs.
- Development of a provincial research agenda.
- Development of appropriate methodologies for ethical data collection related to Aboriginal women’s experiences with family violence.
- Monitoring of the implementation of the Risk Management Model for child protection.
3.10 Prince Edward Island

Although only two projects were found for Prince Edward Island, the provincial government, in consultation with communities across the province, has developed a five-year strategy to address family violence prevention. The strategy supports research on the changing patterns of family violence, as well as monitoring an evaluation of various programs and services implemented.

**Project Title:** “herStory of Woman Abuse and the PEI Justice System”
**Status:** Complete (1999-2004)
**Investigator(s):** K. Lund (Community Member), J. Ings (Transition House Association, PEI), E. Reddin (Office of the Attorney General, PEI), Rona Brown (Family Violence Consultant, Province of PEI) & J. Mitchell (University of PEI)
**Funder(s):** Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research; Status of Women Canada
**Description:** An initiative of the Woman Abuse and the PEI Justice System Research Team of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Research Centre, this project examines the experiences of abused women in the PEI justice system, what the system is doing to respond to abused women, and whether the response to woman abuse has improved with PEI's recent initiatives. The project works toward educating justice system workers about woman abuse and women's participation in the justice system, and changing the justice system to make it more sensitive to their needs.

**Project Title:** “Police Response to Domestic Violence: A Provincial Overview”
**Status:** Complete (2005)
**Investigator(s):** R. Brown (Family Violence Consultant, PEI Health & Social Services)
**Partner(s):** Prince Edward Island Association of Chiefs of Police
**Funder(s):** Prince Edward Island Health and Social Services
**Description:** Examines police response to domestic violence cases in the province of Prince Edward Island. Findings used to guide practice, training and protocol among police services in the province.

3.11 Nunavut

There was one project found for Nunavut. However, this territory is also the subject of some of the regional family violence initiatives (see Section 3.14 Regional/National Research).
Project Title: “Research Report: Applying Inuit Cultural Approaches in the Prevention of Family Violence and Abuse”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): Paiktuutit Inuit Women’s Association
Funder(s): Aboriginal Programs Directorate – Department of Canadian Heritage
Description: Part of the Nuluaq Project (the National Inuit Strategy for Abuse Prevention, ongoing), this research report represents an initial examination of spousal, sexual and child abuse issues in Nunavut and other Aboriginal communities. The goal of the project was to establish Inuit traditional values, philosophies and practices as they pertain to the treatment and healing of victims and perpetrators of abuse.

3.12 Northwest Territories

There were no projects found for the Northwest Territories; however, this territory is the subject of some of the regional initiatives (see Section 3.14 Regional/National Research).

3.13 Yukon

There was one project found for the Yukon. However, this territory is also the subject of some of the regional family violence initiatives (see Section 3.14 Regional/National Research).

Project Title: “The Domestic Violence Treatment Option (DVTO), Whitehorse, Yukon: Final Evaluation Report”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): J. Hornick (Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family), M. Boyes (University of Calgary), L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta) & L. White
Funder(s): National Crime Prevention Centre
Description: A comprehensive process and outcome analysis evaluation designed to monitor and test the effectiveness of the Domestic Violence Treatment Option (DVTO) located in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Future Directions for the Territories:

- Pauktuutit, the Inuit Women of Canada, will continue its work in promoting and advocating for greater awareness of the needs of Inuit women. Specifically, their Nuluaq Project will continue research work toward the improvement of coordination of abuse prevention services and resources in Inuit communities.

3.14 Regional/National Research

Many projects were found that are the result of coordination and collaboration of research groups, universities, governments, and other agencies across the country. These projects have examined issues of family violence on a national or regional level, in some cases comparing findings between provinces. Projects cover various topics,
including Aboriginal and Inuit Communities (n=4), elder abuse (n=1), children and youth (n=2), intimate partner violence (n=10), justice/legal topics (n=3), and programs, practice, and policy (n=4).

**Aboriginal & Inuit Communities**

**Project Title:** “A Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography on Aspects of Child Welfare in Canada” (Second Edition)

**Status:** Complete (2005)

**Investigator(s):** M. Bennett, C. Blackstock & R. De La Ronde

**Partner(s):** The Centre for Excellence in Child Welfare; The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

**Funder(s):** Health Canada; Centre for Excellence in Child Welfare

**Description:** A review of child welfare research and articles from all disciplines relevant to Aboriginal children, youth and the well being of Aboriginal families.

**Project Title:** “Abuse Prevention Services in Inuit Communities: Analytical Report”

**Status:** Complete (2005)

**Investigator(s):** Pauktuuit Inuit Women’s Association

**Funder(s):** National Aboriginal Health Organization - Ajunnginiq Centre, Justice Canada - National Crime Prevention Centre (Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Nunavut

**Description:** Research component of the Nuluaq Project: National Inuit Strategy for Abuse Prevention. Project included a review of relevant literature, a survey of abuse prevention services in Inuit communities, and the development of a database of services and programs for Inuit victims of abuse. Front-line service providers were also interviewed to explore Inuit perceptions and recommendations related to root causes of abuse, gaps in intervention/abuse prevention, and promising practices for Inuit communities.

**Project Title:** “Creating a Framework for the Wisdom of the Community: A Review of Victim Services in Nunavut, Northwest and Yukon Territories”

**Status:** Complete (2004)

**Investigator(s):** M.B. Levan

**Funder(s):** Policy Centre for Victim Issues and the Research and Statistics Division of the Department of Justice Canada

**Description:** Examined services available to victims of crime in the Territories, as well as best practices, challenges and gaps in delivery of victim services through consultation with victim service providers, community-based service providers, and government officials.
Project Title: “Wen:De: We are Coming To the Light of Day”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): C. Blackstock, T. Prakash, J. Loxley & F. Wien
Partner(s): First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada
Description: A multidisciplinary research project that included experts in First Nations child welfare, community development, law, social work and management, and worked toward the development of three funding formula options to support First Nations child and family service policy and practice across Canada.

Elder Abuse

Project Title: “A Way Forward: Promoting Promising Approaches to Abuse Prevention in Institutional Settings”
Status: Ongoing (2006-2008)
Investigator(s): L. McDonald, D. Howse, & E. Podnieks (University of Toronto), J. Harbison (Dalhousie University), M. Charpentier (University of Quebec at Montreal), S. Hirst (University of Calgary) & C. Spencer (Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University)
Partner(s): University of Toronto Institute for Life Course and Aging, Dalhousie University, University of Quebec at Montreal, University of Calgary, Simon Fraser University
Funder(s): Government of Canada Public Health Agency’s National Population Health Fund
Description: A two-year national project which aims to understand the complexity of abuse and neglect of older adults in congregate settings, and identify promising Canadian approaches to ensure their well-being. Activities include a national snapshot of abuse prevention in long-term care facilities in Canada (i.e., laws, protocols, practices, policies), as well as regional forums to share this information.

Children and Youth

Status: Complete (Major Findings Report, 2005)
Investigator(s): N. Trocme, B. Fallon, B. MacLaurin, J. Daciuk, C. Felstiner & T. Black
Funder(s): Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada
Description: A nation-wide study examining the incidence of reported child maltreatment, as well as the characteristics of children and families investigated by Canadian child welfare services.
Project Title: “The Hidden Hurt Project: Final Report”
Investigator(s): K. Barter (Memorial University), J. Fairholm (Canadian Red Cross), M. Ungar (Dalhousie University), L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta) & S. McConnell (Memorial University)
Partner(s): Government of Canada’s National Crime Prevention Strategy, Canadian Red Cross, Dalhousie University, Memorial University, University of Calgary
Funder(s): Government of Canada’s National Crime Prevention Strategy
Description: A three-phase project (2002-2004) aiming to “prevent the abuse of children and youth by increasing awareness and understanding of the nature and extent of child abuse in Canadian society” (*The Hidden Hurt Project Final Report, 2005: 1*).

Intimate Partner Violence

Project Title: “A Profile of Incarcerated Female Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence: Implications for Treatment”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): N. Gabora & R. Cochrane (Reintegration Programs, Correctional Service of Canada)
Funder(s): Correctional Service of Canada
Description: Investigates the existence and nature of relationship violence by federally sentenced women offenders in Canada, suggesting appropriate areas for intervention.

Project Title: “Effects of Personal, Social, and Economic Resources on Physical, and Mental Health of Women in the Early Years after Leaving an Abusive Partner”
Status: Complete (2003-2005)
Investigator(s): M. Ford-Gilboe (University of Western Ontario), C. Varcoe (University of Victoria), J. Wuest (Canadian Institutes for Health Research), L. Davies (University of Western Ontario), M. Merritt-Gray (University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing) & O. Hankivsky (Simon Fraser University)
Funder(s): Canadian Institutes for Health Research, Institute of Gender & Health
Description: A qualitative, longitudinal study examining the mental and physical health of women in the early years after leaving an abusive partner. The interrelationship between severity of abuse, changes in personal, social and economic resources, and changes health problems are examined. Further, rates of health and social service access to manage health problems, costs of accessing service and economic burden related to managing health problems and functioning of women after leaving an abusive partner. Other problems are also examined. Participants were recruited in New Brunswick, Ontario, and British Columbia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>“Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2006”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Complete (2006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s):</td>
<td>Statistics Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>“Healing Journey’: A Longitudinal Study of Women Who Have Been Abused by Intimate Partners”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Ongoing (5 year project – 2004-2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s):</td>
<td>L. Radtke (University of Calgary), L. Tutty (RESOLVE), E. Gibbs van-Brunschot (University of Calgary), L. Meadows (University of Calgary), W. Thurston (University of Calgary) &amp; R. Grant-Kalischuk (University of Calgary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s):</td>
<td>Partnership between RESOLVE Alberta, Universities of Alberta, Brandon, Calgary, Lethbridge, Regina, Saskatchewan and Community Services in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funder(s):</td>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Community-University Research Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>A tri-provincial, longitudinal study of women who have been abused by intimate partners.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>“Health Promotion Processes of Women who have Experienced Work Place Bullying and Intimate Partner Violence”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Ongoing (2006-2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator(s):</td>
<td>J. MacIntosh, J. Wuest &amp; M. Merritt-Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funder(s):</td>
<td>Canadian Research Institutes of Health Research Operating Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Project expands on current knowledge of patterns of health promotion in the context of multiple experiences of victimization by studying women who have experienced workplace bullying and intimate partner violence. Study focuses specifically on women in New Brunswick, Ontario, and British Columbia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Title: “Intersecting Sites of Violence in the Lives of Girls: A National Participatory Action Project with Girls and Young Women and the Organizations that Work with Them”
Status: Ongoing (since 2004; Phase 1 Report (Evaluation of Implementation) November 2005)
Investigator(s): S. Normandeau, E. Harper & E. Martinez
Partner(s): The Alliance of Five Research Centres on Violence
Funder(s): Status of Women Canada
Description: Three phase (18 months each) participatory action research project (commencing in 2004) aiming to improve the lives of girls and women by addressing indicators of inequality, identifying how institutions contribute to victimization, identifying vulnerabilities/inequalities of girls experiencing intersecting forms of violence, sensitizing service providers and policy makers to focus indicators, and identifying strategies to address barriers to equality, promoting full participation.

Project Title: “Just Between You and Me: A Peer Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) Programme for Women in Family Violence Situations”
Status: Complete (2005)
Investigator(s): G. Broad & A. Hagerty
Funder(s): Justice Canada
Description: Project designed to provide PLEI peer support to women who had experienced family violence and assess the validity of the model for PLEI delivery. Findings support peer development as a valid PLEI model of education and information delivery.

Project Title: “The Long-term Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Mental and Physical Health of Women Who Have Left Abusive Relationships: Building the Evidence to Improve Professional Practice and Public Policy”
Status: Ongoing (2003-2008)
Investigator(s): J. Wuest (Canadian Institutes for Health Research), M. Ford-Gilboe (University of Western Ontario), C. Varcoe (University of Victoria) & M. Merritt-Gray (University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing)
Funder(s): Canadian Institutes for Health Research New Emerging Team Grant
Description: A longitudinal examination of the effects of intimate partner violence on abused women in New Brunswick, Ontario, and British Columbia, toward the improvement of practices and approaches.
Project Title: "Supporting Mother-Infant Relationships Affected by Intimate Partner Violence"
Status: Ongoing (2006)
Investigator(s): N. Letourneau (Canadian Institutes of Health Research), D. Williams (Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy, University of New Brunswick), M.L. Secco (St. Francis Xavier/Cape Breton University Nursing Program), C. Gill (Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research), J. Hughes (Faculty of Nursing, Dalhousie University), M. Stewart (Canadian Institutes for Health Research/Institute of Gender and Health) & J. Campbell (UPEI)
Partner(s): University of New Brunswick, University of PEI, Dalhousie University, Cape Breton University
Funder(s): Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Description: A tri-provincial study (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI) on the impact of intimate partner violence on children’s development and the relationship between lone mothers and their children.

Project Title: "Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends 2006"
Status: To be released October, 2006
Partner(s): Statistics Canada; Status of Women Canada
Funder(s): Statistics Canada; Status of Women Canada
Description: Uses General Social Survey, other survey and crime data to measure statistical trends of violence against women in Canada.

Justice/Legal Topics

Project Title: "The Canadian Observatory on the Justice System’s Response to Intimate Partner Violence"
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): C. Gill (University of New Brunswick), H. Berman (University of Western Ontario), M. Jackson (Simon Fraser University), G. Rondeau (University of Montreal), L. Tutty (University of Calgary), & J. Ursel (University of Manitoba)
Partner(s): The Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Violence
Funder(s): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Description: A national observatory that combines knowledge developed across the country on the justice system’s response to intimate partner abuse. Its mission is to: “Conduct research that will ensure the uptake of new knowledge by stakeholders and that will encourage a multi-sectoral coordinated effort to reduce and eliminate intimate partner abuse that will help the establishment of an effective system across Canada.”
Project Title: “Peace Bonds and Violence Against Women”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): G.S. Rigakos
Funder(s): Justice Canada
Description: Assesses the impact of amendments to Bill C-42 on the application of Criminal Code sections 810-811 recognizances (peace bonds) and examines the changes in their processing, availability and enforcement in spousal violence cases.

Project Title: “Evaluating the Justice and Community Response to Family Violence in the Canadian Prairie Provinces”
Status: Complete (2001-2004)
Investigator(s): L. Tutty (RESOLVE Alberta) & J. Ursel (RESOLVE), CURA – Community University Research Alliance
Partner(s): University of Calgary, Manitoba Justice; Saskatchewan Justice; Calgary Justice Working Committee; Action Committee Against Violence, Cultural Diversity Institute; Institute for Gender Research
Funder(s): Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Community-University Research Alliance
Description: Evaluates the justice and community responses to intimate partner violence in the prairie provinces’ largest cities.

Programs, Practice & Policy

Project Title: “The Development of the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-Safer): A Tool for Criminal Justice Professionals (Research Reports)”
Status: Complete (2004)
Investigator(s): P. Randall & S.D. Hart
Funder(s): Justice Canada
Description: Evaluation of the B-Safer tool for assessment of risk in spousal assault cases, for use by criminal justice professionals.

Project Title: “Environmental Scan of Safe Visitation Centres”
Status: Ongoing (since 2005)
Investigator(s): L. Tutty & L. Barry
Funder(s): Alberta’s Ministry of Children’s Services
Description: Environmental scan of Canada’s supervised visitation centres. Goal is to address custody issues with regards to families where domestic violence is an issue.
Project Title: “Social Models of Child Welfare Practitioners with Respect to the Conjunction of Domestic Violence and Maltreatment: Comparative Study of New Brunswick and Quebec”

Status: Ongoing

Investigator(s): C. Bourassa (University of Montreal), C. Lavergne (University of Montreal), D. Damant (CRI-VFF), R. Arseneault (Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre for Family Violence Research), E. Savoie (Centre for the Prevention of Family Violence, New Brunswick), S. Scott-Thibodeau (Protection Worker), P. Melanson (Child Protection Worker) & G. Theriault (Child Protection Worker)

Description: Explores the social models of child welfare practitioners in New Brunswick and their views of the conjunction between domestic violence and child maltreatment in cases assigned under the province’s Family Violence Act. This information is being collected in conjunction with a Québec study examining the attitudes of workers in family violence situations, in order to compare the views of workers in both provinces. The study further aims to conduct a comparative analysis of Quebec and New Brunswick with regard to social models of workers in family violence situations.


Future Directions In Canada:

Although there are many research priorities across the country, some specific plans for future national research include:

- Further development of a research agenda for family violence in Inuit communities, which includes addressing the development of shelters for Inuit women, and training programs for service providers working with Inuit women. Further, the role that men could play in the fight against family violence will be explored.
- National research on elder abuse: development of a research strategy toward combating elder abuse.
- Future work by the Canadian Observatory on the Justice System’s Response to Intimate Partner Violence
4.0 FAMILY VIOLENCE RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN ALBERTA

A major objective of this project is to determine family violence research needs in Alberta, to be accomplished through consultation with service delivery organizations. A number of key informants were identified across the province, representing agencies such as shelters, community support services, counselling agencies, and family intervention services. Contact was made via email or phone, with a request to participate in an informal discussion. Of roughly 30 requests, 20 interviews were conducted.

To get a sense of the issues agencies face in providing family violence services, and how research might aid in addressing these issues, the interview discussion was centred on the following questions:

- What issues does your service delivery organization face in its work with victims of family violence?
- What sources of information are you currently accessing to aid in responding to these issues?
- Is this information easily accessible?
- What information/research support do you require?
- What form could research information take in order for it to be most useful to your service organization?

The information gained from these discussions provides a strong sense of the unique perspectives of front-line service providers in Alberta. The themes that emerged, as well as thoughts and suggestions on accessibility of research information, are summarized below.

4.1 Issues in Family Violence Service Delivery and Identified Research Needs

Discussions with service providers regarding the issues they face and the research that might assist them in addressing these issues are summarized according to several themes: addiction; children and youth; perpetrators of family violence; data collection and measurement in family violence research; justice and legal issues; issues specific to Aboriginal, rural/remote and immigrant communities; special issues for Alberta shelters; elder abuse; family violence reporting; and a number of other general concerns.

- Addiction and Family Violence

Many agencies stressed that the current understanding of addictions and family violence is not sufficient, and that the topic has not been critically examined in Alberta. Much of the existing addictions literature as it relates to family violence focuses on biological/psychological/neurological aspects, rather than thoroughly evaluating the role that it plays in family violence (i.e., effects on children, intervention needs, intimate partner issues, etc.).
Respondents pointed to the difficulty in collecting data and information on addiction at the time of intervention. As one respondent noted, if the individual with the addiction is not ready to address it at the time of the family’s contact with the service, a proper understanding of the role that it plays in the situation is impossible to determine. As a result, research on the role of addiction must be assessed carefully and thoroughly on a case-by-case basis to ensure that accurate information is collected.

- **Children and Youth**

Issues and research needs specific to children and youth were also raised in the interviews, particularly with regards to child visitation in family violence situations where parents have separated. Several respondents expressed concern over the safety of children in unsupervised contact with a parent who has been a perpetrator of the violence in their families, with many respondents wondering what happens to children during unsupervised visits. Further, they pointed to a lack of understanding and ability to assess whether these perpetrators can still make good parents, and consequently, whether they should have access to children. Research, development and implementation of parent training was noted as vital to ensuring the safety of children in these situations.

- **Perpetrators of Family Violence**

Several respondents expressed a need to begin focusing on the perpetrators of family violence, both male and female. Some respondents expressed a need to determine typologies of perpetrators, and how to best address these individuals and best support victims based on this information. One respondent spoke to this issue in terms specific to elder abuse, stating that victims are often hesitant to report the perpetrator for protective reasons (as perpetrators of elder abuse are often family members). Victims of elder abuse in some situations often seek means to help the perpetrator in a way that targets the origin for the abuse (i.e., financial, emotional). In this way, research is needed to identify ways to safely and non-offensively assist the perpetrator, either via the victim or making supports/information more available in appropriate places in the community.

Developing and determining the effectiveness of treatment programs for both male and female perpetrators was also expressed as a potential research need. Respondents, however, stressed the importance of conducting such research in a localized context, given the obvious disparity of available resources across the province.

- **Data Collection and Measurement in Family Violence Research**

A number of data collection and measurement issues were identified by respondents as well. Many pointed to the importance of establishing clear data needs in the province, in order to ensure that data collected by police, service agencies, and courts are necessary and will be beneficial to effectively examining family violence issues. Several respondents spoke to the abundance of data available on the justice aspect of family violence cases, but little on family details, service access, needs, etc.
Further, respondents spoke about the strong potential of current data collection in Alberta, but expressed concern over whether the initiative is being funded properly and whether it is focused on specific initiatives. One respondent noted the strong possibility that data collection is not being conducted as extensively as necessary due to funding inadequacy and lack of long-term funding. In order to maximize efficiency of data collection and research, respondents stressed that it be integrated and built upon the current infrastructure.

One issue of particular interest regarded data collection and measurement of “success” of family violence interventions. As one respondent observed, funders often seek quantifiable results to determine the success of a given intervention; however, program success is difficult to determine quantitatively, as the experiences of women and children in family violence situations are not wholly measurable by such outcome measures as shelter visits, number of reports, repeated access to service, etc. Several respondents noted the need for a more comprehensive approach, including action research using qualitative measures of the victim’s experience to determine “success” of family violence interventions.

Finally, one respondent expressed the importance of distinguishing between outcomes measurement and research. For many agencies in Alberta, outcomes measurements for programs and services are already in place, but the need for ongoing research on developing, implementing and improving services is vital.

- **Justice/Legal Issues**

Several justice and legal issues were raised by respondents, most of which related to the accessibility of the justice system to victims of family violence. One recurring concern regarded the difficulty victims face in navigating the justice system, particularly immigrant families and those coming to major urban centres from rural areas. These individuals often face multiple barriers in making their initial report to police. Further, once they make the report, they find the system intimidating and complicated. A number of respondents spoke to the difficulty that victims have in obtaining legal representation. Many women take steps to report their and their children’s victimization to the police, but a large majority struggle to proceed with their case simply due to the cost. Finding legal representation in rural communities is particularly challenging for most given a lack of available services and information. As one respondent identified, many victims must travel to urban areas to obtain legal aid, which also adds to the cost of proceeding with their case. Respondents stressed the need of examining the multiple barriers to proceeding with legal action in family violence cases, and for increased availability of legal information, resources, and supports for victims.

Another justice issue identified was the lack of specialized family violence courts in non-major urban areas. Although respondents acknowledged small populations and, as a result, small caseloads, as the reason for this, they asserted how beneficial some sort of specialized option would be in these areas. Respondents acknowledged the costs of such an initiative, but further questioned the costs of not having these types of courts in smaller communities, suggesting the need to explore an alternative approach
to handling family violence cases in these locations. A number of interview participants questioned what type of data collection is required to justify the implementation of domestic violence courts, and how this could be implemented in smaller centres.

Generally, at the policy level, a majority of respondents expressed the need for continued evaluation of the effectiveness of justice policies in Alberta as they relate to family violence.

- Aboriginal Communities

A number of individuals working with Aboriginal and Métis victims of family violence were contacted in an effort to identify issues and research needs specific to these groups. Common issues identified were lack of affordable, safe housing for Aboriginal women leaving shelters, as well as lack of appropriate and affordable child care and supports for Aboriginal women fleeing violent situations. Care that reflects the unique needs of Aboriginal and Métis women and children is very much needed across the province, particularly in rural communities.

One respondent made note of a dilemma facing some Aboriginal victims of domestic violence. There is a possibility that band members may sit on the boards of Aboriginal community services (i.e., shelters, community support services) and that, in some cases, these individuals may be related to or involved with victims of family violence who should be accessing services. This, combined with the closeness of many Aboriginal communities, leads to tremendous hesitancy of women and their children to employ services tailored to Aboriginal women and children. Oftentimes, these women travel to large centres to gain support, which related to another substantial issue identified by service providers. Many of these victims face uncertainty, unfamiliarity, and financial struggles as a result of their move; as one respondent identified, these individuals “lose their rights” once they leave the reserve.

Attention was also brought to the need for best practice approaches to working with Aboriginal victims. Many respondents reported to the need for culturally-specific approaches that consider Aboriginal values and traditions, in order to more effectively engage Aboriginal women and children escaping violent situations when they come into contact with community services. Research on how to reach out Aboriginal victims in a non-intimidating, culturally appropriate manner was stated by many as vital to supporting them successfully.

As several respondents noted, research regarding Aboriginal family violence would be most effective if done as participatory action research, grounded in the experiences of both workers who service Aboriginal communities and the victims of family violence they serve. There is a demonstrated need for community-specific research, conducted by, or in close collaboration with, Aboriginal representatives, and that works toward the development of best practices, effective and professional services for Aboriginal communities, and importantly, contributes to positive change.

52
• Rural and Remote Communities

In connecting with service providers in rural and remote communities, a number of unique issues were raised that are particular to the logistics of rural/remote areas and to the clientele they serve. Respondents pointed to the substantial gap between urban and rural service provision, as well as the marked difference in issues faced by workers in rural and urban areas. Many victims of family violence in these areas must travel to major cities to obtain beneficial support. A number of respondents spoke to difficulties regarding isolation of many victims and an accompanying lack of means (transportation) to get to help. For many, their only means to escape the situation is for the police to come, which in itself is hindered by a hesitancy to report. As one respondent noted, many of these women and their families suffer from learned helplessness: they are too isolated to access service, not aware that help is available, and ultimately stay in violent family situations for lack of other options. This respondent suggested the role that doctors and health care providers might play in identifying victims, and educating and informing them of available supports.

Respondents spoke strongly of the need to focus research on rural/remote communities, with the hope that it will "officially" reveal the obvious gaps in resources and supports – and provide a larger voice for these communities in their efforts to obtain funding. Further, respondents expressed the importance of networking rural and remote communities for better collaboration, information sharing, and coordination of services and resources; however, given the geographical dispersion of rural communities, particularly in Northern Alberta, respondents spoke to the unique challenges posed and increased needs for financial and human resource support in successfully developing strategies. The development of best practices in successfully developing community and regional strategies for responding to family violence in rural and remote areas is vital.

• Immigrant Communities

Interviews with immigrant-serving agencies also revealed a number of issues specific to their clientele, including the need for ways to deal with language and cultural issues in service provision. Many front-line workers find that beliefs of some cultures both inhibit victims’ willingness to ask for help, and present unique challenges for service providers in engaging victims once they report their abuse and access service. Further, immigrant victims are often intimidated by a social service system that is “foreign” to them. This points to a demonstrated need for best practices research in the province, particularly with regards to engaging immigrant victims and supporting them in working within the Alberta infrastructure.

As a general research issue, service providers pointed to an obvious lack of literature on immigrant family violence in Alberta, and often questioned exactly how good and relevant the existing literature (developed outside the province, often in the US) is in the Alberta context.
• Shelters in Alberta

A number of issues were raised concerning shelter services in Alberta. Overall, many voiced the importance of addressing the need for affordable housing in the province, expressing uncertainty as to where women and children go following their contact with the shelter. Respondents noted that victims often feel they must return to their home, given that there is nowhere affordable to go. This relates to one research suggestion, which was to conduct follow-ups on women and children who come in contact with the shelter. What happens to them when they leave the shelter? What are the long-term results of shelter contact? Are there enough long-term supports for victims?

Access to shelter services for victims in rural communities was also questioned by respondents. In many experiences, there was a demonstrable tendency for rural and Aboriginal women to not access shelters. As previously discussed, transportation to shelters is often an issue for these women and children; further, existing services in larger centres need to be stretched to support rural communities, putting a strain on existing resources.

An additional issue that arose several times in conversations with shelter representatives was the need for studies that assess the impact of the work on staff. Shelter representatives pointed to a high rate of turnover of shelter staff, expressing concern over the lack of continuous support to victims. Issues of stress, wage equity, and the effects of the work on shelter staff were raised.

• Elder Abuse

A number of respondents noted a gap in research in the area of elder abuse in Alberta. As previously discussed, examining the needs of perpetrators of elder abuse was one area in need of examination. Often, perpetrators are family members whom the victim wants to protect and aid, rather than charge. Thus, the development of best practices with regards to perpetrators of elder abuse is important.

Determining the prevalence and nature of elder abuse across Alberta was also identified as an important research need in Alberta. Specifically, establishing the types of elder abuse being perpetrated, and whether certain types of elder abuse are more prevalent in different areas of the province, is necessary to determining the most effective response to elder abuse by various communities.

Further, there is a demonstrated need to examine abuse of seniors receiving care services, both within care facilities and their homes. One respondent questioned specifically what the standards of care are in both domains, and whether these standards affect the general wellness of seniors. Further, the implications that this has for service revision and development was questioned.

In terms of justice, the question was also raised as to what happens to seniors who have reported and proceeded against their perpetrator. Concern was expressed
over whether seniors are being protected by the law, or whether they are being re-victimized.

- **Reporting**

  Concern was also expressed about victims who do not report their experiences to the police. Community representatives questioned where these individuals are reporting and/or getting support (if at all), and requested solutions as to how to better access/engage those victims who do not report to the police.

- **Other Concerns**

  Several other concerns raised by interview participants should be noted. For example, a number of respondents noted the difficulty they face in accessing research funding. Front-line agencies often find research funding applications to be difficult and time-consuming, particularly when they are already operating with strained financial and human resources.

  One concern expressed with regards to service providers specifically was related to training at the university/college level. Some respondents felt that there was not enough training provided to graduates on specific skills used in family violence situations. One respondent suggested that it would be beneficial to determine what is being taught, and how to improve on existing knowledge of family violence issues. Further, on-going training of front-line staff and continuous renewal of knowledge and skills was identified as an important need for service provision in Alberta.

  Nearly all respondents expressed that collaboration between research agencies and community service providers is vital, for several reasons. First, there is often competition between and among community service agencies and research groups over funding. Research partnerships and collaboration would perhaps decrease the number of demands for research funding. Second, partnerships would increase the degree of information sharing, and potentially increase the quality and depth of research. Finally, better collaboration and information sharing between urban and rural agencies would address the acknowledged disparity in available research resources between the two, providing better knowledge support to rural service providers.

  Vital to any research agenda in Alberta is the examination of community-specific needs and issues, both geographically and culturally. Given the diversity of communities in Alberta, as well as the disparity in resources available in various communities, community needs assessments and community specific research were identified by some respondents as a beneficial way to proceed.

  Another general suggestion made by respondents was the importance of research and evaluation-led policy decisions. Some respondents noted that in some cases, where research and evaluation has been conducted in the area of family violence, there is little follow-up to recommendations. Further, some interview participants pointed to the need for continuous evaluation of whether policies addressing family violence are working.
A general sentiment expressed from a number of respondents was the need for more Canadian specific studies, particularly with regards to assessment tools. As one respondent noted, many of the family violence risk assessment tools originated in the United States, raising concerns over their validity once applied in Alberta communities. This issue further reinforces the need for provincial and community specific studies, and the resultant development of community-appropriate assessment tools. However, respondents also stressed the need to access, examine, and build upon existing knowledge and infrastructure in Alberta. As one interview participant noted, “reinventing the wheel” has the potential to disempower existing community-based agencies and initiatives.

4.2 Access to Research Information

Questions were also asked about access to research information by service providers. Although most respondents agreed that there is a lot of research information “out there,” they highlighted a number of issues related to how available and relevant this information is.

First, a number of agencies echoed the need to have better access to university research publications. Most spoke to the high cost of subscribing to academic journals, making it impossible for them to benefit from academic work. As one respondent noted, “the biggest gift the government could give to both front-line and non-university research agencies is access to university databases.” Thus, there is a demonstrated need for electronic resources to be made more readily available.

A second identified issue related to access was the need to develop a better means of sharing research information amongst agencies. As many pointed out, there is much valuable research happening across Alberta and Canada, but those who can most benefit from it are often not aware that it is happening. Grey (non-published) material needs to be made more accessible.

Third, in seeking out literature, particularly in emergency situations, service providers find quality research difficult to obtain. They therefore stressed the need for an efficient means to disseminate quality research. Relatedly, several respondents asserted the need for research to be made more accessible not only in terms of medium, but just as importantly, in terms of practical use. Front-line workers often spoke of the difficulty in translating research articles and reports into practical use. Fast response to family violence cases is complicated by the fact that research is often dispersed in long, non-transparent ways. For research to aid in the victim support process, it needs to be found quickly and used quickly.

Finally, respondents in urban and especially rural communities expressed the need for a “one stop shop” for information about projects, programs, and service implementation. They often find that they are out of touch with major initiatives in the province, and would benefit from having a central source for family violence-related research, information, and program ideas in the province. The internet is key in providing needed information, but it can be difficult and time-consuming to find.
Individuals who have worked in the field extensively reported that they know where to look for research information, but stated that those new to the work would certainly struggle.

4.3 Summary

Interviews with front-line service agencies provided a strong sense of the issues that service providers themselves are facing in their day-to-day work with victims and perpetrators of family violence, adding a first hand perspective to the development of an Alberta research agenda. As noted, a number of key research needs and issues were identified, many of which regarded Alberta’s rural, Aboriginal, and immigrant populations. These issues often related to isolation, lack of resources, the development of appropriate, population specific services and programs, and system navigation.

Further, elder abuse was also identified as an area where very little Alberta-based research has been done. Specific issues raised regarded the development of best practices in dealing with perpetrators of elder abuse, the prevalence of elder abuse across the province, standards of care within care facilities and with home care services, and outcomes for seniors who have reported their abuse to authorities.

Long-term follow-up of victims of family violence was identified as a key need in Alberta, particularly as the province faces a lack of affordable transitional housing. Shelter representatives in particular expressed concern over whether their interventions were working, and what happens to the victims that they never see again. These issues point to the need for more extensive outcomes measurements (i.e., both qualitative and quantitative) as they relate to the “success” of victim contact with community agencies, as well as a thorough assessment of issues regarding transitional housing for victims leaving shelters.

An often cited research need concerned the perpetrators of family violence, particularly with regards to treatment programs for both male and female offenders. In communities where such treatment programs are in place, service providers expressed the need for continued evaluation of their efficacy. In communities where treatment programs are unavailable, respondents expressed interest in how to best develop their own programs, and how their current infrastructure could support them. Further, issues regarding the ability of perpetrators to parent were also raised, with respondents suggesting the research, development and implementation of parental training programs for perpetrators of family violence, particularly those who have been granted unsupervised visits in situations of spousal separation and divorce.

Collaboration and partnership was identified as a key step in expanding Alberta’s family violence knowledge network, benefiting all communities faced with family violence issues. This not only refers to collaboration between agencies (i.e., research, service, etc.) in specific communities, but also between various communities (urban and rural) in the province. A majority of respondents also stressed the need to build on the existing knowledge base and infrastructure so as to not minimize the ongoing efforts of many agencies to address family violence in their communities. As one respondent
noted, Alberta has a strong foundation of knowledge in this area, one that would be best served by research that acknowledges and builds upon it, rather than in spite of it.

In terms of research accessibility, although many respondents reported that they knew there was research “out there,” some expressed frustration over the difficulty at which it could be accessed, as well as its lack of transparency and use in a practical setting. Important to many respondents was a central (online?) source for family violence research projects, reports, programs and information in Alberta, the development of which would facilitate networking and improve the ease with which front-line agencies could access much needed information. Many respondents expressed they were often unaware of various research initiatives in the province, and were frustrated by the difficulty they faced in gaining access to the results of these studies. As one respondent noted, a “one-stop-shop” family-violence related information centre would significantly alleviate some of the time and difficulty in finding Alberta-based, as well as Canadian, research resources. Further, a majority of respondents expressed a desire to have access to academic publications and university research databases.
5.0 SUMMARY

The Environmental Scan of Family Violence Research provided a national perspective on recent and current family violence research, as well as an idea of where various provinces, and the country, are headed in terms of the issues they plan to address. Although not exhaustive, the scan provides a good sense of the research priorities of various organizations and institutions, and is a valuable tool in developing a research agenda for Alberta. Family violence research in Canada has been extensive, covering a broad range topics including:

- Intimate partner violence and its effects on women and girls. This area is a priority for most provinces, with related research topics being largely dependant on the information needs of various communities. There has been a particular interest in the health of female victims of domestic violence, as well as their experiences in accessing programs and justice.

- Family violence as it relates to children and youth. Projects across Canada in this area address a number of issues, ranging from the effects of family violence on parenting of children, the psychological effects of family violence, and child-welfare related research.

- Family violence in the justice/legal system. A number of provinces are either evaluating, or exploring the possibility of developing, specialized domestic violence courts. Research in this area has also tracked domestic violence cases through various justice systems in the country, in order to establish whether they are addressing the needs of family violence victims and perpetrators. Further, researchers have also examined issues surrounding intimate partner homicide.

- Family violence in immigrant communities. Although not covered as extensively as some topics, family violence as it relates to the experiences of immigrant women and children has been given particular attention by some researchers in Canada. Service provision has also been addressed by some provinces.

- Family violence in Inuit communities. The continued efforts of Pauktuutit (Inuit Women of Canada) are invaluable to the progress of family violence research in Inuit communities. The Nuluaq Project, a national strategy to address family violence among the Inuit people, will continue its work toward improving the lives of Inuit women and children.

- Family violence in Aboriginal communities. A number of research groups and projects are addressing child welfare, service provision and justice issues regarding family violence in Aboriginal communities.

- Family violence programs, practice and policy. There is extensive literature across the country concerning the development, implementation and evaluation of various types of family violence programs. Best practices research is also quite extensive, with researchers continuously working toward improving
approaches to victims and perpetrators of family violence. A number of governments and agencies are also actively involved in research-informed government policy.

Important to the success of many of these projects is collaboration between research, academic, and government agencies across the country. It is these partnerships that encourage information sharing and support to various family violence research initiatives in Canada, including the agenda to be developed in Alberta.

Alberta has a good start in the development of a family violence research agenda. The Alberta Government’s Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying set the stage for an important collaboration between key stakeholders across the province, representing government, victims, community service agencies, and research experts. From this roundtable also came funding for family violence and bullying initiatives, which is vital to the successful development of community resources to address these issues. The need for research was also acknowledged as an important part of this process. As revealed in the environmental scan, Alberta has a great start to researching family violence issues, particularly in the area of development and implementation of programs and practices to best serve victims and perpetrators of family violence.

To build on these successes, this project consulted with key service representatives in Alberta in order to determine further research needs. Findings from these consultations suggested a particular gap in terms of family violence research in rural/remote, Aboriginal, and immigrant communities, as well as elder abuse. To many, research that assesses the unique issues facing these communities and groups (i.e., isolation, addiction, culture-specific issues, community dynamics, etc.), while building on existing resources, is key to Alberta’s future research plans. Further, special examination of perpetrators of family violence, particularly in a community-specific manner, was also identified as a priority. As a general research note, the coordination of data collection on family violence cases was also identified as an important priority.

Community service representatives also expressed a number of concerns over the availability, accessibility, and dissemination of research. Where most acknowledged that research information is available online, finding it is often an arduous and time consuming task, one that is quite frustrating given limited personnel and time. A fervent suggestion was for the development of a central source of information on projects, programs, information, and initiatives related to family violence in Alberta, that also provides important research information developed by agencies across the country.

According to a number of key informants in Alberta, central to the development of a family violence research agenda for the province is partnership and collaboration with existing research (e.g., RESOLVE Alberta) and service agencies. Alberta has a strong foundation for family violence research provided by the province’s existing research and service infrastructure. Consulting with and building on this foundation is key to the successful development of Alberta’s future family violence research agenda.
BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED FAMILY VIOLENCE LITERATURE

Addictions, Mental Health


Child Welfare


Children and Youth


Disability Literature


Elder Abuse


Family Violence and Multicultural Families


**Intimate Partner Violence**


**Justice, Law and Policy**


**Military Families**


Parenting


Practice, Intervention, Best Practices


