

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: Response to the Domestic Violence Death Review 2019

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Ministers' Messages



The Honourable Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister Responsible for
the Status of Women
Office

I am pleased to introduce *Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: Response to the Domestic Violence Death Review*. The document outlines current work being done by the Government of Saskatchewan and upcoming initiatives focused on ending interpersonal violence and abuse.

There is a lot of work also being completed by communities and organizations across the province and we recognize their efforts as none of us can solve this complex issue on our own. Violence affects us all and as a community, we must work together to make Saskatchewan a safe place to live for everyone. This document came together with the input and guidance of multiple ministries as well as stakeholders. We are grateful for the time they spent providing insight and direction.

This is not the beginning and this will not be the end. Together, government, agencies, communities and individuals will continue working toward a Saskatchewan free of interpersonal violence and abuse.



Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Office



The Honourable
Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

Saskatchewan faces serious issues with interpersonal violence and abuse. Government takes its responsibility to work with our partners to address this very seriously.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, in collaboration with other ministries, has carefully considered the recommendations contained in the *Domestic Violence Death Review Report* released last May.

We have closely reviewed the ways that we can better align government services with those provided by the judiciary, police services and the community to ensure those experiencing interpersonal violence and abuse have access to the services they need.

We have also introduced legislation, such as *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Act* (Clare's Law), to provide our police forces with the ability to inform at-risk individuals about their partners' history of violence or abuse.

Though we realize there is a long road ahead of us, we believe this response paper is an important step towards changing attitudes around interpersonal violence and abuse in this province.



Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Acknowledgments

The Government of Saskatchewan is grateful for the work and leadership shown by provincial community partners and service providers, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Over the years, these individuals, organizations and communities have worked tirelessly to reduce and prevent interpersonal violence and abuse. The vision of a violence-free Saskatchewan is possible because of the dedication of those who have come before us.

Government also recognizes the continued partnerships with police agencies, the private and Crown sectors, and health, social service, justice and educational institutions for the work they have done and continue to do to raise awareness of and support for actions to address violence in our communities.

There is more work that needs to be done to reduce interpersonal violence and abuse, and we look forward to doing it, together.

Overview

Saskatchewan is rich in history, resources, and most of all, people. As a province, we have many reasons to be proud. Unfortunately, our rates of interpersonal violence and abuse are not one of them. Saskatchewan has the highest rates across all provinces. One contributing factor is the frequency of domestic violence incidents that occur in Saskatchewan.

This document, *Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: Response to the Domestic Violence Death Review*, (the Response) outlines current government initiatives that begin to address the 19 recommendations resulting from the *Saskatchewan Domestic Violence Death Review Report* (DVDR Report), released May 2018.

The conclusions of the DVDR Report highlighted how domestic violence affects the health and safety of all Saskatchewan residents, their families, their communities and their workplaces. Additionally, the report revealed a common set of risk factors which led the review panel to conclude that deaths related to domestic violence can be prevented.

Government, community partners and service providers have been working toward reducing interpersonal violence and abuse for many years. The common understanding, among those who work closest to individuals impacted by violence, is that incidents cannot be treated in isolation. The underlying root causes of violence must be addressed in order to affect change.

The root causes of violence are vast and complex. They can include:

- » Community attitudes and beliefs;
- » Early and repeated exposure to violence;
- » Gender inequality;
- » Intergenerational trauma;
- » Poverty and financial stress;
- » Social exclusion; and
- » Substance abuse.

These same root causes can be present in *all types* of interpersonal violence and abuse. Interpersonal violence and abuse includes:

- » Domestic violence;
- » Sexual violence;
- » Family violence;
- » Violence in the workplace;
- » Bullying and cyberbullying; and,
- » Violence against certain groups.

Understanding that domestic violence is one type of interpersonal violence and abuse, this response reflects a commitment to reduce and ultimately eliminate interpersonal violence and abuse. This response is a result of collaborations across government and with community partners and service providers.

Quotes found throughout the Response reflect sentiments shared by participants during consultation meetings with community partners and service providers.

Interpersonal violence is the intentional use of physical force or power. It can include actual violence or threats of violence resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, or any other harm.¹

Abuse is “an attempt to control the behavior of another person.”² It is a misuse of power. Feelings of intimacy, trust and dependency may leave people vulnerable. Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, financial or a combination of any of these. Abuse can also include neglect.²

I. Introduction

Responding to and reflecting on what interpersonal violence and abuse is, who is affected, and how rates can be reduced are integral to the Government of Saskatchewan’s goals of securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people and delivering responsive and responsible government.

Interpersonal violence and abuse negatively impacts the health and well-being of individuals, and their families, across their lifetime. It also negatively affects the economic and social well-being of communities, businesses, institutions and the province.

From governments and agencies, to communities, friends, family members and individuals, everyone in Saskatchewan has a role to play in reducing and preventing interpersonal violence and abuse.

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: A Response to the Domestic Violence Death Review (the Response) serves two important purposes:

- » It outlines on-going government-wide initiatives that address the 19 recommendations from the *Saskatchewan Domestic Violence Death Review Report* (DVDR Report), including those aimed at prevention and intervention of interpersonal violence and abuse; and,
- » It describes the immediate 2019-20 actions government is taking to assist in moving the province forward in reducing and preventing interpersonal violence and abuse.

The DVDR Report recommendations are an essential part of a provincial approach to interpersonal violence and abuse. Responding to the recommendations through an inventory of current government programming and services reveals how interconnected domestic violence is to other forms of interpersonal violence and abuse. This inventory also presents an opportunity for the province to recognize and address any duplication or gaps in programming or service that should be addressed going forward.

“I envision a day when we have a violence-free society”

Understanding Interpersonal Violence and Abuse

Interpersonal violence and abuse encompasses many forms of violence and impacts individuals in many ways.

Interpersonal violence and abuse can be divided into two subcategories:

1. **Domestic violence**, happens between **family members and intimate partners** within the home and may include:
 - child abuse, elder abuse and intimate partner violence.
2. **Community violence** happens between **individuals who are unrelated, and may be strangers to each other**. Community violence usually takes place outside the home and may include:
 - Child abuse and abuse of the elderly by people who are not related.
 - Youth violence, random acts of violence, sexual assault by strangers, and violence in schools, workplaces, prisons and nursing homes.³
 - Bullying and cyberbullying at school and in the workplace.

Violent acts can be physical, sexual, psychological, and may involve deprivation or neglect.

People Most Often Affected

Specific groups of people are more at-risk of interpersonal violence and abuse. Understanding the factors that lead to their increased risk is an important part of intervention, prevention and accountability.

Children under the age of 17 are most at risk of experiencing violence and most often at the hands of a parent.⁹

Girls and boys, men and women, experience interpersonal violence and abuse at alarming rates. Men and women have different experiences of power that can reinforce the use of violence. While growing up, boys are more likely to experience bullying and fights, and girls are more likely to experience sexual and psychological violence and exclusion.⁴

Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and two-spirit (LGBTQ2S) community are more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to be victims of violent crime. Lesbian and gay individuals experience significantly more discrimination based on their sexual orientation compared to bisexual or heterosexual people.⁵

“People with mental health conditions experience stigma, discrimination and social exclusion.”⁶ The assumption that they may be offenders of violence is not accurate. Instead, people with serious mental illnesses are more likely than the general population to be victims of violence.⁶

The rate of violence experienced by children and youth in Saskatchewan is highest for young adults and for older teenagers.⁷ Children and youth also experience sexual offences at an alarming rate.

Children can be at risk because of their dependence on adults for their care and well-being. As they grow older, outside influences and growing independence may leave them vulnerable.⁸

People living with a disability are almost twice as likely to be victims of violence than people who do not have a disability. Both women and men with a disability are also more likely to experience domestic violence. In these cases, financial, emotional and physical dependence on others increases vulnerability.⁹

Age, childhood experiences, mental health issues, substance use, and intergenerational trauma are factors common to all violent victimization. Victimization of Indigenous people is further complicated by discrimination, poverty and the lasting effects of colonization.¹⁰

Women with mental health related disabilities report being a victim of sexual assault over three times more than the general population of women.⁷

Did you know? Government works closely in partnership with three provincial coordination services:

Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) sassk.ca/

Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan Inc. (PATHS) pathssk.org/

Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence Inc. (STOPS) stopstoviolence.com

II. Background

The Domestic Violence Death Review Report (DVDR Report) was released on May 24, 2018. This report identified common themes and risk factors that contributed to these deaths.

The overall conclusion of the DVDR Report suggested enhancing the partnerships among governments, provincial community partners, and service providers in the delivery of programming and services to offenders, victims and families. The report's 19 recommendations focused on coordination, service provision, education and awareness to interrupt cycles of violence.

With the release of the DVDR Report, the Ministry of Justice committed to the development of a sexual assault and domestic violence strategy. Subsequently, the Status of Women Office was expanded to oversee the implementation of the DVDR Report recommendations and the development of a broader plan to address interpersonal violence and abuse. Four additional immediate actions that were announced included:

- » Implementation of *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol* (Clare's Law) *Act*;
- » Expansion of the "Kids Matter" program to northern Saskatchewan. "Kids Matter" is delivered by STOPS to Violence Inc. and educates elementary school children on safety, wellness, diversity and social issues;
- » Provision of additional crisis workers; and,
- » Expansion of the "Children Exposed to Violence" (CEV) Program in the North. The program assists children and youth who have been exposed to interpersonal violence or abuse, with a goal of preventing them from becoming victims or perpetrators of violence and abuse in the future.

Currently, the Government of Saskatchewan invests significant funding for a range of prevention and intervention initiatives to reduce the impact of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Government also works closely with community partners and service providers who deliver programs and initiatives. Despite this diligent and important work, Saskatchewan still has the highest rates of interpersonal violence and abuse across the provinces. This reality signals the need for a renewed approach and for intensified collaboration across government agencies and community organizations.

“We need to answer the question, ‘Why, despite all of our good work and intentions, is this still happening?’”

Consultation Process

On June 28, 2017 (Saskatoon) and October 23, 2017 (Regina), the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse (ICIVA), co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and the Status of Women Office, organized two province-wide, multi-sector consultation meetings with the support of community partners and service providers

These meetings built upon previous discussions initially aimed at addressing violence against women and girls. Discussions resulted in calls for a provincial approach to address interpersonal violence and abuse for all Saskatchewan residents.

To develop a provincial approach to address interpersonal violence and abuse, a third consultation meeting was held in Regina on November 7, 2018.

These meetings focused on discussing an approach supported by three specific **pillars**:

Prevention

Intervention

Accountability

The goal of **prevention** is to stop violence before it happens. This includes increasing public awareness and education on the long-lasting harms of interpersonal violence and abuse, who is most at risk, and the systemic issues that normalize violence in the province.

Intervention is direct action that government and community service providers take to improve outcomes for people and prevent situations from getting worse. Service provision is vital to the success of intervening in the cycle of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Accountability refers to taking responsibility and being accountable to each other through better coordination of services between community service providers and government. The principle of shared responsibility comes out of recognition of the complexity of interpersonal violence and abuse and the need for a coordinated prevention and intervention approach.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action ask for programs and services that are culturally relevant and inclusive at all levels of government and within communities.

Stakeholders voiced the need for wider engagement across the province, including individuals, families, communities, industry and organizations.

At the same time as consultations were taking place, the DVDR Report was released. Many of the issues and priorities identified in the DVDR Report were also identified by the stakeholders at the consultation meetings including the urgency to develop a provincial approach everyone could take action under.

The common sentiment among stakeholders was that to make real change, interpersonal violence and abuse needs to be recognized as a problem. Real change requires a collective response beyond those who work directly with programs and services.

Stakeholders also recognized that being consistent and sensitive in how interpersonal violence and abuse is discussed could reduce shame and stigma for people affected by violence.

Stakeholders emphasized that any work to end interpersonal violence and abuse should recognize the important contribution of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

The DVDR Report, the contributions from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action* have raised awareness, and deepened the conversation of the real impacts and root causes of interpersonal violence and abuse. These reports also provide guidance to create more effective policies and programs that consider systemic disadvantages and are inclusive to diverse needs.

The Interim Report of The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls concluded that transformational change was necessary to end violence.

“The ultimate goal is to prevent interpersonal violence and abuse from occurring in the first place by building a Saskatchewan that supports the well-being of everyone.”

Principles to Guide Approach

The following shared principles were created through these consultations to help guide a provincial approach to addressing interpersonal violence and abuse.

Principles to Guide Approach	
Common language	Shared Responsibility
<p>Language is an important factor in reducing stigma by changing how interpersonal violence and abuse is viewed and discussed.</p> <p>Common language is integral for improved collaboration and co-operation across all sectors.</p>	<p>Solving issues surrounding interpersonal violence and abuse is everyone’s responsibility.</p> <p>A public commitment includes: not remaining silent about interpersonal violence and abuse; and, modelling respectful behaviours in relationships with family, friends, colleagues and other community members.</p>
Inclusivity	Lifespan Perspective
<p>Being inclusive requires expanding the definition of interpersonal violence and abuse beyond the scope of only being a women’s issue, or only occurring between men and women.</p> <p>Diversity in messaging includes providing information in different languages and ensuring information is reflective of diverse sexualities, genders, cultures and abilities.</p>	<p>A life span approach (from birth to old age) supports individuals, families and communities to better understand what interpersonal violence and abuse is, who experiences it, and who participates in it.</p> <p>Education, regardless of age, is essential to breaking the cycle of violence and creating long-term change in societal attitudes.</p>

The consultations also set **five priority areas**, that governments, community partners and service providers focus on to affect change and help eliminate interpersonal violence and abuse. These priorities fall under the three **pillars of prevention, intervention and accountability**, and support the principles that guide the approach.

Priority: Public Education and Awareness

Public education and awareness in all sectors:

- » Changes attitudes, beliefs and behaviours;
- » Builds resilience and increases the safety of all Saskatchewan residents;
- » Increases awareness of the harmful consequences of interpersonal violence and abuse to individuals, families and communities; and,
- » Focuses on prevention of interpersonal violence and abuse and the importance of equality and human rights for everyone in our province.

Education on healthy relationships, and what interpersonal violence and abuse can be, empowers people to:

- » Create positive relationships at an earlier age;
- » Seek support earlier; and,
- » Make different choices.

Priority: Service Provision

Service provision highlights the need for programs and services that are relevant, trauma-informed, effective, holistic and culturally appropriate. Services and programs need to:

- » Be evidence-based and responsive to the needs of the individual, family and community;
- » Take a lifespan perspective recognizing the need for prevention and intervention from early childhood to old age; and,
- » Recognize the unique needs of individuals, groups and communities.

Services also need to:

- » Highlight that interpersonal violence and abuse is an unacceptable violation of basic human rights to safety and security; and,
- » Demonstrate a collective response across government, community organizations, community partners and service providers to prevent and reduce interpersonal violence and abuse.

Priority: Coordination

Coordination refers to:

- » Collaboration and sharing of resources and services between and across community partners and service providers, governments and other agencies;
- » Consistent messaging and interpretation of policy and laws as tools to allow for the measurement of success and evaluation of progress; and,
- » Shared responsibility through best practices, and expanding engagement beyond organizational silos to avoid duplication and redundancy in services and programming.

The last two priorities are integral to reducing rates of interpersonal violence and abuse through a focus on prevention while still providing essential intervention services.

These two priorities will be further explored in Section VI. A Way Forward.

Priority: Addressing Root Causes

Interpersonal violence and abuse is a complex issue with deep roots in our society; there are no quick and easy solutions. Violence does not occur in isolation. Common risk factors for violence are shared across multiple forms of violence. Some examples are:

- » Community attitudes and beliefs;
- » Gender inequality;
- » Poverty and financial stress;
- » Social exclusion; and,
- » Substance abuse.

Recognizing the root causes that lead to interpersonal violence and abuse addresses multiple forms of violence at the same time.

Priority: Advancing a Provincial Approach

In order to move toward a province free of interpersonal violence and abuse, a provincial approach is essential. This approach empowers individuals, families, organizations and communities to take action. This requires:

- » Recognition that no single organization or government ministry is capable or responsible to solve the complex issue of interpersonal violence and abuse in our province. Collective effort and shared responsibility is required to address interpersonal violence and abuse.
- » A integrated response is required across governments, community partners and service providers in order to be effective in reducing rates of interpersonal violence and abuse.

A collective response includes:

- » Talking about the societal and personal impacts of interpersonal violence and abuse;
- » Ensuring that there are programs and services focused on both intervention and prevention; and,
- » Building partnerships with the people of this province to reduce and prevent all forms of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Government has worked alongside community partners and service providers to promote awareness and education through the Annual Missing Persons Week (since 2012) and Annual Violence Prevention Week (since 2014).

III. Domestic Violence Death Review Recommendations

The *Domestic Violence Death Review Report* (DVDR Report) focused on key areas for an integrated and comprehensive response to domestic violence in the province:

- » Awareness and education;
- » Assessment and intervention;
- » Children in domestic violence situations; and,
- » Resources.

The following section highlights ongoing government initiatives that work toward addressing the 19 DVDR Report recommendations (see appendix) organized under the foundational pillars of **prevention, intervention and accountability**, as well as the priorities of public awareness and education, coordination and service provision.

Pillar 1: Prevention

The following initiatives work toward addressing **DVDR Report recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4** that fall under the priority of public education and awareness.

Recommendations 1 and 2 of the DVDR Report highlight the need for a comprehensive program that focuses on healthy relationships, as well as how to educate and raise awareness using a variety of influential platforms including social media.

Education on healthy relationships, and what interpersonal violence and abuse looks like, empowers people to make different choices, seek support earlier, and create positive relationships at an earlier age.

Government Initiatives Currently Underway

- » Grades 1-9 health education curriculum incorporates various opportunities to learn about healthy relationships. Examples include analyzing feelings and behaviours important for nurturing healthy relationships at school (grade 1), and assessing how relationships influence all dimensions of

wellness (Wellness 10). For grades 11 and 12, Life Transitions 20 and 30 curricula offer more targeted content including a *Conflict in Relationships* module.

- » “KidsFirst” is a program designed to support children and families by enhancing parenting knowledge, providing support and building on family strengths. This gives Mental Health Workers the option to address situations and provide information regarding healthy families and available resources.
- » The “Respect in Sport” Program for Sport, Culture and Recreation provides educational workshops, dispute resolution services, and abuse and harassment response policies and procedures. Sask Sport Inc. also offers a free online training program, “Respect in Sport for Coaches” to assist coaches in identifying and dealing with abuse, neglect, harassment and bullying in sport.
- » In 2018-19, the Ministry of Health invested \$1.2M to address mental health and well-being in schools.
- » The Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Ministries of Health and Education have recently provided an opportunity for five schools across the province to be pilot sites for the Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) initiative. This initiative addresses a recommendation outlined in the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, *Working Together for Change: A 10-Year Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Saskatchewan*. This may include programming that supports such things as anti-bullying, healthy relationships and personal skill building.
- » The 811 Health Line provides online information on healthy relationships and access to resources.

Did you know? One of the programs Victims Services (Ministry of Justice) offers is the Victims Compensation Program, which provides compensation for counselling to child victims exposed to domestic violence. In eligible cases, compensation is also available for loss of wages for parents who are required to accompany a child to medical or counselling services related to their victimization.

Building Capacity: Educating and Training the Public Service

DVDR Report recommendations 3 and 4 highlight the importance of building awareness and training for employees and front line service providers in responding to actual or suspected incidents of domestic violence. Education and training build understanding among employers and coworkers, and allows people who experience domestic violence with time to heal, as well as protection and understanding in the workplace.

Additionally, offenders need to have support to enable them to access and attend programming for domestic violence treatment prevention and addictions.

Raising public awareness and education external to government is important. Building capacity within government, Crown and private sectors through education and training to respond to domestic violence situations is equally important.

Did you know? There are five help lines available to provide counselling and resources to those who may be experiencing violence?

- **211 line offers 24/7 connection to human services in the province by telephone, text, or web chat, plus a searchable website with over 5,000 listings of social, community, non-clinical health, and government services across the province.**
- **Farm stress line - provides confidential crisis telephone counselling, support, information and referral services to rural Saskatchewan communities.**
- **The “Respect in Sport” Program for Sport, Culture and Recreation provides a toll-free support line.**
- **811 line - provides mental health and addictions support. Registered psychiatric nurses and registered social workers offer crisis support, information and connection to community resources.**
- **Kids Help Phone offers 24/7 professional counselling, information and referrals and volunteer-led, text-based support to young people in English and French. Bro Talk! allows male and male-identifying youth to call/live chat on a unique line.**

» The Ministry of Corrections and Policing provides all new staff with Community Corrections Core (C3T). Included in the training is a component specific to domestic violence and addictions.

» Specialized training, including specific risk assessments for domestic violence such as the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) and sexual offending, is provided for probation officers who supervise these offenders.

» Programming, based on evidence-based principles, continues to be offered to clients who have committed domestic violence and sexual offences to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

» Victims Services in the Ministry of Justice provides ODARA risk assessment training and Domestic Violence Safety Planning training to service providers working directly with victims.

Pillar 2: Intervention

The following initiatives work toward addressing **DVDR Report recommendations 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 19** that fall under the priority of service prevention.

There are a number of DVDR Report recommendations focused on assessment and intervention that fall within this priority.

Vital to the success of intervening in the cycle of interpersonal violence and abuse is ensuring that services and programming are available and accessible across the province, as well as evidence-based, holistic, inclusive and family-centred.

Government Initiatives Currently Underway

In order to ensure programming for those impacted by domestic violence is available in all communities, the Ministry of Justice contracts with community partners and service providers who currently offer a wide range of victim-based programs, including 16 family violence outreach programs that provide assistance to men, women and families living in violent or potentially violent circumstances.

The Ministry of Health works with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to provide “Alternatives to Violence” programs for individuals who are violent towards their partners. It provides individuals with the opportunity to gain insight into their beliefs and attitudes, personal strengths, interpersonal functioning, and communication style aimed at changing their abusive behaviour. Locations include Prairie North, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Sun Country.

Additionally, some victims of sexual and interpersonal violence approach mental health and addiction services for counselling supports. The Ministry of Health also offers specialized sex offender treatment groups in Saskatoon.

The Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Unit in the Ministry of Justice funds seven sexual assault centres which provides direct support for victims of sexual assault. This includes crisis counselling, providing support and accompanying individuals to medical, legal and social services appointments, and providing information, referral and public education and in some areas, a crisis telephone line.

There are six Indigenous “Family Violence” programs designed to assist Indigenous organizations to develop and deliver culturally appropriate, community-based programs that help Indigenous families living in urban centres deal with various forms of abuse/violence. These programs assist Indigenous organizations in offering more comprehensive and holistic services to address the issue of family violence in co-operation with other agencies in their communities that are working in the family violence area.

There are also nine “Children Exposed to Violence” programs to address the needs of children who are exposed to violence. The programs assist children and youth who have been exposed to interpersonal violence or abuse, with a goal of preventing them from becoming victims or perpetrators of violence and abuse in the future.

First Responders, Risk Assessment and Cases that Involve Children

First responders are key to ensuring immediate and effective interventions happen in a domestic violence situation.

When children are present, a determination of the level of risk to the children is completed by the Ministry of Social Services, Child Protection Services. The Ministry of Social Services works closely with law enforcement on these situations.

Additionally, the Ministry of Social Services uses a risk assessment model called “Structured Decision Making™” which includes domestic violence as one of the areas that needs to be assessed when determining risk to children.

Ensuring accessibility and availability of prevention and intervention services: the Northern Transportation and Support Initiative increases access to places of safety and provides transitional support for residents of the Northern Administration District who are fleeing circumstances of interpersonal violence and abuse.

As mentioned previously, specific risk assessments for domestic violence (ODARA) are used broadly throughout the province. Government partners with Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) for ODARA certification (shelter and victim services staff).

Keeping Families Connected

Supporting parents in accepting responsibility and accountability is important, as referenced in the DVDR Report recommendations. The Government of Saskatchewan does the following in this regard:

- » Family Justice Services provides a mandatory parent education course for all custody and access cases with an application to the court where a child is under 18. This branch also offers a high-conflict parent education program in Regina and Saskatoon for those who have completed the mandatory course.
- » Ministry of Social Services is involved in “treatment team” consultation with Addiction, Probation, Mental Health Services and Domestic Violence Court. The treatment team assists child protection caseworkers in developing a coordinated case plan with the family and other service providers.
- » In addition to criminal courtworker services, Saskatchewan funds three Aboriginal Family Courtworkers in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. The family courtworkers help ensure that Aboriginal families receive fair, timely, reliable and culturally-appropriate assistance in child protection matters. They help Aboriginal families access legal counsel; link them to necessary services; and, help resolve child protection cases at the earliest possible opportunity.
- » Victim Services Responders work on teams with members of their respective police services and the Ministry of Social Services in the Regina Children’s Justice Centre and the Saskatoon Centre for Children’s Justice.

The Saskatchewan Police Commission has adopted a new policy for the conduct of investigations into incidents of intimate partner violence.

Additionally, for children on reserve, the Ministry of Social Services has enhanced accountability through:

- » 2016 amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act*;
- » Implementing annual file audits; and,
- » Adding resources to the Ministry’s First Nation and Métis Services Unit to provide support to those agencies.

The Ministry of Social Services also shares in the delivery of 18 First Nations Child and Family Service Agencies who are delegated by the province to deliver child protection services on reserve and three agencies are contracted to also deliver off-reserve services.

The Government of Saskatchewan supports Indigenous families and the need to maintain vital connections between children in care and their family members, communities and culture.

- » Close to 60 per cent of children in out-of-home care live with an extended family member. Most of these placements are with Indigenous families and caregivers.

- » Ministry of Social Services understands the importance of reconciliation and the need to support people impacted by trauma.
- » The Ministry continues to collaborate with First Nations and Métis partners in planning services for families with emphasis on culturally based parenting programs and the development of intensive family-supported-living models where children can remain supported while staying with their families.
- » Ministry of Social Services also contracts with Indigenous trainers and elders who assist with learnings to staff on matters related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as the Touchstones of Hope. This training model is developed by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada and emphasizes the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and reconciliation pathways ahead.

Did you know? “Family Matters” program aims to minimize the impact of separation and divorce on all family members, especially children. This program offers mediation to reduce stress, including stress related to finances.

The very last recommendation in the DVDR Report speaks to investigating ways to reduce financial stress in families, which is often a root cause of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Currently, Social Services offers the “Transitional Employment Allowance” (TEA) Program. This temporary assistance special circumstances benefit, of up to \$1,000, can be accessed for temporary health and safety concerns. A relocation allowance is available to assist with relocation costs for moves related to employment or medical or safety reasons.

“Saskatchewan Assistance Program” (SAP)/“Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability” program (SAID) offers:

- » Provisions to waive the repayment of a security deposit letter of guarantee if relocation is required due to family violence;
- » Assistance to provide travel costs to a family shelter;
- » Assistance to pay moving costs;
- » Assistance to pay for household equipment and furnishings e.g. bed, utensils; and,
- » Assistance to provide travel costs to attend support groups or counselling.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General funds 12 transition houses. Eleven houses provide 24-hour, staffed emergency safe shelter and support for women and their accompanying children, leaving circumstances of violence and abuse. Additionally, enhanced residential services at the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) of Saskatoon and YWCA of Prince Albert are also available.

Lastly, to help residents access jobs and training for jobs the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training funds essential skills training and occupational skills training programs throughout the province. Where required, participants have access to the Provincial Training Allowance as an income support while they are in training. The Ministry also works closely with Indigenous organizations

that deliver labour market programs to Saskatchewan residents. This collaboration helps to coordinate investments to address shared interests and priorities for the Saskatchewan labour market.

Pillar 3: Accountability

The following initiatives work toward addressing **DVDR Report recommendations 5, 6, 12, 13 and 18** that fall under the priority of coordination.

In order to address gaps, services and program redundancy, coordination is paramount. DVDR Report recommendations encourage enhanced coordination within, and external to, government in providing services by:

- » Better information sharing;
- » Improving communication and disclosure among the justice system; and,
- » Ensuring better access to government provided resources for those impacted by domestic and other interpersonal violence and abuse situations.

Legislative Changes

A number of recent legislative amendments have been made to improve the coordination among services:

- » Introduction of an *Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol* (Clare's Law) *Act* legislation. The protocol sets procedures for police to disclose information about previous violent or abusive behaviour by a potentially violent individual to their partner.
- » Amendments to *The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act, 2015* and *The Residential Tenancies Act*. These allow individuals at high risk for violence permission to break a fixed term lease agreement without penalty and provides the legislative authority to establish a provincial Protective Order Registry.
- » Amendments to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act (Interpersonal Violence Leave)* came into force in 2017 and allows 10 days of protected unpaid leave to survivors of intimate partner violence. Further amendments are being made to enable survivors to take five of these days as employer-paid leave. This is in addition to any other paid leaves or benefits provided by the employer.
- » Bill 72, *The Privacy Amendment Act, 2017* was also introduced which will create new legal options for people whose intimate images have been shared without their consent.
- » Bill 73 will amend *The Saskatchewan Insurance Act* to facilitate insurance payouts for victims of domestic abuse where property loss was caused by the perpetrator of domestic violence.

The Provincial Child Abuse Protocol promotes a coordinated and integrated approach to child abuse investigations by describing the roles and responsibilities of government ministries, police, communities, professionals, individuals and organizations in responding to child abuse.

» The latest revision of *The Child and Family Services Act* allows for better collaboration and information sharing (Hub models, trend identification and response, information sharing agreements, or facilitation of the limited sharing of confidential client information as it pertains to client health and/or safety).

Current Government Initiatives Underway

In addition to the legislative amendments, the Government of Saskatchewan has implemented the “LISTEN” program - Legal Information and Advice for Survivors of Sexual Violence - which is a four-year partnership with Department of Justice Canada and Public Legal Education Association. The “LISTEN” program provides free legal advice to survivors of sexual violence.

Expanding responsibility for public awareness and education goes beyond community-based organizations.

Underlying recommendations 5 and 18 of the DVDR Report is the principle of shared responsibility. This principle holds everyone accountable to **speak out** about interpersonal violence and abuse and to model respectful behaviours in relationships with family, friends, colleagues and other community members.

Expanding partnerships by encouraging other agencies to engage and take action against interpersonal violence and abuse, including domestic violence is paramount. The next section of the Response discusses how a provincial approach encourages this process.

Domestic Violence Courts are operational in the Battlefords, Regina and Saskatoon to provide access for offenders to earlier domestic violence intervention and prevention programming which focus on increased victim safety.

Training: safety planning training has been added to the Victim Services training program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic (2019). This course is available to any staff member of a police-based victim services program.

Conservation officers and Highway Patrol officers have received training on interpersonal violence to gain an understanding of what a victim is going through and how to appropriately intervene when they respond to calls as part of their expanded role with the Protection and Response Team (PRT). They also received training in Mental Health First Aid©.

Victims Services funds trauma-informed practice training to service providers.

A working group was established between The Ministry of Justice and police agencies to develop a plan to implement Clare’s Law. This law was passed in Spring 2019.

IV. A Way Forward

Addressing Root Causes

Many forms of violence share underlying causes, including economic insecurity, trauma, racism, social disconnection, and substance use and abuse. There is no direct or simple cause-effect relationship leading to violence, but violence does not occur in isolation.

Tackling the root causes of interpersonal violence and abuse needs **collaborative and persistent effort**. The ultimate goal is to prevent violence and abuse from occurring in the first place by building a Saskatchewan that supports the well-being of everyone.

The following are some of the factors that lead to incidents of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Community attitudes and beliefs

- » Changing community-level attitudes and beliefs that condone violent and abusive behaviours holds great promise for substantially reducing victimization and interpersonal violence and abuse.¹¹

Early and repeated exposure to violence

- » “Witnessing violence in childhood creates norms that can lead to the acceptance”⁴ or acting out of a multitude of violent behaviors or acts, but childhood is also a powerful point of “intervention for violence prevention efforts.”⁴

Gender inequality

- » Gender inequality and violence against women and children are intricately entwined, and advocates for reducing violence highlight the importance of increasing gender equality.¹²

“We need to think outside the box and challenge our own assumptions.”

Intergenerational trauma

- » To truly understand the root causes of interpersonal violence and abuse in our province, the lasting impacts of colonization need to be recognized and addressed.¹³ Abuses experienced as a direct, or indirect, result of residential schools continue to deeply affect Indigenous families and communities. Disconnection from family, language and cultural practices are another part of the trauma.¹⁴

Poverty and financial stress

- » The link between poverty and interpersonal violence and abuse is complicated. Limited economic opportunity, substandard housing and physical and social isolation lead to frustration, anger and desperation.¹⁴

Social exclusion

- » Decreasing stereotyping, discrimination and marginalization within our communities, as well as increasing belonging, can go a long way to addressing negative attitudes and beliefs that can lead to violent and abusive actions.⁴

Substance use

- » Substance use can increase the risks of being both a victim and/or offender of violence. Interpersonal violence and abuse often happens when people are under the influence of drugs or alcohol or suffering from problematic substance use.¹⁵ Addressing interpersonal violence in Saskatchewan must include actions to reduce drug or alcohol related harms.
- » Taking inventory of current initiatives, and identifying areas of duplication or service gaps, assists in targeting resources to expand current programs and services that address these underlying issues.

Advancing the Provincial Approach

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: Response to the Domestic Violence Death Review Report (the Response) is an important piece in the overall government approach to secure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Intervention programs and services are vital; prevention will have the greatest long-term impacts on the province; and, accountability across governments, organizations, communities, families, and individuals is essential.

Interpersonal violence and abuse is a shared responsibility. It requires ongoing commitment from governments, community organizations and service providers.

An integrated provincial approach requires that treatment and intervention services are still provided while the focus shifts to stopping interpersonal violence and abuse before it happens. As this shift occurs, those who commit acts of interpersonal violence and abuse need to remain accountable, and those who experience interpersonal violence and abuse still need protection and support. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to making this province a safe place to work and raise a family.

V. 2019-2020 Plan of Action

Interpersonal violence and abuse, including domestic violence, cannot be solved by a single individual, community or organization alone; everyone has a responsibility to reduce, prevent and eliminate interpersonal violence and abuse.

The following outlines the Government of Saskatchewan's actions over the next year that work toward reducing and preventing interpersonal violence and abuse, including addressing the 19 DVDR Report recommendations.

To encourage Saskatchewan prosperity well into the future, initiatives and actions need to be undertaken now to eliminate interpersonal violence and abuse.

These actions could include a number of strategies that focus on:

- » Providing the most effective— relevant, culturally responsive, and community-based — services within existing funding.
- » Providing students, families and schools with the knowledge, skills, resources and supports to help Saskatchewan children and youth feel safe and accepted at school, in their community and online through a continued focus on the provincial **bullying prevention** plan and **youth mental well-being**.
- » Implementing effective intervention services by enhancing **collaboration** through **coordination** and **co-operation** between agencies, and learning from existing best practices of other jurisdictions, to implement effective intervention services.
- » **Broadening engagement** of the private sector to become involved in actively preventing and reducing the occurrence of interpersonal violence and abuse within the workplace and within the province.
- » Implementing training opportunities for government employees to create healthy and inclusive workplaces for employees, including situational awareness, identifying potential hazards, and strategies on how to minimize risk.

The following three tables outline the current government commitments that address interpersonal violence and abuse.

Actions for Prevention

Public Education and Awareness; Public Service Education and Training

In 2019-20 Social Services will fund community-based organizations (CBOs) with experience in the area of interpersonal violence to produce awareness materials which will be posted in ministry offices, partner agencies and CBOs.

As the Ministry of Education renews curricula, there may be opportunities to further include healthy relationships and the prevention and response to situations of interpersonal violence and abuse.

Improve access to information through identification of up-to-date Canadian resources on family violence.

Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) will collaborate with the Ministry of Justice in addressing barriers to justice for victims of intimate partner violence in Saskatchewan.

To enhance training across the public service, human services ministries - through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse (ICIVA) - will look into developing a training package for Government of Saskatchewan employees.

To enhance training across the province, safety planning training has been added to the Victim Services training program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic (2019).

Expansion of Children Exposed to Violence program in Northern Saskatchewan (Sandy Bay and Deschambault Lake). The programs assist children and youth who have been exposed to interpersonal violence or abuse, with a goal of preventing them from becoming victims or perpetrators of violence and abuse in the future.

Expansion of the “Kids Matter” program. “Kids Matter” is a program delivered by STOPS to Violence that educates elementary school children on safety, wellness, diversity and social issues.

The ICIVA Communications subcommittee is working on enhancing provincial partnership and awareness of Violence Prevention Week (October 2019).

The Status of Women Office will continue consultations with community partners and service providers on how to intensify and raise public awareness of interpersonal violence and abuse, including the role and engagement of men and boys.

Actions for Intervention

Service Provision

Implementation of the *Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act*. The protocol sets procedures for police to disclose information about previous violent or abusive behaviour by a potentially violent individual to their partner.

Further amendments to The *Saskatchewan Employment Act (Interpersonal Violence Leave)* allowing for 5 days of employer-paid leave (with an additional 5 unpaid days), for survivors of intimate partner violence. This is in addition to any other paid leaves or benefits provided by the employer.

Implementation of a collaborative review process and oversight mechanism (Philadelphia Model) that allows external reviewers to work with policing agencies to review sexual assault and intimate partner abuse cases.

Expand the use of testimonial aids to protect victims when giving testimony in domestic violence cases whereby victims do not have to give testimony in front of offenders.

All police agencies to be trained on the Domestic Violence risk indicator checklist. All police trained by Spring 2019.

To assist in transitioning to a new domestic violence program called "Stopping Abuse for Everyone (SAFE) program," Community Corrections in the Ministry of Corrections and Policing will be implementing SAFE workbooks with domestic violence offenders (2019-20).

The SAFE program is a facilitated group program for domestic violence offenders to develop the skills necessary to address their abusive behaviour. As part of the program, offenders are required to develop a relapse prevention plan to create strategies for stopping abusive behaviours and creating healthier relationships.

The Ministry of Social Services' Child and Family Programs is currently expanding Integrated Practice Strategies (IPS) which is a day to day child welfare approach that is designed to help all key stakeholders involved with a child and family keep a clear focus on assessing and enhancing child safety, permanency and well-being at all points in the case process (IPS includes child interviewing techniques, Circles of Support and Network Development tools).

Ministry of Justice is providing funding for four additional sexual assault crisis workers. Sexual assault workers will now be located in Prince Albert, Estevan, Meadow Lake and Swift Current providing services in those locations and surrounding areas.

Ministry of Health is in contact with the Director of Quality and Safety in the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), to initiate discussions related to interpersonal violence protocols within the SHA.

Actions for Accountability

Coordination

In 15 communities across Saskatchewan, the Hub model bring together professionals from a variety of agencies including police, social services, health and education to more effectively respond to individuals and families at risk for harm. In 2017-18, 44 per cent of individuals and families who were referred were impacted by physical, emotional, and/or sexual violence.

In response to an increased effort to address human trafficking across Canada, ICIVA will take the lead in examining human trafficking within the Saskatchewan.

The Ministry of Justice is developing a provincial therapeutic courts strategy with key partners and stakeholders. This strategy will provide direction on enhancing and expanding therapeutic courts in Saskatchewan.

Conclusion

Interpersonal violence and abuse affects all of us. Saskatchewan's rates of interpersonal violence and abuse are unacceptable. We all have a role to play in reducing and preventing violence and abuse in our families, workplaces and communities. The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes its role as a partner in reduction and prevention of interpersonal violence and abuse, and as a support for victims, offenders and families experiencing interpersonal violence and abuse.

The insight and direction provided by the DVDR recommendations form the basis of our provincial response to preventing interpersonal violence and abuse. Stakeholder consultations provide the framework of prevention, intervention and accountability that guide the ongoing work of government, as well as the priorities of:

- » Public awareness and education;
- » Service provision;
- » Coordination;
- » Advancing the provincial approach; and,
- » Addressing root causes.

Moving forward, pursuing training opportunities and promoting the mental well-being of our youth and the prevention of bullying will continue to be a focus. In addition to current commitments, Government will also continue to collaborate, co-ordinate, and co-operate with existing partners, and build new partnerships, across the province.

The Government of Saskatchewan is working to secure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents through providing responsive and responsible programs and services, but government can not do this work alone. Reduction, prevention, and ultimately, elimination of interpersonal violence and abuse requires a collective response in which everyone shares responsibility and works together.

If You are a Victim or Offender and Need Help:

The following provide an emergency response, information, support and/or referral services to individuals impacted by family and domestic violence in Saskatchewan:

Dial 9-1-1 for police, medical or fire emergencies

» Website: saskatchewan.ca/residents/emergency/sask911

911 calling is available from landlines and payphones in the province, and from cell phones and wireless devices if they are in range of a cell tower.

Victims Services

» Website: saskatchewan.ca/victimsservices

» Email: victimsservices@gov.sk.ca

» Toll free: 1-800-286-6664

» In Regina: 306-787-3500

» TTY: 1-866-445-8857

Victim service programs assist victims in the immediate aftermath of a crime or tragedy. Services offered and provided by staff and volunteers include crisis intervention, information, support and referrals to other specialized programs and services.

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line

» Website: canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/health-promotion/mental-health-wellness.html

» Email: Info@hc-sc.gc.ca

» Toll free: 1-866-225-0709

» TTY: 1-800-465-7735

The First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line assists individuals who are experiencing emotional distress and want to talk. It's toll-free and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mobile Crisis

- » Prince Albert: 306-764-1011
- » Regina: Helpline: 306-757-0127
- » Suicide Helpline: 306-525-5333
- » Child Abuse Line: 306-569-2724
- » Saskatoon: 306-933-6200

Mobile Crisis provides crisis intervention services to anyone living in Saskatchewan who is experiencing distress and needing immediate help.

Access HealthLine Saskatchewan

- » Dial 8-1-1 for professional health advice
- » TTY: 1-800-855-0511

HealthLine Saskatchewan is a confidential, 24-hour health information and support telephone line. It is staffed by experienced and specially trained client navigators, registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses and social workers. Translation is available in over 100 languages.

Kids Help Phone

- » Toll free: 1-800-668-6868
- » Website: kidshelpphone.ca

Farm Stress Line

- » Website: mobilecrisis.ca/program-services/farm-and-rural-support-services/
- » Email: info@mcsregina.ca
- » Toll free: 1-800-667-4442
- » In Regina: 306-757-0127

Regional Availability of Programs and Services

Crisis Intervention

Partners Family Services, Humboldt

Crisis intervention is immediate and short-term care for individuals who are experiencing distress due to an event that has happened. 24-hour services are offered to assist individuals who are experiencing crisis and need immediate support in order to remain safe.

Counselling

Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Education Centre, Lloydminster

Counselling: Clients can expect to be met with a supportive, non-judgemental environment, focusing on their needs and formulating a plan with their Crisis Interventionist.

24 Hour Crisis Line: 1-306-825-8255

Counselling

Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbors, Yorkton

Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbors provides a specialized counselling program for women, men, youth and children who have been victims of sexual abuse and offers support and crisis intervention to victims of sexual abuse. Other services include support groups, court preparation and support and a resource lending library.

Counselling and Advocacy

Regina Sexual Assault Centre, Regina

Counselling: services to anyone age 5+ who is coping with sexual or intimate partner violence, as well as friends and family of survivors. Clinical services are offered in the form of individual, family and/or group therapy and follow trauma-informed practices.

24 Hour Crisis Line/Toll Free: 1-844-952-0434

Advocacy: We offer accompaniment to health, justice, legal and/or social services appointments. Our team can connect individuals to local resources such as pro bono legal aid, medical services, etc.

Family and Personal Violence Prevention and Support

Hudson Bay Family and Support Centre

The support worker works with you to plan and discover your options, helps to develop a client's fullest potential and personal safety. We offer information, referrals, crisis assistance and response, assistance to a safe place or shelter, accompaniment to legal, medical and financial appointments, court support and preparation. As well as advocacy through individual or group support sessions.

24 Hour Northeast Crisis Line: 1-800-611-6349

Family Violence Outreach

Catholic Family Services of the Battlefords Inc., North Battleford

The Family Violence Outreach Program provides prevention, intervention and therapeutic support services to victims of violence and those at risk of violence. Support is provided in the form of professional counselling, group programming, safety planning, advocacy and referral.

Partners Family Services, Humboldt

The Family Violence Outreach Program provides prevention, intervention and integrated support services to at-risk groups, individuals and families experiencing interpersonal violence by providing a safe place to access in times of crisis.

Family Violence Outreach Program

Piwapan Women's Centre, La Ronge.

The outreach worker provides crisis intervention, follow-up and support services including home visits, telephone support, etc. to past and present residents of the Piwapan Women's Centre and the general public who are experiencing interpersonal or family violence or any form of abuse.

24 Hour Crisis Line: 306-425-4090

Healthy Youth Relationships

Battlefords and Area Sexual Assault Centre, North Battleford

A presentation for older students, which has more emphasis on signs of physical, verbal, mental, or emotional abuse. The main focus is to provide youth with the resource material needed to help themselves, friends, or a loved one that may be experiencing an unhealthy relationship. This group has a large focus on consent, expressing emotions in healthy ways, as well as signs of unhealthy relationships and what to do if you find yourself or a loved one in an unhealthy situation. Frequent discussions regarding peer pressure and fitting into societies views of male norms.

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Programs

Envision, Estevan, Weyburn, Carlyle, Oxbow

Envision offers workshops that are open to men and women in Estevan, Weyburn, Carlyle and Oxbow on Assertiveness, Healthy Relationships, Conflict Resolution and Healthy Expression of Feelings. Counselling is also offered to individuals affected by interpersonal violence and sexual abuse.

Partners Family Services, Humboldt

The *Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Program* works with individuals who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing interpersonal violence in their lives. This may include domestic violence between partners or family violence that is impacting the entire family unit. The situation may include physical abuse, mental abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse or financial abuse.

Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Services

West Central Crisis and Family Support Centre, Kindersley

Outreach Services and Victim Services: Crisis Intervention, Counselling (Individual, Relationship and Family), Interpersonal Violence Response, Traumatic Events Response, Sexual Assault Victim Support, Safety Planning, Critical Stress Management, Essential Needs Emergency Services.

24-hour Crisis Line: 306-933-6200

Intimate Partner Violence Outreach Program

Family Services Saskatoon, Saskatoon

Family Service Saskatoon provides individuals affected by interpersonal violence a place to come for confidential support in a safe and secure environment. The Interpersonal Partner Violence team provides unique individualized support especially in crisis situations.

Mobile Crisis Service

Mobile Crisis counsellors provide support to victims of domestic violence in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and rural Saskatchewan.

24-hour Mobile Crisis Helpline: 306-757-0127 (Regina); 306-933-6200 (Saskatoon); 306-764-1011 (Prince Albert); Rural Saskatchewan can call the **Farm Stress Line:** 1-800-667-4442;

Child Abuse Line: 306-569-2724; **Suicide Helpline:** 306-525-5333

Outreach Support Counselling

Southwest Crisis Services, Swift Current

To help women, men and children dealing with interpersonal issues or who are at risk of abuse. Offer one to one mentoring services and group support to all men, women and children in South West Saskatchewan to assist them in resolving ongoing issues, developing skills to respond to future crises and connecting them to other community resources.

24-hour Crisis Line: 306-778-3386.

Personal Violence Prevention and Support Program

North East Outreach and Support Services, Melfort

Our personal violence counselors will work with you to help you explore your options, discover your strengths and encourage your personal growth. We offer supportive counselling, information and advocacy through individual or group support sessions.

24-hour Crisis Line: 1-800-611-6349

2BBoys

Battlefords and Area Sexual Assault Centre, North Battleford

Is an 8-week program designed to assist boys in connecting to their true selves in an empowering, respectful, healthy and dynamic way. The program focuses on building skills to help boys excel socially and emotionally. BASAC can meet the needs of various issues surrounding sexual assault/abuse. Educational facilities that have requested presentations for their staff members on how to handle disclosures have also been done in the past as well.

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Appendix

Domestic Violence Death Review Recommendations

1. Develop a comprehensive program that focuses on building education and awareness about healthy relationships and how to prevent and respond to situations of domestic violence and abuse.
2. Investigate ways to use social media to raise awareness and educate all sectors about this issue.
3. Educate employers about the need for employees to have training in responding to actual or suspected incidents of domestic violence, about providing victims of domestic violence with time to heal, protection and understanding in the workplace, and about the need for perpetrators to have support to enable them to access and attend programming such as domestic violence treatment prevention and addictions.
4. Educate front-line service providers about domestic violence and other issues such as substance abuse and mental health.
5. Encourage social agencies (e.g., SUMA, SARM, industry leaders, health, First Nations, sports organizations, and law enforcement agencies) to take an action-oriented, visible stand against domestic violence.
6. Encourage justice partners to develop a systems approach to managing cases involving victims at high risk for domestic violence.
7. Develop an evaluation plan that crosses all sectors and identifies common outcomes from a variety of actions to achieve common objectives.
8. Implement the use of common validated instruments to assess potential reoccurrence and lethality in situations involving domestic violence.
9. Develop a first responder team in all communities across the province with expertise in domestic violence.
10. Implement domestic violence programs for perpetrators, victims, and families that are available in all communities.
11. Establish a provincial central call line that provides information about and support for victims and perpetrators in situations of domestic violence and abuse.
12. Investigate the implementation of a protocol similar to the Saskatchewan Child Abuse Protocol that requires reporting domestic violence situations.
13. Develop a protocol for front-line service providers including doctors and hospitals dealing with situations of domestic violence and mental health issues that allows for better collaboration and information sharing between agencies in cases where domestic violence and personal safety is a factor.
14. Improve communication and disclosure between provincial and family courts in domestic violence criminal cases and custody and access cases.
15. Mandate parents involved in domestic violence situations and custody and access cases to attend parent education courses before allowing the abusive parent access to the children.
16. Improve the oversight of programs for children in care on reserve.
17. Provide funding and personnel to ensure prevention and intervention services are available across the province to match the demand.
18. Establish a governance structure external to government to coordinate and oversee actions initiated to reduce domestic violence.
19. Investigate ways to reduce financial stress in families.