

Local, National and International Family Violence Directions, Practices and Considerations for  
the Northwest Territories: A Jurisdictional Review

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## Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Introduction	7
Background	8
Methodology	9
Design	9
Data Collection and Analysis	10
Inquiry Sample	11
Canadian and International Scans	11
Document Analysis	12
Indicators and Measures	12
Current NWT Approaches	12
NWT Strengths and Gaps	21
National Directions and Perspectives	31
International Directions and Perspectives	37
Indicators and Measures	38
Governance Structure/Framework	42
Conclusion	44
References	46
Appendices	51
Appendix A: Terms of Reference	51
Appendix B: Project Scope for Family Violence Working Group	54
Appendix C: Inquiry Tool	57

Appendix D: Documents in the Legislative Assembly\_\_\_\_\_63

Appendix E: International Scan of Documents/Websites\_\_\_\_\_65

Appendix F: National Scan of Documents/Websites\_\_\_\_\_74

#### Figures

Figure 1: Jurisdictional Review Process\_\_\_\_\_10

#### Tables

Table 1: Current Family Violence Approach and Identified Gaps\_\_\_\_\_31

Table 2: Calls to Action\_\_\_\_\_33

## **Executive Summary**

Family violence is a complex, serious and lethal social and public health issue in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and family violence is described as a social determinant of First Nations, Inuit and Métis health (National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health, 2019). These statements alone speak to the necessity of addressing family violence but the actuality of the high rates of intimate partner violence, domestic homicide and children at risk/in need of protection illuminate the urgency of this task.

A report was requested by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Social Envelope Deputy Ministers Committee, representatives of the Departments of Executive and Indigenous Affairs; Municipal and Community Affairs; Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the NWT Housing Corporation to develop a comprehensive approach to guide GNWT actions against family violence. There are three documents that together will provide the details to plan a comprehensive approach. They include: a scoping review of evidence from published literature that is a contextual fit for the NWT; a jurisdictional review that describes the directions and strategies used locally, nationally and internationally to address family violence; and a synthesis of data collected through community engagement with seven communities (Immigrants and Indigenous) that provides concurrently community voices. This report, a jurisdictional review, is the second of three.

The methodology used in this report is a jurisdictional review executed through an examination of current strategies/initiatives to address family violence locally (NWT), nationally (provinces, territories and federal government), and internationally (select countries with similar Populations-Australia, New Zealand and circumpolar countries). To identify the current NWT approach to family violence, a strength/gap analysis was performed; An inquiry tool was used to

gather data about the current territorial approach from the five departments included under the social envelope. The NWT Legislative Librarian conducted a search of the Legislative Library for relevant documents presented in the Legislative Assembly. As well, additional public documents that did not meet the peer-review status of the scoping review were added. A scan of online websites and documents was conducted by student research assistants using relevant search terms for: *family violence, governments, agencies, prevention, promotion, intervention, strategies, and governance*. Each of these terms were matched with synonyms where appropriate to make a more informative search. Websites were collated as national or international. All of the data were analyzed with thoughtful deliberation to make recommendations and suggest a pathway forward.

There are many initiatives currently undertaken by the NWT government departments and other territorial agencies to address family violence, but despite this, the statistics from police and coroner reports indicate that family violence continues to be a serious problem. From an assessment of current initiatives, strengths and gaps were identified. The strengths include the establishment of an interdepartmental committee for family violence, an investment in trauma-informed practices, activism initiated by the Coalition against Family Violence, education campaigns generated by both government and non-government agencies, and financial supports for non-government organizations (NGOs) addressing education and programs. The gaps include child welfare and children at risk, services for perpetrators, interagency collaboration, victim services system, screening, detection and effective response, safe housing in all communities and indicators to measure and monitor family violence.

At the national level, the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls must be acted

upon in our jurisdiction. We have highlighted the calls to action related to family violence. The National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health also provide direction forward. There are many progressive initiatives at the provincial and territorial level that are included in the tables in the appendices of this report.

At the international level, Australia highlights that prevention must be targeted at the population level. Australia's National Research Organization for Women's Safety (ANROWS) developed a guide to prevention monitoring that outlines measuring population progress towards the prevention of violence against women and children. By ending violence against women and children, the well-being of the whole family is addressed.

A change in governance for family violence at the government level is required. In moving forward to reduce or end family violence, there is a need for government to take on a significant leadership role. The recommendations for the GNWT are to:

- Create a Family Violence Secretariat that maintains a quality violence against women prevention program;
- Focus on the predominant issue of violence against women;
- Adopt criteria from Australia to design, fund and evaluate the program: it needs to be inclusive, long-term, multi-sectoral and multi-component, addresses drivers and reinforcing factors of violence, implement evidence-based techniques and tailor messaging to the audience;
- Develop territorial data sources to improve monitoring and evaluating of current and innovative initiatives; and
- Involve communities in developing an approach to safe housing for emergency planning.

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Family violence has grown to such a concern in the Northwest Territories (NWT) that it was identified by the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly as a priority. According to Statistics Canada (2016), family violence in the NWT occurs at rates deemed second highest in Canada. To address this issue, the Social Envelope Deputy Ministers Committee mandated the development of a comprehensive GNWT approach for action against family violence (Appendix A & B). This jurisdictional review is one of three reports completed to assist the GNWT with the development of a comprehensive approach. The other two reports include a scoping review to provide best evidence from the literature that contextually fits with the NWT and findings from seven sharing circles to illuminate community voice and commentary on evidence found in the scoping review.

Taylor (2016) developed a special report for the Public Health Agency of Canada focused on family violence. This report identifies the state of family violence in Canada and the reason why we need to address this issue as a public health concern. The statistics shared in the report are staggering but unfortunately not a surprise in the NWT. This report does provide a profile of primary prevention efforts which the Medical Director describes under five headings: creating and enforcing laws and policies; developing strategies, frameworks and initiatives; creating safe and supportive communities; promoting healthy families and relationships; and, increasing knowledge and awareness and targeting at-risk populations. These recommendations reinforce the direction that the GNWT is requesting and in some regards is currently attempting. There are aspects of this report that are situated within these directions.

## Sommaire

La violence familiale est un problème de santé publique et de société aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) qui peut être complexe, grave et parfois létal. Selon le Centre de collaboration nationale de la santé autochtone (2019), elle est aussi un déterminant social de la santé des Premières Nations, des Inuits et des Métis. À elles seules, ces déclarations rappellent la nécessité de lutter contre la violence familiale. Toutefois, l'urgence d'y mettre fin est amplifiée par le nombre élevé de cas de violence conjugale, d'homicides conjugaux et d'enfants à risque ou ayant besoin de protection.

Le Comité des sous-ministres responsables de l'enveloppe sociale du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) a demandé aux représentants des organismes et ministères suivants de préparer un rapport qui permettrait d'élaborer une approche globale pour orienter les mesures de lutte contre la violence familiale du GTNO : Société d'habitation des TNO et ministères de l'Exécutif et des Affaires autochtones; des Affaires municipales et communautaires; de la Santé et des Services sociaux; de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation, et de la Justice. Trois documents jetteront les bases de la planification de cette approche globale, soit une revue exploratoire des données probantes tirées de la littérature qui tient compte du contexte des TNO; un examen des administrations qui décrit les orientations et les stratégies locales, nationales et internationales de lutte contre la violence familiale; et une synthèse des données recueillies lors d'échanges communautaires avec des immigrants et des Autochtones de sept collectivités pour obtenir des points de vue concomitants. Le présent rapport fait état de l'examen des administrations.

La méthodologie utilisée pour réaliser cet examen des administrations repose sur l'analyse des initiatives ou des stratégies de lutte contre la violence familiale à l'échelle territoriale, nationale (provinces, territoires et gouvernement fédéral) et internationale (certains pays ayant une population semblable à celle du Canada, comme l'Australie, la Nouvelle-Zélande et les pays circumpolaires). Pour définir l'approche actuelle des TNO en matière de violence

familiale, on a effectué une analyse des points forts et des points faibles, et on a recueilli, au moyen d'un outil d'enquête, des données sur l'approche territoriale existante auprès des cinq ministères se partageant l'enveloppe sociale.

Le bibliothécaire de l'Assemblée législative des TNO a effectué une recherche pour trouver des documents pertinents déposés à l'Assemblée législative. De plus, d'autres documents publics qui ne répondaient pas aux critères d'évaluation par les pairs définis dans la revue exploratoire ont été ajoutés. Des étudiants adjoints à la recherche ont effectué des recherches dans les sites Web et les documents en ligne en utilisant les termes suivants : *violence familiale, gouvernements, organismes, prévention, promotion, intervention, stratégies* et *gouvernance*. Chacun de ces mots a été jumelé à des synonymes, le cas échéant, pour affiner la recherche. Les sites Web ont été regroupés en deux catégories : nationaux et internationaux. Toutes les données ont été examinées avec très grand soin afin de formuler des recommandations et de proposer une voie à suivre.

Bien que les ministères du GTNO et d'autres organismes territoriaux entreprennent actuellement de nombreuses initiatives de lutte contre la violence familiale, les statistiques tirées des rapports de police et du coroner indiquent que la violence familiale reste un grave problème. Une évaluation des initiatives actuelles a permis de cerner les points forts et les points faibles. Parmi les points forts, mentionnons la création d'un comité interministériel sur la violence familiale; l'investissement dans les pratiques tenant compte des traumatismes; les activités militantes de la Coalition contre la violence familiale; les campagnes de sensibilisation des organismes gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux, et le soutien financier accordé aux organisations non gouvernementales qui répondent à des besoins en éducation et qui offrent des programmes. Parmi les points faibles, mentionnons les services d'aide à l'enfance; les services aux enfants à risque; les services aux auteurs d'acte de violence; la collaboration entre les organismes; le système de services aux victimes; le dépistage; la détection et l'intervention efficace; l'accès à des logements sûrs dans toutes les collectivités, et les indicateurs permettant de mesurer et de surveiller la violence familiale.

À l'échelle nationale, les TNO doivent donner suite aux appels à l'action de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation et de l'Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées.

Les appels à l'action liés à la violence familiale ont été mis en évidence. Le Centre de collaboration nationale de la santé autochtone montre également la voie à suivre pour aller de l'avant. Les provinces et les territoires ont mis en place de nombreuses initiatives avant-gardistes. Vous les trouverez dans le présent rapport dans les tableaux en annexe.

À l'échelle internationale, l'Australie souligne que la population doit jouer un rôle clé dans la prévention de la violence familiale. La National Research Organization for Women's Safety (ANROWS) de l'Australie a élaboré un guide visant à surveiller les mesures de prévention. Ce guide aide à mesurer les progrès de la population en matière de prévention de la violence faite aux femmes et aux enfants. En mettant fin à ce type de violence, on s'assure du bien-être de toute la famille.

Le gouvernement doit changer sa manière de gérer la violence familiale et assumer un rôle de leadership important pour la réduire ou y mettre fin. Voici les recommandations à l'intention du GTNO :

- créer un secrétariat à la violence familiale qui offre un programme de prévention de la violence faite aux femmes de qualité;
- mettre l'accent sur l'enjeu majeur qui est la violence faite aux femmes;
- adopter les critères de l'Australie pour la conception, le financement et l'évaluation du programme. Ce programme doit faire appel à tous, être durable, comporter plusieurs volets, faire appel à plusieurs secteurs et tenir compte des facteurs qui déclenchent et exacerbent la violence. Il doit aussi mettre en œuvre des techniques fondées sur des données probantes et permettre d'adapter les messages au public cible;
- recueillir des données territoriales pour améliorer la surveillance et l'évaluation des

initiatives actuelles et à venir;

- faire participer les collectivités à l'élaboration d'une approche permettant la planification d'urgence dans les logements pour les rendre plus sûrs.

## Directives, pratiques et considérations locales, nationales et internationales en matière de violence familiale pour les TNO : un examen des administrations

La violence familiale est devenue un tel enjeu aux TNO qu'elle a été désignée comme une priorité par la 18<sup>e</sup> Assemblée législative. Selon Statistique Canada (2016), les TNO se classent au deuxième rang au Canada en ce qui concerne la violence familiale. Pour faire face à cet enjeu, le Comité des sous-ministres responsables de l'enveloppe sociale a demandé l'élaboration d'une approche globale territoriale de lutte contre la violence familiale (annexes A et B). Le présent examen des administrations est l'un des trois documents préparés pour aider le GTNO dans le développement de cette approche globale. Les deux autres documents comprennent une revue exploratoire des meilleures données probantes tirées de la littérature qui tient compte du contexte des TNO et les conclusions de sept cercles de partage pour permettre aux collectivités de s'exprimer et de commenter les données probantes recueillies lors de la revue exploratoire.

En 2016, l'administrateur en chef de la santé publique Greg Taylor a publié un rapport spécial sur la violence familiale pour l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada. Ce rapport dresse un portrait de la violence familiale au Canada et indique la raison pour laquelle il est impératif de traiter cet enjeu comme une question de santé publique. Les statistiques figurant dans le rapport sont stupéfiantes, mais ne surprennent guère dans le cas des TNO. Le rapport donne un aperçu des mesures de prévention de base à mettre en place aux TNO. M. Taylor les a réparties en cinq rubriques : élaborer et faire appliquer les lois et les politiques; élaborer des stratégies, des cadres et des initiatives; bâtir des collectivités sûres et solidaires; promouvoir des relations familiales saines; et accroître les connaissances et la sensibilisation auprès des populations à risque. Ces

recommandations précisent l'orientation donnée par le GTNO et, à certains égards, que le GTNO tente actuellement de prendre. Certains aspects du présent rapport s'inscrivent dans ces orientations.

## **Background**

### **Territorial Context**

The NWT has a unique context that could be described as northern and remote, rich in land-based resources, a diverse population base, a historical and ongoing legacy of colonialism, and limited resources (Moffitt & Mercer, 2015). In fact, there are 33 communities scattered across 1.346 million square kilometers in a territory that is about the size of France. Many communities do not have road access and have small populations under 1000 people; recruitment and retention of front-line service providers is an issue; there are limited formal services (a deficit of police presence in 11 communities, voluntary victim service supports, limited mental health services, counselling and addiction services, lack of housing [safe housing in remote communities, transitional housing]; harsh climates are a reality; climate change is shifting the terrain and impacting transportation and access to the land) (Moffitt & Fikowski, 2017; Moffitt & Mercer, 2015). The GNWT is the main service provider throughout most of the NWT, and the NGO service providers are mostly based in Yellowknife and are dealing with ongoing capacity issues. In the face of these challenges, communities have developed resilience in terms of cultural identity, growth of self-governments and self-determination, reclaiming their relationship with the land and traditional ways of living and sharing their perspectives on the impact and solutions to family violence.

### **Research Team**

The research team includes Dr. Pertice Moffitt (Manager/Instructor, Health Research Programs, Aurora Research Institute) Heather Fikowski (Research Associate, Aurora Research Institute; Territorial Lead, Mental Health and Addictions, NWT Health and Social Services Authority) and Sandy Little (Territorial Lead, Mental Health, NWT Health and Social Services

Authority). This team has a relationship informed through education leadership at Aurora College within two programs housed in the School of Health and Human Services. Together, they have 10 years of domestic violence research experience in the NWT. Dr. Moffitt supervised three Student Research Assistants (RAs) Danielle Wendehorst, Hosai Ayoubi, and Allison Forbes in data collection for the jurisdictional review. The team of co-investigators developed the methodology and approach to the project. The RAs had a variety of roles and responsibilities including contacting stakeholders through an inquiry tool and interviews, website and document scans, analyzing content for contextual fit, compiling data, assisting with writing and preparing reports.

#### **Advisory Committee.**

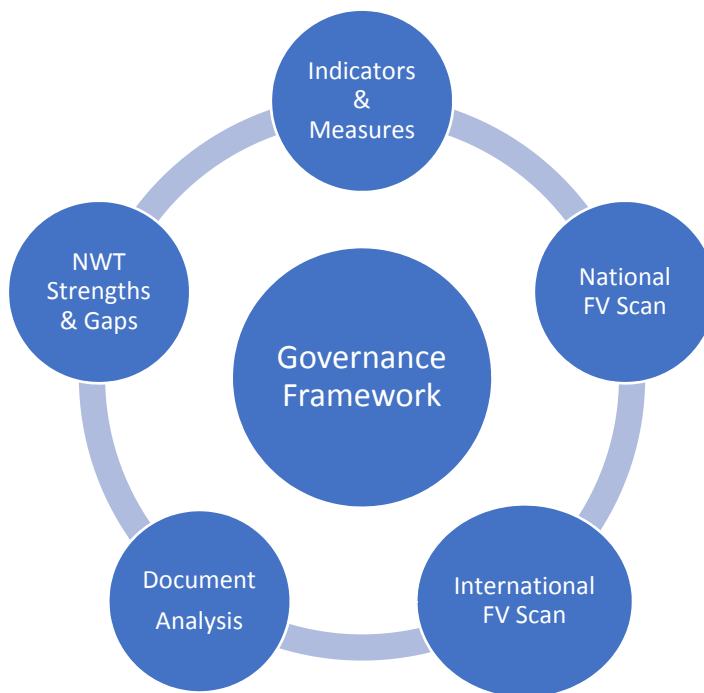
The Community Justice and Policing Division, Department of Justice provided leadership and guidance for the project and meetings with representatives from the interdepartmental committee of the GNWT providing feedback throughout the research process.

### **Methodology**

#### **Design**

A jurisdictional review was conducted to examine the current GNWT family violence governance, initiatives and practices; national, provincial and territorial practices; and practices in relevant related areas around the world (Circumpolar Countries, Northern Territory of Australia, and New Zealand). A jurisdictional review is a method that provides a summary of contextual and related information, publicly available literature and models, and relevant documents to address a topic such as family violence.

**Figure 1: Jurisdictional Review Process**



### **Data Collection and Analysis**

The process of reviewing jurisdictions and their initiatives on family violence began in February 2019 and was completed in October 2019. Assets and gaps were identified using several methods of explication. An inquiry tool (Appendix C) was developed, emailed to government stakeholders, followed up with telephone or face-to-face interviews, collated and analyzed.

The tool used a range of questions about program delivery, target audiences, how programs are promoted, what policies guide programming, and what data is collected by the program. A series of long answer questions on the inquiry tool allowed participants to provide perspectives on the strengths and gaps in the programming, what developments are taking place to better address family violence, what initiatives have taken place in the past, and what we need

to do to better address family violence in the NWT. Once the inquiry tools were completed, feedback was assigned a number for anonymity and entered into a spreadsheet. Follow-up phone calls were completed to allow participants to add further information to their inquiry tool, and to engage in discussion about programing.

During the inquiry tool process, we found that some participants (particularly NGO's and government funded organizations) were reluctant to complete the inquiry tool. To ensure that all important stakeholders were reflected in the jurisdictional review, the inquiry process was modified to include face to face meetings with stakeholders and a review of information on websites and through publications. Summaries of content that will appear in the jurisdictional review were then shared with stakeholders to ensure accuracy of program interpretation.

### **Inquiry Sample**

Government departments that completed inquiry tools included the Department of Justice (n=1), the Department of Health and Social Services (n=3), Municipal and Community Affairs (n=1), the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment (n=1), and the NWT Health and Social Services Authority (n=1). Additionally, the Yellowknife Seniors Society completed a jurisdictional review. Their data was removed from the inquiry tool collation and was included in the evaluation of NGO and government funded organisation. A total of seven inquiry tools were collated for review. Government funded and non-government organizations that have been identified as important stakeholders in family violence and whose services are summarized in the jurisdictional review include the NWT Seniors Society, Status of Women Council of the NWT, YWCA of Yellowknife, Native Women's Society of the NWT, Rainbow Coalition, and FOXY/SMASH youth programs.

### **Canadian and International Scans**

Websites were reviewed to gather information on Canadian federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions outside of the NWT (n=24), as well as on relevant international jurisdictions (n= 14). Tables were created for websites selected from the international jurisdiction scan (Appendix E) and websites from the Canadian jurisdiction scan (Appendix F). Jurisdictions were agreed upon by the Advisory committee if they were deemed to be a good contextual fit or had relevance in terms of the NWT family violence profile.

### **Document Analysis**

There are several government and non-government family violence documents collected and analyzed to assist with the jurisdictional review. Documents that were excluded from the scoping review because they were not evidence-based and peer-reviewed, yet were still found valuable, were set aside for inclusion in this report. The documents were examined for key indicators and measures, directions in terms of governance, guidelines to support the identification of assets and gaps, and promising practices for transformation.

### **Indicators and Measures**

In discussion with the knowledge user (the interdepartmental GNWT committee), we identified indicators and measures that hopefully will assist the government to monitor and evaluate the progress of programs, interventions and initiatives over time. We identified several indicators from literature sources that may provide baseline and ongoing measurement so that trending patterns can be addressed and lead to decreased rates of family violence. These indicators are identified to augment or streamline in many cases data that is already being collected.

### **Current Approaches to Family Violence in the NWT**

The GNWT has invested in addressing family violence (Appendix E). The Legislative Assembly Librarian performed a search of the Legislation Library catalogue using an array of search terms (family violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, battered women, spousal assault, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse). This search culminated in a list of documents (letters, reports, evaluations, etc.) identified for the past 10 years. There are a total of 57 documents with a mean of 5.7 documents per year. Although this is not an exhaustive list, it does provide an example of government dialogue about family violence and one could surmise those items that sometimes mandated a response (such as, the way funding was used) and those items that were of most importance through their visibility on this list. These documents in the Legislative Library are open to the public. At the time the list was released, the link was active but the library is transitioning so they may be inactive at the print of this document. However, the titles can be searched in the library.

From these documents, one can gain insight into the nature of the dialogue in the Legislative Assembly. Some documents were related to funding accountabilities or letters in response to oral questions; others were annual reports; in addition, documents tabled were accepted reports of research activity or initiatives. As mentioned above, documents that were mandated because of funds allocated to a certain initiative were reported on yearly. These included such things as the Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report, the Victim Assistance Committee, and Annual reports of the Director of Child and Family Services.

Reports tabled in the Legislative Assembly included a report on intimate partner violence (Moffitt & Fikowski, 2017); sexual violence (Cooke, 2016); men's healing program (Proactive,

2016); legal pathways for spousal assault (Cooke, 2015); and, non-violence and strength-based community inquiry (Malatest & Associates, 2010).

### **Results of Inquiry with Government Departments**

Government departments support a variety of measures that assist in education, prevention, promotion, harm reduction and emergency response to family violence in the NWT. 86% of government departments surveyed for the jurisdictional review offer programming for all NWT demographics across the lifespan. Measures are targeted to all individuals across the lifespan, with measures frequently assisting children aged five to 12, women, pregnant women, and older adults. Measures are geared least frequently towards men and offenders of violence. This distribution in services is indicative to the rates in which women and children experience family violence, and should not be considered a disproportionate distribution of services. This is reflective of the demographics that require more services in the face of family violence.

Child exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) is the primary form of maltreatment, occurring in 34% of all substantiated investigations in Canada (PHAC, 2010) and the second most frequent form of child maltreatment in the NWT (MacLaurin et al., 2010). In the NWT, substantiated child exposure to IPV occurs for 17.55 per 1,000 children as compared to 6.17 per 1,000 children in Canada (MacLaurin, 2010). Statistics Canada (2016) reports that the majority of IPV crimes (80%) are crimes against women, that the rate of intimate homicide is four times greater in women as compared to men, and that IPV is the most common (42%) of all violent crimes against women. Locally, Moffitt and Fikowski (2017) report several northern contextual factors increase the frequency and severity of IPV.

Government departments that were surveyed for the jurisdictional review state that adult populations are utilizing programs most often, while offenders of violence and the male demographic are utilizing programs and services least often in government run programs. 71% of government departments surveyed for the jurisdictional review report using screening tools, and ODARA is utilized as a screening tool most often. Other screening processes vary depending on programming. For example, a New Day Men's Program requires a self-assessment process to become eligible to complete the program. Similarly, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment provides educators with *Dealing with Child Abuse: A Handbook for School Personnel (DWCA)*, a document which helps educators become familiarized with the process of responding to family violence in the Department of Health and Social Services. Additionally, the DWCA assists educators in when and how to make a report, and is reviewed with staff twice a year and as needed. These types of screening processes provide skills and strategies that are specific to the measures being offered by individual departments. Within government departments that were surveyed for the jurisdictional review, education and prevention are the contexts in which measures are delivered most frequently. Health promotion and emergency response measures are delivered in 43% (9 of 16 respondents) departments surveyed.

All departments surveyed report that programming is advertised sometimes, with 14% of participants reporting that some programming is advertised very well. During follow up conversations, some participants reported advertising challenges. For programs aimed at particular demographics and focused on specific needs, caution is needed when advertising out of concern that individuals may be recruited who are not well suited for program goals. For example, the Family Information Liaison Unit (FILU) facilitated the Department of Justice

provides networking opportunity for family members searching for missing people. The FILU is a service specific for individuals searching for indigenous women family members, and is associated with the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry (MMIWG). Since networking services are not formerly available for individuals seeking information on other missing family members (men, non-Indigenous), advertising for this service is not useful for this program. Additional comments from participants on promoting programs acknowledge the challenges of time and expenses that are associated with persistent advertising. Social media platforms require regular updates, different communities learn of programs and events through diverse means (radio, posters, movie theater advertisements) and particular demographics access different media platforms than others. Findings from the inquiry tool suggest that government departments are utilizing a wide variety of strategies to promote programs and services, including face-to-face, word of mouth, social media, website, and radio as a means to reach the intended client group effectively. Similarly, the delivery of measures towards family violence is variable throughout government departments with most measures being delivered in person, one-on-one and in groups. Feedback from participants suggest that, while face-to-face measures are beneficial, variety in appointment length, times of day, and appointment delivery method would be useful in meeting clientele needs. For example, shorter 15-minute appointment slots for checking in with clients in stable situations but who need short consultations or counseling; evening appointment times for individuals who work during the day; and telephone/texting options for appointments and consultations will improve the delivery of measures to reduce family violence, especially within mental health and counselling contexts (Cornish et al., 2017).

Other measures are delivered through video and social media, such as the What Will it Take video campaign can be accessed by individuals over the internet, and can be facilitated as a

health promotion tool in communities. Feedback from the Department of Health and Social Services suggests that the What Will it Take campaign is well received and well utilized in communities. Community caregivers, such as Community Wellness Workers and Community Health Representatives deliver health promotion and mental health prevention programming in unique and culturally relevant ways. For example, a sewing circle organized by a CHR has become a family violence discussion group for community women. Caregivers often use other media, such as community radio or social media, to connect diverse segments of the community to health promotion materials that aim to eliminate family violence.

Most Government departments examined collect data to inform on the effectiveness of programming, including police reports, court reports and statistics, coroner reports, shelter statistics, and Victims Services statistics. In addition, the Health and Social Services Authority examines data on the process by which children become involved in Child and Family Services, including family violence situations. However, these reports are not housed in a central way nor is there a concerted effort to align initiatives, monitor and evaluate their effectiveness and consider their impact on defined indicators of family violence.

In examining the government departments that participated in the inquiry tool process, all departments stated that many projects were delivered throughout the entire Territory and indicated this capacity as a strength in providing family violence measures. This is an opportunity that government programs have over programs and initiatives facilitated by other organizations, particularly NGO's, which we will address further in identifying findings of government funded and NGO measures against family violence. Funding security in government led projects ensure program longevity that other organizations cannot guarantee.

Participants have a good understanding of how programs are beneficial and the nature of their strengths. Participants believe that the services they provide are of good quality. Some participants suggest that ensuring that all services are delivered with a consistent, client-centered focus across the territory is essential to improve services. Suggestions for improvement from participants were often focused around improving services that were already being delivered to ensure that current services are effective and that services are not unknowingly causing harm. For example, the New Day Men's Program has low completion rates, and participants have stated that studies have shown that referral to non-battery programs risk the victims returning to potentially unsafe relationships that may cause harm.

The need for better access was noted regularly as a gap in the programs available for family violence, and suggestions varied to the specificity of the program: for example, access to lawyers, more appropriate time slots for community counseling sessions to improve wait times for appointments, and the development of smart phone apps to improve access to clientele.

The idea of an interdepartmental group to address family violence needs in the NWT came up in a number of follow-up conversations with participants of the inquiry tool process. Concerns about workloads and time commitments in participating in an interdepartmental group to address and unite family violence initiatives were mentioned, and the need for every department to work cohesively and consistently with an agreed upon protocol was expressed. Suggestions to improve interdepartmental family violence initiatives include more shared programming and better communication between departments through e-mail updates, notifications on training opportunities, and notifications on relevant media releases or campaigns.

### **Results of Inquiry with Non-Government Organizations**

**The research team reached out to many NGOs with a low response rate; however, the following organizations provided feedback.**

**The NWT Seniors Society.** Addressing elder abuse is the NWT Seniors Society's (NWTSS) primary focus. The major programming that NWTSS offers in attempts to mitigate the rates of senior abuse is the *It's Not Right* program. This program educates community members on the different types of abuse that can happen to elders, including physical, verbal, emotional, financial, sexual, spiritual, and neglect. This enables community members to name elder abuse when they see it happening and increases community support for elders who may be experiencing abuse. The NWTSS understands that the context in which many seniors live can put them in highly vulnerable states and can make it difficult to confront abusers. Furthermore, the NWTSS understands that the relationships that seniors may have with their abusers adds challenges for seniors who are experiencing abuse. The educational approach within communities helps provide supportive networks that elders can rely on when facing older adult abuse, this can also mitigate the isolation that can occur from abuse, especially when reporting these situations that may alienate elders from their family members.

**The Status of Women Council of the NWT.** The Status of Women Council (SWC) plays an important advocacy role in the prevention and response to violence against women. Programs and initiatives run by the SWC include the Wise Women Awards, acknowledging women in the NWT who demonstrated strength, leadership, and wisdom; monitoring reports and statistics on violent crimes towards women through ODARA and Statistics Canada reports; the campaign school in which local women are coached and educated on how to participate and run in politics at all levels of government; promotional days such as family violence awareness week, where events are held to provide education and bring awareness to important issues

surrounding family violence; and has produced a number of useful resources and publications to support the health and wellbeing of women in the communities across the NWT.

The SWC is an arm's length public agency receiving funding through the GNWT and capacity for programing, advocacy work, social and health promotion, and publication production is greatly dependant on the council's ability to secure regular funding. With a limited workforce of three employees, the SWC understands their capacity as an advocacy organisation and monitors their ability to operate useful programs, such as, the Coalition against Family Violence, when they found they put a disproportionate amount of work in compared to other agencies participating in the coalition. The SWC demonstrates their expert knowledge by remaining up to date on the relevant and evolving knowledge on violence towards women. It should be recognised that while the SWC participates in programming and advocacy for women in the NWT, they are also an excellent resource and potential for consultation on the needs of women in the territory, and should be considered in a collaborative role in the development of programs that affect the health and wellbeing of women.

**The YWCA NWT.** The YWCA NWT is an important stakeholder in family violence initiatives that support women, children and families in the NWT. Services both explicitly address family violence and promote healthy families by supporting women, children and families in lifestyle, education, and early childhood development thereby helping to protect families from violence. Initiatives include emergency shelters for women and children fleeing abusive family environments; transitional housing programs, providing secure housing to women and children leaving abusive homes and helping low income families secure affordable housing; healthy lifestyle programming such as cooking, nutrition, employment, literacy, and computer use programs; group support programs for children and youth who have experienced family

violence; affordable afterschool programs and free family drop in center with programming to support healthy family and childhood development; a 24 hour emergency phone line to respond to family violence emergencies; and Emergency Protection Order facilitation.

With 50 years of service the NWT, the YWCA is familiar with the context of family violence in northern communities and delivers programming to meet the needs of northern community members. While actions are taken to provide services across the NWT, such as participation in shelter networking to improve resources and access for women and children escaping family violence, the YWCA NWT is limited in their ability to provide services across the territory. Additionally, a strain on resources, such as limited housing capacity after the Rockhill Apartment fire in 2018, creates challenges for the effective delivery of services. Despite these challenges, it is clear that the services of the YWCA NWT are fundamental in the provisions against family violence in the territory, and they play an essential role in responding to family violence emergencies for women and children.

### **Strengths/Assets in the GNWT System**

**Trauma-informed care.** For the past few years, there has been a movement within the government to adopt an approach of trauma-informed care at all levels and within the frontline service. Given the statistics on family violence in our territory and in the nation, an understanding that trauma is present and a trauma-informed approach is essential in the care of all residents. This is consistent with current directions across Canada and reflective of best practice. In particular, frontline service providers are searching for sensitive ways to talk about family violence, ask permission for follow-up procedures, offer control to victims/survivors and find effective support. A trauma-informed approach offers this thoughtfulness and intention by

applying communication in ways that are strength-based, create a safe environment, empower the person and thus promote healing.

**Social envelop focus on family violence.** Another strength is the collaboration between the departments in the GNWT social envelope to establish a comprehensive approach to family violence, the intent of this work. The government recognizes that a more coordinated effort is required between departments and interdepartmental planning is a beginning to result in collaborative and more focused directions.

**Coalition against family violence.** In the 1990s, the Coalition against Family Violence was established to bring together government and non-government organizations to address family violence. Monthly meetings provided a forum to network with each other, develop agendas, and fuel strategies to address violence. The mandate of the organization is a vision of “a peaceful and equitable society where all territorial residents, as individuals, members of families, communities, organizations, or governments, are valued, respected, safe and free from abuse and inequalities” (NWT Status of Women Council, 2017, p.8). Most recently the coalition has been resurrected by the territorial NGOs. It would be valuable to re-evaluate the strengths and actions that evolved from this work and how it could best support efforts to eliminate family violence across the NWT.

### **Gaps in the GNWT System**

**Care of children at risk.** Children are a valued asset for the future of the territory and yet at risk children (those who are neglected, abused, exposed to or witness to violence) are placed at further risk within a territorial child protection system that has received a failing grade and progressed even further into deficiency over two report periods by the Auditor General of Canada (Auditor General of Canada, 2018). This gap is recognized as valid and damaging to the

safety and health of children by the government both in the Auditor General of Canada's report (2018) and in further government reports (Standing Committee on Government Operations, 2019). The Auditor General's report compares the audit performed in 2014 to that of 2018 and identifies the downward trend in the protection of children. The recommendations from their report must be acted upon to improve the plight of children at risk.

One important governance direction identified in the report is establishing the role and responsibilities of the NTHSSA and that of the GNWT. This is essential to identify the reporting structure between territorial and regional child and family services since follow-up and monitoring of children within the system is clearly lacking. The deficiencies in the system are centered in the following areas: the government did not meet their parental responsibilities to protect the 167 children aged six months to 18 years that were in their care; the authority/government did not assess the wellbeing of children in both temporary and permanent care; lack of assessments put some children's safety at risk; reviews and education were not conducted with foster families caring for children; the government has not determined both the financial and the human resource needs. These are all areas that must be focused on to overcome this gap.

There is direction proposed in the Canadian literature centering on moving toward reconciliation through frameworks and models that recognize past structures of racism and honouring strengths of Indigenous peoples (Auger, 2012; Barnes & Josefowitz, 2019; Blackstock et al, 2006; Choate, 2019). Barnes and Josefowitz (2019) point out that we must understand the vulnerabilities of Indigenous children and the intergenerational influences of residential schooling on their wellbeing. They suggest a model to help understand the impacts that law and policy have on Indigenous children. Choate's (2019) describes the importance of accessing

Indigenous knowledge to study family systems rather than relying on Eurocentric family systems theory or other theories used in the application of processes within the child welfare system.

Rather than coming from a prescribed theory of family systems, frontline workers such as social workers, must come from a sense of inquiry and relationship building within the community and working with Elders (ibid). In education, faculty and students must examine their biases and develop new practices within the communities based on the cultural context of the community.

Accompanying this direction is trauma-informed care within the child welfare system (Middleton, Bloom, Strolin-Goltzman and Caringi (2019). Middleton et al. (2019) suggest legislation action that supports children growing up with their birth families. Babins-Wagner and Synder (2012) highlight the importance of collaborating between systems and services: bolstering child protection workers training , skills and collaborative practice; using evidence-informed risk assessment tools and safety planning protocols; and incorporating strong quality assurance measures.

Our jurisdiction is not alone in this gap. Australian researchers are highlighting the intersection between domestic violence and child protection enabling new frameworks and direction (Broady & Gray, 2018; Humphreys, Healey, Kirkwood & Nicholson, 2018) Broady and Gray highlight the need to address child protection and domestic violence at the same time through supportive parental interventions. Humphreys et al. describe utilizing a collaborative risk assessment tool that assists with diverting more children to community based programs rather than the child protection system. These efforts are believed to lead to a more ethical and supportive environment for children.

**Programs for perpetrators of family violence.** The GNWT implemented a New Day, a men's healing program, that was piloted at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in 2014 in

Yellowknife. Proactive Information Services (2016) evaluated the program and described the implementation as “challenging” with monitoring difficulties. It was reported that 80 men began the program but only 12 participants completed the program in its entirety. The program was described as effective in improving recidivism when at least 10 sessions of the program are completed. A program for men is needed in the NWT with more referral access points, as well as, better clinical training and improved mandated to help men.

The Department of Justice delivers Correctional Programs that are evidenced based core programs targeting the most common factors that can lead an offender to crime (‘criminogenic needs’) and are designed to help inmates with shorter sentences, as well as those serving their sentence in the community. These programs are offered at all correctional facilities and regional probation offices:

- *‘Substance Abuse Management’* (or SAM) program – offered since 2016, to address addictions related needs of both male and female offenders;
  - *‘Living Without Violence’* program – offered since 2017, to address the needs of male offenders with violence related offences;
  - *‘Respectful Relationships’* program – offered since 2017, to address the needs of male offenders with domestic violence offences; and
  - *‘Thinking Leads to Change’* program – implemented in November 2019, to address the criminal attitudes and behaviours of female offenders.
- The new *‘Change Management Maintenance’* program aims to consolidate self-knowledge and personal change that offenders gained from participation in core programming. Change

Management is being piloted in two facilities (NSCC and FSCC) and in the Yellowknife probation office

- For sex offenders serving territorial sentences at the NSCC: a re-vamped program is used that is more targeted to the relatively short average sentence length for, and needs of, this population in the NWT. The program runs for 9 weeks.
- The Correctional Service of Canada determines the risk level and programming needs of federal offenders. If required, NWT offenders serving federal sentences are transferred to federal institutions to complete necessary programming not offered in the NWT.
- Community-based programs are used to facilitate inmate reintegration. In this way, inmates learn about, and are equipped to deal with, the day-to-day requirements of life outside of the facility. Such programs are an important part of release planning for all inmates.
- Program delivery schedules across Corrections are updated on a quarterly basis, centered on the needs of the clients under supervision at that time.

The GNWT has taken action to meet the specific needs of Indigenous offenders, since statistics indicate that the majority of inmates and youth in custody in the NWT are Indigenous (reference). In addition to substance abuse identified as the prevalent issue for all inmates in the NWT, many Indigenous inmates must contend with additional factors such as the limited employment opportunities in some small communities and the trauma, often intergenerational, associated with the legacy of residential schools.

All NWT correctional facilities incorporate Indigenous cultures and traditions into programming and involve Elders in the sharing of traditional knowledge, and the provision of traditional counselling and support services to inmates. Where possible, in-house traditional

facilities are used and inmates, youth and adults, may be taken out on the land to engage in traditional activities.

*North Slave Correctional Complex (NSCC) – extensive traditional areas*

- The NSCC has four traditional areas for the delivery of programs to inmates and youth by a traditional counsellor: two areas are located inside the facility (respectively one each in the adult and in the separate youth unit). The other two are located outdoors, within the secure perimeter. These areas are used for smudging, one-on-one counselling and sharing circles.

*South Mackenzie Correctional Centre (SMCC) – innovative programs and approaches*

- The SMCC has been leading the way on the development of Northern Sessions, developed to address the specific background and needs of NWT Indigenous inmates. Since March 2019, Northern Sessions on addictions have been delivered that harmonize with the core criminogenic Substance Abuse Management (SAM) program. As feedback from inmates has been positive, Corrections is working to develop additional Northern Sessions for delivery alongside the rest of the core programming later this fiscal year. It is envisioned that this program model will eventually extend to NSCC and FSCC.
- The SMCC offers a wraparound approach: a made-in the NWT Indigenous Pre-Treatment Healing program prepares offenders to begin their healing journey and to engage in more structured core correctional programming. Later in their time in custody, the Red Road to Freedom program helps to prepare offenders for their reintegration back into their communities. Both programs are delivered with the participation of Elders and rooted in NWT Indigenous traditions, spirituality and worldview. Work is currently underway on the

development of a curriculum for the Pre-Treatment Healing Program to be expanded to other correctional facilities.

- It is envisioned that the Indigenous Pre-Treatment Healing Program will become the cornerstone of the Therapeutic Community model to be implemented at the SMCC. (*For more information see BN 34. SMCC as a Therapeutic Community.*)

There is education, vocational training and life skills programs in place as follows:

#### Academics

- The Corrections Service has assisted, and continues to assist, youth and adult offenders to achieve high school graduation.
- An analysis of the adult population at the NSCC indicated that the average education level for incarcerated inmates at the Adult Unit is at around a grade six level, which reflects the situation of inmates across NWT corrections.
- Adult offenders can participate in educational programming at the NSCC Adult Unit and at the FSCC (provided by institutional instructors) and at the SMCC (provided by a contracted literacy instructor).
- The NSCC Young Offender Unit has a non-monetary contract with Yellowknife Education District No.1 (YK1) for the delivery of education to youth in custody. Two full time high school teachers teach classes as per the YK1 schedule - one posted in the open custody classroom, and one posted in the secure custody classroom. The teachers collectively teach all grades to the young offenders in custody.

- All facilities maintain a close working relationship with local high schools and colleges. Inmates may access distance learning with the assistance of the institutional instructors. In addition, inmates who are eligible for temporary absence from the facility may attend education programs in the community.

*Additional supports*

- For youth, NSCC Youth Unit staff facilitate life skills sessions.
- For adults, both NSCC and FSCC offer the ‘*Foundations For Success*’ program, which is designed to assist inmates with some of the challenges that adult learners face when they return to school.
- Since 2017, the NSCC offers Mental Health First Aid training to inmates.
- The SMCC offers various vocational programs and training opportunities, such as on Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), Food Safe Level 1, First Aid/CPR and Safe Equipment Operation.

**Interagency collaboration and response.** Interagency collaboration is generally defined as working together for a common cause, in this case family violence. There are many barriers to this in the NWT. One of the major barriers is a constantly revolving frontline service. Another is a lack of understanding of what interagency response or collaboration actually means. ANROWS (2015) conducted *a meta-evaluation of existing interagency partnerships, collaboration, coordination and/or integrated interventions and service responses to violence against women*. In this Australian document, Breckenridge, Rees, valentine and Murray describe the complexities of integrated response has led to insufficient evidence. They suggest that the ideology on the

uptake of integrated response is best practice because it “improves outcomes for victims, reduces secondary victimization and can address ‘siloes’ and gaps in service provision” (ANROWS, 2015, p.1). There are many different jurisdictional examples of integrated responses. These researchers state that there is a limited but growing number of studies that recommend an integrated response. In remote Indigenous communities in Australia, they suggest central elements are “community involvement and support, a new understanding of men and women’s roles in Aboriginal communities and shared responsibility for, and commitment to, providing culturally appropriate services” (p. 24).

**Access to victim services.**

Victim services in the NWT is only partially funded and is not physically present in every community. Training about intimate partner violence and family violence is provided, and victim services workers offer valuable support to women/families experiencing violence. However, services are delivered by a combination of paid employees and volunteers and access to services differs by community.

**Access to housing.** There is a direct link between family violence and housing inadequacies for women and their children. Groening, Bonnycastle, Bonnycastle, Nixon and Huges (2019) have identified the complexities of housing needs of Indigenous women leaving intimate partner violence in northern communities. Safe housing partnerships identified that coercion (power and control) creates the following barriers for safe housing: *poor credit and ruined rental histories related to the perpetrator running up the credit cards and lying about paying rent; lack of steady employment as a result of missing work from violence or being stalked and harassed and then fired from work; housing discrimination because of eviction because of repeated calls from the police or property damage; and loss of subsidized or other*

*affordable housing* (Infograph, US Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium <https://safehousingpartnerships.org/contact>). Those same issues are relevant in our territory plus additional barriers. There are only five shelters in 33 communities and ideally there should be a safe house for emergencies in each community. The interconnection between intimate partner violence and precarious housing/homelessness is described as “often co-occurring” (Groening et al., 2019).

Housing inadequacy is cited as a significant barrier for women attempting to leave intimate partner violence (Moffitt, Fikowski, Mauricio and Mackenzie, 2013; Zorn, Wuerch, Faller and Hampton, 2017; Groening, Bonnycastle, Bonnycastle, Nixon and Hughes, 2019). Housing barriers include the short-term nature of shelters; a lack of family shelter options; women’s poverty; and a lack of both market rental and subsidized housing units. Indigenous women experience greater disparities in social determinants of health, including safe and secure housing. Christensen (2017) explores the link between core housing need and high rates of family violence in the Northwest Territories, resulting in urban migration and homelessness for many women (p. 150). As a further complication, it is difficult to understand or quantify the complete picture of housing insecurity for women attempting to leave violent relationships: they may be missed or “hidden” as they move between home, shelter and provisional accommodations such as ‘couch surfing’ (Gaetz et al, 2014, cited in Groening et al, 2019 p. 4). Women leaving violent relationships can benefit from individualized housing support services, beyond the traditional short-term stay in a family violence shelter. A combination of affordable housing paired with intense and longer-term practical supports has been demonstrated to provide an effective bridge to independence and safety (Wendt & Baker, 2013). Given the complexities of women’s search for adequate housing as they seek to leave intimate partner violence, “the

question underlining their journey is not ‘why doesn’t she leave’ but ‘how could she leave?’” (Sev’er, 2002, cited in Groening et al, 2019, p. 24).

**Screening detection and prevention.** Although the government’s mandate is prevention, there is no baseline data that describes the extent of family violence problems or a means of responding to victims who identify they require assistance that has not been revealed through an emergency measure. There is a willingness and attempts to implement screening. For example, there is a new prenatal assessment tool being implemented in November, 2019 by the Department of Health and Social Services that has four screening questions for prenatal women embedded in the “Safe Tool”. Intervention questions are raised after screening occurs: How will frontline service providers respond when pregnant women identify they need help and how will this information of their needs to be used to improve outcomes. This is a promising beginning but one that requires attention.

**Table1: Summary Strengths and Gaps**

**Strengths**

- Establishment of Interdepartmental Committee for FV;
- Investment in trauma-informed practices
- Coalition against Family Violence;
- Educational campaigns;
- Financial supports for NGOs addressing violence against women.

**Gaps**

- Child welfare and children at risk;
  - Programs for perpetrators;
  - Interagency collaboration;
  - Victim services system;
  - Screening and detection of family violence;
  - Safe housing in all communities;
  - Indicators and monitoring of family violence.
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## **National Directions and Perspectives**

From the webpages and documents collected within the Jurisdictional Review, it is clear that family violence is a national issue in Canada. Jurisdictions across Canada have developed various initiatives to address family violence in different populations, such as with individual victims or offenders of violence, within the local community, at a federal level, and through societal perspectives.

There are key Indigenous documents that must be the focus of all governments. They are the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and from the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. These documents provide actions that clearly address family violence and many of the influencing factors to family violence. A few key directions are listed in the table below but all government departments should be familiar with these documents and their recommendations.

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action	Murdered and Missing Women and Girls Calls to Action
<p><b>Child welfare</b></p> <p>1...to reduce the number of Aboriginal children in care by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.</li> <li>ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments.</li> <li>iii. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.</li> <li>iv. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.</li> <li>v. Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.</li> </ol> <p>2. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies and the effectiveness of various interventions.</p> <p>3. We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.</p> <p>4. We call upon the federal government to enact Aboriginal child-welfare legislation that establishes national standards for Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases and includes principles that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Affirm the right of Aboriginal governments to establish and maintain their own child-</li> </ol>	<p><b><i>Ending the genocide</i></b> requires addressing four pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Historical, multigenerational, and intergenerational trauma;</i></li> <li>• <i>Social and economic marginalization;</i></li> <li>• <i>Maintaining the status quo and institutional lack of will; an</i></li> <li>• <i>Ignoring the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people.</i></li> </ul> <p>Important Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on Substantive Equality and Human and Indigenous Rights</li> <li>• A decolonizing Approach</li> <li>• Inclusion of Families and Survivors</li> <li>• Self-Determined and Indigenous-Led Solutions and Services</li> <li>• Recognizing Distinctions</li> <li>• Cultural Safety</li> <li>• Trauma-Informed Approach</li> </ul> <p>1.1...to develop and implement a National Action plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Table and implement a National Action Plan that is flexible and distinctions-based and that includes regionally specific plans with devoted funding and timetables for implementation that are rooted in the local cultures and communities of diverse Indigenous identities, with measurable goals and necessary resources dedicated to capacity building sustainability, and long-term solutions;</li> <li>ii. Make publicly available on an annual basis reports of ongoing actions and development in measurable goals related to the National Action Plan.</li> </ol> <p>4.7 We call upon all governments to support the establishment and long-term sustainable funding of Indigenous-led low-barrier shelters, safe spaces, transition homes, second-stage housing and services for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA</p>

welfare agencies.

- ii. Require all child-welfare agencies and courts to take the residential school legacy into account in their decision making.
  - iii. Establish, as an important priority, a requirement that placement of Aboriginal children into temporary and permanent care be culturally appropriate.
5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

### **Education**

12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

### **Justice**

30. We call upon the federal, provincial and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

31. We call upon federal, provincial and territorial governments to provide sufficient and stable funding to implement and evaluate community sanctions that will provide realistic alternatives to imprisonment for Aboriginal offenders and respond to the underlying causes of offending.

36. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.

39. We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.

people who are homeless, near homeless, dealing with food insecurity, or in poverty, and who are fleeing violence or have been subjected to sexualized violence and exploitation. All governments must ensure that shelters, transitional housing, second-stage housing, and services are appropriate to cultural needs, and available wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people reside.

<p>40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.</p> <p>41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal Women and girls</li> <li>ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.</li> </ul> <p>42. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to the recognition and implementation of Aboriginal justice systems in a manner consistent with the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples, the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>, and the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</i>, endorsed by Canada in November 2012.</p> <p>National Council for Reconciliation</p> <p>55....to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data should include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The number of Aboriginal children- including Metis and Inuit children- in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children the reasons for apprehension, and the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies.</li> </ul>	
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Recommendations for supporting individuals, both victims and offenders of abuse, include providing accessible victim services, counselling, coordinating services to best meet the needs of the individual, and providing more education to the public regarding family violence

and healthy relationships. The Action Plan to Address Family Violence and Violence Crimes Against Aboriginal Women and Girls (2014) report suggested that preventing violence involved “Enhancing skill and development training to help Aboriginal women increase their autonomy and clinical independence” (p 6). Through empowering women to become more self-supportive, they are encouraged to reach their full potential, strengthen their courage, and support their journey in overcoming family violence.

Community propositions include implementing risk assessments, safety planning, Emergency Protections Orders (EPO’s), and engaging with stakeholders to develop further strategies that reflect the needs of the community. Other interventions mentioned involve recruiting more female police officers, acknowledging the role of elders in healing, providing culturally appropriate resources, and encouraging health care providers to use more screening tools and risk assessments. Recommendations for communities to increase the awareness of their services, while increasing funding and capacity of victim service responders has been frequently highlighted.

The National Collaborating Center for Aboriginal Health identified the importance of recognizing the impact of intergenerational trauma from the ongoing colonialism and dispossession in Canada; to understand family violence within Indigenous communities. From a national overview, documents have advised Canada to continue to develop action plans and policies on family violence, produce statistics to review progress, implement a death review panel to explore other determinants of abuse and continue inquiry into the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls (MMIWAG) initiative.

Societal Propositions have included involving more male representation in family violence initiatives to communicate clearly that this is not “just a women’s problem”. Authors

have expressed the importance of addressing the socioeconomic gaps between minorities and disadvantaged groups that may put them at a higher risk for violence than others; this can be equated to common factors such as low income, inadequate education, and lack of housing

### **International Directions and Perspectives**

Of utmost importance to Indigenous people is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (United Nations, 2007). The UN Declaration is a source for courts and human rights tribunals; a charter of principles for Indigenous people and their institutions; a living instrument for civil society; a part of curriculum for educational institutions; a part of policies and practices for corporations (United Nations, 2007, p.36). For all of these reasons, it is relevant in this review to highlight when considering governance principles and frameworks.

A scan of international websites provides further evidence for consideration of directions and perspectives that may assist in a new and comprehensive approach to family violence (Appendix E). Included in this scan are Alaska, Australia, New Zealand and Circumpolar countries. Many countries are striving to establish relevant jurisdictional indicators as data sources to collect and analyze, ultimately for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating progress to end violence.

In Alaska, the 2017 dashboard is a central repository of key issues related to domestic violence in their state. The Dashboard collects *reported incidents, service utilization, protective factors, offender accountability and survey results* to share information that helps with trending, policy and planning and developing targeted interventions. Similarly, in Australia, is *Counting on Change* a guide that has been developed to prevention monitoring. Their emphasis to end violence against women and their children is measuring population-level indicators. As well, New Zealand uses indicators to report back to a Taskforce.

## Indicators and Measures of Family Violence

Sinha (2012) reported that annual statistical reports are compiled on family violence in Canada. She describes that family violence is measured through two main sources of data. They are 1) police-reported that includes the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey and 2) self-reported victimization data from the General Social Survey on Victimization. She identifies limitations to these surveys.

Davis, Ericson, Tompkins and Raskin (2005) conducted an investigation in the US to assist with monitoring and evaluating approaches to family violence. The following social indicators and the format used to identify them as indicators was adapted and enhanced from this research. They used a format whereby they name the indicator, describe the indicator, identify the target population, evidence the indicator with a citation, identify risk factors, and protective factors. We have followed their format updating the current literature. We have also noted the responsible agency to gather the information.

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Table 2: Indicators of Family Violence

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### Intimate Partner Violence

Indicator name: Hospital emergency room visits

Responsible agency: HSS Authority

Description: Presenting to the Emergency Department

Target population: Women over 18 who presented to emergency departments

Citation:

Arkins, B., Begley, C., & Higgins, A. (2016). Measures for screening for intimate partner violence: A systematic review. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 23, 217-235.

Houry, H., Feldhaus, K. Peery, B., Abbot, J., Lowenstein, S., Sameerah, A., & Levine, S. (2004). A positive domestic violence screen predicts future violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 19*, 955-966.

Risk factors: Need for emergency care.

Protective factors: Screening during emergency room visit.

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Indicator name: Pet abuse

Responsible agency: NWT Shelters

Description of the indicator: Harm or threat to harm pets

Target Population: Women seeking shelter from intimate partner violence

Citation:

Collins, A.A., Cody, A.M., McDonald, S.E., Nicoterra, N., Ascione, F.R., & Williams, J.H. A template analysis of intimate partner violence survivors' experiences of animal maltreatment: implications for safety planning and intervention. *Violence Against Women, 24*(4), 452-476. doi: 10.1177/1077801217697266

Gray, A., Barrett B.J., Fitzgerald, A., & Peirone, A. (2019). Fleeing with Fido: an analysis of what Canadian domestic violence shelters are communicating via their websites about leaving an abusive relationship when pets are involved. *Journal of Family Violence, 34*, 287-298. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-018-023-z>

Risk factors: Emotional abuse through fearfulness, power and coercion; delay in leaving partner for fear of pet's safety

Protective factors: Provision of safety measures for pets of women who want to enter shelter; safety planning to include pets.

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Indicator name: Unfounded or substantiated child abuse complaints

Responsible agency: HSS Authority

Description of the indicator: Identification as a family that is at risk for child maltreatment or has been substantiated as having a child or children who have been maltreated

Target population: Women who came to the attention of the Child Welfare System

Citation:

Toche-Manley, L.L., Dietzen, L., Nankin, J., & Beigel, A. (2013). Revolutionizing child welfare with outcomes management. *Journal of Behavioural Health Services & Research*, 317-329. doi: 10.1007/s11414-013-9325-3

Risk factors: Families with child maltreatment

Protective factors: Screening of women when they enter the Child Welfare System

Indicator name: Court orders on file

Responsible Agency: Justice

General description: Front line workers identified indicators and rated restraining orders as number one

Target population: Professionals likely to be involved with families where both child maltreatment and intimate partner violence occurred

Citation:

Spath, R. (2003). Child protection professionals identifying domestic violence indicators: implications for social work education. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 39, 497-520.  
Sorenson, S.B., & Shen, H. (2005). Restraining orders in California: a look at statewide data. *Violence Against Women*, 11(7), 912-933. doi: 10.1177/1077801205276944

Risk factors: History of harm or threat of harm

Protective factors: Effective emergency protection orders and protection orders

Indicator name: Exposure to intimate partner violence between parents

Responsible agency: HSS Authority

General description: The most significant predictor for becoming a perpetrator was exposure to domestic violence following conduct disorder; exposure to domestic violence was the most significant predictor of victimization.

Target population: Random samples of children and parents

Citation:

Kaukinen, C., Powers, R.A., & Meyer, S. (2016). Estimating Canadian childhood exposure to intimate partner violence and other risky parental behaviours. *Journal of Child Custody*, 13(2-3), 199-218. <http://dx.doi.org/a0.1080/15379418.2016.1204581>

Risk factors: Living in a home with adult violence exacerbates psychological and behavioral issues in children

Protection factor: Partner violence prevention programs for youth exposed to domestic violence.

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Indicator name: Substance use/abuse

Responsible agency:

Description: Women surveyed who had experienced intimate partner violence identified alcohol and/or drug abuse by partner was most strongly associated with violence with alcohol having the stronger association.

Target population: Women who experienced violence

Citation: Coker, A., Smith, P., McKeown, R., & King, M. (2000). Frequency and correlates of intimate partner violence by type: physical, sexual and psychological battering. *American Journal of Public Health*, 90, 553-559.

Risk factors: Relationship with someone who uses/abuses linked to partner violence

Protective factors: Linking substance abuse identification with partner violence

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Indicator name: Incidence of poverty and unemployment of parents or caretakers

Responsible agency: Education, Culture & Employment

General Description: Poverty and socioeconomic factors are related to family violence

Citation:

Risk factors: Lack of education, homelessness, poverty, unemployment, violent communities, social isolation

Protective factors: parental employment, adequate housing, concrete resources, crime reduction, social support

### **Governance Structure and Frameworks**

The current **NWT** governance structure for family violence is fragmented, responsive to issues and intervening in crisis, while applying new federal trends with hope that these new initiatives will positively affect and improve the rate of violence in our territory. According to Castelino and Whitzman (2008), the uptake in language and discourse and the way that this language and discourse is applied impacts the development of government policies and directions. What is the current discourse in the NWT? For this, we reviewed the *Mandate of the GNWT (2016 to 2019)* revised in March, 2016. The GNWT identifies a section in this report entitled ‘*Community Wellness and Safety*’ and here it is stated:

*Our plan continues to be to focus on prevention, by encouraging healthy lifestyles and strong families, making sure sustainable and responsive systems are in place for people when they are needed, and planning for individual well-being from birth to old age, being*

*mindful of our history and culture but confident that our residents have many strengths to build upon and anchor us towards a better future (p.24).*

Under this statement the government identifies specific actions and initiatives. It is beyond this report to evaluate the success of the listed initiatives, but prior to the establishment of the new government, the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, there were several critiques of the efficiency and effectiveness of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

The past government chose to focus on prevention without establishing how their efforts would be monitored or evaluated. The only place where any monitoring (such as audits and assessments) were announced was with children at risk by introducing a risk assessment tool. It was introduced, but the GNWT still received a failing grade from the Auditor General as was referenced earlier in this report. If, indeed, the focus of government is on prevention, implementation of indicators of violence and processes to monitor and evaluate the preventative initiatives must be in place.

Australia's National Research Organization for Violence Against Women and Children (ANROWS) focuses on primary prevention which they describe as "the whole -of-population initiatives that address the primary ('first' or underlying) drivers of violence" (Our Watch, 2017, p.14). ANROWS is a non-government agency supporting evidence informed policy initiatives.

From the plan as identified above, the government committed to *making sure sustainable and responsive systems are in place*. This seems to be at the crux of the problem. The systems, in regards to family violence, would seem to be policing services, health and social services, emergency shelter services, child welfare services, victim services, and housing services. What are the indicators used to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of these services? How do these services work together to prevent violence?

It is important that a Family Violence Secretariat be established to oversee and coordinate primary prevention of family violence. The role of the Family Violence Secretariat would be to coordinate policy-direction and planning to enable mechanisms that will identify indicators and measure the success of actions taken. The Secretariat will identify the role and responsibilities of the government departments, the relationship with the three health authorities and the ways of supporting non-profit agencies who currently address violence. As well, this leading group will develop a governance framework with input from this report and the collected recommendations.

Holmes and Hunt (2017) suggest six principles to guide frameworks. They are “1) recognize ongoing colonialism and dispossession; 2) locate risks within colonial systems; 3) foster self-determination of individuals, families and communities; 4) work from an Indigenous gender-based analysis; 5) create localized solutions; and 6) understand kinship systems as integral to Indigenous law;” (p.55).

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This jurisdictional review highlights key gaps in policy and services, as well as identifying strengths and promising practices to improve prevention, monitoring and reduction of family violence in the NWT. Many of the reports and recommendations gleaned from other jurisdictions were not included in the phase 1 scoping review paper. However, based on similarities in the contextual realities of other jurisdictions (extensive and ongoing experiences of colonization, social determinants of health for Indigenous peoples, and the particular challenges of northern, remote and isolated communities), the recommendations highlighted in this report show significant promise for Adoption in the context of the NWT.

A change in governance for family violence at the government level is required. In moving forward to reduce or end family violence, there is a need for government to take on a significant leadership role. The recommendations for the GNWT are to:

- Create a Family Violence Secretariat that maintains a quality violence against women prevention program. The focus on women is intentional since the highest rates of intimate partner violence and domestic homicide occur to women. By targeting women, the plight of violence against women will be improved
- Adopt criteria from Australia to design, fund and evaluate the program: it needs to be inclusive, long-term, multi-sectoral and multi-component, addresses drivers and reinforcing factors of violence, implement evidence-based techniques and tailor messaging to the audience;
- Develop territorial data sources to improve monitoring and evaluating of current and innovative initiatives; and
- Involve communities in developing an approach to safe housing for emergency planning.

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## **Appendix A**

### **Development of a Comprehensive GNWT Approach for Action Against Family Violence**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### **AUTHORITY**

Under the authority of the Social Envelope Deputy Ministers Committee, representatives of the Departments of Executive and Indigenous Affairs; Municipal and Community Affairs; Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the NWT Housing Corporation are seeking a contractor to develop a comprehensive approach to guide GNWT actions against family violence. This document will align existing work being done by or on behalf of the GNWT and recommend future actions including a proposed governance structure for implementation.

GNWT actions against family violence. This document will align existing work being done by or on behalf of the GNWT and recommend future actions including a proposed governance structure for implementation.

Current GNWT actions to reduce and respond to family violence are disconnected and progressing at different rates with no central oversight. Many projects (such as the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court and training for shelter staff) have no dedicated budgets. Programs and services have been implemented over the years to respond to emerging needs, but there is no central plan or goal, no targets for improvement, no common activities, and little data other than program uptake statistics. In the absence of a GNWT plan with priorities and timelines, work has been haphazard and mostly in response to external requests from stakeholders with a financial interest in particular projects. The 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly's mandate commitments related to this topic were to maintain the status quo in terms of programming, training, and infrastructure, so work should be focused on planning for the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The wide range of overlapping FPT activities from health, child welfare, victim services, policing, criminal justice reform, family law, and gender perspectives are difficult to manage or track consistently. The NWT reality is that family violence issues affect a broad spectrum of GNWT priority areas that may not be obvious to other Canadians, including the availability of housing, accessible transportation networks, and access to income assistance.

The Department of Justice will manage the contract to develop the framework, and will arrange for meetings with the Advisory Committee.

The contractor will be guided by the mandate commitments of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly related to family violence.

## PROJECT GOALS

1. Produce a draft comprehensive approach to prevent and address family violence, and set the course for improving programs and services to best meet current and emerging needs.
2. Identify best practices for reducing family violence, and evaluate feasibility for implementation in the NWT.
3. Develop a draft governance structure to implement the approach.

## PROJECT SCOPE: Comprehensive Approach to Prevent and Address Family Violence

### Research

- Conduct an analysis of gaps in NWT baseline information and data sources. This should include a review of existing work being done by or on behalf of the GNWT to prevent and address family violence and its effects. The GNWT will provide a list of current programs, available evaluation findings, data sources, and descriptions of both successful and unsuccessful initiatives.
- Examine existing work to identify strengths (i.e. collaboration, best practices, trauma informed approaches etc.), challenges (i.e. service delivery, conflicting programs, policies, legislation, and resources) and gaps.
- Conduct research using both peer-reviewed content and prior consultation initiatives with communities and family violence experts across the NWT to determine and examine gaps in NWT Family Violence Service Delivery.
- Collect and compile promising practice research regarding comprehensive strategy frameworks for preventing and reducing family violence in Canada, with particular attention to areas with populations similar to the NWT. Consideration should focus on rural or remote communities, Indigenous communities, and populations with disproportionately high rates of family violence. Identify trends in frameworks that have been successfully implemented in Canada, with particular attention to the underlying assumptions and approaches.

### Strategic Planning:

- Based on findings from the research and best practices, identify a comprehensive approach for preventing and healing from family violence in the NWT. The priority should be on proactive rather than reactive approaches, and should include actions to address both victims' and perpetrators' needs. Categories for consideration:
  - Prevention
  - Helping victims plan for safety and security
  - Encouraging "zero tolerance" attitudes to family violence
  - Healing from experiencing violence
  - Healing for people who use violence in their family relationships
- Identify stakeholders that should be involved to finalize and implement the approach.

- Develop a draft governance structure to better advance the work on preventing, reducing, and healing from experiencing family violence in the NWT.
- Produce a report summarizing findings.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Provide regular progress updates to the Advisory Committee.
2. Consider any other matter which, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, may impact the effective research and implementation of programs.
3. Conduct the required tasks using a Northern lens, incorporating Indigenous traditional knowledge, aspirations and perspectives as well as those of new resident groups in the NWT.

## **Appendix B**

### **Project Scope for Family Violence Working Group**

The family violence working group intends to hire a contractor to develop a Whole of Government, evidence-based response to addressing family violence in the NWT. The work will be conducted in two phases in order to capitalize on specific contractor skill sets and optimize efficiency.

#### Phase 1: Research and Analysis

Objective:

- Conduct an analysis of gaps in NWT baseline information and data sources. This should include a review of existing work being done by or on behalf of the GNWT to prevent and address family violence and its effects. The GNWT will provide a list of current programs, available evaluation findings, data sources, and descriptions of both successful and unsuccessful initiatives.
- Examine current policies, programs and practices to identify strengths, challenges, and gaps. To varying degrees and in different ways, each of these may include collaboration, best practices, trauma-informed service delivery, programs, policies, legislation, and resources.
- Conduct research using both peer-reviewed academic literature and the results of previous consultations to examine gaps in NWT family violence service delivery. Analyze existing information collected from previous GNWT community engagement efforts on topics related to family violence and any relevant recommendations from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Conduct a jurisdictional scan comparing strategies/frameworks for reducing family violence in Canada, with particular attention to areas with populations similar to the NWT. The scan can be at the provincial/territorial level or northern regional government level within provinces (i.e. Nunatsiavut, Nunavik). Consideration should focus on rural or remote communities, Indigenous communities, and populations with disproportionately high rates of family violence. An analysis of the scan should identify any trends, common or unique approaches, with particular attention to the underlying assumptions.
- Conduct case studies on promising practices and successfully implemented frameworks for addressing and reducing family violence. Identify trends and approaches that are most relevant to the NWT. Similar to the jurisdictional scan, the case studies should focus on rural or remote communities, Indigenous communities, and populations with disproportionately high rates of family violence. Include an exploration of the linkages that may exist in how successful strategies organized governance and/or prioritized the issue of family violence to ensure sustainability and long-term commitment.
- Based on findings from the research and best practices, develop a comprehensive approach for reducing family violence in the NWT. Categories may include:

- Prevention and awareness
- Changing attitudes to make violence socially unacceptable
- Supporting victims' safety and healing
- Healing for people who use violence

#### Contractor Requirements

- Skilled researcher with the ability to synthesize large quantities of quality information, drawing on knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and objectives.
- Strong ability to present findings with sufficient substantiation and evidence of best practices.
- Ability to make practical connections between the research findings and the GNWT's needs.

#### Strategic Considerations

- Estimated completion date: December 2018.
- Emphasis on “whole of government” collaboration.
- Create a substantive foundation for future program development and implementation.
- Confidently identify priority areas, supported by evidence and best practices for the purpose of resource allocation.

#### Phase 2: Stakeholder Consultation

##### Objective

- Identify stakeholders for consultation.
- Design and undertake a focused, strategic engagement with stakeholders on the possible approaches identified in the research phase.
- Document and present phased findings to GNWT Interdepartmental Advisory Committee, Family Violence.
- Present findings to stakeholders to obtain meaningful guidance.. Balance the research-based evidence with front-line voices and lived experience within the context of real stories. Rank stakeholders' priorities for GNWT investment.
- Take into consideration the varied indigenous identities in the NWT that may have different approaches to social issues such as family violence. The “lived experience lens” and traditional/cultural knowledge should be considered.

#### Contractor Requirements

- Strong facilitation skills.
- Proven experience in conducting focused stakeholder engagement.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

- Proven cultural competency specifically relating to Indigenous communities in the NWT.

#### Strategic Considerations

- Estimated completion date: March 2019.
- Lay the groundwork for new programs to be implemented in the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly.
- Show GNWT responsiveness to the National Inquiry's final report.
- Positive communication with community stakeholders demonstrates the government's commitment and willingness to take evidence-based action on the issue of family violence.

#### Next Steps

Synthesize the information obtained from rigorous research and stakeholder engagement to inform the direction of investment related to family violence.

## Appendix C: Inquiry Tool

Hello, I am a research assistant working with Dr. Pertice Moffitt. We are conducting a jurisdictional review to identify the best practices to prevent family violence. Dr. Moffitt and her team, funded by the GNWT, are developing a comprehensive approach to family violence. To begin, the purpose of this inquiry tool within the jurisdictional review is to clarify the approach to family violence in the NWT. As a current stakeholder in family violence programming, we will ask you a about programming and about strengths and gaps within available services in the territory.

1. Please check off the department that you work for within the government

- Department of Justice
- Department of Health and Social Services
- Municipal and Community Affairs
- Department of Housing
- Department of Education, Culture and Employment
- Health and Social Services Authority
- Other

2. Please check off the agency that you work for in the territory

- Status of Women Council
- YWCA
- Victim Services
- Seniors Society
- Native Women's Association
- Rainbow Coalition
- Side Door
- RCMP
- Hospital
- Other

3. What is the title of your position?

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4. Who is your target population? (Check as many as possible)
- Children under 5 years of age
  - Children 6 to 12 years of age
  - Teenagers
  - Young adults
  - Women
  - Pregnant Women
  - Offenders of violence
  - Men
  - Older Adults
5. What demographic is utilizing your services the most?
- Children under 5 years of age
  - Children 6 to 12 years of age
  - Teenagers
  - Young adults
  - Women
  - Pregnant Women
  - Offenders of violence
  - Men
  - Older Adults
6. Do you use screening/assessment tools or risk assessment tools in your program(s)?
- Yes
  - No
7. What screening/assessment tools do you use when providing your services?
- ODARA
  - SARA

- Other (Please name)
8. What is/are the name of the program(s) you deliver?
- Shelter Services
  - Victim Services
  - Counselling Services
  - Policing Services
  - Men's Programs
  - Women's Programs
  - Girls Programs
  - Boys Programs
  - Education Programs
  - Other Name of Service
9. What category best describes your program(s)?
- Education
  - Prevention
  - Promotion
  - Emergency Response
10. Which jurisdictions do your programs service?
- The entire territory
  - Regions of the territory
  - Specific community, Name\_\_\_\_\_
  - Please list the regions\_\_\_\_\_
11. How well is/are your program(s) advertised within the community?
- Not at all
  - Sometimes
  - Very well

12. How is/are your program(s) promoted?

- Face to face
- Website
- Radio
- Social media
- Word of mouth
- Other

13. How is/are your program(s) delivered?

- Face to face
- Individual
- Group meeting
- Video
- Radio
- Social Media

14. Please indicate what data are collected by your organization regarding family violence?

- Police reports/stats
- Court reports/stats
- Coroner reports/stats
- Hospitalization stays/stats
- National statistics
- Emergency room visits/stats
- Medevac (violence related stats)
- Shelters stats
- Victim service stats
- Other

15. From your perspective, can you identify three strengths of your services?

16. From your perspective, can you identify three gaps in your service?
17. Please describe family violence policies important to your practice.
18. What legislation guides the delivery of your services?
19. Are there any new developments on how your organization plans to address family violence?
20. How can we adapt our services to better meet the needs of NWT residents facing family violence?
21. That you know of, have there been past attempts to address family violence in the NWT that have been successful/unsuccessful?
22. From your perspective, how can GNWT departments collaborate effectively when addressing family violence?

23. What are the other questions you think we should be asking within this study?

24. Who else would you recommend we speak to regarding family violence services in the NWT?

## Appendix D: Family Violence Documents in the Legislative Assembly

### **2019:**

[Follow-up letter for Oral Question 436-18\(3\) : family violence crisis funding](#)

### **2018:**

[Annual report of the director of Child and Family Services 2016-2017 : including years 2007-2008 to 2016-2017](#)

[Annual report of the director of Child and Family Services 2017-2018 : including years 2007-2008 to 2017-2018](#)

[Follow-up letter for Oral Question 873-18\(2\) : safe houses for victims of family violence](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2017-2018](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories : 29th annual report 2017-2018](#)

### **2017:**

[Government of the Northwest Territories response to Motion 27-18\(2\) : "A New Day" Men's Healing Program](#)

[Hearing about the realities of intimate partner violence in the Northwest Territories from frontline service providers : final report : rural and northern community response to intimate partner violence](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2016-2017](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories : 28th annual report 2016-2017](#)

[You are standing for your people : report on the review of Members' conduct guidelines](#)

### **2016:**

[Annual report of the director of Child and Family Services 2015-2016 : including years 2006-2007 to 2015-2016](#)

[Hush hush no more : improving NWT community response to sexual violence against women and girls](#)

[Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories : 2016-2019](#)

[Ministerial mandates : 18th Legislative Assembly : March 1, 2016](#)

[A new day : men's healing program : evaluation](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT : annual report 2015-2016](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2015-2016](#)

### **2015:**

[Annual report of the director of Child and Family Services 2014-2015 : including years 2005-2006 to 2014-2015](#)

[Government of the Northwest Territories' response to Motion 39-17\(5\) : Domestic Violence Death Review Committee](#)

[Legal pathways : spousal violence in the N.W.T. : a resource for women](#)

[Report on the review of Bill 42 : An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2014-2015](#)

[Understanding the child day care regulations: a handbook for early childhood programs](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2014-2015](#)

### **2014:**

[Annual report of the director of Child and Family Services 2013-2014 : including years 2004-2005 to 2013-2014](#)

[Annual report of the director of Child and Family Services for the years 2002-2012](#)

[Building stronger families : an action plan to transform Child and Family Services](#)

[Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly - 2014 : child and family services - Department of Health and Social Services and Health and Social Services Authorities](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2013-2014](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2013-2014](#)

### **2013:**

[Building on the strengths of Northerners : a strategic framework for the elimination of poverty in the NWT](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2012-2013](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2012-2013](#)

### **2012:**

[Honouring our wise women from the north](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2011-2012](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2011-2012](#)

### **2011:**

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2010-2011](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2010-2011, part I](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2010-2011, part II](#)

### **2010:**

[Don't put up with family violence](#)

[I want to grow up in my community : review of the Child and Family Services Act : advisory report](#)

[Non-violence: a strength based community inquiry : final report](#)

[Protection orders: before or after the emergency](#)

[A report on the Northwest Territories Child and Family Services Act: submitted to the](#)

[Northwest TeReview of the Child and Family Services Act : summaries of five focus groups held in Yellowknife, NWT](#)

[Status of Women Council of the NWT annual report 2009-2010](#)

[Supporting northern women: a Northwest Territories family violence shelter worker training program](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2009-2010, part I](#)

[Victims Assistance Committee : annual report 2009-2010, part II](#)

[Territories Standing Committee on Social Programs July, 2010](#)

[Report on the review of the Child and Family Services Act : building stronger families](#)

## Appendix E. International Sources

<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	<a href="https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/f06407c-8e4f-4fa4-a9b8-2059efe2c618/DVSA-Dashboard-2017.pdf;.aspx">https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/f06407c-8e4f-4fa4-a9b8-2059efe2c618/DVSA-Dashboard-2017.pdf;.aspx</a>	<p>The Alaska Dashboard provides a representation of the current state of violence in Alaska based on key indicators of violence.</p> <p>Key indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood exposure to domestic violence.</li> <li>• Child and youth victimization.</li> <li>• Reports of harm (child and youth)</li> <li>• Adult victimization.</li> <li>• Reports of harm (adult and elder).</li> <li>• Primary prevention and protective factors</li> <li>• Reports to law enforcement.</li> <li>• Utilization of services.</li> <li>• Offender accountability.</li> <li>• Child and youth victimization.</li> <li>• Reports of harm (child and youth).</li> <li>• Reports to law enforcement.</li> </ul> <p>The current state is established by examining reported incidents, service utilization, protective factors, offender accountability and survey results.</p> <p>The Alaska Dashboard provides state statistics based on measured indicators and provides a national comparison.</p> <p>This snapshot provides information for policy recommendations, developmental strategies to support ending domestic violence, and to monitor the progress of initiatives to end domestic violence.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/ Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Alaska	<a href="http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indica">http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indica</a>	Findings indicate that trauma informed

Department of Health and Social Services	<a href="http://tor/complete_profile/xacepnch.html">tor/complete_profile/xacepnch.html</a>	<p>cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) improves outcomes for children and adolescence. TF-CBT improves positive outcomes, helping children, adolescence and their caregivers to overcome traumatic experiences relating to violence.</p> <p>The support and development of early childhood programs, (including social programs, access to supportive adult role models, and improved access to programming) enhances capacity for social and emotional development, acting as a protective factor for the health and social development of youth. Social programming can reduce and reverse negative impacts of exposure to domestic violence.</p> <p>Findings are supported by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (2019), who indicate five protective-factors aimed towards improving outcomes for children and youth, including “parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children” (Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, 2015).</p> <p>The report further indicates that maintaining and expanding prevention efforts that have proven to be effective is an important process in decreasing violence situations and strengthening Alaskan families.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Australia: Department of Communities, Child Protection and Family Support	<a href="https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Family_Violence/">https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Family_Violence/</a>	<p>Clinical guidelines assist front line staff to respond to disclosures and suspicions of violence towards children.</p> <p>Guidelines to assess for family violence situations are provided. Some examples</p>

		<p>include:</p> <p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying risk factors.</li> <li>• Intersectionality.</li> <li>• History of family violence.</li> <li>• Developmental delays in children.</li> <li>• Multiple missed appointments.</li> </ul> <p>Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behaviour, such as withdrawal, or fearful to speak.</li> <li>• Unexplained physical injuries.</li> </ul> <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algorithm to guide clinical actions when abuse is suspected.</li> <li>• Consultation guideline.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Australia: Department of Communities, Child Protection, and Family Support	<a href="https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/CrisisAndEmergency/FDV/Documents/2015/Factsheet2Indicatorsoffamilyanddomesticviolence.pdf">https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/CrisisAndEmergency/FDV/Documents/2015/Factsheet2Indicatorsoffamilyanddomesticviolence.pdf</a>	<p>Clinical guideline factsheet provides frontline service providers with indicators of family violence in adult and child victims.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical indicators, such as bruising, scars, termination of pregnancy.</li> <li>• Psychological indicators, such as depression, anxiety, sleep problems.</li> <li>• Emotional indicators, such as stress and fear.</li> <li>• Social and financial indicators, such as homelessness, and isolation.</li> <li>• Indicators for children in various developmental stages, such as low birth weight in infancy, fearfulness pre-school aged children, and defiant behaviour in school-aged children.</li> </ul>

<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Australia's National Research Organization for Women's Safety	<a href="https://www.ourwatch.org.au/getattachment/2093134d-5470-43eb-a04f-2c4f8809efe4/OurWatch_TheGuide_Online.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf">https://www.ourwatch.org.au/getattachment/2093134d-5470-43eb-a04f-2c4f8809efe4/OurWatch_TheGuide_Online.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf</a>	<p>Counting on Change: A Guide to Prevention Monitoring is Australia's national framework to reduce rates of violence against women and children, acknowledging that the rates of violence towards these groups are notable higher than other groups. The long term goal of this process is to reduce the prevalence of violence against women by addressing the drivers and reinforcing factors that contribute to violence against women.</p> <p>The framework includes five stages of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve prevention infrastructure and programming</li> <li>• Strengthened infrastructure will improve social factors that drive and reinforce violence against women and children.</li> <li>• Awareness increases, mid and long term changes are seen, social programming and social awareness/advocacy improves and strengthens early initiatives.</li> <li>• Rates of violence begin to drop</li> <li>• Long term effects are seen.</li> </ul> <p>The framework includes indications of expected change of the process and outcomes of the five stages.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Iceland: Reykjavik Services	<a href="https://reykjavik.is/en/together-against-violence-about-project">https://reykjavik.is/en/together-against-violence-about-project</a>	New police strategy to respond to domestic violence calls has caused an increase in the reporting of domestic violence. The new response initiative includes responding to domestic violence with teams of service providers, including the police department, women's shelters, and health centers. Team members may

		<p>include police officers, social workers, and child psychologists. These responses are followed up by phone call with a social worker within a week.</p> <p>New response techniques are based on the understanding that the period immediately after domestic violence situations are crucial because this is the time when victims are most likely to accept help.</p> <p>This project places special emphasis on individuals who have multiple intersectionality's that impact their vulnerability to violence.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/ Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse	<a href="https://www.nzfvc.org.nz">https://www.nzfvc.org.nz</a>	<p>Provides research and information on family violence publications and progress in New Zealand. Resources are available to assist program developers and service providers working to eliminate family violence in New Zealand.</p> <p>Statistic information, publications on family violence research initiatives, educational resources, conceptual frameworks, and tools are available through this organization.</p> <p>The website provides relevant news publications, event information, and recommends relevant reading to inform users of family violence trends and issues in New Zealand.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/ Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
New Zealand: It's Not OK Campaign	<a href="http://areyouok.org.nz/utility-pages/about-us/">http://areyouok.org.nz/utility-pages/about-us/</a>	<p>Community campaign aims at changing attitudes towards family violence.</p> <p>Website includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions on family violence and related terminology</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on family violence legislation</li> <li>• Family violence statistics</li> <li>• Healthy relationship assessment tools</li> <li>• Guidance for individuals in family violence crisis</li> <li>• 1-800 emergency phone line</li> <li>• Personal stories of family violence</li> <li>• Resources and research on family violence</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
New Zealand: Ministry of Justice	<a href="https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/reducing-family-and-sexual-violence/work-programme/">https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/key-initiatives/reducing-family-and-sexual-violence/work-programme/</a>	<p>Integrated programming and initiatives headed by the New Zealand Ministry of Justice aim to enhance the services from 10 different government agencies.</p> <p>Initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint venture executive group, which joins executives from different government agencies to work together to achieve common goals for decreasing family violence and sexual assault.</li> <li>• Dedicated budgets to work on initiatives focused on family violence and sexual assault.</li> <li>• Partnership with indigenous groups.</li> <li>• The development of a national strategy and action plan for prevention and reduction of family violence and sexual assault.</li> <li>• The Family Violence Act, an up to date legislation to address family violence.</li> <li>• Investing in resources for frontline service providers who manage family violence initiatives</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated safety response pilot to familiarize frontline service providers with the services available for family violence, and assist front line service providers with assessing risk and responding to family violence.</li> <li>• Risk Assessment and Management Framework to assist family violence respondents.</li> <li>• Workforce Compatibility Framework identifies the core competencies of services to assist in the response to family violence.</li> <li>• Appointing agencies to lead intersectoral programs and initiatives.</li> <li>• Developing specialized services, such as a national sexual violence hotline to better respond to crisis situations.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Norway: Ministry of Children and Families	<a href="https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/families-and-children/innsiktsartikler/bekjemper-vold-og-seksuelle-overgrep-mot-barn-og-ungdom/domestic-violence/id672710/">https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/families-and-children/innsiktsartikler/bekjemper-vold-og-seksuelle-overgrep-mot-barn-og-ungdom/domestic-violence/id672710/</a>	<p>Norwegian Ministry of Children and Families developed an action plan to address domestic violence in the country.</p> <p>Initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for crisis shelters is mandated for each municipality. Legislation guides the oversight of these provisions.</li> <li>• Support centers for sexual assault include telephone counselling sessions, individual interviews, group sessions, and referral information.</li> <li>• Grant provisions managed by the Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs provides operational support for programming relating to</li> </ul>

		<p>domestic violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government funded Alternatives to Violence treatment centers provides psychological treatment, professional knowledge, and knowledge dissemination on domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
United Kingdom: NICE National Institute for Health Care and Excellence	<a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph50">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph50</a>	<p>Multi-agency guideline designed to assist the planning and delivery of services to address domestic violence and abuse for health and social service providers, commissioners, workers of special domestic violence services, criminal justice workers, and people affected by domestic violence.</p> <p>Some recommendations include planning services based on assessments, training staff to respond to domestic violence, assisting individuals to find difficult to access services, and commissioning interventions to assist perpetrators of violence.</p> <p>Guideline includes a glossary to establish the terminology, definitions, and concepts used to describe domestic violence. Some terminology/concepts include indicators, disclosure, and safety planning.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
WHO Europe: Nordic Baltic Workshop on Family Violence	<a href="http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/97341/E93001.pdf">http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/97341/E93001.pdf</a>	<p>The regional WHO office for Nordic Baltic Europe conducted a workshop in 2009 to educate policy makers, health professionals, activists and experts on family violence. Countries that participated include Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania Norway, Sweden, and the Åland Islands.</p> <p>The workshop was designed to assist in</p>

		<p>developing national policies to address family violence, share knowledge on family violence research to strengthen evidence based practices and approaches to managing family violence, improve primary prevention strategies, and to improve advocacy and communication between stakeholders of family violence.</p> <p>Presentations and discussions provided learning and teaching opportunities on family violence trends and issues, and strategies were explored to address needs and issues relating to family violence.</p> <p>Some strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of parenting programs as primary prevention.</li><li>• Advocacy work, such as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is important in raising issues relating to family violence.</li><li>• Standardization of screening forms for family violence.</li></ul>
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## Appendix F. National Sources

<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Aboriginal Affairs Working Group	<a href="https://www.deslibris.ca/ID/225638">https://www.deslibris.ca/ID/225638</a>	<p>Local collaboration means increasing collaboration and engagement among governments, nongovernmental organization, service agencies, justice systems, national and other aboriginal organizations.</p> <p>Building on national initiatives means a review of existing initiatives to address gaps in areas of service and program delivery, access to justice and root of violence against Aboriginal women and girls.</p> <p>Working with federal government to develop comprehensive approaches to addressing violence against aboriginal women and girls in Canada.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Assembly of First Nations	<a href="https://www.afn.ca/policy-sectors/mmiwg-endviolence/">https://www.afn.ca/policy-sectors/mmiwg-endviolence/</a>	<p>Website provides facts and insights into realities of violence against Indigenous women and girls and the needs and strategies required to promote equity in this vulnerable group</p> <p>Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing a national inquiry on MMIWG.</li> <li>• Develop indigenous- led cultural competency, anti-racism and anti - sexism training for all public servants.</li> <li>• Police and justice systems to include components focused on indigenous historical impacts of polices, legislation and historical trauma.</li> <li>• Address and reduce socioeconomic gaps experienced by indigenous peoples.</li> <li>• Collaborate with indigenous</li> </ul>

		<p>families, communities, victim services, shelter workers, and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness and change public perception/attitudes to end violence.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative for Vulnerable Populations	<a href="http://cdhpi.ca/rural-remote-northern-populations-research-team">http://cdhpi.ca/rural-remote-northern-populations-research-team</a>	<p>Source encourages readers that risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning should be culturally or context appropriate; consider the sociocultural and historical aspects of risk; and involve service/sector coordination and collaboration.</p> <p>Authors link to useful sources for current research and statistics in Canada.</p> <p>Some sources include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic violence in rural Canada statistics.</li> <li>• Intimate partner violence in the Canadian North.</li> <li>• Tools for safety planning</li> <li>• Tools for identifying risk factors.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Canadian Femicide Observatory for Social Justice and Accountability	<a href="https://www.femicideincanada.ca/home/who">https://www.femicideincanada.ca/home/who</a>	<p>The network provides a information, focused on research and social action initiatives that monitor the killings and inflictions of harm against women and girls. As well, the network addresses the health and safety of women and girls in the following contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Society: “To complement national legislation and action, prevention requires the development and implementation of related actions plans, public policies and programs.”</li> <li>• Community: “Communities with high rates of violence are often those with high degrees of social isolation.” “Higher rates of</li> </ul>

		<p>unemployment or few resources, can also act to increase the likelihood of IPV an violence against women and girls more generally.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools: “Educate grade school youth on the importance of health family relationships, gender equity and dating violence.”</li> <li>• Employment and workplaces: “Addressing the gender wage gap, increasing employment opportunities for women, Investing in training programs.”</li> <li>• Healthcare setting: “To use screening or risk assessment tools when dealing with female patients, especially those who exhibit even minor signs of abuse.”</li> <li>• Individual: “Various prevention programs are in place to increase education, intervene in cases of child maltreatment, and provide substance abuse treatment.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendation</b>
Department of Justice Canada	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/ajja/rr08_1/rr08_1.pdf">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/ajja/rr08_1/rr08_1.pdf</a>	<p>Understanding Family Violence and Sexual Assault in the Territories, First Nations, Inuit and Métis People is a collaborative report including the Aboriginal justice strategy, the policy center of victim issues, the family violence initiative, and the research statistics division.</p> <p>The report encourages the development of local capacity building and infrastructure development in local Aboriginal communities by engaging in policy development and legislative reform in northern communities.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Ending Violence	<a href="http://endingviolencecanada.org/-getting-help/">http://endingviolencecanada.org/-getting-help/</a>	Federal action plan to address family violence and violent crimes against

<p>Association of Canada</p>	<p>Aboriginal women and girls includes:</p> <p>Preventing Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing community safety plans.</li> <li>• Breaking intergenerational cycles of violence by raising awareness.</li> <li>• Enhancing skills and development training to help Aboriginal women increase their autonomy and financial independence.</li> </ul> <p>Supporting Aboriginal Victims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness of and access to victim services.</li> <li>• Enhance the capacity of victim service providers.</li> <li>• Fostering positive relationship and facilitating the sharing of information with families and criminal justice professionals.</li> </ul> <p>Protecting Aboriginal Women and Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting shelters on reserve.</li> <li>• Holding offenders accountable.</li> <li>• Investing in the creation of a new DNA-based missing person index.</li> </ul> <p>Strategies include engaging in research, developing provincial and territorial standards of services, working with national organizations, educational institutions to encourage cross-sectoral collaboration.</p> <p>The website offers resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for employers.</li> <li>• Public education resources</li> <li>• Risk assessment and safety planning.</li> <li>• Counselling and support work.</li> <li>• Community development and</li> </ul>
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		<p>strategic planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross sector coordination.</li> <li>• Western Canada sexual assault initiative.</li> <li>• Policy, legislative, and legal analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Government of Canada	<a href="http://endingviolencecanada.org/-getting-help/https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/fun-fin/ap-pa/action-eng.pdf">http://endingviolencecanada.org/-getting-help/https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/fun-fin/ap-pa/action-eng.pdf</a>	<p>Federal action plan to address family violence and violent crimes against Aboriginal women and girls includes:</p> <p>Preventing Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing community safety plans.</li> <li>• Breaking intergenerational cycles of violence by raising awareness.</li> <li>• Enhancing skills and development training to help Aboriginal women increase their autonomy and financial independence.</li> </ul> <p>Supporting Aboriginal Victims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness of and access to victim services.</li> <li>• Enhance the capacity of victim service providers.</li> <li>• Fostering positive relationship and facilitating the sharing of information with families and criminal justice professionals.</li> </ul> <p>Protecting Aboriginal Women and Girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting shelters on reserve.</li> <li>• Holding offenders accountable.</li> <li>• Investing in the creation of a new DNA-based missing person index.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Government of Canada, Department of	<a href="https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/fv-vf/index.html">https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/fv-vf/index.html</a>	Provides access to publications regarding family violence and public legal education/ information. Informs public

Justice		users and encourages readers to reach out to victim's services and community organizations to seek guidance from health care providers, family, and friends when facing family violence. Victims are encouraged to use other points of contact as well, including helplines, legal services and emergency shelters.
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Homefront	<a href="http://homefrontcalgary.com/main/">http://homefrontcalgary.com/main/</a>	<p>Calgary based non-profit organization provides case management by assisting victims of violence with court processes, ensuring the victims interests and wishes are upheld in court processes, safety plan assistance, referrals to relevant resources, and follow up contact to enhance victim safety.</p> <p>Mandate includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protecting community</b> through advocacy, victim services.</li> <li>• <b>Hold the offender accountable</b> through legal sanctions, rehabilitation other treatment options</li> <li>• <b>Increase accessibility</b> of diverse groups and populations to the justice system</li> <li>• <b>Reduce gaps</b> and avoid duplication of service through coordination and collaboration within the justice system</li> <li>• <b>Increase public confidence</b> in the justice system through quicker and meaningful responses to domestic violence</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
John Howard Society of British Columbia	<a href="https://www.johnhowardbc.ca/regions/northern/services/intro-to-s-t-o-p-program/">https://www.johnhowardbc.ca/regions/northern/services/intro-to-s-t-o-p-program/</a>	The STOP program provides a variety of counselling services, such as men's and women's group counselling, individual counselling and couples counselling. These methods provide individuals facing family violence with techniques to address violent relationships and

		<p>enhance personal growth.</p> <p>Counselling methods address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dealing with anger and identifying triggers</li> <li>• The relationship between fear and anger</li> <li>• Self esteem</li> <li>• Toxic shame</li> <li>• Identifying the different types of self-talk</li> <li>• Identifying the wide array of abusive behaviors</li> <li>• Respectful and effective communication</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health	<a href="https://www.ccnsa-nccah.ca/docs/emerging/RPT-FamilyViolence-Holmes-Hunt-EN.pdf">https://www.ccnsa-nccah.ca/docs/emerging/RPT-FamilyViolence-Holmes-Hunt-EN.pdf</a>	<p>Integration of six principles in frameworks for understanding family violence within Indigenous communities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognize ongoing colonialism and dispossession</li> <li>2. Locate risk within colonial systems</li> <li>3. Foster self-determination of individuals, families, and communities</li> <li>4. Work from an Indigenous gender-based analysis</li> <li>5. Create localized solutions</li> <li>6. Understand kinship systems as integral to Indigenous law</li> </ol> <p>Strategies to overcoming family violence include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relational approach to violence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community leadership.</li> <li>- Land-based and cultural practices.</li> <li>- Individual and collective healing.</li> <li>- Fostering resilience and individual agency.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revitalizing Indigenous gender roles.</li> <li>- Acknowledging the role of elders.</li> <li>- Use of visual methods in counselling.</li> <li>- Family involvement in therapy.</li> <li>- Community based shelters.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Northern Society for Domestic peace	<a href="http://domesticpeace.ca">http://domesticpeace.ca</a>	<p>Non-profit social service agency outlines definitions of abuse, signs of abuse, and reporting child abuse. Website provides information to direct victims of family violence, such as crisis hotline phone numbers.</p> <p>Agency offers training, education and resources for organizations, schools and healthcare professionals across Northwestern British Columbia to assist in better prevention and response to family violence.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Nunavut Courts	<a href="http://www.nunavutcourts.ca/faia-civil">http://www.nunavutcourts.ca/faia-civil</a>	<p>The website has PDF resources available for public use, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Abuse Intervention Act.</li> <li>• Family Abuse Intervention Regulations.</li> <li>• Information sheet for Respondents who have been served with an Emergency Protection order.</li> <li>• Application for an emergency protection order a community intervention order.</li> <li>• Application to challenge an emergency protection order.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Nunavut Department of Family Services	<a href="https://www.gov.nu.ca/familyservices/information/mission-vision-values">https://www.gov.nu.ca/familyservices/information/mission-vision-values</a>	Provides public information and encourages victims of violence to access needed services.

		<p>Community resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local community justice outreach worker.</li> <li>• Community services worker.</li> <li>• Family services office for support and counselling.</li> <li>• RCMP detachment.</li> <li>• Family violence shelters.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
SPVM	<a href="https://spvm.qc.ca/en/Fiches/Details/Domestic-and-Intrafamily-Violence">https://spvm.qc.ca/en/Fiches/Details / Domestic-and-Intrafamily-Violence</a>	<p>Montreal police force provides recommendations for victims of family.</p> <p>Recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussing situation with at least one other person</li> <li>• Planning for emergencies through safety planning.</li> <li>• Preparing an Emergency kit.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Thunder Bay and district Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse	<a href="http://www.endwomanabuse.com/local-resources">http://www.endwomanabuse.com/local-resources</a>	<p>Coordinating committee provides local resources in the district of Thunder Bay on crisis response services, counselling centers, housing shelters, and legal resources for women involved in the family and or criminal court systems.</p> <p>Recommendations include completing a risk assessment and safety planning with women. The website also provides access to publications and literature involving violence for further public education.</p>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada	<a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/britishcolumbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/britishcolumbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf</a>	<p>The truth and reconciliation act provide calls to action to provide equity in services for Indigenous groups in Canada.</p> <p>Calls to action that strengthen preventative factors towards family violence for Indigenous people include:</p>

		<p>#11 We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families</p> <p>#16 We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages</p> <p>#21 call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.</p> <p>#22 We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.</p> <p># 36 We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to work with Aboriginal communities to provide culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused.</p> <p>#39 We call upon the federal government to develop a national plan to collect and publish data on the criminal victimization of Aboriginal people, including data related to homicide and family violence victimization.</p>
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<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Yukon Courts	<a href="http://www.yukoncourts.ca/courts/territorial/dvtoc.html">http://www.yukoncourts.ca/courts/territorial/dvtoc.html</a>	<p>The DVTO Court has a specialized caseload and is handled by dedicated judges and key partners such as victim service workers, treatment program personnel, police, Crown attorneys, defense counsel and social workers.</p> <p>The goals of the Court include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage more disclosures of domestic violence.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide for early intervention.</li> <li>• Provide a non-adversarial, therapeutic court-based alternative to formal criminal court as a means of responding to domestic violence;</li> <li>• Reduce the high collapse rate for domestic violence charges.</li> <li>• Hold offenders accountable in a meaningful way.</li> <li>• Provide a therapeutic sentencing option to offenders under the close supervision of the court and treatment professionals.</li> <li>• Encourage early acceptance of responsibility and early guilty pleas by perpetrators of domestic violence.</li> <li>• Provide protection, information and support for victims.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
Yukon Government Department of Justice	<a href="http://www.justice.gov.yk.ca/prog/cor/vs/stay.html">http://www.justice.gov.yk.ca/prog/cor/vs/stay.html</a>	<p>Recommendations include Encouraging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety plans</li> <li>• Emergency Protective orders</li> <li>• Victims to document abuse</li> <li>• Domestic violence treatment option as a therapeutic court alternative to the regular Court system.</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Website/Document</b>	<b>Best Practice Recommendations</b>
YWCA Canada	<a href="https://ywcaCanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Nunavut-Legal-Information-Manual-2014.pdf">https://ywcaCanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Nunavut-Legal-Information-Manual-2014.pdf</a>	<p>The YWCA Canada provides assistance to victims by facilitating protective actions and providing education in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency protective orders</li> <li>• Restriction of Contact or Communication</li> <li>• Tort of Stalking</li> <li>• Bail Order</li> <li>• Probation Orders</li> <li>• Peace Bond</li> <li>• Non-Communication Order</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides information on the Family Abuse Intervention Act, the criminal justice process and child protection. Outlines contact information for incomes support, shelters, victim services, and community justice resources.</li></ul>
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