

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR
CHILDREN IN BC**

33 YEARS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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Report Prepared for The Ending Violence Association of BC
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Overview

THE RECURRING THEMES

Reports and recommendations on violence against women and their children go back a long way in British Columbia and Canada. This document includes key recommendations from reports on violence against women and children produced since 1979. Report after report has identified the seriousness and breadth of the violence problem. These reports have also articulated what we need to do now to meet the needs of women and children who have been victims and to prevent more violence in the future.

As far back as 1979, the United Way of the Lower Mainland published its *Report of the Task Force on Family Violence*. This report was followed over the next three decades by task force reports, working group reports, reports of inquiries, research reports, and coroners' reports describing in powerful detail what needs to be done to protect women and their children from violence. These reports repeat the same messages over and over – to keep women and their children safe we need:

- **Access to specialized support for women who experience violence** – including more specialized victim services in small communities and strategies to ensure effective referrals to specialized services, including for victims who are reluctant or fearful to participate in the justice system
- **Better coordination and information-sharing** – including coordination from senior levels of government to the local community level and including community agencies. Risk-related information sharing in accordance with federal and provincial privacy legislation is key.
- **Services to better meet the needs of marginalized women who experience violence** – including culturally and linguistically appropriate services and services accessible to those with a range of disabilities
- **Consistent risk assessment and coordinated safety planning** – including enough staff trained to do required risk assessments and enough trained staff to do ongoing safety planning
- **Clear, effective province-wide policies** – including a province-wide sexual assault policy, policy that disallows or strongly discourages the use of alternative measures for domestic or sexual violence, and domestic violence policy that holds police and Crown responsible for the consistent application of a primary aggressor analysis
- **Adequate legal aid for women who experience violence** – including adequate coverage for legal representation for both family law and immigration matters, within and outside of court, including language interpretation where required

- **Offender accountability** – including more effective enforcement of protection orders and effective treatment for both court-mandated and voluntary men that is closely linked to services for women and coordinated with other anti-violence services at the local level
- **Effective use of specialization** – including use of highly trained and experienced personnel and teams across all sectors to provide a specialized approach and specialized resources to assist generalist responders
- **Training in domestic violence issues** – including training for all generalists and specialists in all sectors, to be developed and delivered cross-sectorally where appropriate
- **Comprehensive prevention efforts** – including more coordinated public education to increase awareness and funding of the prevention work being done by victim support services
- **System accountability** – including systematic data collection, public access to data, and province-wide monitoring to ensure adherence to policies, protocols, and best practices
- **Fair wages and working conditions for community-based workers** – including particularly front-line workers in Ending Violence Association of BC's member agencies.

These reports also carried strong messages about *how* these changes need to be made: in partnership with affected communities and with community-based services that for years have been providing front-line support to abused women and their children.

We know what needs to be done. The challenge is to do it.

Sexual and domestic violence cuts across all socio-economic lines and belongs to no one community. And while this is true and much needs to be done across all sectors, each sector must also pay attention to the specific and unique needs of Aboriginal women, women who are immigrants or refugees, those living with disabilities, women with mental health or substance use issues, women living in poverty, transgendered women, etc. We know that women who are marginalized need all the same protections and services that “mainstream” women need (and these are many), but they often also need additional help, like special assistance to access services, services in their own language or language interpretation, material assistance such as affordable housing, information about their rights, increased advocacy to help them navigate the complex systems whose personnel may lack education and training on violence and the intersections of oppression.

Issues of inequality are integrally linked with violence against women. Without social and economic equality, women and their children will not be free of

gender-based violence. In our ongoing efforts to prevent and address violence against women and their children, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that a key element of both prevention and effective intervention is to address inequality: sexism, poverty, racism, and other forms of discrimination that contribute to women's powerlessness and vulnerability to violence.

Many of the factors addressed in these recommendations are closely linked with one another. A woman's reluctance to involve the justice system, for example, may be linked to her economic situation, to her Aboriginal status or her status as an immigrant or refugee, to her lack of access to adequate legal aid services to help her extricate herself from the abusive relationship. Police, Crown or MCFD's lack of adherence to policy may be linked to lack of training and to a lack of system monitoring strategies. Lack of effective coordination and risk-related information-sharing may contribute to a wide range of system failures, including a lack of victim access to specialized support services, a lack of consistent risk assessment and safety planning, and a lack of offender accountability. Low wages and poor working conditions may lead to high staff turn-over which in turn leads to increased need for both basic and advanced training.

In order to ensure that we make real progress on the key elements of an effective response to violence against women and children, we need to monitor both our successes and our failures. We need systematic data collection with regular reporting out by government, including a review of key performance indicators. We need system transparency. We need true system accountability.

We have the knowledge and the tools to do this. What we need are resources, leadership and the will to make it happen.

The reports referred to here were produced over the course of the 33 years between 1979 and 2012, during the tenure in government of three different political parties. Safety for women and children is not a partisan issue. The need to take action to keep women and children safe is a key government responsibility no matter which political party is in power.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

What follows is an extensive list of some of the recommendations from 38 BC reports and other documents¹ on violence against women and their children produced since 1979, as well as nine national reports². This is not a comprehensive list of all the reports' recommendations; it is a highly selective list of those unaddressed or inadequately addressed recommendations that continue, in our view, to have most relevance to the current situation in this province. In order to manage this vast amount of data, we have selected one or two recommendations from each report for any one issue. While overlap between the categories will be apparent, in order to keep the document as simple as possible, no cross-referencing is included.

In addition, we reviewed a number of more informal and internal reports, such as reports of teleconference meetings among service providers and year-end reports to funders, with a focus on recommendations addressing wages and working conditions. We decided, however, because the nature of these reports is somewhat different from the provincial and national reports included here, to summarize the concerns addressed in these reports regarding wages and working conditions rather than specifically listing these recommendations.

While we recognize the close links between women's inequality and violence against women, in this document we include only those recommendations that specifically address violence and safety.

Violence against women and children encompasses violence against women in their intimate relationships, children exposed to that violence, sexual assault, criminal harassment, and child physical and sexual abuse and neglect. In order to manage the breadth of issues and materials, we have chosen to focus here on recommendations that address: violence against women in their intimate relationships; the impact on children who are exposed to that violence; and sexual assault, which is most often perpetrated by someone known to the victim.

¹ Considerably more than 38 excellent reports and other documents on violence against women and children have been produced in BC since 1978. We have selected 38 of those that we consider to be the most comprehensive and the most specific to violence against women and their children, and that have the most relevance to circumstances that continue to prevail in this province.

² While many more national reports on violence against women and their children have been produced over the past three decades, for purposes of brevity and focus, we have restricted our attention here to only nine, selected because of their particular national importance or because they fill in some of the gaps left by the provincial reports. One of the most comprehensive reports on domestic violence ever to be produced in Canada, the *Final Report of the Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abused Policies and Legislation*, lists key elements of an effective response after most of its recommendations. Space does not allow the inclusion here of all of these key elements, but they are important reading for anyone whose intent is to develop an effective response to violence against women. The same can be said for the detailed points in the original reports that follow many of the more general recommendations cited in this document. For a comprehensive understanding of what is being recommended in these reports, readers are strongly advised to go to the original reports.

A number of these reports were produced by the Ending Violence Association of BC, under its former name, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs.

1. Specialized Support For Women And Their Children Who Are Victims Of Violence

Many reports have identified the importance of victim support from outside the justice, child protection, and health systems as key to an effective response to violence against women and their children. Community-based victim support programs include specialized Community-based Victim Services (CBVS), Stopping the Violence (STV) Counselling programs, STV Outreach and Multicultural Outreach programs, transition homes, safe homes, second stage housing programs and Children Who Witness Abuse (CWWA) Counselling programs.

CBVS provide an essential support to victims both before and after they make a decision to use the justice system or other government systems and services and help ensure that victims access the kinds of protection and services that they need. CBVS also work to ensure that a coordinated response is in place in the community. There are only 62 CBVS programs in BC. The current funding formula dictates that a community must have a population of 20,000 or more to qualify for one of these programs. EVA BC believes the lack of these programs is cause for concern and that more of these programs must be funded.

There are 100 STV Counselling programs in BC that provide essential counselling and support for women who have experienced sexual assault, violence in relationships, and/or childhood abuse. As these programs are generally small and under-funded, there are often wait-lists for services, putting women at risk for further violence. Programs are also not funded to provide the long-term counselling that is required by many women who have been traumatized by gender-based violence. In addition, many communities do not have an STV Counselling program.

There are 69 STV Outreach programs in BC that assist adult women and their dependent children who have experienced or are at risk of violence to identify and access the services they need. These programs also work to ensure that a coordinated response is in place in the community and provide community education to raise awareness about the effect of violence against women and services needed to address it. Twelve of these Outreach programs are Multicultural Outreach programs that provide services in up to 24 languages. Many communities that could benefit from the important work done by an STV Outreach or Multicultural Outreach program do not have one.

In addition to these EVA BC member programs, there are 80 transition houses, safe homes and second stage housing programs and 96 CWWA programs in BC. However, this report focuses primarily on recommendations relating to the anti-violence work done by EVA BC member programs.

1979 - Family Violence. Report of the Task Force on Family Violence.
(United Way of the Lower Mainland. 1979)

- That support groups for women who have left violent homes be initiated in community-based groups and agencies as well as ministries and departments of government...[and] That ongoing funding be provided to such programmes...(p.7)
- That ways of identifying, assisting and protecting women who are still in a violent situation be developed and ...this problem be considered a priority issue of social agency programs concerned with family violence. (p.8)

1980 - Battered and Blamed. A Report On Wife Assault From The Perspective Of Battered Women. Prepared For The Women's Research Centre and Vancouver Transition House. (Barnsley, 1980).

- All levels of government...must provide official recognition of the need for the range of services women require as a result of wife assault. This recognition must take the form of support and funding for Transition Houses, support service, second stage facilities for battered women, and programs for children whose mothers have been assaulted. (p.128)

1992 - Is Anyone Listening? (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must:

- Increase funding to transition and second stage houses, sexual assault centres, specialized victim assistance programs and other community agencies providing services to victims of family and sexual violence. [All funding to BC's sexual assault centres was cut in 2002]
- Encourage and support hospitals to establish specialized services to respond to women, children and elderly people who are victims of family or sexual violence. (p.5)

1992 - Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee. (Hughes, 1992).

We believe the victim service program...should be improved to maximize the voluntary cooperation of the victim in the trial process by implementing the following recommendations:

- Facilitate *immediate* victim referrals from police or Crown, and enhance communication and cooperation among these service providers in a manner which protects the privacy of the victim. The Committee recognizes this recommendation may require legislative amendments in some cases where victim services are not attached to the police. (p.7 – 50)

- Ensure every community has a specialized victim service program for battered women (p.7 – 50) and victims of sexual assault...(p.7 – 90)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- Provide ongoing funding to all services for short-, medium- and long-term planning. Core funding is recommended for community-based, non-governmental services such as women’s shelters, sexual assault centres, rape crisis centres, and women’s centres....Some experimentation through pilot projects should be employed to investigate ways of expanding both the community-based and government-based service networks. (p. 36)
- Expand...victim support and women’s advocacy programs...until equal access [to the legal system] for all women is achieved. (p.57)

1998 - *Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice Reform in British Columbia: Identifying Some Preliminary Questions and Concerns. Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Programs.* (Goundry, 1998).

- The consultation with the victim which is required under the VAWIR policy, and is anticipated by restorative approaches, should only be conducted once the victim has had an opportunity to meet with a specialized victim services worker. This directive should be expressly written into all violence-related policies. (p.48)

1998 - *Recommendations for Amendments to “E” Division RCMP Operational Policies Pertaining to Relationship Violence and the Processing of Firearms Applications.* (Wood, 1998).

- The police officer will inform the victim of any community-based specialized victim services...and will refer her case with her permission...(p.40)

1999 - *Emergency Preparedness in British Columbia: Mitigating Violence Against Women in Disasters. Prepared for B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs.* (Enarson, 1999).

- We urge new funding priorities and enhanced program support from provincial authorities to enhance the response capacity of women’s services during emergencies, [including]:
 - Development of protocols with funding agencies for increased funding triggered by specified disaster events

- Immediate technical analysis of the structural integrity of women's service facilities...(p.34)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Make renewed efforts to address a lack of coordination among victim services in some communities by exploring a range of options such as development of local protocols, facilitated problem-solving, and a review of program mandates. (p.4)
- Develop strategies to ensure that all victims who enter the criminal justice system are referred to victim services and/or other appropriate community services. (p.5)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions, in collaboration with community agencies, continue to ensure the provision of support services to victims to assist them throughout their involvement with the criminal justice system...(p.91)

2003 - *The "Start of Something Powerful": Strategizing for Safer Communities for BC Aboriginal Women.* (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre; BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, 2003).

- Funds be allocated to the development of anti-violence programs managed and staffed by Aboriginal women. (p.14)
- Funds be allocated for a new community based victim assistance program located in a region with high Aboriginal population, utilizing funds from the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General. (p.15)

2004 - *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada.* (Amnesty International, 2004).

- Federal [and] provincial....governments should ensure adequate, sustained, multi-year funding to ensure the provision of culturally appropriate services such as shelters and counseling for Indigenous women and girls. (p.65)
- Funding should...be provided for the creation of independent advocates and liaison workers for Indigenous people in contact with police. (p.66)

2004 – An Evaluation of Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women and Children Who Witness Abuse Programs. (BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. Stopping the Violence Branch, 2004).

- Recognize the practical limitations of community service agencies to provide such wide-ranging services at the individual, group and community levels. Develop a clear and focused purpose for the program and structure program objectives and activities to achieve that purpose. Give particular attention to prioritizing the current list of program activities and allocate funds accordingly to support their delivery; or reduce the number of activities to match available funding levels. (p.7)
- Conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis of the time required to carry out the following activities for a period six to twelve months and adjust funding levels to sustain the STV program: counselling preparation; counselling sessions; unscheduled counselling, support and crisis calls; intake and assessment; community education; working with other service providers; maintaining records; conducting administrative activities; training; counsellor support activities; vacation, overtime and sick leave; and out of town travel time. (p. 7)

2005 - Family Law Services for Women Who are Victims of Violence: What Can Be Done? Paper Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs. (Light, 2005).

- Develop and fund an approach to providing technical, practical and emotional support to women as they proceed through the family law legal system, parallel to and in conjunction with the support that is available to abused women as they proceed through the criminal justice system. (p.4)

2006 - The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report. (Lheidli T’enneh First Nation et al, 2006).

- Develop and implement a permanent Regional First Nation Crisis Response Plan that targets any First Nation community, or Aboriginal family, experiencing a traumatic event...[including]...crisis counseling/support services provided, within strict time-lines. (p.16)
- Increase locally based, and culturally sensitive, long-term counseling and support services to Aboriginal families who have experienced a traumatic event. (p.16)

2006 - Verdict at Coroner’s Inquest: Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Deaths of Seth Thornett and William Bethell. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2006).

- That the RCMP should ensure that their members are following existing violence in Relationship/Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy which specifies that where they exist, community based victim services

should normally be the primary service provider in violence in relationship cases. (p.10)

- That the community based victim services be provided additional funding which could assist in raising their profile in the community. (p.11)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Specialized Support for Women Who Are Victims of Violence

- MPSSG Funding should be increased for existing Community-based Victim Services to meet current and growing service pressures, and funding should be provided for additional Community-based Victim Services in communities without such a program. This would include lowering the community population requirement (currently at 20,000) to be eligible for a community-based victim service program. (p.2)
- Ministries should encourage and fund innovative approaches to specialized hospital-based responses to domestic and sexual violence, based on existing models in BC, as well as research and evaluation to guide their development. (p.2)

Effective Referral to Community-based Victim Services

- Immediate steps should be taken to amend the Victims of Crime Act to locate victim service programs as part of the criminal justice response, to facilitate appropriate information-sharing under the consistent use provisions of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and federal Privacy Act. (p.2)
- Training and educational resources for Police-based and Community-based Victim Services, police, and Crown should emphasize the nature and importance of effective, proactive referrals to and coordination with specialized community-based victim service programs, and accurate interpretation of relevant privacy legislation. Training should be cross-sectoral wherever possible in order to familiarize each sector with the other, break down barriers, and build strong working partnerships. (p.2)

Barriers to Women's Participation in the Criminal Justice Process

- Adequate funding is required to ensure that...Victim Services [and] Stopping the Violence programs... can provide the intensive support...necessary to keep women and their children safe...when they are at risk. (p.3)

Addressing Gaps in Services for Marginalized Women

- Provide funding for Community-based Victim Services, STV Counselling programs, and Children Who Witness Abuse programs, as well as treatment programs for assaultive men, to facilitate accessibility for marginalized groups. (p.3)
- In funding for enhanced accessibility of services, include funding for recruitment, cross-sectoral training, and mentoring of staff from these marginalized groups, recognizing the fact that some potential staff persons from these marginalized groups may need extra support and training to enable them to contribute most effectively to program operations. (p.3)

Addressing Sexual Assault

- Assess province-wide capacity for emergency response to sexual assault and develop and fund a strategy to respond to any shortcomings determined to exist. (p.2)
- Expand the mandate for Stopping the Violence Counselling programs to include those aged 14 and over, and provide funding so that they can provide service to this age group. (p.3)

2007 - Empowerment of Immigrant and Refugee Women Who Are Victims of Violence in Their Intimate Relationships. Final Report. (Light, 2007).

- Fund outreach and follow-up services in appropriate languages as part of mandates for all existing and future mainstream, multicultural, and ethno-specific victim support services, including victim services and transition houses, in order to reach abused immigrant women who are isolated from possible sources of assistance because they do not know about services or because they are reluctant to access them. (p.8)

2007 - Verdict at Coroner's Inquest. Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Death of Kum Lea Chun, Moon Kyu Park, Christian Thomas Jin Young Lee, Yong Sun Park, Hyun Joon Lee. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2007).

- All victims and abusers should be provided with universally available advocacy services. Such services to be initiated upon first contact. (p.2A).

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- Criminal justice system personnel should be provided with training that emphasizes the central role played by victim support services in contributing to successful criminal justice system interventions. Criminal Justice System Policies should also reinforce the central role of victim support services. (p.56)

- Government funding should be increased for existing Community-based Victim Services to meet current and growing service pressures, and funding should be provided for additional Community-based Victim Services in communities that currently do not have such a program. This would include lowering the current community population requirement to be eligible for a community-based victim service program. (p.56)

2008 - *Broken Promises. Parents Speak about B.C.'s Child Welfare System.*
(Pivot Legal Society, 2008).

- Social workers should be familiar with services available to women who are trying to leave violent relationships. They should also be advocating for services that are currently unavailable but necessary for their clients. (p.113)

2009 - *No More Stolen Sisters. The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada.*
(Amnesty International, 2009).

- [A national] plan of action should include...Adequate, sustained, long-term funding to ensure the provision of culturally relevant services to meet the needs of Indigenous women and girls at risk of violence..., including emergency shelters, court workers, victim services and specific programmes to assist women who have been trafficked within Canada; (p.26)

2010 - *Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel.*
(BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- ...There is an expectation that police and crown counsel will ensure each victim is made aware of the support available to them and their family from the appropriate victim services...(p.8)
- Adoption of a leadership role by the government of British Columbia in identifying and piloting civil and family law processes to achieve a more coordinated approach. This includes measures to help ensure ...Appropriate referrals to specialized community-based support services (p.9)

2. Coordination And Information-Sharing

Coordination, including effective information-sharing, continues to be one of the most important elements called for in reports on violence against women and children. The Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation stated in its final report: "...the need for comprehensive and co-ordinated strategies to address the problem of spousal abuse stands out as the key lesson learned." (p.83)

1979 - *Family Violence. Report of the Task Force on Family Violence.* (United Way of the Lower Mainland, 1979).

- That the Minister [of Human Resources] support the interministerial approach to child abuse and neglect and encourage the Ministries of Health, Education and the Attorney General to do the same. (p.17)
- That an interministerial workshop on family violence be undertaken, making use of the planning on that topic done to date by the Task Force on Family Violence, to draw together staff responsible for training and development in the Ministry of Human resources, the Corrections Branch, Department of the Attorney-General, the Ministry of Health and the Victoria and Vancouver Health Departments, the Recreation Branch and the BC Police Academy. (p.21)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- All government responses to family and sexual violence must be planned, developed, implemented and evaluated in a coordinated manner, using inter-ministry responsibility centres at the provincial level and inter-agency coordinating committees at the local level. (p.4)
- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must encourage and fund the development, implementation and evaluation of one or more comprehensive, coordinated protection models for assaulted women and their children, with a view to province-wide implementation. (p.5)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- Expand the coordinated response team approach to wife assault [accomplished through the wife assault coordination committees] now in effect in British Columbia (modified to reflect differences in each area) to all communities through the wife assault coordination committees. We believe this approach, coupled with an aggressive charging policy, offers the best form of protection and support for the victim and maximizes the justice system's ability to secure the victim's voluntary cooperation during the trial process. (p.7 – 18)

- We recommend the wife assault coordination committee system be used as a model to develop a similar coordinated response team approach to addressing the needs of adult victims of sexual assault. The sexual assault coordination committees in each community would be responsible for assisting in the development of police and Crown policies for adult sexual assault occurrences. (p.7 – 76)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- All ministries of social and/or community services...and provincial-territorial Ministries of health should]...Recognize and encourage [social service workers and health practitioners] to network and co-operate with front-line workers...and community service workers and to participate in interagency committees on violence against women or other community co-ordinating mechanisms. (pp.43 & 45)
- All non-governmental...and governmental services should] Adopt a co-operative working partnership with [police and] legal and other services directly involved with survivors of violence. This partnership would be grounded in mutual respect and recognition of each other's values and expertise. To achieve this, procedures and protocols must be established to identify gaps, solve problems, avoid duplication and share expertise; and linkages must be maintained with all sectors of the community (schools, businesses, other community organizations, religious institutions and other agencies), so these sectors can remain current on resources and can draw on available expertise. (p.40 and p.51)

1999 - *Emergency Preparedness in British Columbia: Mitigating Violence Against Women in Disasters. Prepared for B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs.* (Enarson, 1999).

- Increased collaboration between women's services and emergency managers [including]:
 - Coordination at senior levels between Emergency Social Services and key provincial ministries to identify women health and other needs with respect to disaster...
 - Representation of provincial associations of women's services on...regional and provincial planning and response policy groups...
 - Participation of women's services representatives in community-based emergency preparedness exercises
 - Development and implementation of coordination protocols for disaster response for inclusion in existing protocols for victim service community coordination

- Increased communication between women's services and emergency organizations through newsletters, shared mailings, conference participation, etc.
- Information exchange between women's services and organizations representing women highly vulnerable both to violence and to disaster (e.g., First Nations, disabled, and older women) to increase the salience of disaster readiness in these vulnerable populations. (p.34)

2000 - *Developing a Dialogue: A Preliminary Discussion Paper on Child Protection Issues in Cases Involving Violence Against Women and Children.* (Ruebsaat, 2000).

- That CPSWs [Child Protection Social Workers] and other ministry staff be mandated to participate in provincial and local coordination activities related to sexual assault/abuse and relationship abuse cases. This would include participation in provincial government committees responsible for policy development and implementation, and local community-based coordination committees developed under the Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy. (p.34)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Investigate the currently successful models of coordination to determine the factors that contribute to their success. (p.5)
- Explore strategies to improve coordination between hospital and criminal justice system personnel, including joint training, protocols and inter-disciplinary teams. (p.6)

2002 - *Judgement of Inquiry into the Death of Tammy Lynn Miller.* (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2002).

- Work with organizations and individuals with expertise and training in the dynamics of spousal violence to develop a coordinated community response. Generate referral protocols for use by Victim Services workers and police considering a condition to report on an undertaking. (p.7)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions support and strengthen, with senior-level commitment, co-ordination of initiatives to respond to family violence within and outside departments of justice that include multiple government and community stakeholders. Models of co-ordination may differ among jurisdictions but should incorporate the key elements of an effective response identified below. An effective co-ordinated response requires

leadership and a focal point of co-ordination of government family violence initiatives.

- Supported by services, a co-ordinated policy and procedure framework should be developed [as part of a co-ordinated response to children exposed to domestic violence] that holds the offender accountable, provides support to enable parents to protect their children, and does not re-victimize abused women and their children. (p.92)

2004 - *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada.* (Amnesty International, 2004).

- Federal and provincial governments, with the full participation of Indigenous women, should organize a high level intergovernmental and interdepartmental meeting to ensure proper coordination and information-sharing on initiatives to address the safety and welfare of Indigenous women and girls. (p.67)

2004 – *An Evaluation of Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women and Children Who Witness Abuse Programs.* (BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. Stopping the Violence Branch, 2004).

- Acknowledge the strategic importance of working with other community services in the delivery of STV counselling and program goals. Include inter-agency collaboration as a contracted STV program activity to deliver presentations specifically to social and health service providers, and to participate in inter-agency committees and integrated case management teams. (p.7)

2004 - *Nowhere to Turn? Responding to Partner Violence Against Immigrant and Visible Minority Women.* (Ekuwa, 2004).

- Next Steps...the need to develop a network of frontline workers and agencies to help facilitate ongoing collaboration...[to] provide a mechanism for sharing information...and promote an effective use of resource, help ensure that victims have access to relevant and appropriate services, and help promote best practices in this area (p.35)
- Next Steps...Guidelines and strategies to encourage other collaborative networks and help improve cooperation and coordination among services and programs, particularly among mainstream, settlement and ethno-cultural agencies (p.36)

2005 - *Family Law Services for Women Who are Victims of Violence: What Can Be Done? Prepared for B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs.* (Light, 2005).

- Develop strategies for facilitating closer collaboration among Family Justice Counsellors and other players in the family law system, including

family law lawyers, family law advocates, victim services, women-serving agencies, immigrant-serving agencies and Violence Against Women in Relationships Coordinating Committees. (p.4)

- Establish a multi-disciplinary working group, including representatives from government, LSS, women-serving agencies, diversity groups, the Bar Association, the Law Society, provincial anti-violence organizations, provincial educational institutions and potential funders to explore the development of a multi-disciplinary approach to family law services. (p.4)

2005 - *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence.* (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; Ending Violence Association of BC; and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, 2005).

- The Aboriginal communities' leadership, community members and the communities' workers must work as a team to support [a] community development approach to women's safety. (p.18)

2006 - *The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report.* (*Lheidli T'enneh First Nation et al, 2006*).

- That [an] Emergency Readiness Plan be communicated to an Emergency Readiness Team(s) located in each city, town and First Nation community located along the entire length of the Highway of Tears. (p.27)
- That a Highway of Tears Legacy Fund be established as one source, among others, to develop and support multi-community, and multi-agency efforts in victim prevention, emergency readiness planning and team response, and victim family counselling and support. (p.31)

2006 - *Verdict at Coroner's Inquest: Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Deaths of Seth Thornett and William Bethell.* (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2006).

- That police, government and community based victim services agencies work together to develop inter-agency information sharing protocols and coordinated risk management strategies in violence in relationship cases. (p.10).
- That the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General establish a joint community, police and government team to undertake a community safety review to identify best practices and make recommendations to enhance responses to victims of violence in relationships. Such a review should attempt to clarify for involved agencies whether consent to contact Victim Services obtained from victims by police allows a referral to be made to either police based or community based victim service agencies and also address the issues around supervised access. (p.11).

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Specialized Justice Processes for Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Government should consider establishing a senior inter-ministry violence against women coordinating body to be formally linked with the CCWS Provincial Working Group (the only provincial coordination committee which has, over the last five years, been instrumental in identifying and addressing province-wide issues related to violence against women), with authority to take action on recommendations from the CCWS Provincial Working Group to develop policy, programs, protocols, and procedures to respond to concerns. (p.2)

Coordination of Responses to Violence Against Women

- Government should consider establishing a senior inter-ministry violence against women coordinating body to be formally linked with the CCWS Provincial Working Group (the only provincial coordination committee which has, over the last five years, been instrumental in identifying and addressing province-wide issues related to violence against women), with authority to take action on recommendations from the CCWS Provincial Working Group to develop policy, programs, protocols, and procedures to respond to concerns. (p.2)
- Senior management in all relevant ministries and all police forces should provide leadership by directing/encouraging staff to participate in relevant local coordination initiatives, as an important step towards creating a “culture of coordination” at both local and the provincial levels. (p.2)

Provincial Justice Policies on Violence Against Women and Children

- Include reference to the importance of inter-sectoral coordination in all policies addressing domestic and sexual violence, across the justice, health, social service, and education systems. (p.3)

Legal Aid and Related Family Law Services for Abused Women

- Funding for community-based legal advocates should be increased, as a cost-effective way of enhancing legal services for women who are victims of domestic violence, and mandates of legal advocates should include close collaboration with community-based victim support services. (p.2)
- Wherever possible, coordination between family and criminal law matters should be encouraged. (p.2)

2007 - Verdict at Coroner's Inquest. Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Death of Kum Lea Chun, Moon Kyu Park, Christian Thomas Jin Young Lee, Yong Sun Park, Hyun Joon Lee. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2007).

- All police departments work across jurisdictional boundaries as one unit. (p.2A)
- All updated "K" file information be shared across all jurisdictional lines immediately and with all agencies. (p.2A)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- The BC Government should make it an immediate priority to develop a provincial information-sharing and/or case coordination protocol framework for domestic violence cases, including both the criminal and civil (family law/child protection) systems, with the Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General taking the lead...These ministries should work in partnership with other concerned ministries and with provincial organizations representing police, Community- and Police-based Victim Services, and transition houses. This protocol should complement and not replace existing provincial policies such as the Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy and existing case coordination protocols at both the local and provincial levels. (p.57)
- A senior inter-ministry coordinating body should be established, with an ongoing budget, to coordinate government initiatives to respond to domestic violence. This body should have formal links with existing community coordinating initiatives, including Community Coordination for Women's Safety, as well as with any bodies established to address the needs of Aboriginal, immigrant, or other marginalized victims of domestic violence. This senior government coordinating body should have the authority to develop policy, programs, protocols, and procedures; to undertake monitoring and evaluation activities; and to respond to concerns and take action on recommendations from other coordinating bodies. This body should also be charged with the responsibility for overseeing consideration and implementation of recommended actions in this report. (p.58)

2009 - No More Stolen Sisters. The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Amnesty International, 2009).

- As a matter of urgent priority, the federal government should work with Indigenous women and representative organizations and provincial and territorial officials to develop and implement a comprehensive, co-ordinated national plan of action in keeping with the scale and seriousness

of the violence and discrimination experienced by Indigenous women. Such a plan of action should include:...Improved co-ordination of police investigations into long-term missing persons cases and unsolved murders involving Indigenous women and women at risk. (p.26)

2009 - Police-reported Spousal Violence Incidents in B.C. in which Both Partners are Suspects/Accused. An Exploratory Study. (Light, 2009).

- Coordinated efforts should be undertaken among police, the Ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Attorney General, and the community to enhance and consolidate efforts to create the most effective response possible to spousal violence cases. A focus on primary aggressor analysis and the potential impact of identifying two suspects/accuseds in spousal violence cases should always be included in strategies to address these cases....(p.30)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General take the lead in a special initiative that focuses on the issue of safety of children and youth in domestic violence situations, by ensuring a coordinated, effective and responsive system in Greater Victoria and throughout British Columbia [including]...the participation of the Ministry of Attorney General, Crown Counsel, MCFD and representatives of the RCMP and municipal police forces [including]...
 - Standardized policies, standards, tools and training shared across the child welfare, criminal justice and family justice systems
 - Strategies for case management and coordination of high-risk cases...
 - Information-sharing protocols and practices designed to ensure that all service providers and decision makers have the best possible information in a timely fashion (p.54)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- The implementation of a “collaborative best practices” approach by justice system officials for the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases based on and following the best practice guidelines, mutual expectation agreements and organizational structure implemented in models such as the Langley Pilot Project and Vancouver Police Domestic Violence and Criminal Harassment Unit...(p.7)

- Adoption of a leadership role by the government of British Columbia in identifying and piloting civil and family law process to achieve a more coordinated approach. This includes measures to help ensure:
 - A review of the opportunities for appropriate information sharing between crown counsel and family law practitioners, and, in the circumstance where a victim has no legal representation in a family law proceeding, exchange of information between criminal and family court processes...
 - Integrated approaches to enforcing protective conditions included in civil and criminal orders...(p.9)

2010 - Provincial Briefing Documents. Safety for Immigrant, Refugee, & Non-Status Women. (Ending Violence Association of BC, MOSAIC, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services, 2010).

Family Justice Issues for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- The Ministry of Attorney General should take steps to ensure coordination between the family justice system and CIC, including CBSA, to make sure that an abused non-status woman is not removed from Canada while a child custody matter is still before the courts. (p.4)
- The Ministry of Attorney General should work with CIC to develop policy or protocols to coordinate the Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) process and family justice process related to child custody matters, including expediting the child custody process where an abused immigrant, refugee, or non-status woman is engaged in an H&C process to gain permanent status in Canada. (p.4)

Health Care Services for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- In order to ensure a specific focus on the health care needs of immigrant, refugee, and non-status women, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should include both health ministries on inter-ministry bodies responsible for developing and implementing a response to violence against women. (p.5)
- CIC, the police, provincial justice ministries, provincial health ministries, Regional Health Authorities, and hospitals should work together to ensure that abused non-status women who are hospital patients are not placed at risk of deportation. (p.5)

Protection of Children of Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- The Ministries of Children and Family Development, Attorney General, Public Safety and Solicitor General, Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Housing and Social Development, Health Services, and Education, police, Legal Services Society, BC Housing, and community-based agencies should work with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to develop strategies to guide coordination of policies, practices, and appropriate risk related information-sharing to ensure that the safety and best interests of children of abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status mothers are considered as priorities in decisions that affect their mothers status in Canada. (p.3)
- Where there are unresolved custody matters regarding Canadian-born children, the MAG and MCFD should coordinate and share necessary risk related information with CIC, including Canada Border Services Agency, to ensure that, in the interests of children's safety, non-status women are not removed from Canada. (p.3)

Criminal Justice System Issues for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non Status Women

- MPSSG and MAG should take steps to ensure coordination between the criminal justice system and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to make sure that an abused non-status woman is not removed from Canada while a child custody matter is still before the courts. (p.3)

Coordination of Responses to Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-status Women Who are Victims of Violence in BC

- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG), as the lead ministry in responding to violence against women, should proactively reach out to other involved ministries, levels of government, institutions, and community-based organizations on an ongoing basis in order to coordinate policies and practices and share information as appropriate to ensure the safety of abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status women and their children. (p.5)
- To utilize the experience and expertise of community-based organizations and professionals working in the area of violence against women, including violence against immigrant, refugee, and non-status women, a formal relationship should be established between the inter-ministry body charged with ongoing development and coordination of Government's response to violence against women and the Community Coordination for Women's Safety Program Provincial Working Group. (p.6)

2011 - Report on Violence Against Women, Mental Health and Substance Use. (BC Society of Transition Houses, 2011).

- All relevant agencies/ministries need to be involved in meaningful collaboration – not only representatives from frontline anti-violence, mental health and substance use sectors. (p.20)
- Women with lived experience need to be included in any collaborative initiatives around violence, mental health and substance use in the lives of women. (p.20)

2011 - Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls: Empowerment – A New Beginning. Standing Committee on the Status of Women. (2011).

- The Committee recommends that the federal government collaborate with the Native Women's Association of Canada to explore the feasibility of i) sharing some or all of the information in the data base with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Support Centre for Missing Persons; and ii) deciding what, if any information, can ethically be made available more broadly beyond police and justice system officials. (p.43)
- Based on this testimony, the Committee recommends that the federal government, under the aegis of the Family Violence Initiative, work with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Aboriginal women's organizations, Status of Women Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and Department of Public Safety Canada to pilot and disseminate results of collaborative approaches at the community level to violence against Aboriginal women. (p.43)

2012 - Bridging the Divide: Building Safe Shelters for Women and Families in BC. (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, 2012).

- [BC organizations seeking to ensure gender-responsive service delivery in shelters should] Build relationships and links with existing support services for women such as health care, legal, social housing, social services and employment training programs, and violence against women and victim support services; (p.45)
- [Government should] Develop an inter-governmental working committee, comprised of provincial, municipal and BC Housing representative, to focus on women's safety, homeless families and creation of best practices in shelters inclusive of contract language, integration in the BC Housing Frameworks, a gender responsive framework, and a protocol for homeless families in the province when there is no shelter, nor viable Transition House option. This is crucial in meeting the Human Rights Act and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms' obligations to protect women. (p.45)

2012 - Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- That the Government of British Columbia take the following actions to demonstrate a renewed and serious commitment to protect children who are exposed to or are living in circumstances of domestic violence. This means identifying and closing the gaps in policies and practices across government programs and services that touch the lives of children, including child welfare, adult mental health, criminal and family justice systems, police, victim services, education and income assistance...[including]...
 - appointment of a permanent lead or agency of government with sufficient authority across government to be accountable for delivering on a comprehensive approach...
 - information sharing, coordination and collaboration amongst all components of the system. (p.96)

3. Addressing Gaps In Services For Marginalized Women And Their Children

Many women who are victims of violence are members of marginalized groups – groups that experience particular discrimination by society as a whole and even sometimes by the systems that are responsible for assisting them. Many of these women are especially vulnerable to becoming victims of violence, and, if they are victimized, many of these women find it harder to access the help that they need.

Aboriginal Women

Special attention must be paid to the needs of Aboriginal women because of the history and impacts of colonization on Aboriginal communities in Canada and the very high levels of domestic and sexual violence that are perpetrated against this vulnerable group.

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...immediately increase funding for direct services to aboriginal people suffering the effects of family and sexual violence, using service delivery models and guidelines currently being developed through the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. (p.5)
- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...establish a time-limited, community-based team consisting of aboriginal women and men to address the problems of family and sexual violence in aboriginal communities. (p.5)

1992 - *Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities. A First Nations Report.* (Frank, 1992)

- Substantially increased financial resources should be allocated to enhance and create aboriginal-specific programs and services both off and on reserves, related to all socio-economic, health, educational, and justice areas of family violence. The allocation should reflect the disproportionate rate of social problems faced by aboriginal communities. (p.20)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- All services dealing with Aboriginal and Inuit communities must acknowledge and work to alleviate the underlying social factors that directly contribute to alcohol, drug and solvent use. Additional supports, as identified communities, must be made immediately available until such

- time as sufficient education, employment/economic base and adequate housing are in place to alleviate those underlying causes. (p.38)
- Guarantee that all Aboriginal and Inuit women receive the same standard and quality of services as women in non-Aboriginal and non-Inuit communities. (p.46)
- 2003 - The “Start of Something Powerful”: Strategizing for Safer Communities for BC Aboriginal Women.** (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre; BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, 2003).
- The Ministries of Public Safety & Solicitor General, Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services, Health Planning and Health Services allocate core funding directly to Aboriginal organizations and programs in the areas of anti-violence and health related services. (p.16)
 - The Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General review and alter their population-based funding formula to ensure that women in remote communities have access to services. (p.16)
- 2004 - Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada.** (Amnesty International, 2004).
- All levels of government, including Indigenous governance structures, should:
 - undertake a review of outstanding recommendations from Canadian commissions, inquiries and inquests pertaining to the safety and welfare of indigenous people with a view to ensuring their timely implementation
 - clearly outline the measures taken to address the problem of violence against Indigenous women in Canada in reports to relevant UN human rights bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee. (p.64)
- 2005 - Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence.** (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; Ending Violence Association of BC; and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre, 2005).
- What is required is on-going funding to support culturally relevant Aboriginal programming and services that are designed, delivered and implemented by healthy, Aboriginal women, Elders and community workers...Recognition of and changes to...“power dynamics” that support the continuation of violence against Aboriginal women will aid in shaping a community-based response...Advocating for Aboriginal women’s safety

includes the establishment of on and off reserve safe houses or shelters, counselling programs and victim assistance programs. (p.17)

- [To implement the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People and the United Nations human rights treaty bodies' recommendations that relate to "poverty and social marginalization of Indigenous peoples in Canada"...the Canadian government needs to work with Aboriginal women to work towards solutions to stop the violence and include them in any policy discussions that will directly affect them...(p.19)

2006 - *Aboriginal Women and Family Violence.* (Ipsos-Reid Corporation, 2006).

- Increase funding for resources to assist Aboriginal women victims of male violence. This should encompass...
 - Short and long term counselling for victims of violence
 - Provision of basic resources like clothing and food for children
 - Interim financial assistance for victims of violence
 - Provision of affordable transportation to available resources (p.8)
- Provide 24 hour, 7-day access to assistance from first responders within reasonable proximity to communities. (p.9)

2006 - *The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report.* (Lheidli T'enneh First Nation et al, 2006).

- That the Highway of Tears Community Governing Body, undertake the development of an Emergency Readiness Plan...This emergency readiness plan must specifically delineate all actions to be undertaken, and all services provided, by a Governing Body and the RCMP for the victim's family and for the missing victim (p.26)
- That this Emergency Readiness Plan contain a missing persons Alert and Response component in the form of community emergency readiness teams. (p.27)

2007 - *Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women.* (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Addressing Gaps in Services for Marginalized Women

- Increase the number of funded aboriginal-specific victim support programs in areas with high aboriginal populations. In rural areas, consider aboriginal satellite programs or aboriginal Outreach workers attached to programs serving the general population. (p.4)

Legal Aid and Related Family Law Services for Abused Women

- Legal Aid family lawyers representing abused aboriginal...women must also have expertise in aboriginal...law as required. (p.2)

2009 - No More Stolen Sisters. The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Amnesty International, 2009)

- [A national] plan of action should include:...
- Review all social programmes to ensure that funding for programmes of Indigenous women, children and families is equitable to those available to non-Indigenous people in Canada and is sufficient to ensure effective protection and full enjoyment of their rights. Particular priority should be given to eliminating discrimination in funding for Indigenous child welfare
- Restoration of funding to fulfill the commitment set out in the Kelowna Accord...to end inequalities in health, housing, education, and other services for Indigenous peoples (p.26)

2011 - Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls: Empowerment – A New Beginning. (Standing Committee on the Status of Women. 2011).

- The Committee recommends that the federal government continue to work with its provincial and territorial partners and stakeholders to determine what more can be done within existing service models to better address the needs of Aboriginal victims of violence. (p.43)

Immigrant and Refugee Women

Immigrant and refugee women who are victims of violence face particular difficulties in accessing help because English may not be their first language, they may be socially isolated, they may depend on their abuser for financial support or for their immigrant or refugee status, they may not be aware of their rights or what services exist to help them, or they may fear racism or discrimination from the system if they report the abuse.

1980 - Battered and Blamed. A report on wife assault from the perspective of battered women. Prepared for the Women's Research Centre and Vancouver Transition House. (Barnsley, 1980).

- Support services and programs based on the recognition of cultural and language differences must be established and adequately funded. (p.130)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must:
 - ensure that all services to victims of family and sexual violence are accessible and hospitable to immigrants and people of colour.
 - establish a time-limited, inter-agency, multi-minority team to address the problems of family and sexual violence in the context of minority cultures. (p.5)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- Provide information regarding violence against women in Canada and programs, services and protections that a woman may use directly to women in their own language upon arrival in Canada. (p.94)
- Ensure that every woman who is new to Canada has a contact she can call upon if faced with violence. (p.94)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Provide ethno-specific and multicultural victim services with appropriately trained staff in communities where population numbers warrant them. (p.6)
- Translate appropriate information materials into the language of the major cultural communities where population numbers warrant them. (p.6)

2004 - *Nowhere to Turn? Responding to Partner Violence Against Immigrant and Visible Minority Women.* (Ekuwa, 2004).

- Next Steps...Progressive policies and action strategies need to be developed in such areas as employment equity, subsidized housing and stable funding for ethno-cultural service and settlement agencies. (p.35)

2007 - *Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women.* (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Addressing Gaps in Services for Marginalized Women

- Provide funding for programs to enhance specialized services for ethno-specific and multicultural services for abused immigrant women, including satellite offices or Outreach workers attached to existing anti-violence programs. (p.4)
- Provide interpreters for family law cases at Supreme Court, for other essential legal services such as court registry business, court

preparation, Crown, and legal aid, and for essential health care services, on a priority basis. (p.4)

Coordination of Responses to Violence Against Women

- A committee of criminal justice and family justice personnel, immigration officials, and representatives of community-based immigrant-serving and anti-violence organizations should be struck to identify domestic and sexual violence areas where criminal and family justice issues and immigration and sponsorship issues overlap, to seek solutions to problems. (p.2)

Legal Aid and Related Family Law Services for Abused Women

- Interpreters should be made available for family matters in Supreme Court, as well as for court registry matters and matters dealt with in Legal Aid offices. (p.2)
- Legal Aid family lawyers representing abused...immigrant women must also have expertise in...immigration law as required. (p.2)

2007 - Empowerment of Immigrant and Refugee Women Who Are Victims of Violence in Their Intimate Relationships. (Light, 2007).

- Provide and enhance funding for both system-based and community-based services to enable them to access trained and appropriate interpreters for as long as a particular client is utilizing these services. Interpreters serving women who are victims of domestic violence should be trained not only in interpretation skills but also in the dynamics of violence. (p.69)
- For all services funded to support abused immigrant women, take into account abused immigrant women's particular needs for a comprehensive, caring service from one key agency to respond to the multiplicity of their requirements, either by direct services or by brokering services from other organizations. These services should have broad mandates and sufficient staff to assign one key worker to provide or broker services for each woman. Staffing levels, mandates, and training should also facilitate proactive intervention, advocacy, and accompaniment as key services to meet the needs of abused immigrant women...(p.71)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General take the lead in a special initiative that focuses on the issue of safety of children and youth in domestic violence situations, by ensuring a coordinated, effective and responsive system in Greater Victoria and throughout British Columbia [including]...the participation of the Ministry of Attorney General, Crown Counsel, MCFD and representatives of the RCMP and municipal police

- forces [including]...Provisions to ensure the system is accessible and understandable to people outside of mainstream culture and language (p. 54)
- That MCFD strengthen services to immigrant women in circumstances of domestic violence [including]:
 - Specify circumstances in which interpreters should be involved
 - Involve key workers from immigrant communities in providing services
 - Develop a staff education strategy about domestic violence in immigrant communities
 - Identify cultural and linguistic barriers and strategies to address these to keep victims safe (p.64)

2010 - Provincial Briefing Documents. Safety for Immigrant, Refugee, & Non-Status Women. (Ending Violence Association of BC, MOSAIC, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services, 2010).

Legal Aid for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- The BC Government must provide sufficient funds to pay for adequate qualified interpretation services for those who are not fluent in English, for the [legal aid] application and intake process, interviews, and court appearances. (p.4)

Collection of Sponsorship Debt Accrued by Abused Immigrant Women

- In the interest of safety for abused immigrant women and their children, the BC Government should take immediate steps to address the issue of sponsorship debt incurred by sponsors who are victims of domestic violence. (p.4)
- The BC Government should work with CIC and provincial ministries and community agencies to ensure that abused immigrant women are provided with accurate and consistent information on:
 - the facts about sponsorship
 - their rights in Canada
 - relevant Canadian laws, including immigration, family, civil, and criminal law
 - options available to them in Canada, including language training, settlement services, skills training, social assistance, cultural support services, legal advocacy, and victim support services. (p.5)

Family Justice Issues for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- The Ministry of Attorney General, in its continuing efforts to improve the family justice process in BC, should ensure that any woman not fluent in English is provided with language interpretation by a qualified interpreter in all family law related matters, both within and outside of court. (p.4)
- The Ministry of Attorney General should make every effort to ensure that language interpreters used to assist abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status women in family law matters, including psychological assessments, are trained in the nature and dynamics of domestic violence and the particular impacts of such violence for immigrant, refugee, and non-status women and their children. (p.4)

Health Care Services for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- As part of the Province's *Domestic Violence Action Plan*, health ministries should work with Regional Health Authorities and CIC to establish clinics and other strategies across BC to provide accessible health care services to abused non-status women and their children, as well as health care services specifically targeted to abused immigrant and refugee women. (p.5)
- BC Health ministries should work with health authorities, hospitals, clinics, and other health care professionals to develop province-wide policy and guidelines to ensure that regardless of where a non-English-speaking patient in BC seeks health care services, she will be provided with appropriate interpretation services in a timely fashion. Policy and guidelines should address best practices for provision of language interpretation...(p.5)

Criminal Justice System Issues for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- In order to address the safety of abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status women and their children, MPSSG and the MAG should ensure that abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status women who do not speak English are provided with a qualified language interpreter for all criminal justice matters, both within and outside the court, including at the time of the initial police response. (p.3)
- MPSSG and the MAG should make every effort to ensure that language interpreters used to assist abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status women in criminal justice system matters are trained in the nature and dynamics of domestic violence and the particular impacts of such violence for immigrant, refugee, and non-status women and their children. (p.3)

Coordination of Responses to Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-status Women who are Victims of Violence in BC

- The BC Government should work with CIC to help ensure that accurate, complete, and consistent information in their own language is provided to immigrant, refugee, and non-status women, including participants or prospective participants in temporary foreign worker programs, about their rights, responsibilities, and options, both before they come to Canada and immediately upon their arrival. (p.7)

2011 - *This is a man's problem: Strategies for working with South Asian male perpetrators of intimate partner violence.* (Thandi, Gary, with Bethan Lloyd, 2011).

- The development of community-based programs that address the challenges of the immigration and acculturation process including underemployment and discrimination, issues of Canadian family law and laws concerning violence, cultural norms concerning relationships (including marriage and parenting). (p.102)

Women with Disabilities

Women with disabilities may be particularly vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence for many reasons, including dependence on care-givers, lack of mobility, communication difficulties, and perceived lack of credibility in the justice system. While progress has been made over the past 30 years, many services are still not accessible or hospitable to those with disabilities.

1989 - *Beating the "Odds": Violence and Women with Disabilities.* (Ridington 1989).

- That all monies allocated for the establishment of Transition Houses or the expansion of existing Transition Houses be conditional on the houses being totally accessible to women with all types of disabilities; and that DAWN Canada and/or its designated affiliates be consulted prior to action regarding accessibility. (p.16)
- That all Rape Crisis Centres, Court Services, Crisis Centres and Police Stations and all other 'support services' be accessible to women with all kinds of disabilities. (p.16)

1990 - *Meeting Our Needs: Access Manual for Transition Houses.* (Masuda & Ridington, 1990).

- The federal and provincial governments make money available immediately to transition houses, women's shelters, and rape crisis centres to make the necessary renovations to become accessible or to find other space that is or can be made accessible. (p.148)

- The federal and provincial governments make money available immediately for transition houses and women's shelters to make all their frequently used resource materials and other pertinent information available to women with visual, learning, and developmental disabilities and that the purchase of TDDs be included in this package. (p.148)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must:...ensure that all services to victims of family and sexual violence are accessible and hospitable to people with disabilities... (p.5)
- Provide support for Alcohol and Drug Programs to develop joint approaches with front-line community agencies providing services to family and sexual violence victims and offenders to address the needs of those dealing with both addiction and family or sexual violence. (p.7)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- [All police forces, board and commissions should] Provide or co-ordinate, with community agencies, supports for victims with disabilities. These could include TDD lines, signers, bliss board interpreters, information in Braille and cultural interpreters with knowledge of issues of violence....(p.51)
- Expand legal aid, victim support and women's advocacy programs, including pilot projects for women with disabilities and other victim witnesses who have special needs in the courtroom, until equal access [to legal services] for all women is achieved. (p.57)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions explore ways to ensure the provision of a continuum of accessible, comprehensive and co-ordinated community-based and government services to victims and their families, including...mental health and addiction services where required. (p.92)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Addressing Gaps in Services for Marginalized Women

- Provide funding and encourage innovative approaches to enhance physical accessibility of services, interpreters for those with communication disabilities, and adaptation of key information materials for those with sight/hearing impairments. (p.4)
- Provide adequate funding for victim support services for abused women with mental health and substance use issues, such as STV counselling. (p.4)

2008 - Broken Promises. Parents Speak about B.C.'s Child Welfare System. (Pivot Legal Society, 2008).

- Increase access to child care, health and other supportive services that are accessible prior to a full-blown mental health crisis, in order to allow parents to use preventative measure to manage their illness. (p.113)

2009 - Disabled Women and Shelter Access: Early Findings of the National Accessibility and Accommodation Survey. (DAWN-RAFH Canada, 2009).

- [Shelters should] Keep information about community ASL interpreters available to shelter staff. (p.9)
- [Shelters should] Keep updated information on community resources for parents with disabilities (including where to find accessible cribs, strollers, lifts, etc.) (p.9)

Other Marginalized Women/Marginalized Women as a Whole

Other women who may be marginalized or discriminated against include women who live in poverty, lesbians, bisexual women, trans women, women who are very young, elderly women, women who live in rural or isolated areas, and women in the sex trade.

1980 - Battered and Blamed. A report on wife assault from the perspective of battered women. Prepared for the Women's Research Centre and Vancouver Transition House. (Barnsley, 1980).

- Social welfare policy must be amended to reflect the fact that a woman and her children constitute viable family unit. Policies and procedures must be revised to ensure realistic levels of support and financial assistance for single mothers and their children. (p.129)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- All planning, development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives to address family or sexual violence must be done in consultation with people who are particularly discriminated against, including aboriginal people, immigrants, people of colour, elderly people, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men, people who are poor and people living in rural and isolated areas. (p.3)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- We recommend the government take steps to accommodate the needs of our diverse and multicultural population by:
 - Ensuring all victim services within the province have staff or have access to resource persons who can adequately address the social, cultural, and language requirements of immigrant women, women of colour, aboriginal women, lesbians, and women with disabilities...
 - Making courtrooms accessible to people with visual, physical, and hearing impediments and to people who do not speak French or English. Courtrooms and other justice system support service buildings must be wheelchair accessible, and sign language interpreters, braille translations, Bliss symbolics, and other interpretive support persons and materials should be available to people who seek access to the justice system. Qualified translators must also be available in the courtroom and for dealings with outside services such as legal aid, police, victim services, and lawyer referral services. (p.7 – 118)

1998 - *Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice Reform in British Columbia: Identifying Some Preliminary Questions and Concerns. Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Programs.* (Goundry, 1998).

- There is an urgent requirement for comprehensive and informed Gender/Diversity Analysis as well as an equality analysis of [restorative justice issues]. This particular implications of these initiatives for ethnic/cultural communities and gay/lesbians/bisexuals should be identified and reviewed for the express purpose of ensuring these initiatives do not compromise the safety of members of these communities and in fact serve these communities well. As well, the implications of these initiatives for poor people, elderly people, and for people with disabilities have yet to be considered. (p.47)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Provide professional development opportunities for criminal justice system personnel to increase their knowledge about and proficiency in dealing with a range of cultural and other diversity groups. (p.6)

2004 - *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada.* (Amnesty International, 2004).

- In consultation with Indigenous people's organizations and organizations representing ethnic minorities, protocols should be developed to ensure that police consistently record and appropriately use data on the ethnicity of the victims and perpetrators of violence crimes. (p.65)

2005 - *Family Law Services for Women Who are Victims of Violence: What Can Be Done?* Paper Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs. (Light, 2005).

- Establish a multi-disciplinary working group, including representatives from government, LSS, women-serving agencies, diversity groups, the Bar Association, the Law Society, provincial anti-violence organizations, provincial educational institutions and potential funders to explore the development of a multi-disciplinary approach to family law services that:....
 - provides flexibility in the provision of services to meet the needs of working women, women with children, women who live in poverty, and women who speak languages other than English;
 - provides for effective ways to meet the needs of a range of diversity groups and women with special needs, including consideration of, for example, the provision of services out of existing multi-cultural or immigrant-serving agencies...(p.24)
- Develop strategies to help ensure that abused women, including women whose first language is not English and women who face other communication challenges, are informed about their legal rights in the family justice process, including print as well as web-based resource, resources in languages other than English... and use of innovative approaches to disseminate information to those who need it. (p.4)

2007 - *Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women.* (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Specialized Support for Women who are Victims of Violence

- Special efforts should be made to address the needs of young women under 18 who are victims of violence, including funding to existing Stopping the Violence Counselling programs to provide services to these young women and training for service providers on the needs of these young women. (p.2)

Addressing Gaps in Services for Marginalized Women

- In all decisions regarding funding for basic social services such as income assistance, affordable housing, and bridging, pre-employment, and job retraining programs, consider their impact on the safety of particularly vulnerable women who are victims of violence, and their children. Women and children who cannot leave abusive situations because of issues of poverty, housing, or unemployment, are women and children who are seriously at risk. (p.3)
- Provide appropriate and effective cross-sectoral in-service training to address the particular needs of marginalized women, on an ongoing basis to staff of all victim support services, as well as system-based justice, health, and social services to help ensure that existing services can better meet the needs of marginalized women. (p.3)

Legal Aid and Related Family Law Services for Abused Women

- Key information for abused women dealing with family law issues should be made available in print resources as well as on-line and should be translated into all major languages used in BC. Resources should be developed in alternative formats for those with low literacy skills. (p.2)
- In rural areas where family lawyers are not available, Legal Aid must develop innovative strategies for providing appropriate lawyers where required, as well as assistance with transportation to court for women who face particular barriers getting to court locations. (p.2)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- Government should provide adequate funding for victim support services for marginalized groups, including...
 - Innovative approaches to breaking through isolation and meeting the needs of abused immigrant women, Aboriginal women, women with disabilities, women living in rural and isolated communities and other marginalized women

- comprehensive models of service delivery...
- interpreter services...
- increased capacity of women's own...community to meet their own needs
- enhanced public education about availability of services.... (p.56)
- The Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General should enhance their efforts to address systemic factors that affect victim safety, including...lack of interpreters and services in immigrant women's own language, including police services; lack of resources and training to deal with victims or offenders with mental health issues...(p.53)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- The provision of training and resources to police, crown counsel, victim services and MCFD to ensure an adequate, accessible and comprehensive response to all victims, regardless of culture, ethnicity, language, gender, age, ability, religion, sexual identity and geographic location. Attention will be paid to the following:
 - Cultural competency training
 - Training and guidelines related to violence against women with emphasis on immigrant and settlement service providers
 - Provision of information in multiple languages and access to interpreters
 - Timely statement language translation
 - Outreach to highly marginalized communities. (p.9)

2011 - Report on Violence Against Women, Mental Health and Substance Use. (BC Society of Transition Houses, 2011).

- Focus needs to be placed on creating and enhancing service, projects and collaborative initiatives that respond to violence against women, mental health and substance abuse. (p.20)
- Resources should be directed towards the women who are the most marginalized or who are most in need of them. (p.20)

The Importance of Safe, Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is a very significant issue for many women who are trying to leave an abusive relationship. Many women tell us that they have stayed in a violent situation because of their financial dependence on the abusive partner

and because they had no affordable housing option for themselves and their children.

1991 - *The War Against Women.* (Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and the Status of Women, 1991).

- The Committee recommends that the federal government take the lead role in coordinating the development of a housing policy in Canada and providing tangible support to resolve the crisis in affordable and accessible accommodation confronting low income earners and the poor, particularly for women who are not safe in their homes. (p.36)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...fund more affordable housing so that women who are leaving abusive relationships can meet their shelter needs. (p.8)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- Immediately implement all housing recommendations in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. (p.94)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions explore ways to ensure the provision of a continuum of accessible, comprehensive and co-ordinated community-based and government services to victims and their families, including...access to affordable and safe housing...(p.92)

2006 - *Aboriginal Women and Family Violence.* (Ipsos-Reid Corporation, 2006).

- Increase funding for resources to assist Aboriginal women victims of male violence [including] provision of short and long-term housing for victims of violence. (p.8)

2011 - *Report on Violence Against Women, Mental Health and Substance Use.* (BC Society of Transition Houses, 2011).

- Focus on providing housing first then providing services as desired for the woman. This framework is based in evidence that stressor that impact mental health and substance use may be minimized when women have

access to safe and affordable housing and thus housing needs to be a first priority. (p.22)

2012 - *Bridging the Divide: Building Safe Shelters for Women and Families in BC.* (Bayes & Brewin, 2012).

- [BC organizations seeking to ensure gender-responsive service delivery in shelters should] Designate separate women-only spaces including sleeping areas, washrooms, lounge/eating areas and program/counseling space (p.45)
- [Government should] Prior to every release of an RFP in rural communities, consider all possible alternative for homeless women including such options as mobile homes, scatter housing or other low-cost options rather than assume that separate space for women is cost-prohibitive (p.46)

2012 - *Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now.* (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- The following key components must be improved in order to ensure better protection of children and support of families...Victim support and safety planning, including access to housing and practical supports for victims of domestic violence and their children. (p.96)

4. Women's Reluctance To Participate In The Criminal Justice Process

Women have good reasons to be reluctant to participate in the criminal justice process, including fear of reprisal from their abuser, financial dependence on their abuser, fear of discrimination by police or courts, fear of losing their children, or fear of the unknown.

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- Where the victim requests the protective measures be rescinded, she will be referred to specialized victim services or interviewed by Crown. If the victim continues to request rescission of a protective order, the Crown shall place before the court the relevant history of the abusive relationship and oppose the application if there is a history of abuse or, even without a history of abuse, if the Crown believes the woman or her children are at risk. (p.7 – 32)
- The Crown should ensure the victim/witness is personally served with a summons to appear as a witness, preferably by the investigating police officer. Where the victim does not wish to proceed and refuses to testify, the Crown should: (i) refer the victim to an advocacy or victim services program or interview the victim to determine the reasons behind her decision; (ii) consider alternative methods of proving the assault that do not require the evidence of the victim, such as admissions by the accused, other eye witness testimony, similar fact evidence, medical evidence, evidence of the arresting officer, prior to entering a stay of proceedings; (iii) consider a material witness warrant and/or a request for contempt proceedings only as a last resort where there are children at risk and no other government intervention is currently occurring within the family. Material witness warrants and contempt proceedings should not be used unless approved by Regional Crown. In those rare cases where a material witness warrant is issued, it should not be entered into CPIC and, once served, the victim/witness should be taken before a Justice of the Peace and released on appropriate conditions. (p.7 – 46)

1998 - *Recommendations for Amendments to "E" Division RCMP Operational Policies Pertaining to Relationship Violence and the Processing of Firearms Applications.* (Wood, 1998).

- The Violence in Relationships Check Sheet be amended to reflect the mandatory obligation on an investigating officer to attempt to persuade a reluctant complainant to cooperate with the investigation and prosecution or to attempt to obtain her consent to a referral to an appropriate community based victims services agency. (p.24)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Incorporate perspectives of victims, especially those with multiple needs, into all professional development programs for criminal justice system personnel in order that victim reluctance and the impact of diverse life circumstances can be more fully understood. (p.5)
- Explore avenues to increase the number of “victimless prosecutions”, learning from those U.S. jurisdictions where such prosecutions have been successful. (p.5)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- Where a victim is unwilling or unable to testify or to support the prosecution, Crown counsel (via the police or victim service worker) should endeavour to determine the reason for the victim’s reluctance...If the recantation is not credible, Crown counsel should consider whether there is other credible evidence on which to proceed in the absence of direct testimony by the victim. Where there is no longer a reasonable prospect of conviction based on the available evidence, the prosecution should be terminated. (p.87)

2004 - *Legal Aid Denied. Women and the Cuts to Legal Services in BC.* (Brewin, 2004).

- [The Province of British Columbia should] Engage in extensive and rigorous research into the true nature of women’s experience with the justice system to identify the impacts of current government policy (p.25)

2004 - *Nowhere to Turn? Responding to Partner Violence Against Immigrant and Visible Minority Women.* (Ekuwa, 2004).

- Next Steps...a gender analysis of the dual-charging policy used by some law enforcement agencies ...is needed. Such an analysis would also help identify the specific needs and vulnerabilities of immigrant and visible minority women. (p.35)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Barriers to Women's Participation in the Criminal Justice Process

- Police, Crown counsel, child protection workers, health care personnel, and others who respond to the needs of domestic violence victims, should be specially trained on:
 - Possible reasons why abused women might be “reluctant” to proceed with prosecution
 - The particular barriers faced by many marginalized women such as immigrant women, aboriginal women, and women with disabilities
 - Appropriate responses to women who are “reluctant” to proceed, including intensive support, proactive referral to community-based support and counselling services, practical assistance, information provision, and proactive coordination
 - Innovative investigation and prosecution strategies, including use of KGB statements to enable prosecution of cases even where the victim is “reluctant” (p.2)
- The private bar should be encouraged to include in their Code of Ethics clear guidelines or safeguards to help prevent situations in which domestic violence victims are contacted by defence counsel and inappropriately counselled to seek alternatives to prosecution. (p.2)

2007 - Empowerment of Immigrant and Refugee Women Who Are Victims of Violence in Their Intimate Relationships. (Light, 2007).

- In areas with high immigrant populations, attach outreach workers/satellite programs to existing police departments and/or victim support programs specifically to work in those immigrant communities, with a view to encouraging abused immigrant women to come forward for assistance. (p.8)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- Government should provide enhanced ongoing training on challenging service delivery issues such as effective referral, intensive support for women who are fearful of proceeding in the criminal justice system, and meeting the needs of marginalized women. (p.57)

- When necessary and appropriate justice system personnel should work with victim service workers to develop protocols to guide responses to challenging service delivery issues such as those named above. (p.57)

5. Risk Assessment And Safety Planning

Risk levels and safety planning needs of abused women and their children vary over time with their particular circumstances. It is crucial that all system responders understand their responsibilities in terms of risk assessment and safety planning, work together to ensure a coordinated approach, and are well trained to assess and manage risk effectively.

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- [All police forces, boards and commissions should] Provide training for all members of the force. It should teach force members how to determine the risk of further harm posed by offenders, according to research and prior patterns of abuse; explain evidentiary and safety issues related to stalking and criminal harassment, children who witness violence, disabled persons who are abused, ritual and cult abuse, date rape, sexual abuse involving breach of trust, and the use of pornography or other sexually violent media in the perpetration of abuse. (p.49)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions explore ways to ensure the provision of a continuum of accessible, comprehensive and co-ordinated community-based and government services to victims and their families, including...safety planning. (p.92)
- It is recommended that the use of validated risk assessment tools be recognized as a way to help people make decisions at various stages of the justice system. It is recommended that jurisdictions further explore the use of risk assessment tools, and exercise caution when offering guidelines for intervention based on the results of their use. Any related training should communicate the limitations associated with risk assessment tools. (p.94)

2004 - *Inquest into the death of Bryon Bruce Heron (deaths of Sherry Heron and Anna Adams).* (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2004).

- Patients in B.C. Hospitals shall be informed, in writing, of options available to them if they feel at risk. (p.1)

2006 - Verdict at Coroner's Inquest: Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Deaths of Seth Thornett and William Bethell. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2006).

- That police, government and community based victim services agencies work together to develop... coordinated risk management strategies in violence in relationship cases. (p.10)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

High-Risk Information-Sharing Protocol

- Support is needed from the Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General in the form of leadership, expertise, and assistance from ministry staff and clear endorsement of the current initiative to develop a provincial information-sharing protocol in high risk domestic violence cases. This initiative should include police, corrections, Crown, victim services, and CCWS. (p.2)

Barriers to Women's Participation in the Criminal Justice Process

- Adequate funding is required to ensure that...police, and Crown can provide the...risk assessment necessary to keep women and their children safe and to encourage women to use the criminal justice system when they are at risk. (p.3)

2007 - Verdict at Coroner's Inquest. Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Death of Kum Lea Chun, Moon Kyu Park, Christian Thomas Jin Young Lee, Yong Sun Park, Hyun Joon Lee. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2007).

- Before release of high risk accused on bail, properly screened and appropriate sureties must be provided. (p.2A)
- Risk assessment be made at the front end of process before bail conditions set. (p.2A)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- Government should develop and maintain a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to ensure that safety assessment and risk management are integrated into all interventions by criminal justice personnel and contracted victim services who address domestic violence. This should include information-sharing protocols and training. (p.53)

- Consideration should be given to incorporating a requirement into the police data collection system (PRIME) that, if an incident is a “spousal”, the police member is required to enter information about risk and safety. (p.53)

2009 - No More Stolen Sisters. The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Amnesty International, 2009).

- [A national] plan of action should include:...The promotion of standardized protocols for police handling of missing persons cases including a tool for fair and effective assessment of the risk to the missing individual. (p.26)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That MCFD...develop policies [and] standards...to provide social workers with clear direction in assessing the safety of children who are exposed to domestic violence:...
 - Policies and standards should include the use of standardized risk assessment processes to assess both the risks posed by the perpetrator and the risks to the child
 - Policies and standards should include information necessary for the development and implementation of safety plans following assessment... (p.47)
- That the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General take the lead in a special initiative that focuses on the issue of safety of children and youth in domestic violence situations, by ensuring a coordinated, effective and responsive system in Greater Victoria and throughout British Columbia [including]...the participation of the Ministry of Attorney General, Crown Counsel, MCFD and representatives of the RCMP and municipal police forces [including]...Development of risk/danger assessment tools and safety planning tools (p. 54)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- The development of information-sharing protocols between all service providers for all high risk cases under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Domestic Violence Working Group. This entails directives from respective ministries to commit to sharing information in instances where public safety is at stake by means of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) or Information Sharing Agreements (ISA). The MOU's and ISA's detail each agency's duty to report on cases of domestic violence. (p. 8)

- [Minister of Health Services and Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development should undertake] The collaborative development of practice guidelines for assessing risk for domestic and other forms of violence that include a focus on the assessment of homicidal ideation and intent....(p.11)

2010 - Provincial Briefing Documents. Safety for Immigrant, Refugee, & Non-Status Women. (Ending Violence Association of BC, MOSAIC, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services, 2010)

Protection of Children of Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- As part of its *Domestic Violence Action Plan*, the BC Government should ensure that its selected standard risk assessment tool and its advanced risk assessment training adequately and specifically addresses the safety of children of abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status women. (p.3)

2012 - Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- That the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, take immediate steps to ensure that all staff and professionals connected to their systems understand the risk factors relating to children of parents with a serious untreated mental illness, and promote the well-being of children by...
 - Provision for an active outreach and monitoring program across the province, and identifying and monitoring for factors which may increase the risk (p.95)
- The following key components must be improved in order to ensure better protection of children and support of families:
 - Standardized risk and safety assessment tools...
 - Victim support and safety planning...(p.96)

6. Provincial Policies On Violence Against Women And Children

While some very good work has been done on provincial justice and child protection policies over the past three decades, much more remains to be done, and some weaknesses in existing policies should be addressed. Issues of particular concern include the use of alternative measures in cases of violence against women, the identification of women as suspects or the arrest of women in domestic violence cases, and the need for province-wide justice and cross sector policy on sexual assault.

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...develop a sexual assault policy for the justice system similar to those developed for wife assault and child sexual abuse. (p.6)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- The Crown should not institute a post-charge diversion program in wife assault except in exceptional circumstances and where:
 - the victim is advised;
 - this is the first criminal charge of this kind...
 - the history of abuse in the relationship is fully disclosed to the Crown and has been carefully considered prior to a decision concerning diversion;
 - the offender agrees to attend a mandatory counselling program;
 - the victim is made aware of counselling alternatives (or referred to specialized victim services for a discussion of counselling alternatives).

We do not believe a pre-charge diversion plan is appropriate for wife assault. The justice system must first address the conduct and then consider other options, which may include treatment under supervised conditions. (p. 7 – 42)

- We recommend the police [and Crown] review and amend existing [sexual assault]...policies, in consultation with the expanded wife assault coordination committees...(p.7 – 76)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- Revise all health policies to recognize the complexity of violence against women and the fact that violence is not an illness. (p.45)
- Ensure that policies governing conditional release practices make the safety of women and children a priority. (p.52)

1998 - *Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice Reform in British Columbia: Identifying Some Preliminary Questions and Concerns. Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Programs.* (Goundry, 1998).

- The “exceptional circumstances” provision [this refers to the Crown counsel policy provision that allows for alternative measures in some serious offences] should be eliminated in relation to VAWIR offenses, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, criminal harassment, and hate-motivated offenses until there is an opportunity to conduct all of the necessary research and consult with all of the affected parties. (p.48)
- Until such time as “exceptional circumstances” is eliminated, these determinations should be made in consultation with specialized victim assistance programs. This directive should be expressly written into all violence-related policies. (p.48)

1998 - *Recommendations for Amendments to “E” Division RCMP Operational Policies Pertaining to Relationship Violence and the Processing of Firearms Applications.* (Wood, 1998).

- The Division VIR Policy be rewritten using gender specific language in order to reinforce the reality that in relationship violence, women are the primary victims. (p.48).

2000 - *Developing a Dialogue: A Preliminary Discussion Paper on Child Protection Issues in Cases Involving Violence Against Women and Children.* (Ruebsaat, 2000).

- That the Ministry provide information to the partners in this paper on the frequency of the Ministry’s application for section 28 protective intervention orders in sexual assault/abuse and relationship abuse cases where the offender is known and on the reasons for and against the use of such applications. That, in consultation with the partners in this paper, the Ministry explore the development of policy which allows for the greater use of such orders. (p.33)

2002 - Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System. (Russell, 2002).

- Evaluate, on a province-wide basis, the extent of VAWIR policy implementation and develop strategies to facilitate implementation in communities that require assistance. (p.5)
- Ensure that victim empowerment is considered in all relevant policy and legislative development. (p.6)

2003 - Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation. (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- Where the facts of a particular case initially suggest dual charges against both parties, police should apply a “primary aggressor” screening model, seek Crown review and approval of proposed dual charges for spousal violence, or do both. (p.85)
- The majority of the Working Group recommends against the use of alternative justice processes in spousal abuse cases except in [very specific] circumstances [with specific safeguards, including] ...ongoing assessment and evaluation of alternative justice responses, including those used in spousal abuse cases, against new evidence-based research on the effectiveness of these processes, their ability to ensure the safety of the victim and her children, and their ability to reduce the likelihood of re-offending³ (p.85)

2003 - The “Start of Something Powerful”: Strategizing for Safer Communities for BC Aboriginal Women. (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre; BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, 2003).

- All social policy ministries in BC review existing research about Aboriginal women and violence to expand knowledge and inform policy...(p.16)

2004 - Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Amnesty International, 2004).

- Police should work closely with Indigenous women’s organizations and other frontline groups to identify and implement appropriate and effective protocols for action on missing persons cases, with a view to developing standards for police response in keeping with the risks to Indigenous women and girls. (p.65)

³ This report points out that of all the provinces and territories, only BC and PEI allow pre-charge or post-charge diversion of spousal abuse cases to Alternative Measures programs. (p.85 and p.87)

2004 – An Evaluation of Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women and Children Who Witness Abuse Programs. (BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. Stopping the Violence Branch, 2004).

- Encourage the BCASVACP to develop best practice guidelines for STV service delivery agencies to address strategic program accessibility and management issues, such as waitlists. (p.7)

2004 - Inquest Into The Death of Bryon Bruce Heron (deaths of Sherry Heron and Anna Adams). (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2004).

- Hospitals shall have written policy, procedures and training guidelines formulated with respect to a serious incident, such as the imposition of a restraining order. (p.1)

2005 - Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence. (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; Ending Violence Association of BC; and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre, 2005).

- Specific actions and protocols need to be implemented, designed and supported by the federal and provincial government for missing Aboriginal women and youth cases. The creation of protocols for respectful working relationships with the justice system to support this end is also needed. (p.20)
- There needs to be clear instructions for law enforcement officers that confirm the sex trade worker’s fundamental rights protections and guarantee that they will [be] treated with respect. (p.20)

2006 - Police Classification of Sexual Assault Cases as Unfounded. An Exploratory Study. (Light & Ruebsaat, 2006).

- ...development of detailed sexual assault policy and operational guidelines for the RCMP to guide police practice in the investigation of adult sexual assault and child sexual abuse cases, and to address issues raised in this report, including thoroughness of investigations, the dangers of over-reliance on victim-generated information, and the requirements of unfounded classifications. (p.102)
- ...review of the Vancouver Police Department’s sexual assault policy to ensure that it adequately covers the issues raised in this report, including thoroughness of investigations, the danger of over-reliance on victim-generated information, and the requirements of unfounded classifications. (p.102)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Barriers to Women's Participation in the Criminal Justice Process

- All relevant policy and procedures should be reviewed to ensure they are adequate to encourage and support victim safety and prosecution even when victims are "reluctant". (p.2)

Effective Enforcement of Protection Orders

- Criminal Justice Branch should reinstate its strong pro-charge policy in domestic violence cases, to enable a proper and thorough assessment of the degree of risk facing a woman, before resort is made to pre-charge alternate measures, including peace bonds. (p.2)

Provincial Justice Policies on Violence Against Women and Children

- Update and implement the Sexual Assault Policy and Violence Against Children and Youth Policy (p.2)
- ...amend Crown policy provisions to restrict use of alternative measure in domestic violence cases, prior to a charge being laid and only to those cases where strict safeguards are in place and monitored, post-charge, to enable a full assessment of all the circumstances....Reinstate the 1993 provincial VAWIR Crown charging provision which stated that "Given the incidence of violence against women in relationship in Canada, the prosecution of such offences is almost invariably in the public interest." (p.2)

Addressing Sexual Assault

- Update and implement the Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Sexual Assault Policy, taking into account the particular needs of marginalized women, including especially aboriginal women and sex trade workers. (p.2)
- Amend Crown policy to disallow alternative measures in sexual assault cases at the present time. (p.2)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- Consistent with the serious nature of domestic violence, Criminal Justice and Corrections Branch policy should be amended to eliminate pre-charge alternative measures in domestic violence cases and to discourage post-charge alternative measures until research provides evidence that alternative justice processes offer the same or more protection for

domestic violence victims as does the traditional criminal justice process and traditional sanctions. (p.59)

- The VAWIR policy should be monitored on a routine, ongoing basis and should be evaluated periodically in order to assess its impact on domestic violence cases, on recidivism, and on victims' safety. (p.60)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That MCFD propose required changes to legislation, and develop policies [and] standards...to provide social workers with clear direction in assessing the safety of women who are exposed to domestic violence...(p.47)

2010 - Provincial Briefing Documents. Safety for Immigrant, Refugee, & Non-Status Women. (Ending Violence Association of BC, MOSAIC, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services, 2010).

Coordination of Responses to Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-status Women who are Victims of Violence in BC

- As part of the Province's *Domestic Violence Action Plan*, in the review and updating of the *Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy*, MPSSG and MAG should work with police and CIC to develop policy or protocols to address situations where domestic violence is perpetrated against non-status women. (p.7)

Criminal Justice System Issues for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- As part of the Province's review and updating of the *Violence Against Women in Relationships Policy*, MPSSG and MAG should work with police and CIC to develop policy or protocols to address situations where domestic violence is perpetrated against non-status women. These should ensure that: women and their children's safety is a priority; offenders are arrested for their abuse; any pending removal issues arising from women' lack of status be put "on hold" until custody matters have been resolved; and women are aware of these protections. (p.3)

2012 - Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- That...Ministry of Health, in partnership with...Ministry of Children and Family Development, take immediate steps to ensure that all staff and professionals connected to their systems understand the risk factors

relating to children of parents with a serious untreated mental illness, and promote the well-being of children by:...

- developing and implementing policies and procedures to support workers to identify and reduce risk factors for children affected by parental mental illness and domestic violence...
- developing and implementing policies for early detection of risk factors for families associated with mental illness...
- [including] policies and standards for identifying and managing cases where serious parental mental illness may jeopardize the safety and well-being of children, taking into account concurrent substance abuse.
(p.95)

7. Legal Aid

The cutbacks to legal aid over the past decade have seriously eroded women's equality rights and women's and children's safety. Many women cannot access legal services they need to extricate themselves from a violent situation. As family law services have been reduced even more than criminal law services, and women are the primary users of family law legal aid, women have suffered disproportionately as a result of legal aid cuts.

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government in consultation with the community, must:
 - increase funding for legal information, advocacy and representation for victims of family and sexual violence.
 - increase the family law legal aid tariff to allow adequate compensation for lawyers handling family law cases, and for family law cases involving the use of an interpreter. (p.8)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- ...Qualified interpreters must also be available in the courtroom and for dealings with outside services such as legal aid...(p.7 – 118)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- Fulfilling Canada's commitment includes...Establishing national standards and financing for the provision of legal aid for family law cases. (p.8)
- Expand legal aid...until equal access [to the legal system] for all women is achieved. (p.57)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- Provision of adequate legal aid resources will be required to assist women with the longer term victim assistance orders, to make them effective remedies. (p.91)
- It is recommended that jurisdictions explore ways to ensure the provision of a continuum of accessible, comprehensive and co-ordinated community-based and government services to victims and their families, including...access to...legal...services. (p.92)

2004 - Legal Aid Denied. Women and the Cuts to Legal Services in BC. (Brewin, 2004).

- Direct existing funding for legal aid to legal aid services, which means, as the current structure demand, into Legal Services Society revenue for the provision of adequate legal representation in family law matters for those who need it (p.25)
- Develop a legal aid system in BC that reflect the government's constitutional, human rights and international obligations to end women's inequality. (p.25)

2004 - Nowhere to Turn? Responding to Partner Violence Against Immigrant and Visible Minority Women. (Ekuwa, 2004).

- Next Steps...a gender analysis of the provision of legal aid...and custody and access orders issued by the courts is needed. Such an analysis would also help identify the specific needs and vulnerabilities of immigrant and visible minority women. (p.35)

2004 - Voices for Dignity: A Call to End the Harms Caused by Canada's Sex Trade Laws. (Pivot Legal Society, 2004).

- [Law and policy-makers must] accord explicit protection to sex workers in the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and provincial human rights codes, and provide adequate legal aid for human rights cases (p.35)

2005 - Family Law Services for Women Who are Victims of Violence: What Can Be Done? Paper Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs. (Light, 2005).

- Provide adequate funding for Legal Aid to cover legal advice and representation for abused and at-risk women as their cases proceed through the family law system at both court levels. (p.4)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Legal Aid and Related Family Law Services for Abused Women

- Enhanced Legal Aid coverage for representation in both Provincial and Supreme Court should be provided for women who are victims of domestic violence, and particularly for marginalized women, including aboriginal women, immigrant women, and poor women. (p.2)

2008 - *Broken Promises. Parents Speak about B.C.'s Child Welfare System.*
(Pivot Legal Society, 2008).

- Parents must be informed of their ability to obtain legal counsel and how to secure it as soon as there is any risk of removal...(p.82)
- Legal aid tariffs and the number of approved hours for each stage of the child protection process should be revised to reflect the complexity and critical nature of the lawyer's role in child protection cases. (p.82)

2010 - *Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel.*
(BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- Adoption of a leadership role by the government of British Columbia in identifying and piloting civil and family law processes to achieve a more coordinated approach. This includes measures to help ensure [that]... Appropriate legal aid be provided to victims of domestic violence where there is also a pending or an active family law proceeding (p.9)

2010 - *Provincial Briefing Documents. Safety for Immigrant, Refugee, & Non-Status Women.* (Ending Violence Association of BC, MOSAIC, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services, 2010).

Legal Aid for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- The BC Government must fulfill its obligations under Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, and the *United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* by providing adequate funds to Legal Services Society (LSS) to ensure that those who have legitimate needs for legal representation on serious family or immigration matters and cannot afford to pay for it are able to obtain legal representation through Legal Aid. (p.4)
- The BC Government should provide funds to make up any decreased LSS revenue resulting from declining charitable foundation contributions. (p.4)

Collection of Sponsorship Debt Accrued by Abused Immigrant Women

- As part of its *Domestic Violence Action Plan*, the BC Government, in consultation with Legal Services Society, should ensure that abused immigrant women who have legitimate needs for legal representation on issues related to sponsorship debt and cannot afford to pay for it are able to obtain legal representation through Legal Aid. (p.5)

Protection of Children of Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- As part of its *Domestic Violence Action Plan*, the BC Government should ensure that abused immigrant, refugee, and non-status women who have legitimate needs for legal representation on cases that could impact the safety of their children, including child custody cases and cases which could result in a woman's removal from Canada, and cannot afford to pay for it are able to obtain legal representation through Legal Aid. (p.3)

Coordination of Responses to Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-status Women who are Victims of Violence in BC

- Legal Service Society and the Ministry of Attorney General should work with CIC to ensure that Legal Aid and other legal advocacy services are provided to abused non-status women facing removal from Canada, especially while a child custody matter is still before the courts. (p.7)

8. Offender Accountability

Offender accountability is an important element of a coordinated response to violence against women and their children and one of the key goals of the criminal justice system. Offender accountability depends on many factors, including effective enforcement of protection orders and effective treatment of offenders.

Effective Enforcement of Protection Orders

Protection orders can be issued by the justice system or by the child protection system. In domestic violence cases, a high degree of risk is associated with breaches of court ordered protective conditions such as no-contact. An immediate and effective enforcement response is required because of the significant risk of escalating violence.

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- The police should treat all requests for assistance to enforce protective measures, such as no contact orders, peace bonds, and civil restraining orders as serious and important matters. Police must fully investigate all allegations of breach of protection orders and recommend appropriate charges be laid where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe an offence occurred. (p.7 – 31)
- Every breach of a protective order attached to probation must be prosecuted to ensure the safety of the victim and her children and deter the offender from future acts of violence. (p.7 – 32)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Implement one urban and one rural pilot project of coordinated responses to breaches of protection orders. Base these on current successful models and monitor them with a view to assessing their generalizability. (p.4)
- Evaluate, on a province-wide basis, the use and enforcement of Peace Bonds in cases of violence against women in relationships and their impact on women's safety. (p.5)

2002 - *Judgement of Inquiry into the Death of Tammy Lynn Miller.* (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2002).

- That when entering into an undertaking with an accused charged with spousal violence or threats, consideration be given to including a condition requiring the accused to report to a bail supervisor, a community agency, or an individual trained in the issues of spousal violence. (p.6)

2003 - Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation. (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- Where the pro-prosecution policy's test has been met, recognizance orders under section 810 of the *Criminal Code* should not be used in lieu of prosecution. (p.87)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Effective Enforcement of Protection Orders

- The province should provide strong leadership and develop a coordinated, cross-sectoral strategy, involving the justice, health, social services and education systems, to ensure effective utilization and enforcement of justice and MCFD protection orders...(p.2)
- Implement urban and rural pilot projects of coordinated responses to breaches of protection orders, based on current successful models, and monitor them...to assess...their applicability to other communities. (p.3)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- The Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General should investigate and pilot successful models for coordinated protection order enforcement based on effective programs in some jurisdictions. (p.54)
- The Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General, in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, should enhance training on the effective use of various types of protection orders, including their strengths and limitations. As part of this initiative, the updated 2006 Protection Order Enforcement Matrix should be completed and widely distributed in order to maximize access to clear, consistent information about this complex topic for criminal and civil justice system, child protection and youth services personnel. (p.54)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That the Ministry of Attorney General undertake a review and enact necessary changes to improve the administration of justice in criminal matters involving domestic violence, including the establishment of domestic violence courts, to better protect the safety of children and their mothers. The following should be considered:
 - Strengthening access to protective orders for victims, including children, improving enforcement of orders and increasing penalties when they are breached
 - Providing electronic monitoring of alleged offenders on bail supervision when they pose a risk of violence to children and their mothers. (p.58)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- The implementation of mandatory assessment procedures for adding no contact provisions in protection orders to include children, family members and/or others where information exists to indicate they are also at risk in domestic violence cases...(p.8)
- Adoption of a leadership role by the government of British Columbia in identifying and piloting civil and family law process to achieve a more coordinated approach. This includes measures to help ensure...
- Integrated approaches to enforcing protective conditions included in civil and criminal orders...(p.9)

2012 - Honouring Kaitlynn, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- The following key components must be improved in order to ensure better protection of children and support of families...domestic violence policy and legislation, including transparency and sharing of domestic violence orders and accountability of offenders...(p.96)
- That the Ministry of Justice develop and implement a plan to improve legal processes related to domestic violence cases and successful prosecutions of such cases [including]...
 - Effective monitoring and timely enforcement of orders relating to domestic violence by police, bail supervisors and other officials
 - A training program on the effective use and monitoring of various types of protection orders for social workers, school personnel, victim services workers and others who work with children who live in circumstances of domestic violence (p.100)

Treatment for Offenders

A number of challenges need to be addressed in the funding and delivery of treatment for assaultive men, including treatment for non-court-mandated men, coordination with local community services for women, lack of culturally specific treatment options, need for an understanding of the power dynamics of violence against women, and evaluation of the effectiveness of treatment approaches. While most of the recommendations included here are specific to domestic violence offenders, many of the recommendations would also apply to treatment for sex offenders.

1979 - *Family Violence. Report of the Task Force on Family Violence.* (United Way of the Lower Mainland, 1979).

- That in any support or treatment group for men who batter, adequate monitoring and evaluation be carried out to determine the actual effect on ending violence in the home. (p.12)

1991 - *The War Against Women.* (Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and the Status of Women, 1991).

- ...Funding [for treatment programs for violent men] should go to program models that have been identified as the most effective in the federal government's evaluation research on treatment and counselling programs for men who batter. (p.35)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- Ensure each community has access to sufficient counselling services for batterers. Facilities, programs, and instructors must be approved by the Corrections Branch in consultation with community-based victim services, and available to mandatory as well as voluntary referrals. The programs must offer appropriate counselling and support services for victims and their children, and maintain direct liaison with probation services and community-based victim service programs. (p.7 – 67)
- We recommend the Ministry of the Attorney General evaluate the counselling services available for sex offenders and victims of sexual abuse or assault and endorse the recommendations of the British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence in this regard. We believe priority should be given to the treatment of young offenders because counselling in the early years has proven to be more successful. (p.7 – 100)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- Support only those programs for men...which have involved the participation of local women's groups working with women survivors. (p.42)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions continue to develop programs for abusive partners that reflect evidence-based practice. They must support rigorous research and evaluation to help them determine the elements of an effective response [including]... accountability and monitoring mechanisms to address the impact of programs on offenders, and the problem of high attrition (with meaningful sanctions for non-compliance) (p.94)

2006 - *Aboriginal Women and Family Violence.* (Ipsos-Reid Corporation, 2006).

- Provide both short and long-term assistance and relapse prevention for perpetrators, dealing with violence as well as related problems, including...
 - Mandatory participation in such community-based education programs, as part of treatment and counselling for perpetrators, with immediate, predictable and reliable punitive consequences for repeat offences or failure to participate in these programs...
 - Development of Aboriginal community based support programs for men...(p.9)

2006 - *Verdict at Coroner's Inquest: Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Deaths of Seth Thornett and William Bethell.* (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2006).

- That the Nanaimo Men's Resource Centre be provided with a permanent funding base in addition to their current proposals for funding to assist in raising their profile in the community and providing sufficient workshops on anger in control and other appropriate workshops. (p.11)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Treatment for Assaultive Men

- Increase funding for assaultive men's treatment in order to:
 - Remove restrictions on participation of voluntary men...and/or fund voluntary community-based services
 - Increase the number of culturally/linguistically-appropriate programs for immigrant men
 - Increase the number of culturally appropriate programs for aboriginal men
 - Facilitate participation of all assaultive men's programs in local domestic violence coordinating initiatives (p.2)
- Develop mechanisms (policy, guidelines, and contract language) to ensure that assaultive men's treatment providers work closely with victims, current spouses, and victim support services to ensure the safety of women and children. (p.2)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should adopt comprehensive practice guidelines for assaultive men's treatment programs developed in consultation with experts in the field, including the Ending Relationship Abuse Society of BC, as well as women-serving organizations. These guidelines should include directives that programs work in close collaboration with anti-violence and women-serving organizations in their community, to ensure that an appropriate gender analysis is maintained in the development and delivery of treatment for assaultive men and to enable victims to make informed choices about their safety. Contracts for assaultive men's treatment programs should require programs to adhere to the practice guidelines which are adopted. (p.55)
- Evaluation measures should be established and implemented on an ongoing basis to assess effectiveness of both court-ordered and voluntary treatment for assaultive men. (p.56)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of recognized assaultive men's treatment programs for use with voluntary, low risk or self-referred clients in order to seek to change abusive behaviour before the abuser is charged or convicted of a criminal offence. Strategic partnerships with other ministries should be explored in order to ensure a coordinated response and appropriate allocation of resources. (p.10)

2011 - This Is A Man's Problem: Strategies For Working With South Asian Male Perpetrators Of Intimate Partner Violence. (Thandi, Gary, with Bethan Lloyd, 2011).

- A provincial commitment to fund group counselling opportunities immediately accessible to men charged with intimate partner violence. (p.102)

9. Specialized Justice Processes To Respond To Violence Against Women And Their Children

Specialized police and Crown counsel, special inter-disciplinary teams including community-based agencies and designated court days have much to contribute to an effective response to violence against women and their children. Existing specialized domestic and sexual violence police units have demonstrated their effectiveness in responding to these cases.

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...add or make available specialized Crown counsel in every Crown counsel office to deal specifically with prosecution of cases relating to violence against women. (p.5)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- ...Special resource Crown and police officers should be designated in each region to assist and advise all Crown and police on the conduct and handling of sexual assault cases. Designated police officers and Crown should take a leadership role in encouraging the development of programs to sensitize other personnel involved in the justice system to the dynamics and effects of violence against women and gender bias generally. (p.7 – 131)
- We recommend the provincial government, Ministry of the Attorney General establish a special court for family violence, based on the Winnipeg model, and called Criminal Court – Family Violence Division” as a pilot project in Vancouver and, if successful, expand the designated court to other centres, wherever possible. (p.7 – 55) [a subsequent recommendation on p.7 – 88 suggests considering an expansion of this court to include sexual assault if the wife assault project is successful]

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- Create specialized [police] units to deal with sexual assault by strangers and acquaintances, woman abuse and all crimes of harassment and assault against women and children. (p.50)
- Create special courts for crimes of violence. Judges, Crown attorneys and clerks working in these specialized courts would be appointed for their knowledge or aptitude to acquire knowledge on the full range of issues of violence crimes against women and children. (p.57)

2001 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Increase the number of domestic violence units consisting of teams of police and social worker/counsellor/victim service worker in urban centres throughout the province. (p.4)
- Establish designated court days and/or designated courts to deal with violence against women cases, served by specialized judges, Crown counsel, probation officer and victim service workers, depending on community needs and available resources. (p.4)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions continue to explore options to improve the handling of spousal/partner abuse cases through a co-ordinated justice system response, including specialized court processes, based on [identified critical elements]. The adoption of specialized structures and processes should be guided by research and evaluation being undertaken in Canada and elsewhere. (p.90)

2004 - *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada.* (Amnesty International, 2004).

- Police forces should provide specialized staffing to review and coordinate responses to missing persons cases. (p.65)

2004 - *Voices for Dignity: A Call to End the Harms Caused by Canada's Sex Trade Laws.* (Pivot Legal Society, 2004).

- [Law and policy-makers must] re-allocate policing resources from prostitution law enforcement to specialized services for sex workers who have been victims of crime and violence (p.35).

2006 - *Police Classification of Sexual Assault Cases as Unfounded. An Exploratory Study.* (Light & Ruebsaat, 2006).

- ...further sexual assault specialization in RCMP detachments in order to reap the benefits of specialized training and experience and of an enhanced culture of awareness of and sensitivity to sexual assault issues that may result from a group of highly trained and experienced investigators working together to investigate these cases. (p.102)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Specialized Justice Processes for Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Given the success of existing police domestic and sexual violence units, consideration should be given to providing funding in areas with sufficient population to justify such a unit. (p.2)
- Funding should be provided to pilot the use of dedicated Crown counsel to handle domestic or sexual violence cases, including working with specialized police units where they exist. (p.3)

Addressing Sexual Assault

- Provide funding and other support for enhanced specialization and integrated service provision in the justice system and hospital responses to sexual assault. (p.2)

2007 - Verdict at Coroner's Inquest. Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Death of Kum Lea Chun, Moon Kyu Park, Christian Thomas Jin Young Lee, Yong Sun Park, Hyun Joon Lee. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2007).

- Special domestic violence units be set up [by MPSSG] regionally and coordinated with all stakeholders. (p.2A)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- The Ministries of Attorney General and Public Safety and Solicitor General should play a leadership role at the provincial level, including developing a coordinated policy framework and an advisory body, linked to [a] senior government coordinating body...to help ensure a consistent approach to the development of specialized justice processes in BC and to ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of new approaches, building on the experiences of other jurisdictions. This advisory body should include key community stakeholders, including representatives of marginalized groups. (p.61)
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General should work with local police departments/detachments and community-based services to develop and fund specialized domestic violence units in communities where population warrants such an approach. Such units should embody a coordinated police-community approach and a broad service delivery mandate. Such units should also be guided by an advisory body that

includes community agencies and is formally linked to any existing VAWIR coordinating committee. (p.61)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That the Ministry of Attorney General undertake a review and enact necessary changes to improve the administration of justice in criminal matters involving domestic violence, including the establishment of domestic violence courts, to better protect the safety of children and their mothers. The following should be considered: Domestic violence courts, domestic violence treatment options, and similar mechanisms can improve decision-making by bringing specialized expertise and processes to bear. (p.58)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- The allocation of regional crown counsel domestic violence specialists charged with overseeing the prosecution of higher risk and more complex domestic violence cases. (p.9)

2011 - This is a man's problem: Strategies for working with South Asian male perpetrators of intimate partner violence. (Thandi, Gary, with Bethan Lloyd, 2011).

- The development of a domestic violence court similar to the drug court designed to meet the needs of families and communities. (p.102)

2012 - Honouring Kaitlynne, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- That the Ministry of Justice develop and implement a plan to improve legal processes related to domestic violence cases and successful prosecutions of such cases [including]...
- Establishment of specialized domestic violence courts...

10. Training

Training cuts across every other category in this list. Every policy, protocol, or risk assessment tool that is introduced requires effective, high quality training to make it work. Every challenge that is highlighted here requires training as a component of its resolution. And in a field that depends on a coordinated cross-sector approach to be effective in keeping women and children safe, cross-sector training should be use whenever appropriate.

1979 - *Family Violence. Report of the Task Force on Family Violence.* (United Way of the Lower Mainland. 1979).

- That recruit and in-service domestic dispute intervention training be given the commitment and support of police departments at all levels of command, and that changes in commendation and promotion procedures be made to reflect and reward the proper handling of domestic conflict. (p.13)
- That training involving people sensitive to the problems of battered women be provided to all court personnel including crown prosecutors, with emphasis on the effective co-ordination of roles and function for the benefit of complainants who come to the court for protection. (p.16)

1980 - *Battered and Blamed. A report on wife assault from the perspective of battered women. Prepared for the Women's Research Centre and Vancouver Transition House.* (Barnsley, 1980).

- All levels of government must make funds available for education programs developed by Transition House workers (and others who have expertise in working with battered women)...for...professionals, to enable them to respond more effectively to battered women...(p.130)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must:
 - Ensure that sufficient high-quality training is provided to all those working with family and sexual violence victims or offenders.
 - Fund workshops for staff and volunteers providing services to victims of family and sexual violence on making their services accessible and hospitable to groups that are particularly discriminated against. In Year One, separate workshops must address the needs of aboriginal people, immigrants, people of colour, and people with disabilities. (p.6)

1992 - *Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities. A First Nations Report.* (Frank, 1992).

- The Province should continue to provide, and further promote, opportunities for cross-cultural awareness training initiatives. The process of targeting, developing, and implementing/delivering the training, should be developed through planning with representative aboriginal leaders, including those on and off reserves. The planning process should reflect principles of control by communities. (p.21)
- In consultation with aboriginal people, training, or skill and knowledge development needs, should be actively promoted and supported. The consultation process should reflect principles of community control. (p.22)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- We recommend Crown, police, victim services, and corrections personnel receive joint training in the dynamics of wife assault, new policies or initiatives concerning wife assault, procedures affecting the treatment of victims in the court system, social science research on wife assault, the psychological impact of assault on the victim, use of expert evidence regarding victims of abuse, and the need to adopt a gender-sensitive approach to these cases. This training program should be standardized and delivered by qualified instructors throughout the province to ensure the participants may be held accountable for a failure to apply established policies and protocols. The program should involve community service providers and victims of wife assault as resource persons and address the special social, cultural, and language needs of women of colour, women with disabilities, immigrant women, aboriginal women, and lesbians. (p.7 – 131)
- We recommend police, Crown, victim services, and Corrections staff be given joint training in the dynamics of sexual assault, the physical and psychological impact of abuse upon the victim, and the need for a gender-sensitive approach to these cases. This training should be standardized and delivered province-wide to ensure accountability. It should also address the special cultural, social and language needs of immigrant women, women of colour, aboriginal women, lesbians, and women with disabilities, and involved service providers and victims from the community as resource persons, wherever possible....(p.7 – 131)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- [All non-governmental...and governmental services should] Provide specialized training on the needs of women with disabilities, elderly women, Aboriginal women, Inuit women, immigrant women, women of

colour and refugee women; on the power imbalance and trust inherent in any relationship between a service provider and a client; and on feminist intervention skills. (p.39)

- Provide cross-cultural information and training from members of Aboriginal and Inuit cultures and other cultures to improve police responses to women from different cultures and to underline the unacceptability of violence in any culture. (p.50)

1999 - *Emergency Preparedness in British Columbia: Mitigating Violence Against Women in Disasters. Prepared for B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs.* (Enarson,1999).

- An integrated system entails mutual understanding, hence cross-training of women's services and emergency management professionals and volunteers. Support is needed to promote:
 - Training for designated women's services staff in emergency response, the social impacts of disaster, and post-disaster recovery resources
 - Training on life safety concerns of sexual assaulted and abused women in disaster for first responders, ESS and Partner Agency volunteers...mental health specialists, emergency management students, and others...
 - Development of an emergency management course on the intersecting vulnerabilities of gender, class, race, age, and disability as well as violence...(p.36)

2000 - *Developing a Dialogue: A Preliminary Discussion Paper on Child Protection Issues in Cases Involving Violence Against Women and Children.* (Ruebsaat, 2000).

- That current pre-employment and ongoing/advanced training for CPSWs be adapted to incorporate issues unique to sexual assault/abuse and relationship abuse cases including issues arising where reports are made in the context of custody and access disputes and that this training be developed and delivered centrally rather than on a regional basis.
- That front-line workers involved in delivering services to women and children be closely involved in the development and delivery of the above Ministry training curricula. (p.34)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Create professional development opportunities that include police, Crown counsel, probation, and victim services, directed at all staff levels from senior management to front-line responders. (p.5)

2003 - Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation. (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- When conducting any risk assessment, police should apply validated tools to assess the safety and security of the victim throughout the process...Police should be supported in this regard through on-going training and education regarding risk assessment in spousal abuse cases. (p.85)
- It is recommended that each jurisdiction develop and implement a plan for the development and ongoing delivery of cross-sectoral training to new and existing staff dealing with family violence issues within the criminal justice system...be based on the critical success factors identified below [including]...
 - specialized training for police and Crown Prosecutors...
 - training that underscores the partnership between people with expertise in family violence and people with knowledge of the...sector...being trained...
 - provision of training at the local level to build on resources available in the community (p.95)

2003 - The “Start of Something Powerful”: Strategizing for Safer Communities for BC Aboriginal Women. (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre; BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, 2003).

- Training be developed and provided by Aboriginal women focused on capacity building within Aboriginal communities on topics such as leadership, intersectoral coordination, policy and protocol development, etc. (p.15)

2004 - Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Amnesty International, 2004).

- Provide training...for police to make prevention of violence against Indigenous women a genuine priority [including] Meetings with Indigenous women leaders and other community members...to build understanding of the specific risks to Indigenous women in Canadian society and establish and strengthen relationships of trust between police and Indigenous communities. (p.66)

2004 – An Evaluation of Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women and Children Who Witness Abuse Programs. (BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. Stopping the Violence Branch, 2004).

- Encourage the BCASVACP to identify and support peer learning and continuous professional development opportunities to increase knowledge and skills in working with culturally-specific communities of women. (p.7)
- Collaborate with BCASVACP, BCACC, UNBC, SFU, UBC, and other potential partners to adapt existing resources for training and counsellor support; and to make these resources more accessible particularly for rural and remote communities via workshops, written resources and distance education. (p.8)

2004 - Inquest Into The Death of Bryon Bruce Heron (deaths of Sherry Heron and Anna Adams). (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2004).

- Any members newly posted to ‘E’ Division shall have successfully completed Violence in Relationships (VIR) Training within 3 months, additionally any member currently within ‘E’ Division who has not successfully completed VIR Training (with written testing) shall do so within one year of this report. (p.1)
- VIR Training in Depot should be expanded to ensure that all recruits are made fully aware of the importance of immediate and thorough response to these types of files. Further, that all in-service courses related to this type of file should include a written examination with a pre-determined minimum pass grade. (p.1)

2005 - Family Law Services for Women Who are Victims of Violence: What Can Be Done? Paper Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs. (Light, 2005).

- Facilitate opportunities for high quality specialized training on violence against women that includes an analysis and practical information on conducting risk assessments as well as on relevant family law issues for all those working in the family law area. This specialized training would be provided to family law lawyers, law students, family justice counsellors, family law legal advocates, victim service workers and intake workers...(p. 4)

2005 - Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence. (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; Ending Violence Association of BC; and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre, 2005).

- The Aboriginal community and non-Aboriginal people, organizations, law enforcement, legal society, judicial system and government agencies [need to] receive education on the history of colonialism, cultural genocide, sexism, racism, forced assimilation, family violence, and violence against women in the sex trade. (p.19)

2006 - *Aboriginal Women and Family Violence.* (Ipsos-Reid Corporation, 2006).

- Provide cultural sensitivity training for all first responders: law enforcement officers, health care professionals, educators and others who directly assist women victims of violence, and who work with communities to reduce the incidence of this problem. (p.9)
- Provide strong incentives or mandatory training for First Nations and Inuit community leaders to treat the issue of male violence against women as a high priority and serious community-wide problem. (p.9)

2006 - *Police Classification of Sexual Assault Cases as Unfounded. An Exploratory Study.* (Light & Ruebsaat, 2006).

- ...ongoing and in-depth [police] training focused specifically on sexual assault [including]:
 - enhanced training on the nature and dynamics of sexual offences, including the various forms sexual assault may take, issues of consent and victim resistance, the range of possible reactions to the trauma of victimization, and the gendered nature of sexual assault
 - enhanced training in optimal investigative procedures in sexual offence cases, including formal interviewing of victims, witnesses and suspects, the dangers of over-reliance on victim-generated information, and the requirements of an unfounded classification
 - enhanced training on investigation of sexual offences involving very young children, including interviewing skills and optimal investigative strategies in these cases
 - enhanced training on the greater susceptibility to victimization of those with mental health issues or mental disabilities and on techniques and strategies for conducting investigations in cases where victims or complainants have mental health issues or mental disabilities. (p.102)
- ...enhanced training and guidelines, with definitions, clear criteria and instructive examples for records staff and scoring decision-makers, including police members, to ensure understanding of the requirements of each scoring category for case outcome (p.103)

2007 - *Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women.* (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Specialized Justice Processes for Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Specialized training should be made available to police in all areas/regions to facilitate and encourage innovative investigative

techniques such as KGB statements and other alternative sources of evidence when women are “reluctant” to testify. (p.2)

- Funding should be made available to support enhanced specialized Crown training on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence and the use of courtroom strategies to encourage greater victim participation in the justice system in these cases. (p.3)

Coordination of Responses to Violence Against Women

- Ministries, police, hospitals, and community agencies should include a focus on the importance of and skills to support coordination in all relevant training on violence against women. (p.2)

Treatment for Assaultive Men

- Develop and implement domestic violence training for other treatment services that assaultive men are likely to access, including addiction services, aboriginal justice services, and mental health services. (p.2)

Addressing Sexual Assault

- Provide and enhance specialized training for all justice, health, and social service personnel, on the dynamics of sexual assault, normal victim responses to sexual assault, the needs of sexual assault victims, and best practices in terms of investigation, prosecution, and intervention. (p.3)

Training on Violence Against Women

- All sectors, including police, Crown, corrections, court services, the judiciary, victim support services, child protection, MCS, and health care, should take formal steps to ensure that training on violence against women:
 - Is adequately funded...and is built into budgets on an ongoing basis...
 - Is delivered in basic training and in [post secondary institutions], as well as in-service
 - Is developed and delivered cross-sectorally,... including community-based service providers
 - Stresses...proactive coordination and collaborative working relationships as a key safety issue
 - Incorporates a diversity analysis and involves representatives of diversity groups
 - Includes a gender-analysis and an analysis of power-based crime (p.2)

2007 - Empowerment of Immigrant and Refugee Women Who Are Victims of Violence in Their Intimate Relationships. (Light, 2007).

- Develop standardized training and provide regular updates on issues related to sponsorship and immigration status to all service providers who provide information, support, or services to immigrants and refugees. (p.70)

2007 - Verdict at Coroner's Inquest. Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Death of Kum Lea Chun, Moon Kyu Park, Christian Thomas Jin Young Lee, Yong Sun Park, Hyun Joon Lee. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2007).

- SARA or BSAFER be used to train all involved service providers to a common standard in all criminal justice regions in the province. (p.2A).

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- Ministries and police should fund, develop, and deliver training on domestic violence for generalist and specialized justice system personnel, addressing the critical components outlined in this Framework Paper. (p.63)
- A mechanism for coordination of training across sectors on both an initiative-specific and an ongoing basis should be explored. (p.63)

2008 - Broken Promises. Parents Speak about B.C.'s Child Welfare System. (Pivot Legal Society, 2008).

- Better training should be provided to social workers on the dynamics of abusive relationships and, in particular, the reasons why women stay in these types of situations. (p.113).

2009 - Disabled Women and Shelter Access: Early Findings of the National Accessibility and Accommodation Survey. (DAWN-RAFH Canada, 2009).

- [Shelters should] Train shelter staff on appropriate language and sensitivity to the needs of women with disabilities. (p.9)

2009 - Police-reported Spousal Violence Incidents in B.C. in which Both Partners are Suspects/Accused. An Exploratory Study. (Light, 2009).

- Police should provide enhanced domestic violence investigation training to all members, with particular emphasis on new recruits and domestic violence specialists. Training should:
 - Include a focus on the power and gender dynamics of these cases, the importance of primary aggressor analysis, the potential negative

impacts of identifying two suspects in these cases, the importance of risk assessment, and the importance of remaining vigilant to the dangers of these cases for women...

- ...be developed and delivered in collaboration with community-based victim services and Crown counsel, in order to ensure consistent messaging, the inclusion of a multi-disciplinary perspective, and the fostering of working partnerships. (p.30)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That MCFD...develop...training to provide social workers with clear direction in assessing the safety of children who are exposed to domestic violence:...[including]
 - A provincial training curriculum on working with families in domestic violence situations...
 - A training strategy... to ensure that the new curriculum is effectively delivered to current social workers, as well as to social workers and child and youth care workers in training. (p.47)

2011 - Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls: Empowerment – A New Beginning. (Standing Committee on the Status of Women, 2011).

- The Committee recommends that the federal government, under the aegis of the Family Violence Initiative, work with the Canadian Police College, Aboriginal women's organizations, and the Department of Public Safety to develop and disseminate training materials with respect to the cultural and historical context in which violence against Aboriginal women occurs. (p.43)
- The Committee recommends, should new funding for anti-violence work with Aboriginal women become available, that it include a component for training Aboriginal women so that they can be employed in delivering the service. (p.44)

2010 - Provincial Briefing Documents. Safety for Immigrant, Refugee, & Non-Status Women. (Ending Violence Association of BC, MOSAIC, Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services, 2010).

Family Justice Issues for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- As part of the *Domestic Violence Action Plan*, MPSSG and the MAG should ensure that family justice personnel are well trained in

the nature and dynamics of domestic violence against immigrant, refugee, and non-status women, including risk factors. (p.4)

Health Care Services for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- BC health ministries should work with Regional Health Authorities, hospitals, clinics, universities, and other health care professionals to ensure that adequate training is provided to health care practitioners in BC on an ongoing basis on the unique needs of immigrant, refugee, and non-status women who are victims of violence. (p.5)

Protection of Children of Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- All those who are working in the area of child protection, family justice, criminal justice, victim services, settlement services, Legal Aid, social assistance, health care, education, and housing should be adequately trained in the particular vulnerabilities of children whose mothers are abused and who are immigrants, refugees, or without status in Canada. Such training should include not only specific risk factors in these circumstances, but also the importance of effective cross-sector coordination and information-sharing in order to ensure the safety of these children. (p.3)

Criminal Justice System Issues for Abused Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- As part of the *Domestic Violence Action Plan*, MPSSG and the MAG should ensure that all criminal justice personnel are well trained in the nature and dynamics of domestic violence against immigrant, refugee, and non-status women, including risk factors that may be specific to this group, and on the importance of coordination and risk related information-sharing and federal and provincial privacy legislation. (p.3)
- MPSSG should ensure that all its contracted victim-serving agencies receive adequate training on the importance of coordination and risk related information-sharing and on federal and provincial privacy legislation, while appreciating that the safety of women and their children must be the overriding concern. (p.3)

Coordination of Responses to Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-status Women who are Victims of Violence in BC

- MPSSG should ensure that all its contracted victim-serving agencies receive adequate training on the importance of coordination and risk related information-sharing with CIC and immigrant-serving ministries and agencies and on federal and provincial privacy legislation, while appreciating that the safety of women and children must be the overriding concern. (p.7)

Training on Violence Against Immigrant, Refugee, and Non-Status Women

- Comprehensive, in-depth training on all forms of violence against women and its potential impact on immigrant, refugee, and non-status women and their children should be provided on a regular basis to those who may be in a position to provide advice, support, or other services to this client group. (p.4)
- To address the complexity of domestic and sexual violence against immigrant, refugee, and non-status women, provincial ministries serving women victims of violence and their children should work closely with federal and provincial ministries serving immigrants and with community-based immigrant and women-serving agencies to develop and deliver training curricula and resources. (p.4)

2011 - *This Is A Man's Problem: Strategies For Working With South Asian Male Perpetrators Of Intimate Partner Violence.* (Thandi, Gary, With Bethan Lloyd, 2011).

- The development and delivery of culturally-informed and culturally appropriate education, training and professional development for frontline practitioners working with intimate partner violence and/or substance abuse in South Asian communities. (p.101)

2012 - *Bridging the Divide: Building Safe Shelters for Women and Families in BC.* (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, 2012).

- [BC organizations seeking to ensure gender-responsive service delivery in shelters should] Provide training and education in effective therapeutic approaches and core issues affecting women to all staff who work with women; (p.45).
- [Shelter providers should] Implement gender-responsive staff training...(p.46).

2012 - *Honouring Kaitlyne, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now.* (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- That the Ministry of Children and Family Development develop and implement a comprehensive plan to improve the capacity of social workers and child and youth mental health professionals to protect and support children who are living in circumstances of domestic violence...(p.98)
- That the Ministry of Children and Family Development develop and implement a comprehensive training plan for supervisors on providing clinical supervision to child welfare workers...(p.99)

11. Prevention

There are inseparable links between intervention and prevention to address violence against women. Because domestic violence is an ongoing crime, effective intervention can prevent future violence. It is important to recognize the important role played by front-line programs in prevention of both domestic and sexual violence.

1979 - *Family Violence. Report of the Task Force on Family Violence.* (United Way of the Lower Mainland, 1979).

- That...a public education campaign recognize that child abuse is a part of the whole spectrum of family violence, and that other forms of family violence, particularly the battering of a child's mother, constitute a form of emotional abuse even if the child is not physically involved. (p.18)
- That agencies such as the Ministry of Human Resources, the Corrections Branch, and the Department of Indian Affairs encourage staff who are interested in conducting preventive programs such as support groups for men and for women, that this encouragement take the form of time for training and programme development, payment of any registration fees and recognition in job evaluation. (p.22)

1980 - *Battered and Blamed. A report on wife assault from the perspective of battered women. Prepared for the Women's Research Centre and Vancouver Transition House.* (Barnsley, 1980).

- All levels of government must make funds available for education programs developed by Transition House workers (and others who have expertise in working with battered women)...for...the general public, to advance understanding of wife assault and support for policies and services to deal this the problem. (p.130)

1989 - *Beating the "Odds": Violence and Women with Disabilities.* (Ridington, 1989).

- ...that girls and young women with disabilities have access to high quality sex-education materials and that, whenever and wherever possible, these materials be designed to take into account the needs of girls and women with every type of disability. (p.16)

1990 - *Meeting Our Needs: Access Manual for Transition Houses.* (Masuda & Ridington, 1990).

- [Feminist services should] have education workshops [for women with disabilities] to raise self-esteem, empowerment, and assertiveness. We should teach women where, how, when to get help – effective help that is immediate. (p.149)

- Women [with disabilities] have to know they are not alone with this problem. Sensitization is the key. Publicity (lots) on the services available to these women should be put in places like grocery stores and doctor's offices. These are the only places where many women with disabilities are allowed to go. (p.149)

1991 - *The War Against Women.* (Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and the Status of Women, 1991).

- The Committee recommends that the federal government work with the provinces, the territories and relevant professions to promote media literacy education in the high school curriculum across the country. Media literacy instruction teaches students to critically assess media representations and messages including violence against women. (p.21)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...
 - ensure that funding to community agencies providing direct services to victims of family or sexual violence includes adequate funding to provide public education within their own communities...(p.4)
 - encourage and fund the development and implementation of a sex education curriculum and the development, adaptation and translation of family and sexual violence prevention and education materials for people with all kinds of disabilities...(p.8)

1992 - *Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities. A First Nations Report.* (Frank, 1992).

- The Province, through the Ministry of Education, should implement an educational curriculum relating to family violence issues which reflects aboriginal specific content, and allows for community control over the process of development, implementation, and evaluation, by aboriginal leaders and educators. (p.22)
- Provincial awareness campaigns on issues of family violence should be promoted. The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs should take the lead role in coordinating efforts with other relevant Ministries to develop a process where aboriginal communities, on and off reserves, are involved in planning and implementing strategies in this field. The communities' ability to have meaningful control over the development and implementation of the process should be respected and promoted. (p.22)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- We recommend the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education ensure the *Learning for Living* schools program specifically addresses the social causes and consequences of relationship violence, family violence, and sexual assault and that teachers are properly trained to educate students about these important issues. (p.7 – 131)
- We recommend the Ministry of the Attorney General fund public education programs developed through local organizations to address violence against women. These programs should be sensitive to the social, cultural, and language needs of the multicultural population of British Columbia. These programs must also address the special needs of lesbians and women with disabilities who have been victims of violence. (p. 7 – 131)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- [All ministries of social and/or community services should] Assist women victims of violence in regaining economic independence by:
 - recognizing the time needed to heal;
 - amending relevant legislation and regulation to ensure that welfare assistance not be reduced in cases where support payments are also received; and by
 - providing comprehensive pre-employment training. (p.42)
- [Provincial-territorial Ministries of health should] Integrate the issue of violence prevention into health promotions programs. (p.45)

1999 - *Emergency Preparedness in British Columbia: Mitigating Violence Against Women in Disasters. Prepared for B.C. Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs.* (Enarson, 1999).

- Increased public education on violence prevention in disasters...(p.36)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that resources at the government, corporate and community levels be committed to broad-based prevention activities. An effective preventive strategy must address all stages of the continuum of family violence...(p.96)

2003 - The “Start of Something Powerful”: Strategizing for Safer Communities for BC Aboriginal Women. (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre; BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, 2003).

- The Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General provide funds to develop and implement education and training on variety of topics related to violence in Aboriginal communities delivered by Aboriginal women. (p.15)

2004 - Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Amnesty International, 2004).

- Address the social and economic factors that lead to Indigenous women’s extreme vulnerability to violence

The federal government should provide adequate, sustained, multi-year funding for initiatives to deal with the immediate and intergenerational impacts of...abuse suffered at residential schools...

Federal, provincial, and municipal governments should subject all social programs to a periodic review to ensure the accessibility and resourcing of programs for Indigenous women and families is at least on a par with those available to non-Indigenous people in Canada...

In collaboration with Indigenous representative and organizations, the federal government should take urgent action to address the chronic unemployment and poverty faced by Indigenous women and men...

The federal government should commit to fully implementing outstanding recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples which address poverty and social marginalization. (p.66)

- All levels of government should work with Indigenous peoples to strengthen and expand public education programs, including within the...school system, that acknowledge and address the history of dispossession and marginalization of Indigenous peoples and the...reality of racism in Canadian society. (p.67)

2004 - Voices for Dignity: A Call to End the Harms Caused by Canada’s Sex Trade Laws. (Pivot Legal Society, 2004).

- [Law and policy makers must] fund public education campaigns that promote sex workers’ social citizenship and human rights. (p.35)

2005 - *Researched to Death: B.C. Aboriginal Women and Violence.* (Pacific Association of First Nations Women; Ending Violence Association of BC; and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, 2005).

- The overall society needs to also be educated on Aboriginal people's history and present challenges that support family violence. The societal awakening is a necessity to change the prevalence of violence directed at Aboriginal women and families. (p.19)
- Aboriginal leadership with the financial support of the government needs to create workshops and conferences for Aboriginal community members, workers and leaders that are directed towards family violence, including sexual violence. Family violence, personal safety (prevention), and sex education are also a necessity that needs to be delivered in Aboriginal schools. (p.19)

2006 - *Aboriginal Women and Family Violence.* (Ipsos-Reid Corporation, 2006).

- Increase funding for resources to assist Aboriginal women victims of male violence [including] educational programs to teach Aboriginal women about healthy relationships. (p.8)
- Work through schools to teach Aboriginal children about male violence against women, and to reach out to parents. (p.9)

2006 - *The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report.* (Lheidli T'enneh First Nation et al, 2006).

- Develop and implement a Victim Prevention Plan that measurably reduces the number of young women who are...at risk hitchhiking on Highway 16 west of Prince George...[including]...
 - That a shuttle bus transportation system be established between each town and city located along the entire length of Highway 16...
 - That the Greyhound Bus Company's "free ride" program be expanded, and target marketed to the population in the Highway 16 corridor who fit the victim profile. (pp. 14, 20, 21)
- Address the underpinning causes that place young women on the highway, and at risk, by:
 - Reducing First Nation intergenerational poverty...
 - Increasing outreach services...
 - Increasing aboriginal youth recreation and social activities in their communities (p.14)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Addressing Gaps in Services for Marginalized Women

- Fund all victim support services to provide effective Outreach and public education /awareness for marginalized groups, to address the isolation of many of these victims (p.3)

Addressing Sexual Assault

- Fund victim support services to undertake community-based sexual assault prevention and education initiatives on an ongoing basis. (p.3)

Prevention of Violence Against Women

- Funding should be provided to local victim support programs to provide prevention education in their communities and their ministry contracts should reflect this important role. (p.2)
- It is important that ministries that fund intervention and prevention programs to address violence against women recognize the preventative nature of intervention services and the integral relationship between violence against women intervention and prevention. (p.2)

2007 - Empowerment of Immigrant and Refugee Women Who Are Victims of Violence in Their Intimate Relationships. (Light, 2007).

- Develop a public information/education strategy in collaboration with the various cultural communities and involving community and religious leadership, “ethnic media”, schools, and so on, to increase understanding of violence against women, emphasizing that it is a crime and describing the supports and services available to women, children, and men. (p.69)

2007 - Verdict at Coroner’s Inquest. Findings and Recommendations as a Result of the Inquest into the Death of Kum Lea Chun, Moon Kyu Park, Christian Thomas Jin Young Lee, Yong Sun Park, Hyun Joon Lee. (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2007).

- Ongoing multimedia community based educational advertising program surrounding domestic violence be expanded and enhanced. (p.2A)
- Family relationships and domestic violence education program be instituted for all students from kindergarten to grade 12. (p.2a)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- The development of a public education campaign that raises awareness of the serious risk associated with family distress, including risks for suicide and homicide. The implementation and evaluation of the strategies necessary for the appropriate inclusion of this education campaign in provincial school system curricula. This campaign should encourage citizens to seek assistance from appropriate social service, health care and criminal justice agencies and be available in all major languages represented in the provincial population...(p.10)

2011 - This is a man's problem: Strategies for working with South Asian male perpetrators of intimate partner violence. (Thandi, Gary, with Bethan Lloyd, 2011).

- South Asian community initiatives that focus on pre-marital education not only for couples but also for extended family members. (p.101)
- South Asian community initiatives that focus on concrete suggestions for how extended family member, community members, and colleagues can skillfully intervene to prevent violence from developing or escalating. (p.103)

12. Data Collection, Monitoring And Accountability

It is widely acknowledged that government ministries (as well as government-funded agencies) need to be publicly accountable in terms of following policy, protocols, and best practices. However, public accountability is not possible without systematic statistical data collection systems within government, public access to that data, and monitoring strategies being in place.

1989 - *Beating the "Odds": Violence and Women with disabilities.* (Ridington, 1989).

- ...that all Rape Crisis Centres, Court Service, Crisis Centres and Police Stations and all other 'support services' collect and make available to the public, statistics regarding request for assistance by women with disabilities. (p.16)

1990 - *Meeting Our Needs: Access Manual for Transition Houses.* (Masuda & Ridington, 1990).

- In the next two years, all transition houses, women's shelters, and rape crisis centres, in order to maintain their funding, be required to present a plan for becoming accessible with the two following years (p.148)
- DAWN Canada be given consulting and monitoring status to review plans for accessibility and to monitor the spending of money designated for making transition house, women's shelters, and rape crisis centres accessible and ensuring that houses and shelters continue to remain accessible. (p.148)

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992).

- All government policies, programs and services regarding family and sexual violence must be accountable not only within government, but to the community. (p.4)
- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...establish a provincial committee to monitor and evaluate: (a) the implementation of the wife assault and sexual assault policies; and (b) the operation of the model for the protection of assaulted women. (p.6)

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- We recommend the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, Canada, implement a detailed recording system for wife assault cases to facilitate the collection of accurate statistics. The recording system should contain: Information about referral to victim services, contact with the victim prior to trial, any charges laid, stayed or reduced, bail recommendations and conditions ultimately imposed, a summary of

- the Crown's submission on sentence, whether a victim impact statement was prepared and used, the plea bargain, the sentence imposed, and any appeal of sentence. We also recommend the federal government support and encourage the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to develop a national database that would allow the monitoring and tracking of wife assault cases from the time of initial report to the police to ultimate disposition, as well as capture prosecutorial data. (p.7 – 134)
- We recommend the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, Canada, implement a recording system in which details of all sexual assaults and other sexual offences are recorded. Details to be recorded would include the charges laid, whether charges were reduced, whether charges were stayed, sentence imposed, summary of Crown submission on sentence, whether a victim impact statement was prepared and, if so, if it was presented to the court, the results of any plea bargaining, whether the conviction and/or sentence is appealed, recommendations regarding bail and conditions ultimately imposed, referrals to victim support services, and contact with the victim by Crown prior to trial. We also recommend the federal government support and encourage the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to develop a national database that would allow the monitoring and tracking of sexual assault cases from the time of initial report to the police to ultimate disposition, as well as capture prosecutorial data. (p.7 – 134)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- [All non-governmental services ...and governmental services...should] Undertake the systematic collection of data to determine the needs and percentage of users by forms of violence and populations. (p.40)
- Report annually on progress made in implementing recommendations regarding justice initiatives made in the jurisdiction by task forces, commissions, and advisors in the past five years. (p.60)

1998 - *Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice Reform in British Columbia: Identifying Some Preliminary Questions and Concerns. Prepared for BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Programs.* (Goundry,1998).

- Accountability with respect to any reforms must be maintained throughout the system. One option includes the design and implementation of complaint/appeal mechanisms which would allow any participants (victims, offenders, criminal justice personnel) to register their dissatisfaction with a particular procedure, decision, or outcome and perhaps have the opportunity to appeal. (p.49)

- A central monitoring system which tracks diversion incidents and agreement across the province (and perhaps a nationwide system will ultimately be required) is a necessary requirement to ensure the safety of women and children. (p.49)

2002 - *Measures of Empowerment for Women Who are Victims of Violence and Who Use the Justice System.* (Russell, 2002).

- Evaluate the effectiveness of designated courts or court days on total processing time for cases, sentencing, satisfaction of personnel assigned to the courts, and on victim satisfaction and empowerment. (p.4)
- Encourage all criminal justice system personnel to incorporate empowerment components into operational check-lists, procedural guidelines, and self and program evaluation measures. (p.6)

2003 - *Final Report of the Federal-Provincial Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation.* (Ad Hoc Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group Reviewing Spousal Abuse Policies and Legislation, 2003).

- It is recommended that jurisdictions develop and enhance mechanisms for monitoring justice system performance in family violence cases, to support sound executive decision making and measure the impact of new initiatives [and] that jurisdictions support the development of information systems, based on the collection of common key performance indicators, to enable evaluation of justice system performance. The development of common methodologies for examining programs is also recommended ...to facilitate knowledge exchange and advancement. (p.94)

2004 - *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada.* (Amnesty International, 2004).

- The federal government should ensure adequate funding for comprehensive national research on violence against Indigenous women, including the creation of a national registry to collect and analyze statistical information from all jurisdictions. (p.65)
- Provide training and resources for police to make prevention of violence against Indigenous women a genuine priority...Officers found to have failed to act on reports of missing women, or to have carried out biased or inadequate investigation of violence against women, should be subject to appropriate discipline. (p.66)

2004 – An Evaluation of Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women and Children Who Witness Abuse Programs. (BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services. Stopping the Violence Branch, 2004).

- Review the accreditation standards that service delivery agencies are qualifying for (i.e. CARF, COA) and engage with STV service delivery agencies to determine ways to dovetail with the new evaluation and monitoring processes. (p.8)

2004 - Inquest into the death of Bryon Bruce Heron (deaths of Sherry Heron and Anna Adams). (Office of the Chief Coroner of BC, 2004).

- That all [RCMP] files opened by, or assigned to a field recruit shall be flagged to the attention of the field recruit’s supervisor for sign-off within 24 hours. (p.1)
- [RCMP] Recruits in field training should not be allowed to conclude any file without written authorization from a supervisor. (p.1)

2006 - The Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report. (Lheidli T’enneh First Nation et al, 2006).

- That the Board of Directors, (Highway of Tears Community Governing Body), report out and be held accountable to the communities and funding bodies at annual Highway of Tears symposiums. (p.33)

2006 - Police Classification of Sexual Assault Cases as Unfounded. An Exploratory Study. (Light & Ruebsaat, 2006).

- ...improved quality control and accountability mechanisms to ensure that sexual assault investigations, including founding decisions, are conducted in the most thorough and effective manner possible. (p.102)
- effective quality control to ensure that the knowledge of those who are making [police incident and disposition] classification decisions and doing the scoring is consistently translated into practice. (p.103)

2007 - Briefing Documents. Critical Elements of an Effective Response to Violence Against Women. (BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs, BC Institute Against Family Violence, & BC/Yukon Society of Transition Houses, 2007).

Provincial Policies on Violence Against Women and Children

- Include directives in all domestic and sexual violence policies to ensure appropriate coding of cases in both the police and the Criminal Justice systems to facilitate monitoring, evaluation, and research. (p.3)
- Policing and Community Safety and Criminal Justice Branches should develop and publish statistics and statistical analyses on a regular basis, as well as special surveys on domestic violence and

sexual assault cases from police report through to disposition...
(p.3)

Establishment of a Domestic Violence Death Review Committee

- Establish a Domestic Violence Death Review Committee based on one of the models already in use in Canada or the US, including experts from community-based anti-violence organizations. Any model utilized must take account of factors particularly affecting marginalized groups, including especially cultural and immigration factors, and document demographic trends. (p.2)

2008 - Keeping Women Safe: Eight Critical Components of an Effective Justice Response to Domestic Violence. (Critical Components Project Team, 2008).

- Statistical data collection systems across all components of the justice system should be integrated in order to facilitate cross-system tracking and monitoring of domestic violence cases as they proceed through the justice system and comprehensive evaluation of the justice system response to these cases. (p.63)
- Recognizing the fundamental role that “spousal” or “ K” file designation plays in the management of domestic violence cases:
 - Training of all justice system personnel should emphasize the purpose and importance of appropriate and consistent designation of domestic violence cases as “spousal” files. Training of supervisors should include a focus on returning files to personnel who have not properly designated files as “spousal” files.
 - Monitoring and accountability mechanisms should be put in place to ensure compliance with policy on “spousal” file designation.
 - Consideration should be given to incorporating a “spousal” designation into the police data collection system (PRIME) as a required field. (p.63)

2009 - No More Stolen Sisters. The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada. (Amnesty International, 2009)

- [A national] plan of action should include:...The collection and routine publication of gender disaggregated data on health and social and economic conditions for Inuit, Metis and First Nations women and men, including rates of violence against Indigenous women; (p.26).

2009 - Police-reported Spousal Violence Incidents in B.C. in which Both Partners are Suspects/Accused. An Exploratory Study. (Light, 2009).

- Further research should be undertaken to assess spousal violence data concerns raised in key informant interviews. This may include a detailed examination of current and historical crime data collection systems across the justice system, clarification of data audience needs, and/or a review of police files in selected jurisdictions, focusing on the identification of dual suspects in spousal violence files to determine scoring accuracy. File reviews should also include a focus on whether or not both partners were arrested and/or recommended for charge. Such reviews should be conducted by someone highly knowledgeable in the dynamics of domestic violence and in primary aggressor analysis. (p.31)

2009 - Honouring Christian Lee. No Private Matter: Protecting Children Living with Domestic Violence. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2009).

- That MCFD record and track child protection reports with domestic violence issues in order to evaluate effectiveness of safety planning and protection of children over time. (p.47)

2010 - Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia. Findings and Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. (BC Coroners Service, 2010).

- ...A domestic violence investigation guide (Guide), supported by a quality assurance program (QA);
The Guide and QA are embedded into the police records information management environment (PRIME) to allow access across jurisdictions...(p.7)
- The development of a consistent, system-wide definition of spousal or “K” files in consultation with victim and offender services....This means that, whenever an offence has been committed against a former or current intimate partner of the accused, the “K” designation would apply...(p.7)

2012 - Bridging the Divide: Building Safe Shelters for Women and Families in BC. (Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, 2012).

- [Shelter providers should] Implement gender-responsive...program evaluation and monitoring systems. (p.46)

2012 - Honouring Kaitlyne, Max and Cordon. Make Their Voices Heard Now. (Representative for Children and Youth, 2012).

- A meaningful commitment [to protect children who are exposed to or are living in circumstances of domestic violence] requires that deficiencies not currently addressed by recent government actions or existing government

committees be addressed [including]...continuous evaluation and regular public reporting of outcomes. (p.96)

- That the Ministry of Social Development develop and implement a plan to improve the capacity of the income assistance program to contribute to the protection of children who are living in circumstances of domestic violence by improvements to its services to the families [including]...
 - improving compliance with policies related to cases where domestic violence is a factor
 - a mechanism for flagging and monitoring of cases where domestic violence is a factor (p.101)

13. Wages And Working Conditions Of Community-Based Workers

Since their inception, community-based victim support programs have faced challenges associated with low wages and difficult working conditions. Stressful working conditions are created by circumstances that include: too few staff; too few paid working hours; heavy caseloads; long waitlists; and, in most programs, a lack of clinical supervision. Low wages and unsatisfactory working conditions are not only unfair to staff and put clients at risk, they constitute a false economy because they result in poor morale, high staff turn-over, the loss of trained and experienced staff, and high costs of training new staff.

1992 - *Is Anyone Listening?* (British Columbia Task Force on Family Violence, 1992)

- The provincial government, in consultation with the community, must...review contracts for transition houses, sexual assault centres and victim assistance programs to allow adequate funding to bring staff salaries up to the level of comparable workers with government.

1992 - *Gender Equality in the Justice System. A Report of The Law Society of British Columbia Gender Bias Committee.* (Hughes, 1992).

- Increase the funding allocated to victim service programs to allow employment of the additional staff required to meet increased demands for service, to more appropriately reward staff for the valuable services performed, and to permit less reliance upon volunteers. [Footnote: We endorse the British Columbia Family Violence Task Force recommendation that victim services employees' salaries be comparable to the equivalent government employees' rates.] (p. 7 – 50)

1993 - *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality. Executive Summary/National Action Plan.* (Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, 1993).

- The allocation of funding [for community-based, non-governmental services such as women's shelters, sexual assault centres, rape crisis centres and women's centres] must provide for fair and equitable compensation and benefits to workers in the community sector and for staff training and development needs. (p.36)

2004 – *An Evaluation of Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women and Children Who Witness Abuse Programs.* (BC Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services. Stopping the Violence Branch, 2004).

- Review contracted service catchment areas of the STV service delivery agencies and compensate at standard government rates for reasonable

travel costs that are incurred by counsellors to deliver counselling services. (p.7)

Most of the recommendations on wages and working conditions over the years have been contained in year-end reports to funders, reports on teleconference meetings between EVA BC member programs and EVA BC staff, and EVA BC Backgrounders.

For example, since 2000, EVA BC year-end reports to the Ministry funder of STV Counselling programs have included recommendations that the Ministry address wage discrepancies between STV counsellors and other comparable workers, as well as funding increases to reduce caseload pressures and waitlists.

Similarly, since 2001, Summary Reports of Regional Conference Calls between CBVS program staff and EVA BC staff have called for a Support Worker Support Plan for CBVS similar to the plan in place for STV counsellors. Such a Support Worker Support Plan provides clinical support to workers to address clinical challenges in working with victims of violence as well as support for workers to deal with work-related stress and vicarious traumatization.

As a result of the relatively informal or internal nature of these reports, a decision was made not to include these documents in this report. However, this decision should not be seen to minimize the importance of these issues of wages and working conditions for victim support workers. Wages for these community-based workers have been notoriously low and working conditions notoriously poor for decades, with predictable impacts on program health and costs – and ultimately on services to victims and victim safety. These issues must be addressed without further delay.

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