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### **Front-line Support (FLS) Standing Committee Mandate**

The **Front-line Support Committee** is one of four OCTEVAW standing committees through which the Coalition works to achieve its goal of ending violence against women and, through leadership, education, advocacy and political action, of promoting a coordinated response to women and their children who have experienced abuse. All Standing Committees report to the OCTEVAW Steering Committee through their chair, who represents them as a member of the Steering Committee. All OCTEVAW members are encouraged to participate not only on committees of particular interest to them, or to which they bring pertinent skills, but on every committee, on a rotating basis.

The **Front-line Support Committee** is a forum for counsellors, advocates and community workers who work with women and children experiencing abuse. It brings them together to identify and create ways to provide improved services that better protect women and children, and their well being and quality of life through enhanced coordination and accountability. These efforts must align with, and support the aims of the Coalition and correspond to the priorities of the membership. The committee members acknowledge the inter-relationship of the work and priorities of all OCTEVAW committees and of the Coalition.

Like other standing committees, the **Front-line Support Committee** is dedicated to the principle that its work must encompass all forms of violence against women, as defined by the OCTEVAW Constitution, and embrace women in all their diversity.

The committee is a forum for its members to:

- work from a client-centred perspective
- to network and share updated information regarding services
- to promote and encourage the coordination of VAW services across the community to better meet women's needs
- to identify challenges to service provision and propose solutions to these challenges
- to build relationships with and serve as a resource and consultative group to other sectors developing VAW policies and protocols
- to inform policy development and practice
- to develop and implement action plans to effect systemic change

This is accomplished by:

- identifying issues and developing strategic priorities, in harmony with OCTEVAW's strategic plan
- developing an annual work plan, including timelines and costs, for the approval of the Steering Committee
- holding regular meetings with focused, issue-based agendas



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- providing learning opportunities for members, including workshops and educational presentations, information sharing, discussion and presentation of case studies, models and initiatives from other communities, and guest speakers
  - utilizing the infrastructure of OCTEVAW to facilitate inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration

Membership of the Committee:

- is open to OCTEVAW members who are working in the area of VAW in Ottawa as front-line counsellors, advocates and community workers