



Marginalized Communities

Group #4

SUMMARY

The Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) recommendations (2004-2007) recognize the need for cross cultural training to be developed and delivered to recognize the diversity of our community in order to reduce potential for lethality for women who have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV). Training should be developed and delivered by trained experts from the cultural communities being served. It must address the need to overcome cultural barriers. Cultural competency training should be a mandatory component of all training programs for front-line workers.

Public education and awareness

Recommendations 2004-6, 2005-2, 2005-6, 2005-7, 2006-24

- Public education should target potential victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, should be directed towards persons of all cultures, languages, and faiths; and should address the need to overcome cultural barriers and the feeling of “shame” as related to mental health issues, with the goal of reducing stigma.
- Cross-cultural and cultural competence training should be a mandatory component of all training programs for front line workers, such as police, healthcare, and social workers.

Focus on youth

Recommendations 2004-9, 2006-30, 2006-32

- School boards should institute curriculum-based healthy relationship programs as an essential part of the education system and should include emphasis on the reality that intimate relationships in adolescence pose similar concerns as in adult relationships.
- Educators and school staff need to be prepared to deal with disclosures that may transpire and be prepared to follow-up with students who may be dealing with chronic problems in this area.

Focus on the Aboriginal community

Recommendations 2007-6, 2007-7, 2007-10

- Resources for Aboriginal educational campaigns on domestic violence should be provided to raise awareness in aboriginal communities about the risks associated with IPV.
- It is recommended that government recognize the enormous lack of resources available to First Nations communities, including making available culturally appropriate service providers that would be adequately trained in providing an effective response to the complex issues facing Aboriginal families and that this be a priority of government.

Focus on IPV in same-sex relationships

Recommendations 2007-17, 2007-18

- It is recommended that social service providers, including police, physicians, and child protection services receive proper training regarding the dynamics of domestic violence in same-sex relationships.

Focus on resources

Recommendation 2004-28, 2007-7

- It is recommended that additional resources be made available to develop or provide access to domestic violence services for people living in northern (rural and remote) communities.

Marginalized Communities - DVDRC Recommendations

Public education and awareness

2004-6

It is recommended that awareness and education programs address the culture of silence surrounding domestic violence and its apparent acceptance that still exists in some families and small communities

2005-2

Public education should target potential victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. The education should:

- include the fact that risk of violence increases substantially during the time that a partner is leaving the relationship;
- address the needs of depressed and suicidal men who require counselling and risk reduction interventions, such as the removal of firearms from the home to prevent the escalation of the circumstances that result in the tragedies we have reviewed;
- be directed towards persons of all cultures, languages, and faiths; and
- address the need to overcome cultural barriers and the feeling of “shame” as related to mental health issues, with the goal of reducing stigma.

2005-6

Training workshops have to be developed and delivered by trained experts from the cultural communities being served.

2005-7

Cross-cultural and cultural competence training should be a mandatory component of all training programs for front line workers, such as police, healthcare, and social workers

2006-24

It is recommended that the Ontario Women’s Directorate, through its public education campaigns and professional education programs (through police, social services, mental health, and medical associations) address the need for a differentiated approach to victims of domestic violence who may not recognize the dangers posed by the (ex-)partner to themselves and their children

Focus on youth

2005-9

School boards should institute curriculum-based healthy relationship programs as an essential part of the education system

2006-30

It is recommended that the Ministry of Education encourage school boards to make professional development and distribution of resource material on domestic violence a priority. Ontario has available materials ranging from educators' resource guides to curriculum material on domestic violence prevention that could be implemented in a more comprehensive, consistent and integrated basis. (e.g., Handbook for Educators, Choices, 4thR). The goal of the training should be to prepare all staff to help youth/children who are victims of domestic violence (dating violence) or who have been exposed to domestic violence. Assisting these students may mean providing support, guidance and referrals to appropriate community services. Staff need to be prepared to deal with disclosures that may transpire in a formal (counseling session) or informal (after class) setting, and be prepared to follow-up with students who may be dealing with chronic problems in this area. (Similar to Recommendation #9/2002)

2006-32

To the Ontario Women’s Directorate and Ministry of Education: Public awareness programs (such as OWD’s Neighbours, Friends and Families) and Ministry initiatives on domestic violence should include emphasis on the reality that intimate relationships in adolescence pose similar concerns as in adult relationships.

Focus on the Aboriginal community

2007-6

To the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP); First Nations Police; First Nations Police Association & Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services (MCSCS) Policing Standards Division:

Recognizing the critical role that police play in responding to domestic violence calls, particularly in rural and remote communities where frequently they are the only resource available to families in trouble,

police officers require ongoing training in the dynamics of domestic violence especially when faced with reluctant and ambivalent victims and perpetrators who have a history of past domestic violence, suicidal behaviour and addictions. (Similar to recommendations #7/2002, #5/2002, #4/2002, #8/2004 & #28/2006)

2007-7

To the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs), Government of Canada (Department of Indian Affairs):

We recommend that First Nation communities be prioritized by government to address the enormous lack of resources available to them, including making available culturally appropriate service providers that would be adequately trained in providing an effective response to the complex issues facing Aboriginal families. These issues include the impact of intergenerational trauma on families with the consequence of high rates of mental health issues, addictions, domestic violence, unemployment and living in chronic states of poverty. (Similar to recommendation #28/2004)

2007-10

To the Ontario Women's Directorate (OWD):

Kanawayhitowin is an Aboriginal public awareness campaign that was launched in the fall of 2007 to raise awareness about the signs of woman abuse in First Nations communities, so that people who are close to at-risk women or abusive men can provide support. It reflects a traditional and cultural approach to community healing and wellness. Educational materials include brochures, public service announcements, a training video and CD-ROM. We recommend that the OWD consider making this campaign available to all Aboriginal communities across the province

Focus on IPV in same-sex relationships

2007-17

It is recommended that all agencies ensure adequate training and supervision in assessing domestic violence within same-sex relationships in cases where children are involved. It is also recommended that Children's Aid Societies follow-up on a referral with all parties involved with the child or children.

2007-18

It is recommended that social service providers, including police, physicians, and child protection services receive proper training regarding the dynamics of domestic violence in same-sex relationships.

Focus on resources

2004-28

It is recommended that additional resources be made available to develop or provide access to domestic violence services for people living in northern (rural and remote) communities.

2007-7

See above