

**Summary of the Policy Forum on
*Aboriginal Women and Violence:
Building Safe and Healthy Families and
Communities***

**Ottawa Congress Centre
March 27-28, 2006**



**“Even in thought, all women should be respected”
Elder Annie (Kishkwanakwad) Smith St. George**

This is an initiative of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women.

Disclaimer:

The summary described herein should in no way be construed as official or unofficial policy, nor should they be seen to reflect the consensus of the participants who attended the forum.

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Executive Summary

Convened in Ottawa, Canada on March 27 and 28, 2006, the *Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: Building Safe and Healthy Communities* (the “Forum”) brought together over 250 delegates representative of First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations, advocates, policy makers, and federal, provincial and territorial officials.

This landmark event, an initiative of Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, provided an opportunity to explore ways to build capacity and take collective or individual action to prevent and address violence against Aboriginal women. The goals of the Forum were to create a dialogue on policy and program initiatives between government officials and Aboriginal women’s organizations; to share promising practices on violence prevention; and, to showcase programs and services from across the country that are making a difference.

The Forum was organized around three thematic areas: raising awareness; access to programs and services; and, policy and research. Plenary sessions featured presentations by various speakers with experience and expertise on the topic, which helped to frame each subject area for the participants. Smaller group discussions, held in the tradition of ‘talking circles’, allowed participants to explore the issues raised by the speakers, and to provide additional insight into challenges and possible solutions in moving forward in each identified area.

While the intent of the small group discussions was to share ideas and experiences rather than arrive at a consensus, several common observations arose:

Raising Awareness

Participants felt that addressing violence against women needs to be a priority in Canada, and the message to the general population should be that violence is not just an Aboriginal women’s issue but a Canadian issue. They further stated that awareness needs to be focused on the community as a whole, with women and community leaders playing an active role, and men emerging as champions to end violence.

Groups discussed the importance of education in breaking silence and denial about violence. Preventative measures need to start in the education system with self-esteem programs and targeted education to encourage healthy lifestyles, relationships and anti-violence promotion. In addition, they indicated that awareness campaigns should also be directed at government officials to raise their knowledge of violence against Aboriginal women and the numerous issues it encompasses.

Participants also felt that the media needs to be a more effective partner in raising awareness, and discussed the idea of a national awareness campaign that engages the media and sends a message of zero tolerance on violence against Aboriginal women.

Access to Programs

Delegates expressed that programs and services needed to be culturally appropriate, focused on the family and community, and traditional healing and practices incorporated. In addition, they felt that programs and services need to emphasize not only women, but also focus on awareness and treatment services for men and youth.

The group emphasized the need for a holistic approach to program and service development and delivery, grounded in the culture and traditions of the particular community being served, to ensure a continuum of services for Aboriginal women and their families. The need to overcome issues of isolation and accessibility in service provision was discussed as was the need for equitable, consistent, multi-year and sustainable funding for programs and services.

Policy and Research

Participants discussed the need to encourage Aboriginal women to play a leadership role in policy-making, and emphasized community and political ownership of the issue of violence against Aboriginal women. They stressed that policies, programs and legislation must integrate Aboriginal values and traditions, as well as the human right of Aboriginal women to be safe in their communities.

There was much discussion on the need for renewed research and the shape that research should take. It was noted that research must be driven and led by Aboriginal peoples and researchers. The group felt that consultation and data gathering protocols need to be developed and followed using community-based research methodologies, and that the results of research must be of benefit to local communities. They further expressed that data must be gender-specific, with oral history recognized as a valid form of data collection, and that research ethics must be defined by Aboriginal people and expressed through policy.

At the end of the two days, delegates were given an opportunity to evaluate the Forum. Many saw the Forum as the beginning of a participatory dialogue that needed to continue through a true consultation process led by Aboriginal women with all stakeholders involved. Participants felt that there had to be opportunities to share experiences and promising practices in order to move forward on preventing and addressing violence against Aboriginal women.

Introduction

The Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: *Building Safe and Healthy Families and Communities* was an initiative of Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women.

The idea grew from the recognition that Aboriginal Women are the most vulnerable and marginalized women within Canadian society, particularly with respect to violence. Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women made a commitment to work collectively or individually to address violence against Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women's organizations were asked to provide input to develop potential objectives for a forum on Aboriginal women and violence.

The event was held on March 27 and 28, 2006 as a joint policy forum, with the costs shared among jurisdictions. The objectives of the forum were to create dialogue on policy and program initiatives between ministers, government officials and Aboriginal women's organizations, to share best practices on violence prevention, and to describe government services from across the country that are making a positive impact.

The policy forum brought together over 250 delegates from various First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations, advocates, policy-makers, and federal, provincial and territorial representatives who are committed to working collaboratively with Aboriginal women to build healthy and safe communities.

Objectives of the Policy Forum

The Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: *Building Safe and Healthy Families and Communities* engaged Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers, policy-makers and ministers in the pursuit of culturally sensitive, research and evidence-based policy-making.

The objectives of the policy forum were:

- To analyze, with Aboriginal women, significant policy or legislative issues that are creating barriers to Aboriginal women's equality, in relation to violence;
- To raise awareness on an urgent issue for a diverse audience of stakeholders;
- To provide suggestions to all governments as to how legislation, policies and programs could be improved to better address violence against Aboriginal women;
- To share best practices on policy and program initiatives that are achieving measurable results in reducing or eliminating violence against Aboriginal women; and
- To fulfill Canada's commitments under the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) by working directly with Aboriginal women on policy development.

Forum Structure

The participants were engaged in two different ways throughout the forum. Three primary plenary sessions were held in the central conference venue. The plenary sessions included presentations from various speakers on their experience and expertise in relation to the topic. The purpose was to inform and stimulate further discussion during follow-up break-out sessions.

Every effort was made to ensure each group had a good mixture of regional representatives and included a cross-section of individuals with expertise on the topic of violence.

The smaller group discussions were held in the traditional “talking circles,” which are used to promote healing and growing in a non-judgemental setting.

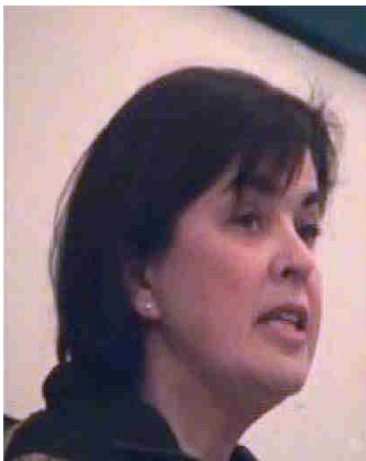
Within these “talking circles” there was further discussion and brainstorming about how to improve in the following areas:

- Awareness – to develop strategies and consider initiatives that will raise awareness
- Access to programs and services – to explore current access issues and possible ways to improve access to needed programs and services
- Enhancement of policies and programs – to explore how current policies and programs can be improved, strengthened or modified

Opening Remarks

Speaking on behalf of the federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women the Honourable Beverly Oda, Nancy-Jean Waugh welcomed all participants and acknowledged their interest in eradicating violence against Aboriginal women and creating lasting positive change.

She spoke about how violence affects everyone, a situation that is not acceptable. She said that people want change. “Members of the Aboriginal community from every region of this country have firmly stated that the time for talk has passed and the time to act is now,” she reiterated.



Ms. Waugh assured the forum participants that government officials at all levels were intent on hearing their concerns and were prepared to move forward on these issues. She called for a strategic approach that utilizes the expertise of advocates, community members, researchers and people who have identified gaps and challenges within the process. She called on those who are committed to change to find creative solutions.

Ms. Waugh told the assembly that a summary report would be produced by Status of Women Canada, with provincial and territorial colleagues, and will include the best practices, comments, and suggestions shared at this forum.

Opening Ceremonies

Drumming

The Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence: *Building Safe and Healthy Families and Communities* opened with a women's honour song by Minwaashin Women's Hand Drum Group.

The drum is very significant from a cultural standpoint as its beat symbolizes the heartbeat of Mother Earth. This particular drum group is made up of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women residing in Ottawa. They come together to learn songs of healing and celebration. Their songs are prayers to Mother Earth and to all of our ancestors. Their opening song, "Anishnabe Qwe" honours the First Woman, her strength and her beauty.



Lighting the Qulliq



Elder Annie Napayok explained that the qulliq is the Inuit lamp. She explained that the reason the qulliq is used as an example for nurturing is because it was the source of heat and light, and used for cooking and drying. Having it fully lit signifies being in a time of plenty. She explained that the qulliq was tended by women in the home and remains a symbol of the responsibility that women have in caring for their families and community. She sang a hymn in Inuktitut as she lit the qulliq.

Elders:



Annie (Kishkwanakwad) Smith St. George is an Algonquin Elder born and raised on the Kitigan-Zibi reserve near Maniwaki, Quebec. She is the founder of Kumik, the Elders Lodge at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Annie holds a teaching certificate from the University of Quebec and worked several years for the Government of Canada.

Annie (Kishkwanadwad) is a recognized Elder in Canada and the initiator of *National Aboriginal Awareness Week*. She has been featured in many documentaries on Aboriginal culture and social issues. She is the owner and founder of WAGE, a health centre that promotes the integration of Aboriginal knowledge with medical science. Annie has devoted her life to the promotion and recognition of positive values of Aboriginal people.

Her opening prayer called on the Creator to provide inner strength and to help all those present to remain patient with each other. She acknowledged the difficult path of healing from violence and reminded everyone that their mere presence was a step toward change.

Annie Napayok is an Inuk Elder from Whale Cove, a small Inuit community located on the west coast of Hudson Bay in the Nunavut Territory. Annie is a traditional Inuit midwife and a member of the Nunavut Midwifery Program Steering Committee. She has served as a Justice of the Peace and has volunteered on many school boards and committees, including the Hunters and Trappers Association.



Annie was appointed to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council and has served as its Vice-President and President. Annie is a role model for Inuit women. She draws her strength from her culture and language while advocating for the rights and equality of Nunavut women.

Plenary Panel Presentations

Focus: Awareness as it relates to violence against Aboriginal women

Presenter: Dr. Maggie Hodgson

Dr. Maggie Hodgson is a member of the Carrier First Nation in British Columbia. She has worked for many years on justice and healing initiatives. She has received many awards for her work in community development, including the National Aboriginal Achievement Award, the United Nations Community Development Award and the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide International Award for Leadership from Health Canada.

Dr. Hodgson also works with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Process to resolve cases outside of court. As well, she spearheaded the National Health Promotions campaign, "Keep the Circle Strong – National Addictions Awareness Week," which continues to grow. She is currently working on residential school healing and reconciliation issues.

Dr. Hodgson began her presentation with a personal story about a family member involved with a violent partner. The story showed how the efforts of lobbyists, activists and people similar to those gathered at the forum could make a difference in the lives of Aboriginal women. She suggested that progress can be made by bringing these types of people together to work towards common goals and solutions.

Dr. Hodgson stated that change is achieved through mutual respect and by both sides providing and giving up space. She reminded politicians and bureaucrats of the principles of the consultation process, citing Delgamuukw as an important example, and suggested they should only state they have consulted with Aboriginal people if they are prepared to include their input in the outcomes.

She encouraged Aboriginal leaders and others to articulate their issues and concerns without being disrespectful to those who have the ability to address their needs. "You don't make change by yelling and bullying, you create change by changing your attitude about how you deal with people." She suggested that sessions like this should be looked at as part of an ongoing dialogue to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women.

Taking space and giving up space was sometimes a challenge for those working in the system, she explained, pointing to the Residential School reconciliation process as an example. She likened the degree of controversy of appointing adjudicators in that process to the current appointment of Supreme Court judges. She also spoke about the need to address the issue of appointing friends and colleagues to positions of power.

Dr Hodgson went on to discuss two projects she was working on. The *Healing Our Spirit Worldwide* initiative sought to bring together policy-makers to discuss governance in the area of healing. The National Day of Healing and Reconciliation aimed to educate Canadians about our shared histories. She stated that it was by understanding what had happened to different groups in Canada, including First Nations, Chinese, Japanese, Ukrainian and Italian Canadians, that we can move forward and make sure it does not happen again.

Dr. Hodgson spoke about the current justice system and its treatment of violent offenders. She talked about the need to target Crown Prosecutors in lobby efforts and deliberations on violence so that they understand the outcomes of their actions and “because no one understands how much power they have and how they abuse their powers.” She also stated that judges are often mistakenly criticized by communities and government for the sentences they hand down, when often the sentences are the result of negotiations that have already taken place between Crown Prosecutors and the offenders.

In her conclusion, Dr. Hodgson stated that the gains made through lobby efforts over the last 30 years give her hope and that by continuing to work together and carrying on the dialogue, we will see more positive changes in the future.



Dr. Maggie Hodgson and Mr. Doug Cuthand

Presenter: Doug Cuthand

Mr. Doug Cuthand is a member of the Little Pine Cree Nation. His background is in print journalism and he has served as Director of Communications for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians Nations (FSIN), Vice-Chief of the FSIN and owner of Blue Hill Productions, an independent television production company.

In addition to his production work, Mr. Cuthand was a reporter for CPAC during the 2004 federal election and regional producer for the Vision TV program *Insight*. Since 1991 he has written weekly columns for the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* and the *Regina Post*.

Mr. Cuthand talked about the progress we have made in changing our attitudes about violence. He reflected on one of his earlier video productions on family violence called *No Laughing Matter*. The video, made in the 1980s, opens with Member of Parliament Margaret Mitchell presenting a report on family violence. Mr. Cuthand recalled that people actually laughed when she was presenting. He said he is glad that people no longer laugh when the matter of family violence is discussed.

Mr. Cuthand mentioned the importance of understanding that the term “family violence” does not mean the whole family is violent. It could be just one person, even though the term implies the whole family: “Violence is not just in the family, or the home - it is internal and external.”

He cautioned participants that we are in a period of rapid social change and that young people, especially young Aboriginal men, need role models. “Our young men are developing an attitude of disrespect for our women and I am very concerned.” He stated that Aboriginal people must take ownership over their lives and avoid being drawn into the “welfare mentality”.

Doug Cuthand also spoke about the growing number of Aboriginal women becoming educated and of the fact that more and more Aboriginal women are becoming involved in politics. “Contrast that to the increasing rates of Aboriginal men who do not finish high school, and consequently, there are a lot of young Aboriginal men who feel threatened by the success of women.” He suggested the men have to be able to deal with the problem, recognize it as *their* problem and “own it, as opposed to it owning them.”

Mr. Cuthand expressed concern and shock about the way that society views violence against Aboriginal women and referred to it as “a modern day tragedy for our people.” He noted the *Sisters in Spirit* initiative, which was initiated by the Native Women’s Association of Canada to address the status of over 500 missing or murdered Aboriginal women.

He brought forth a critical analysis of two stories to demonstrate how little the public cares about Aboriginal women being murdered. Two perpetrators, John Crawford and Paul Bernardo, were brought to trial at the same time. “The country was fascinated by” Bernardo’s case, which was splashed across the front pages of every newspaper, while “Crawford was relegated to the back pages of the *Star Phoenix*. The fact is, people never knew or heard of Crawford, and he killed more women than Bernardo, but he killed Aboriginal women.”

He suggested “Indian” women are not valued in Canadian society and thus can be beaten up and killed with very little public outcry, and that violence against Aboriginal women is minimized and given little attention in the media.

In closing, Mr. Cuthand reminded participants that it will be by working with the ‘silent majority’ that change will happen. “Communities need to address the issue of violence, but not in isolation” he stated. He summarized that “communities have to get to a point where violence against women is not acceptable. Changes have to come from within individuals and then from the communities.”

Presenter: Justice Alexina Kublu

Justice Alexina Kublu was born in Igloodik and received her Bachelor of Education from the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. She is aware of the challenges faced by Inuit communities, particularly with respect to language, culture and violence. She has been involved in designing Inuktitut language training materials, used in many schools throughout the North, and currently sits as a board member of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention. She has dealt with issues of violence throughout her career and



now addresses those issues within the justice system.

Justice Kublu's presentation focused on the importance of communities taking a holistic approach to abuse by dealing with the whole family. The loss of parenting skills and the lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities towards the family was cited as a root cause of violence in the home. She stated that "communities need to work together, to design and provide the types of programs that will teach the necessary life skills that will break violent behaviours. Victims must learn skills to become confident and self-sufficient by restoring the knowledge that was lost."

She talked about how today's lifestyles do not reflect what is in the best interest of women and the family. She believes community wellness strategies are needed and different levels of government must be aware of the communities' needs. Justice Kublu provided an example of a cultural nuance: in Inuit communities, informal counsellors are seen as qualified as those with diplomas because even though they don't have formal training, they have relevant life experience. "Formal education doesn't necessarily mean wisdom," she said. She believes that to truly address violence, "all resources must be made available to communities that may break the cycle of violence – including cultural sensitivities and utilization of cultural teachings and traditions."

Plenary Panel Presentations

Topic: Access to Programs and Services

Presenter: Bronwyn Shoush

Bronwyn Shoush is an Aboriginal descendant of the Coast Salish in British Columbia. She was born in Calgary and raised in Edmonton, where she obtained degrees in chemistry and law. As Director of Aboriginal Justice Initiatives for Alberta's Solicitor General and Ministry of Public Security, as well as Justice and Attorney General, she focuses on building relationships with Aboriginal communities and working with them and others to promote safe communities, respect for the law, and access to and confidence in the justice system.

Ms. Shoush's presentation provided information on Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework (APF) (September 2000) and Alberta's cross-ministry Aboriginal Policy Initiative (API) (September 2000 to March 2006) which was established to support and improve the overall quality of life of Aboriginal people, to clarify federal, provincial and Aboriginal roles and responsibilities, and to work towards the achievement of the Government of Alberta's Business Plan Goal number 7, which resolves to improve the 'well-being and self-reliance of Aboriginal communities and people.' The API was co-championed by Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and Alberta Justice, and required departments to work together and with Aboriginal communities and others to meet the API strategies, targets and goals.

To support the API, Ms. Shoush focused on building relationships with Aboriginal communities to help them identify challenges and gaps and build relationships with neighbouring communities, police services, health authorities and others in order to build circles of support for Aboriginal community-based development and action plans. Community-based mobilization has been effective in building confidence and resilience, and in helping communities address issues

including violence against women, children and Elders. Ms. Shoush noted that communities felt it was important to openly acknowledge violence in the home and in the community, and to encourage youth to be champions against violence. She has made presentations on this community engagement/development approach at the World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence (Banff 2005) and at conferences and workshops in Ottawa, Atlanta and Bangkok, as well as at Harvard and Yale.

Ms. Shoush spoke about the need to focus on the rights of Aboriginal communities to be safe, secure, well and free from intimidation, and for these Aboriginal group rights to take precedence over the rights of individuals who perpetrate violent acts. Aboriginal communities have pointed out that Aboriginal women are often victimized by other Aboriginal people, and that present sentencing procedures re-victimize Aboriginal women by having offenders sent back to the community to serve their sentences, where they may intimidate the victim and their family without real consequences. She reminded us that within Aboriginal traditions, community order, safety and security are so important that banishment has been used to protect the vulnerable and the community, and concluded by saying that "violence against Aboriginal women needs to be taken seriously by society, and victims need to come first in the justice system."

France Robertson, Prudence Hannis and Bronwyn Shoush



Presenter: Prudence Hannis

Prudence Hannis has been actively involved in addressing women's issues for over a decade. She has worked as the Health Coordinator for the Quebec Native Women's Association. Also, as a consultant and writer for the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Working Group, she was instrumental in identifying the wide range of issues affecting Aboriginal women in relation to violence.

Ms. Hannis stated that Aboriginal women are standing up for themselves and pointing to their need for their own programs and frameworks. On reserves, violence against women is worsened by social imbalance and sexual inequality, she explained. "Women have the perception that services are hard to obtain and are only available in the cities. There is also a lack of political will in some areas and in some organizations, which was an obstacle to developing family violence policies," she stated.

She explained the fear among women that if they accessed services, they would lose their children to the Children's Aid Society or they would be made to feel guilty if they were experiencing related social problems, such as substance abuse. She stressed that a nonjudgmental attitude among front-line workers was essential to dealing with these issues.

She identified a need for more qualified translators at all levels and in all types of service organizations, as "it is not enough to be able to speak a language, but they must know how to translate." People, she cautioned, should not assume that the best services are always located in the cities. Also, programs must be built on whatever resources are currently in the community.

Ms. Hannis concluded by stating that information was needed on possible solutions and their impacts on Aboriginal women. "Organizations and individuals must make efforts to bring visibility to the issue, including at conferences and anywhere policy people are meeting."

Presenter: France Robertson

France Robertson is from the Innu Nation and grew up in Mashteuiatsh in the Lac St-Jean region of Quebec. She holds a Bachelor's degree in animation and cultural research, as well as a certificate in management. Since 2002 she has devoted her energies to the Quebec Native Women's Association, working as Coordinator, Promotion of Non-Violence and Women's Shelters.

Ms. Robertson talked about community shelters and how, in her mind, they offered more than shelters in cities. She explained that shelters located in smaller communities do a lot of awareness work; with limited resources, staff members are expected to handle a wide variety of duties. Ms. Robertson spoke about the need for more shelters and increased funding to provide critical services.

In conclusion, Ms. Robertson summarized the successes of the community shelters and noted that other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal shelters were requesting information about their positive impact on the lives of Aboriginal women. For this reason, she firmly believes shelters need more opportunities to share information with other shelters, through networks like the one developed in Quebec.

Plenary Panel Presentations

Topic: Policy and Program Enhancement

Presenter: Jacqueline Agtuca

Jacqueline Agtuca, J.D., is the Public Policy Director of Clan Star Incorporated, a non-profit public policy and educational institute dedicated to: "Improving justice to strengthen the sovereignty of Indigenous women." In 1995, the U.S. Department of Justice hired Ms. Agtuca to help open the newly created Violence Against Women Office. In this capacity, she played a critical role in establishing current federal policy and programming for tribal governments.

Ms. Agtuca is a founding member of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Task Force on Violence Against Native Women. She said that the NCAI is the largest and oldest Indian organization in the U.S.



Ms. Agtuca began her presentation with a quote from one of her ancestors: “Let your women’s sons be ours, our sons be yours, let your women hear our words” (Nancy Ward, Cherokee, 1781).

Ms. Agtuca explained that American Indian women’s organizations have a two-pronged strategy to get their issues dealt with. On one hand, there is a need to reform federal legislation and tribal legislation, and there is an equal, if not more important, need to restore the native way of life. Legislative reform allowed for nations to bring back their way of life that traditionally protected

women; it was suggested that they could not have one without the other.

The Tribal Women’s Coalition (TWC) is a grassroots coalition that was created in 2003. The coalition initially went to the NCAI stating that violence must not be tolerated and successfully urging the NCAI to adopt a resolution to work with the TWC to stop the violence. The initiative was critical to the passing of the federal *Violence Against Women Act* of 2005.

The TWC suggested that while there were programs and services, women did not feel safe in accessing them and thus would not make use of them. “Programs and services must be reflective of women in the communities, their beliefs and traditions,” Ms. Agtuca stated.

The *Violence Against Women Act* requires the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of Human and Social Services to consult with “Indian” governments on the administration of programs that impact Indian women. (In the U.S., the term Indian is commonly referred to as opposed to the term, “First Nations,” which is used in Canada.) In addition, the Act established a 10 percent funding “set-aside” for Indian tribes and for the TWC in all federal initiatives for women. Ms. Agtuca stressed that communication is the essential component of the Act: if there is no communication then there is no meaning in the policy. In her final remarks, she pointed to the need for Indian women to have their own statistics, for example on the kinds of violence being committed and on their incidence.

Presenter: Debbie Chiodo

Debbie Chiodo holds Masters degrees in psychology and education (counselling psychology). She is the co-project lead for the Adapting Best Practices Violence Prevention Programs for Aboriginal Youth project. The purpose of this national partnership is to research how prevention programs can be culturally adapted for Aboriginal youth.

Ms. Chiodo is committed to improving access to services for youth, and she supports the use of schools and community groups as pivotal entry points for facilitation and support.

Ms. Chiodo stated that to address violence against Aboriginal women, work needs to be done with Aboriginal youth. She described the Fourth R Program, which teaches youth how to develop healthy relationships. The program is part of the school curriculum in 145 schools across Canada. She told participants that the Fourth R Program is currently being adapted for Aboriginal youth, with input from Aboriginal counsellors, educators, community leaders and students. The program is skills-based and equips adolescents with tools for conflict resolution. It has been implemented in schools, as opposed to communities, because the school setting has pre-existing structures and relationships.

Aboriginal youth tend to be marginalized at public secondary schools. Traditionally, they are not encouraged to lead nor are they recognized as potential leaders. The Fourth R's emphasis on participatory role-play scenarios has been successfully adapted for use with Aboriginal youth at the pilot stage, since it has allowed them to identify issues such as substance abuse, teen pregnancy, racism and poverty and to develop scenarios to highlight effective ways to resolve these conflicts. Videos have been produced depicting a range of communication and problem-solving skills.

The program indicates that Aboriginal youth respond enthusiastically to being engaged by violence prevention programming and are eager to become leaders amongst their peers. Ms. Chiodo pointed out the need to build strong relationships with youth to ensure their meaningful input into decisions that directly affect them.

Presenter: Sheila Swasson

Sheila Swasson is a member of the Mi'gmaq First Nation. She has been supervisor of Haven House, a shelter located on her reserve of Listuguj, Quebec, since its inception in 1991. Recently, Ms. Swasson was re-elected to the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence, an organization that works to end family violence and to support First Nations shelters and family violence prevention programs across the country.

Ms. Swasson told participants about her project, *Aboriginal Women on the Move – Cross Canada Cycle Tour 2006*. She and two other Aboriginal women plan to cycle across Canada this summer to raise awareness about violence against women. The initiative was supported in part by the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence and the Haven House shelter.



Ms. Swasson stated that *Aboriginal Women on the Move* is about making a difference and getting people involved at the grassroots level. She said that they wanted to hear women's stories, to learn and to share the realities of family violence. She intends to gather stories on how the cycle of violence is being broken in some families and communities. Ms. Swasson mentioned that there had been a lot of support from Aboriginal organizations all over Canada and she hopes that the dialogue will

continue to grow in all Aboriginal communities on and off reserve. Ms. Swasson concluded with the following quote: “Believe in the beauty of your dreams. Choose to make them a reality.”

Participant Working Group Sessions

Topic: Raising Awareness

The participant discussions on raising awareness focused primarily on the prevention of all types of violence against Aboriginal women as well as on developing specific strategies for each target audience.

Participants felt that addressing violence against women needs to be a priority in Canada, and the message to the general population should be that violence is not a women’s or an Aboriginal issue but a Canadian issue. Participants expressed a need for awareness throughout Canada. They also called for particular attention to be paid to the needs of Northern Aboriginal women, who face more distinct challenges due to isolation and limited services.

Participants felt that the many previous awareness campaigns and reports need to be analyzed to determine what has been accomplished, what are the jurisdictional overlaps, what are the existing gaps and what are the lessons learned that can contribute to the development of holistic approaches. There was also the feeling that momentum must continue for awareness campaigns to have greater permanency, consistency and relevance to the linguistic and cultural diversities of Aboriginal women.

Participants suggested that one or two awareness issues should be focused on to begin with and have them be adequately addressed before moving on to additional issues, and that the goal of all such awareness campaigns is to change societal attitudes so that violence in any form is no longer tolerated.

Raising Awareness through the Education System

Aboriginal women encouraged all governments involved with education to revise curricula to include information on family violence and to target youth within the school system. Education is required to break the silence and to end the denial about violence.

It was suggested that preventative measures need to start in the educational system, with self-esteem programs for everyone. Targeted education can encourage healthy lifestyles and relationships and promote non-violence.

Participants felt that school curricula must be culturally relevant to promote the message of non-violence to both children and youth and should be developed with stakeholder engagement and with proportional Aboriginal representation on school boards.

It was suggested that teacher training and development should prepare new and existing teachers to engage students in the areas of prevention, intervention, healing, and should promote diversity and ownership.

Participants felt that education and training of all citizens would raise awareness and effect attitudinal change, the result being wider public awareness and understanding of violence and of Aboriginal history and cultures, leading to public pressure for more resources to address the current issues.

Raising Awareness Within Government

Federal/Provincial/Territorial

Participants felt that awareness campaigns need to target government officials and departments to raise their awareness of violence against Aboriginal women and the numerous issues that it encompasses. Most importantly, awareness campaigns need to target the decision-makers so that they are aware of the issues and the many types of violence experienced by Aboriginal women.

It was suggested that training be made available to government workers, drawing on the expertise and existing resources for training government managers. The training could be enhanced by engaging Aboriginal women's institutes in the delivery and/or design of the training and could include cross-cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity exercises and specialized trainers, including Aboriginal women.

In addition, participants also suggested that the training be mandatory for all Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), federal, provincial and territorial governments and service providers, including the police and health workers.

Justice Systems

Discussions pointed to the need to raise awareness within the justice system of violence against Aboriginal women, and this includes Crown Attorneys, judges, police and court workers. It was felt that cultural awareness and sensitivity training should be required for all stakeholders within the justice systems and should provide an overall understanding of the impacts of violence and abuse.

Raising Awareness Within Communities

Participants agreed that the issue of violence against women must be brought to light in all Aboriginal communities so that people become more comfortable speaking out against it, as many times people turn a blind eye to what is happening around them. Sexual assaults and gang rapes go unreported because the perpetrators may be family members, friends, etc., and speaking out can be extremely divisive in small communities. It was suggested that Aboriginal communities need to deal with entrenched denial about violence against Aboriginal women.

Participants said that influential community members must set the example and be spokespersons and champions on the issue of violence against Aboriginal women. All members of the community, including children, women, men, youth and Elders, should be targeted and given a clear understanding of their responsibilities in addressing violence issues.

Raising Awareness Amongst Women

Participants felt that Aboriginal women need to be educated and assisted in becoming healthy in all respects, and that Aboriginal women who have been violated and abused need to know what a healthy relationship is. They need to know that they can move beyond hopelessness and victimization with the support of programs and services that are relevant and accessible to them. Participants suggested that young girls should be provided with public legal education materials to become aware of abuse issues so that they are able to avoid them in the future.

Raising Awareness Amongst Men

Participants also felt that awareness campaigns must target men, as Aboriginal men often feel unable to express emotion or feelings such as affection for their family members. It was suggested that there should be a conference for men to deal with the issue of violence against Aboriginal women.

Raising Awareness Amongst Youth and Children

Participants felt that one way to address violence against Aboriginal woman is through an awareness campaign that targets youth and children, reaching them when they are young and educating them about preventing all types of violence. It was suggested that youth could be engaged through Web sites, music, and videos that promote the anti-violence message in a creative fashion.

Participants also believed that the Internet could be used to inform youth about the programs and services that are available if they are in an unhealthy situation or require information. Many felt that children and youth need positive messages about how to treat people respectfully, especially their family members.

Raising Awareness Within the Media

It was suggested that the media do not seem interested in publishing stories about violence against Aboriginal women, and efforts should be made to make them more aware of the issue, and to educate them about the various types of violence that are occurring.

Participants felt that the media published mainly negative stories with respect to Aboriginal people and often portrayed Aboriginal people in a negative way. They felt the media did not focus on the positive work that many Aboriginal communities and organizations are doing to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women.

Participants expressed the view that Canadian society must stop stereotyping Aboriginal people, and that the various levels of government need to begin to consider and promote Aboriginal culture and history. This would include understanding the true effects of colonization on Aboriginal people, particularly on women, who are stigmatized and denied human rights protection in Canada.

Participants warned that mainstream media coverage should not promote a “one size fits all” pan-Aboriginal approach, as there is room to depict the diverse reality of Aboriginal women’s lives.

National Awareness Campaign: Key Messages

Participants provided the following suggestions for a national awareness campaign:

1. Canada and all levels of governments have to take responsibility for the issue of violence against Aboriginal women to develop a more cohesive and coordinated approach, rather than perpetuating the “silo” or “stove pipe” approaches so prevalent in government bureaucracies.
2. Governments must recognize and promote awareness of the different kinds of violence and the challenges that Aboriginal women face.
3. People need to know how best to intervene and to promote the message that violence is wrong and totally unacceptable.
4. Governments should incorporate multi-disciplinary approaches to preventing violence against women and address the root causes of violence, such as poverty and homelessness.
5. The extent of violence against Aboriginal women needs to be highlighted and presented in such a way that Canadians get the “true” picture first and then move to positive models to address the issue.
6. Domestic violence is a health care issue. The complexity and vastness of the issues related to violence include inter-generational factors that need to have the broadest profile. The same provisions should be made for family violence as for other health issues.
7. Violence is also an economic issue; it costs businesses in lost days and poor performance by workers.
8. Initiatives to address violence against Aboriginal women need to incorporate Aboriginal cultural values.
9. Aboriginal women and all levels of government need to acknowledge and celebrate the growing number of communities that are making a difference, that are beginning to overcome violent behaviour and substance abuse, and that are on the path to healing.
10. Aboriginal women would like to see more funding to promote the Aboriginal values of respect for self, family, community and Nation. There is an equally pressing need for preventative programming as for crisis response.
11. To ensure justice is being served, justice systems need to collaborate with Aboriginal women to revisit and compare what penalties are applied to domestic violence in relation to other crimes.

Participants felt that the key messages should be delivered in Aboriginal languages, in addition to English and French, and should be culturally appropriate.

The Healing Quilt

The “Quilt Project” was facilitated by the Assembly of First Nations Women’s Council and was created by First Nation members, Elders, women, youth, schools and quilters from across Canada.

The quilt is highly symbolic and is communicates the First Nations world view of unity and vision for a better future. The quilt was showcased at the Forum and has been used at different events across the country to carry healing messages.

“Healthy Land, Healthy People” was the theme for the First Ministers’ Meeting when this quilt was first presented. “Health and well being is intimately tied to the Land, for we are a People of the Land. It is the state of the Land that determines our health. Each block is about the connection between the Land and the People of this great and sacred Turtle Island, and how Mother Earth is connected to Women, for example.”



Awareness Tools and Media

Participants observed that Aboriginal women are currently not headline-makers, so a media strategy should be developed to bring the issues to the forefront: in newspapers, television, radio, Internet, etc. Media have a key role to play in addressing stereotypes of Aboriginal women and in recognizing how racism, sexism and sensationalized violence contribute to misinforming the public. Suggestions were provided on the best types of media to get the messages out.

Role Models

Participants spoke about the importance of positive male and female role models for anti-violence awareness campaigns, saying that these individuals should tell positive stories to the public and be mentors to youth and children.

Champions and Advocates

Aboriginal women would like to see the fostering of champions within communities, at all levels of government and within organizations.

It was suggested that men need to be the champions within their communities. They could deliver the anti-violence message, targeting other men. Male advocates need to discuss violence against Aboriginal women amongst themselves to move the issue forward. It would also be beneficial to have high-profile men speak on the issue and participate in national awareness campaigns. There is a role for Aboriginal Elders, particularly male Elders, who could work with young Aboriginal men.

Mentoring by strong women, champions and advocates should take place and be encouraged through the availability of appropriate funding by all levels of government. These women could speak to young women within communities to say that abusive relationships are “not right, not part of a normal way of life and cannot continue.”

Participants suggested that champions should be identified within all levels of government to make changes to policy and programs and to bring the issue to the forefront of the various political agendas.

Media

Participants stated that communities need to use the media to get their messages out to the public. This could include broadcasting on Aboriginal radio and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) with Aboriginal actors, writers, sports figures, etc., speaking out against violence against Aboriginal women. Short commercials could also be broadcast. Imagery that captures the interest, statistics and stories about violence against Aboriginal women and girls would all be powerful and effective awareness-raising tools.

Posters and Pamphlets

Distribution of posters and pamphlets to every community was also suggested as a means of getting the key messages out to the public.

Awareness Campaign Partnerships

Official partnerships in the campaign could be formed with organizations such as the Native Women's Association of Canada, the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and other Inuit, First Nations and Métis women's groups.

Participants said there could also be a lead advisory committee to assist in the development of the campaign. This committee would need to build on existing models and previous national campaigns that involved communities and governments. The campaign should seek information from those who have had success in media campaigns. i.e., Sisters in Spirit initiative, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and anti-smoking groups.



Funding Awareness Campaigns

Participants felt that funds are needed and must be committed specifically to awareness campaigns to end violence, just as they have been to smoking cessation, and participatory action campaigns and anti-violence funding must target First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Another source of funding might be from foundations, which could support public service announcements prepared in collaboration with Aboriginal women's groups.

Evaluating Awareness Campaigns

Participants stated that the impact of any awareness campaign has to be measured. With the ability to measure their impacts, future campaigns could identify lessons learned.

Conclusion

Effective awareness campaigns would lead to holistic programming, changes to health and well-being policy and positive change in societal attitudes.

Programs and Services

Continuum of Programs and Services

Participants expressed their desire to create a continuum of services for Aboriginal women including awareness, prevention initiatives and post-crisis interventions. All initiatives for Aboriginal women should be culturally appropriate, focused on healing and available across the country.

Programs may include: teaching life skills to address unhealthy activities that take place between specific interventions; adequate and appropriate follow-up on suicide attempts; long-term and continuous services; access to timely counselling and follow-up for abusers; training and rehabilitation programs for victims of violence that recognize the inter-relatedness of violence, employment and economic status; access to preventative counselling prior to crisis situation; services to help women with the transition into a new life after treatment; and continuous concentrated counselling. Program initiatives have to originate at the grassroots level and discussions on what initiatives are needed must occur.

Inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches are needed to address issues holistically. Governments need to understand the holistic approach—solutions involve women, men, children and the whole community.

Participants stated that limits to both the number of times women can access services and the length of time they can spend in a program should be removed.

Program Designs

Participants expressed the view that addressing and identifying the cycles of abuse and fallout from residential schooling is needed to prevent violence. Identified causes of violence include: drug and alcohol abuse; homelessness; poverty; lack of education; isolation; colonization; the assimilation policies of government; shame and self-esteem issues; the residential school system; and grief. These issues are complicated and ongoing. The root causes need to be addressed before the cycle of violence can end.

Programs for Women

Participants suggested that programs are needed to address women's low self-esteem and the reason they stay in abusive relationships. Programs on building and maintaining self-esteem and should be available in primary schools.

It was suggested that other programs are needed to instruct Aboriginal women on street safety.

Programs for Men

Participants expressed a need to address the particular issues that men face and determine why men become abusive. Again, they suggested the value of reintroducing positive role models for men. Rehabilitation programs should include a self-awareness component, so that perpetrators can understand why they do what they do and take responsibility for their actions.

Participants also discussed the benefits of having programs for young men and boys in the schools that build their self-esteem and show them how a successful, healthy relationship is built and maintained.

Programs for Youth

Suggestions to assist youth included: summer programs that provide the opportunity for youth to interact with Elders in the community; youth mentoring and training; Aboriginal youth mentoring younger children; and restorative justice programs for youth in trouble, which would utilize cultural components, such as working on sweat lodges.

Participants felt that more youth need to be included in this discussion, with actions taken based on their input.



Sierra Noble, a young Métis fiddling sensation, has proven that preserving culture through music and song is one of the most powerful ways to express oneself.

She performed at the forum during one of the health breaks.

This young woman's performance was spell-binding. She delighted the crowd with her energy, skill and knowledge imparted by many of the greatest fiddlers in Canada.

Her message, "Continue to dream. Never give up on your dreams," was underscored throughout her performance.

Programs for Families

Participants stated that treatment needs to focus on the entire family, including women, men and children. A participant stated that child protection agencies need to be more sensitive to families and couples and find ways to keep families together. The court system should be more family-friendly and work towards rehabilitating families. Programs should focus on teaching families how to be together and resolve issues in a non-violent way. Specific programs are also needed for families with children affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder and other disorders that require respite care.

Additional family programming should include: kinship care and involvement of the extended family rather than foster care; more publicly funded counselling for male offenders; addiction services that support the whole family; and parenting programs adapted to the unique needs of Aboriginal communities.

Inuit-Specific Programming

Inuit participants came together in a separate session to discuss issues that were specific to their needs. The funding of Inuit-specific programs was identified as a means of dealing with issues such as geographical isolation, distance between communities and high cost of living. A strengthened infrastructure with multi-year funding was also identified in order to provide programs that would produce meaningful, long-term intervention strategies.

Participants felt that community attitudes towards violence need to change and solutions must be found within the communities themselves, with input from men. It was also commented that program design and delivery should respect Inuit natural justice and restorative justice and should focus on restoring peace to the family.



Nunavut Sivuniksavut

Nunavut Sivuniksavut (NS) is a unique eight-month college program based in Ottawa. It is for Inuit youth from Nunavut who want to prepare for the educational, training, and career opportunities that are being created by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and the new Government of Nunavut. The NS students performed drum dancing and throat singing in front of an enthusiastic audience.

Anguti Johnston is a participant in the NS program and is featured in this picture.

Traditional Practices in Programming

It was felt that increasing the use of traditional practices and providing culturally-relevant programs and services could increase access to programs. Participants felt that Aboriginal women need to feel welcomed and to see themselves acknowledged in the programs and services available to them.

Participants expressed the view that programs and services should draw on traditional ways of addressing violence, including the role of the grandmother; banishment; the roles of men and women in relationships; women as decision-makers and as equals; and complementary roles. The use of teachings such as sharing and respect and the inclusion of spiritual commitments were also identified as important. The ability of providers to speak and use Aboriginal languages

was also noted as a way to make the programs and services more acceptable to Aboriginal people. Ensuring there is adequate Aboriginal language translation capacity is very important.

Support to revitalize cultural teaching, especially as it pertains to parenting skills, was also mentioned. Aboriginal Head Start programs, and parenting programs adapted to Aboriginal communities and their unique characteristics were suggested. A “Parent Link Centre” and a “Prevention of Family Violence Abuse Line” were two other ideas discussed.

Participants also stated that programming needs to go deeper than just raising awareness of violence against Aboriginal women; it should seek to restore Aboriginal cultural and traditional values.

Programming should also target young people, to encourage pride in their culture and heritage.

Programs Addressing All Types of Abuse and Programs for Victims Experiencing Trauma

Participants felt strongly that programs and services need to address all types of abuse and that they should not be separated. A policy of “zero tolerance” was suggested, as was the need to promote full awareness of abuse through descriptions of the many different types. Those types of violence not often talked about and in need of discussion include two-spirited violence, the abuse of Elders and child pornography. Participants felt that there is sometimes a reluctance on everyone’s part to acknowledge the issue and scope of violence against Aboriginal women.

Exchange Programs

Exchange programs were also mentioned. Possibilities suggested included bureaucrats visiting communities and communities visiting each other to share successes.

Workplace Training Programs

Participants suggested that sensitization to the issue of violence against Aboriginal women could happen through workshops and mentoring, particularly when employees begin new jobs. They felt that this training should be mandatory and should become part of the fabric of everyday work life. Industry partners in private companies would need the resources to train staff.

Economic Development

Participants felt that increased employment opportunities would lead to Aboriginal women’s empowerment and increased financial independence. Participants thought the government should develop economic opportunities to create more jobs for women living on-reserve and could begin the process by offering on-reserve training programs. This would enable participants to remain in their communities rather than having to move to urban centres to find employment.

Program Design

Participants agreed that Aboriginal women have a lot to offer to the design and development of programs to address violence and need to be engaged in the process from the beginning. Some

also felt that all stakeholders needed to be engaged in the process, not just Aboriginal women. Holistic approaches for “interventions” are needed, and should support communities to design and develop their own programs.

Access

Transportation

Funding for transportation, both on- and off-reserve, was discussed. Transportation is a critical issue in remote areas, where there are a limited number of shelters, and in urban centres, where transportation services are being reduced. Participants said that funding is needed to enable women to get to the programs and services and to enable counsellors to do more outreach and to go directly to clients.

Addressing the Fear of Disclosure

One issue that arose in all break-out group sessions was the fact that women often do not make use of programs and services because of the stigma around domestic violence and fear of disclosure. Participants agreed on the need to address the fear of coming forward by determining a method to mediate the possible negative consequences, which include the loss of children and separation from the spouse. Policies and programs need to deal with both the shame and the potential negative consequences as a means of increasing access. Building trust and providing a safe, confidential environment will increase participation in programs and services.

Living with Disabilities

Participants pointed out that women with disabilities have particular difficulty accessing services due to the location of some of the service providers. Funding limitations make it difficult to assist providers seeking to make their services accessible to those living with disabilities.

Funding

Funding was discussed in all groups and in all subject areas. All of the ideas and suggestions provided by participants had an aspect of funding attached to them. It was felt that there is a lack of funding to provide a continuum of services to Aboriginal women and to the general public to deal with the issue of violence against Aboriginal women.

Participants stated that the funding that is available is short-term, and tied to complicated and time-consuming reporting requirements. The lack of flexibility results in an inability to address the many specific issues.

Participants also felt that funding is difficult to access because information on available sources is not provided in a timely fashion. Further, some felt that funding is distributed inequitably between groups and regions, that this disparity needs to be addressed, and that the current funding base is only able to provide basic services.

Participants also expressed the need to increase the funding available for research initiatives. The research funding needs to provide a multi-year commitment that facilitates the involvement of Aboriginal researchers and allows for communities to explore issues of relevance to them.

All participants felt that, in general, governments have to increase the levels of funding and strengthen the policies to address violence against Aboriginal women. It was also said that governments need to be transparent and accountable for current funding allocations.

Simplify Government Processes

Participants stated that, with seven federal ministries currently providing funding for family violence initiatives, challenges are created for NGOs and service providers, who must undergo seven audits, complete seven applications and carry out seven assessment processes. It was felt that the federal government should be fiscally responsible and have one fund and one application process. In addition, standardized application forms should be created and technical support provided.

Networking And Sharing Of Information



One way identified by participants to address the issue of access was to enhance programs and services by sharing information and by networking. The Internet was identified as an optimum vehicle for sharing information, through Web-based directories.

Participants agreed that face-to-face meetings are most beneficial. However, costs are a significant factor, particularly for individuals living in remote communities. Access by Aboriginal women would be increased if opportunities were taken to develop new models based on new ideas,

new information and previous successes. Participants felt that a strong network of Aboriginal women is also required for support and information sharing.

The sharing of information was also seen as a way to determine which provinces and territories have successful Aboriginal-friendly programs. The sharing of information would also facilitate the development of a set of best practices in violence prevention.

The development of an Aboriginal Family Violence Clearinghouse was identified as a potential solution, as was the creation of an



Aboriginal Family Violence Research Centre to facilitate the development of relevant materials and information. It was felt that people currently work in isolation from each other, despite their common interests, and that there needs to be integration of services and leadership in the development, mandating and usage of networks.

Partnerships

Participants felt that broad partnerships were required to deal with the complex issues that encompass violence against Aboriginal women. Partners need to know what other partners are doing and what services are being provided, including by police, shelters, emergency services, child and family services and others. These partners need to develop interventions that are both supportive and non-threatening to address each issue.

Participants felt that there is also a need to implement ongoing, strategic, meaningful and collaborative inter-ministerial/inter-agency approaches. To overcome “mandate myopia,” governments need to move towards a holistic approach. Technical assistance is required in the short term to establish relationships between local agencies so they can come together to achieve longer-term shared objectives.

Talking Circles

Another important facet of the “talking circles” at the policy forum was the opportunity afforded all government officials and Aboriginal leaders to hear directly from Aboriginal women in a non-threatening environment.

The talking circles enhanced appreciation not only of the rich cultural diversities of Aboriginal women but also the geographic and jurisdictional complexities that they face. Talking circles allow everyone’s voice to be heard and facilitate a non-linear dialogue.



Infrastructure And Capacity Development

Increasing Capacity

Capacity to Access Programs

Participants felt that the capacity to access programs through the current application and proposal-led process needs to be reviewed and enhanced, and new processes must be developed and guidelines revised to increase access to programs and to services offered in the community.

Community Capacity

It was suggested that communities need to assess their capacity to identify, deal with, and address, violence against Aboriginal women. Non-compliance with court orders was identified by participants as an issue of incapacity. The current lack of capacity has led to non-compliance with court orders and thus to women being in danger. Participants pointed out that this often results in a heavy reliance on shelters to provide services that are outside both their current mandate and their capacity.

Service Provider Capacity

Participants said that for many of the reasons already detailed, a significant number of service providers are experiencing burnout. New workers with skills and qualifications need to be trained and new initiatives developed to address this situation. Participants saw cultural competency training as a means to address this issue. A coordinated effort to provide relevant training to a full range of service providers, such as the RCMP, shelter workers and social workers, could ensure shared knowledge and understanding.

Research Capacity

Participants felt that research on violence against Aboriginal women had to be community-based and that resources need to be provided to communities to increase their capacity to conduct their own research. Participants identified the following key components of research capacity: assessment capabilities, data collection capabilities and analysis capabilities.

Infrastructure Development

Participants stressed that adequate infrastructures are needed at all levels to deliver necessary programs. It was felt that an investment in infrastructure is required to deal holistically and comprehensively with violence against Aboriginal women.

Aboriginal Women's Directorate

Participants identified the need for an Aboriginal Women's Directorate to coordinate funding and programming and lend technical and administrative support to Aboriginal women's groups and programs. The Directorate could also facilitate more inter-departmental coordination of initiatives. Regional co-ordinators in all provinces and territories could also be part of the Directorate and would be able to deal with regional disparities.

Additional functions could include the housing of a central database of information that is accessible to Aboriginal women and their organizations. It was also suggested that the Directorate could manage a clearinghouse of resources to assist people in developing shelters, programs and overall capacity.

Council on Domestic Violence

Another suggested initiative was a council on domestic violence to coordinate and assess need. This group would be able to advocate, identify gaps, share information and suggest strategies.

One additional role could be the provision of an ombudsperson to deal with complaints and funding appeals.

Systemic Barriers

Matrimonial Real Property

The issue of matrimonial real property rights as they exist on reserves was identified as a key systemic barrier. Currently there are no matrimonial real property rights on reserve; consequently, when a relationship breaks down, it is the woman who is forced to leave the matrimonial home and reserve. Many women do not want to leave their on-reserve home because it could take them years to get it back or to secure another one. Often the home located on the reserve is owned by the woman's husband/partner, community and/or by the local government. In the urban areas, the issues are not dissimilar in that social housing can be lost if the woman leaves. Participants felt that policies are needed to safeguard women's homes, both on and off reserve.

Jurisdiction

Participants discussed jurisdiction as it relates to: funding disparities on- and off-reserve; the types of programs available between different provinces; and the responsibilities of different government departments. It was suggested that programs and services be designed and implemented first and jurisdictional issues addressed afterwards. Respect for, and the building of, self-governing Aboriginal governments were seen as representing a long-term solution to jurisdictional issues. Other solutions suggested included training on dealing with several jurisdictions at once and the provision of liaison services between jurisdictions.

Legislation, Policy and Program Guidelines

Policy and program guidelines were seen as rigid and unrealistic for dealing with the realities of violence. Policies and guidelines need to be based on a single goal that could be defined in 'Protecting Against Family Violence' legislation. It was suggested that legislation be developed to encompass all violence and to protect the well-being of all. The purpose of the legislation would be to prevent violence and to punish those who perpetrate violence.

Participants stated that attitudes and policies need to change, and that lenient sentences minimize the seriousness of violence against women. It was expressed that the justice system needs to incarcerate perpetrators, even though the jails are full. Full jails cannot continue to be an excuse for not incarcerating perpetrators.

It was suggested that specific legislation is needed that recognizes and enables Aboriginal women's rights to safety and protection. It was stated that creating legislation that provides alternatives to incarceration and the funds for healing interventions are necessary.

Participants agreed that Aboriginal people need to be involved in policy development and implementation, and that policies should enable Aboriginal people with additional skills to provide for themselves and their communities.

Participants suggested that a review of federal, provincial and territorial policies be conducted to ensure that Aboriginal issues are, in fact, aimed at, and articulated by, Aboriginal people. It was suggested that Health Canada must undergo a policy shift toward providing more support for healing rather than short-term intervention, and that governments need to review existing policies and guidelines to ensure they meet Charter requirements and international law. If they do not, the necessary revisions need to be made.

Research

Research Policy

First Nations-, Inuit- and Métis-driven and -controlled research processes, with Aboriginal researchers, were cited as required components of all research initiatives on violence against Aboriginal women. Data must be gender-specific, with oral history as a valid form of data collection. Participants discussed how research should be conducted and which policies should be in place for research initiatives. It was felt that consultation and research protocols need to be developed and followed using community-based research methodologies and that the research must also benefit the communities identified. Participants felt that ethics must be defined by Aboriginal people and expressed through policy. Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP), a political term used by Aboriginal peoples to highlight their right to self-determination, was mentioned in the context of research initiatives.

Participants asserted that holistic approaches that define the indicators and measures being used in the development of conclusions should also be culturally relevant. They also said that research is needed to determine how certain issues affect others, and to explore their systemic ramifications.

Research Initiatives

Participants stated the need for more relevant quantitative research on Aboriginal women and the issues of violence, for basic population and group-specific data on the different types of violence, and the necessary programs and policies to address them. Regional statistics are needed to justify increased funding.

Suggested research questions included:

- What are the strategies being used by Aboriginal women to cope with all forms of violence in their lives?
- What are the best practices being used by Aboriginal women's organizations and other Aboriginal organizations?
- What are the long-term effects of violence on Aboriginal children: health, educational achievement, cycles of violence and future relationships?

Other research initiatives could include:

- An inventory of programs and strategies and a rating of their effectiveness;
- Research on male perpetrators of violence;
- Prevention research;
- Research programs for men to understand where their violence is coming from;

- Research specific to matrimonial property rights;
- An environmental scan on existing research initiative findings to determine research gaps;
- Racialized violence versus domestic violence;
- Impact analysis of funding decisions on Aboriginal women;
- On-reserve housing policies across Canada; and
- Contributing factors for violence.

Application of Research Knowledge

Participants stated that all research initiatives need a clear and precise outcome that benefits the communities. Protocols are needed to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the purposes of the research and how it would be applied. In addition, policy and program development should be based on the findings of high quality research.

Coordination and Sharing of Research

Participants pointed to a need to create an effective means of coordinating and disseminating information and research outcomes, such as a research clearinghouse or a Centre of Excellence on all forms of violence experienced or perpetrated by Aboriginal people, which is developed and administered by Aboriginal people. The clearinghouse could also serve as a family resource centre.

Another suggestion was to create a “Tribal Deputy” who would review and establish protocols for research purposes, and review and safeguard policy and programming for Aboriginal women.

Participants felt that research outcomes needed to be shared in a language that is understood by the communities, their leaders and all levels of government.

It was also suggested that an Aboriginal Advisory Council or a coordinating committee for research could explore research partnerships, including those between educational institutions and Aboriginal organizations.

<h3>Continuing The Dialogue</h3>

Participants agreed that the policy forum was a good starting point for an ongoing, critical dialogue. It was important that the discussion began at the grassroots level, with planning and implementation. Consultations with Aboriginal people need to focus on the impact of laws and legislation on Aboriginal women prior to their passing. Participants suggested that Aboriginal women could assume advisory positions within policy units to ensure relevance; there is currently a shortage of qualified people at the table to discuss needed solutions. Realistic inclusiveness and accountability are needed. Best practices, gaps in existing services and effective policies need to be presented to cabinet ministers to begin a serious dialogue on violence against Aboriginal women.

Political Will

Participants felt strongly that political will is required to address the issue of violence against Aboriginal women. It was agreed that politicians need to understand the issues and be on the

same side to make progress, and that existing information needs to be shared at all levels to ensure that violence against Aboriginal women is on every politician's agenda, whether they are Aboriginal, national, provincial, territorial, municipal or tribal. Women need to be encouraged to enter politics to ensure that women's perspective is heard and considered on all issues relating to violence.

Closing Remarks

Honourable Charles Dent, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, NWT



Minister Dent thanked all the women's organizations that worked to make the Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence a reality and thanked the participants for joining forces to make the issue a priority. Minister Dent stated that while Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women are committed to advancing work on this issue, responsibility also lies with all government departments, at all levels. He suggested that societal attitudes have to change first for action to happen. Change will only occur if strategies are community-driven and community-wide. He encouraged women's organizations to keep monitoring government to make sure this

issue is given the attention it deserves. He committed to sharing the outcomes of the meeting with his Status of Women colleagues in all jurisdictions and to keeping the discussion going.

Minister Dent acknowledged that societal change does not happen immediately but everyone must exercise patience while continuing to work hard. He emphasized that doing prevention work with youth was essential. He added that culturally sensitive services need to be improved in communities along with training and support to front-line workers. The "cookie cutter" approach does not work, rather, programs and services must be made to fit the needs of regions and communities.

Nunavut Sivuniksavut - Current NS student Rebecca Sammurtok of Chesterfield Inlet and Corenna Nuyalia prepare to throat sing.



Conclusion

Participants at the forum were provided with an evaluation form to complete and submit after the two days. Overall, participants were pleased with the forum, mainly expressing satisfaction that it took place and hopes that actions and progress would result from the discussions. There were also many hopeful comments that such a forum would not be a “one-time” event, but that future fora, conferences, or consultations would follow and thus advance and improve on the work around Aboriginal women and violence.

Although many commented on the difficulty of tackling such a multi-faceted problem in two days, participants viewed the Forum as a great start and were especially pleased with the opportunity to “network” with the many stakeholders working to end violence against Aboriginal women. The diversity of the panellists and their presentations as well as the “break-out” session topics were very well received.

This document will be presented for discussion at the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Forum of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women meeting, which will take place in October 2006.

APPENDIX A

POLICY FORUM ON ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND VIOLENCE:
BUILDING SAFE AND HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
OTTAWA CONGRESS CENTRE
MARCH 27 – 28, 2006

Agenda

DAY 1: MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006

7:30 a.m.	Registration	Capital Hall Foyer
7:30 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast	Capital Hall Corridor
8:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies <i>Capital Hall 3/4/5b</i> Minwaashin Lodge Women's Hand Drum Group	
	Opening Words Elders- Annie Ste. Georges (Algonquin) and Annie Napayok (Inuit)	Capital Hall 3/4/5b
9:00 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks Federal Co-Chair – The Hon. Bev Oda Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women	Capital Hall 3/4/5b
9:15 a.m.	Policy Forum Overview Forum Facilitators – Sharon Visitor, Mathieu Courchene	Capital Hall 3/4/5b

Area of Exploration – Awareness

9:30 a.m.	Plenary – Panel Presentation– Awareness The panel will provide an overview on the topic of Awareness as it relates to the issue of violence against Aboriginal women to inform and stimulate further discussion in the Break-out sessions. <i>Panelists:</i> Dr. Maggie Hodgson, Doug Cuthand, Justice Alexina Kublu	Capital Hall 3/4/5b
10:20 a.m.	Health Break	Capital Hall Corridor
10:45 a.m.	Break-out Sessions – Awareness Participants will have an opportunity to develop strategies and consider initiatives that will raise Awareness that violence against Aboriginal women is a discrete and complex issue to be understood and solved.	Capital 3/4/5b, 1a, 2a, 6a Executive Boardroom
12:00 p.m.	Buffet Lunch	Capital Hall Corridor

1:00 p.m. Healing Dance *Capital Hall 3/4/5b*

Sierra Noble, Métis jigger and fiddling sensation, and accompanist Danny Flett

Area of Exploration – ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

1:30 p.m. Plenary – Panel Presentation – Access to Programs and Services - *Capital Hall 3/4/5b*

Experts in the area of access will provide their views on the topic to further inform participants prior to discussing the topic in the Break-out session.

Panelists: Bronwyn Shoush, Prudence Hannis, France Robertson

**2:30 p.m. Break-out Sessions – *Capital Hall 3/4/5b, 1a, 2a, 6a*
Access to Programs and Services Executive Boardroom – Upper Level**

Participants will explore the current access issues in an effort to brainstorm possible solutions and strategies that will increase the opportunities for Aboriginal women to access needed programs and services.

Health Break

4:00 p.m. Wrap up of Day 1 and Overview of Day 2 *Capital Hall 3/4/5b*

Forum Facilitators – Sharon Visitor and Mathieu Courchene

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Information Fair / Reception

***Ottawa Congress Centre
Capital Hall***

The purpose of the Information Fair is to share best practices and expertise in the area of violence against Aboriginal women. It will be comprised of approximately 16 booths. Each booth will feature initiatives

– funded or sponsored by federal, provincial and territorial governments –
which address violence against Aboriginal women and which have shown positive results.

DAY 2: TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2006

7:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast Capital Hall Corridor

8:30 a.m. Call to Order and Overview of the Day Capital Hall 3/4/5b
Forum Facilitators – Sharon Visitor, Mathieu Courchene

Area of Exploration – POLICY AND PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

8:45a.m. Plenary - Panel Presentation – Policy and Program Enhancement Capital Hall 3/4/5b

The panel will explore where the policy gaps exist and provide their insights on what kinds of policies and programs are needed and how they will have a positive impact on reducing the incidence of violence against Aboriginal women.
Panelists: Jacqueline Agtuca (U.S.), Debbie Chiodo, Sheila Swasson

9:45 p.m. Break-out Sessions – Capital Hall 3/4/5b, 1a, 2a, 6a
Policy and Program Enhancement – Part I Executive Boardroom – Upper Level

Participants will have the opportunity to express how current policies and programs have dealt with the issue of violence against Aboriginal women, what new policies or programs are needed and how existing policies and programs could be improved, strengthened or modified.

Health Break

Break-out Sessions – Capital Hall 3/4/5b, 1a, 2a, 6a
Policy and Program Enhancement – Part II Executive Boardroom – Upper Level

Participants will focus on solutions by continuing to discuss what new policies or programs are needed and how existing policies and programs could be improved, strengthened or modified.

12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch Capital Hall Corridor

1:30 p.m. Cultural Celebration Capital Hall 3/4/5b
Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Inuit Throat Singers

2:00 p.m. Plenary – Guidance from Break-out Sessions Capital Hall 3/4/5b
The facilitation team will present a summary of the findings of the Break-out Sessions on
Awareness, Access to Programs and Services, and Policy and Program Enhancement.

2:30 p.m. Closing Remarks Capital Hall 3/4/5b
Territorial Co-Chair – The Hon. Charles Dent
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Northwest Territories

2:45 p.m. Closing Ceremony/Adjournment Capital Hall 3/4/5b
Algonquin Elder - Annie Ste. Georges
Minwaashin Lodge Women's Hand Drum Group

**APPENDIX B
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR		
Banfield, Myrtle	St. John's Native Friendship Centre	Newfoundland and Labrador
Drew, Kelly	Conne River Health & Social Services (MIAWPUKEK First Nations)	Newfoundland and Labrador
George, Dorothy	Newfoundland Native Women's Association	Newfoundland and Labrador
Nochasak, Zippie	Nunatsiavut Government	Newfoundland and Labrador
Nui, Mary Anne	Mushuau Inni First Nations	Newfoundland and Labrador
Turnbull, Christa	Labrador Métis Nations	Newfoundland and Labrador
Wolfrey, Charlotte	Nunatsiavut Health & Social Development	Newfoundland and Labrador
Leamon, Luanne	Women's Policy Office, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador
MacLellan, Heather	Women's Policy Office, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador
Wall, Mona	Violence Prevention Initiative, Women's Policy Office, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND		
O'Brien, Sharon	Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI	Prince Edward Island
Sark, Roseanne	MCPEI / AWA	Prince Edward Island
Martin, Faye M.	Interministerial Women's Secretariat, Prov. Of PEI	Prince Edward Island
Shea, Hon. Gail	Minister Responsible for the Status of Women	Prince Edward Island
NOVA SCOTIA		
Clarke, Shirley	Glooscap First Nation	Nova Scotia
Gloade, Clara	N.S. Native Women's Association	Nova Scotia
Marshall, Paula	Mi'kmaw Legal Support	Nova Scotia
Robinson, Chief Deborah	Acadia First Nation	Nova Scotia
Tracey, Brenda	Tripartite Forum	Nova Scotia
MacLean, Jean	Mi'kmaw Family & Children's Services of NS	Nova Scotia

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Moore, Denise	NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women	Nova Scotia
Neumann, Brigitte	NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women	Nova Scotia
Power, Sonia	NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women	Nova Scotia
NEW BRUNSWICK		
Augustine, Christine	Advisory Council on the Status of Women	New Brunswick
Brooks, Genine	St. Mary's First Nation	New Brunswick
Coburn, Elizabeth	NB Native Women's Council	New Brunswick
Levi, Ruth	Mawiw Council	New Brunswick
McBride, Natalie	Gignoo Transition House	New Brunswick
Melanson, Rosella	Advisory Council on the Status of Women	New Brunswick
Sanifas, Tamara	Fredericton Native Friendship Centre	New Brunswick
Dubé, Norma	Women's Issues Branch, Executive Council Office	New Brunswick
Macies, Anne	Dept. of Intergovernmental & International Relations	New Brunswick
Malone Currie, Marg	Women's Issues Branch, Executive Council Office	New Brunswick
Paul, Krista	Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat	New Brunswick
QUÉBEC		
Cloutier, Édith	Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec inc.	Québec
Basile, Sylvie	Conseil des Innu de Ekuanitshit, Assemblée des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador	Québec
Gabriel, Ellen	Femme autochtone du Québec inc.	Québec
Guay, Nathalie Nika	Maison d'hébergement Missinak	Québec
Larose, Danielle	Ligne Kue	Québec
Malec, Angélique	Cercle de femmes autochtones, Maison d'hébergement Missinak	Québec
Nanipou, Maria-Louise	Ligne Kue	Québec
Riverin, Annik	Ligne Kue	Québec
Robertson, France	Femmes Autochtones du Québec inc.	Québec / Speaker

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Swasson, Sheila		Québec / Speaker
Audette, Michèle	Secrétariat à la condition féminine	Québec
Beaudoin, Pierrette	Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones	Québec
Bérubé, Martine	Ministère de la Justice	Québec
Cadrin, Hélène	Secrétariat à la condition féminine	Québec
Niquette, Sophie	Secrétariat à la condition féminine	Québec
Pelchat, Christiane	Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine	Québec
Prégent, Jacques	Ministère de la Justice	Québec
Racine, Anne	Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes	Québec
Rosebush, Natalie	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux	Québec
Savard, Nathalie	Ministre de la Sécurité publique	Québec
Théberge, Carole	Ministre, Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine	Québec
ONTARIO		
Alisch, Cathy	Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association	Ontario
Antone, Deborah	Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians	Ontario
Baibomcowai-Dell, Lillian	Chiefs of Ontario	Ontario
Brant, Holly	Red Cedars Shelter, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians	Ontario
Elliott, Germaine	Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association	Ontario
Ense, Linda	Ontario Native Women's Association	Ontario
Fiddler, Touchan	Nishnawbe Aski Nation	Ontario
Goodchild Southwind, Melanie	Nishnawbe Aski Nation	Ontario
Hamilton, Ann	Ontario Native Women's Association	Ontario
Henry, Doris	Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services	Ontario
Hill, Jessica	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres	Ontario
Johnson, Chief Pam	Grand Council Treaty #3	Ontario
Ledger, Sally	Ontario Native Women's Association	Ontario
Mandamin, Josephine	Ontario Native Women's Association	Ontario

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Maracle, Sylvia	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres	Ontario
Morrisseau , Calvin	Grand Council Treaty #3	Ontario
Powley, Evelyn	Métis Nation of Ontario	Ontario
St. Jules, Donna	Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association	Ontario
Stonefish, Geoff	Chiefs of Ontario	Ontario
Swan, Terry	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres	Ontario
Wynne, Dorothy	Ontario Native Women's Association	Ontario
Cooney, Jennifer	Ministry of Community & Social Services, Community Services Bureau	Ontario
Hahn, Sarah	Ontario Women's Directorate	Ontario
Harding, Michèle	Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy, Ministry of Community & Social Services	Ontario
Hastie, Sue	Ontario Women's Directorate	Ontario
Kane, Barbara	Ministry of the Attorney General	Ontario
Saroyan, Sabine	Ministry of Children & Youth Services	Ontario
Seaby, Susan	Ontario Women's Directorate	Ontario
Waddell, Delaney	Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs	Ontario
MANITOBA		
Bruce, Lucille	Native Womens' Transition Centre Inc.	Manitoba
Harasemiw, Nancy	First Nation Healing Centre	Manitoba
Morrisseau-Sinclair, Katherine	Mother of Red Nation Women's Council of Manitoba Inc.	Manitoba
Thompson, Lucille	Métis Women of Manitoba	Manitoba
Brockington, Eleanor	Aboriginal & Northern Affairs	Manitoba
Huffmam, Donna	Women's Directorate, Manitoba Labour and Immigration	Manitoba
McBee, Jane	Women's Directorate, Manitoba Labour and Immigration	Manitoba
Spyropoulos, Yvonne	Family Violence Prevention Program	Manitoba
SASKATCHEWAN		
Beaudin, Erica	SK First Nations Women's	Saskatchewan

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
	Commission	
Opikokew, Sandra	Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle	Saskatchewan
Hughes, Judy	Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle	Saskatchewan
Lafontaine, Trish	SK First Nations & Métis Relations	Saskatchewan
Neilsen, Leslie	Status of Women Office, Saskatchewan Labour	Saskatchewan
ALBERTA		
Barthel, Susan	Métis Settlements General Council	Alberta
Hunter, Jori	Métis Nation of Alberta	Alberta
Laboucan, Chief Rose C.	Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta	Alberta
Poirier, Staci	Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association	Alberta
Reid, Alice	Aboriginal Advisory Committee on Family Violence (Children's Services)	Alberta
Reimer, Jan	Alberta Council of Women's Shelters	Alberta
Sam , Dorothy	Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter	Alberta
Stanley Venne, Muriel	Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women	Alberta
Thompson, Winston	Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter	Alberta
Collier, Heather	International and Intergovernmental Affairs	Alberta
Dunnigan, Cynthia	Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development	Alberta
Joy, Wendy	Alberta Community Development	Alberta
Lawrence, LindaFay	Province of Alberta, Children's Services	Alberta
Orr, Fay	Deputy Minister, Alberta Community Development	Alberta
Riddle, Marie	Alberta Community Development	Alberta
Sekela, Michael J.	R.C.M.P.	Alberta
Shoush, Bronwyn	Aboriginal Justice Initiatives, Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security	Alberta / Speaker
BRITISH COLUMBIA		
Coles Hillary, Eva	Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services	British Columbia
Erickson, Mavis A.	Wagstaffe, Gosh & Co.	British Columbia

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Fossella, Joyce	Warriors Against Violence Society	British Columbia
McIvor, Sharon D.		British Columbia
Munro, Adrienne	Métis Women's Secretariat	British Columbia
Pascoe, Anita	Pacific Association of First Nations Women	British Columbia
Pierre, Chief Sophie	Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Tribal Council	British Columbia
Rivers, Leonie B.	British Columbia Native Women's Society	British Columbia
Syverson, Lauren	Women's and Seniors' Policy Branch, Ministry of Community Services	British Columbia
Walman, Barbara	Assistant Deputy Minister Women's, Seniors' and Community Services	British Columbia
Wynn, Sheila Dr.	Ministry of Community Services	British Columbia
NUNAVUT		
Alookee, Anaoyuk	Qullit Nunavut Status Council of Women	Nunavut
Aylward, Joyce	Qullit Nunavut Status Council of Women	Nunavut
Isnor, Alice	Community Wellness Centre	Nunavut
Napayok, Annie	Qullit Nunavut Status Council of Women	Nunavut
Ootoowak, Hazel	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated	Nunavut
Paquette, Debbie	Baffin Region Agvvik Society	Nunavut
Doherty, Maureen	Women's Initiatives, Dept. of Health and Social Services	Nunavut
Kublu, Alexina	Justice of the Peace Program	Nunavut / Speaker
Melanson, Pauline	RCMP Iqaluit	Nunavut
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES		
Argue, Marsha	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
Besarra, Leila	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
Biscaye, Elizabeth (Sabet)	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
Gargan, Lena	Native Women's Association of the NWT	Northwest Territories
Heron-Herbert, Sue	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
Kasook, Ann	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Lamouelle, Patricia	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
McNeely, Alphonsine	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
Moses, Lorayne	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
Sharpe-Staples, Gerri	Status of Women Council - NWT	Northwest Territories
Speakman, Marie	Native Women's Association of the NWT	Northwest Territories
Villeneuve, Terry	Native Women's Association of the NWT	Northwest Territories
Dent, Hon. Charles	Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board	Northwest Territories
Norwegian, Bertha	Government of the Northwest Territories	Northwest Territories
YUKON		
Kassi, Norma	Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle	Yukon
Maje Raider, Ann	Liard Aboriginal Women's Society	Yukon
Clark, Sheila	Government of Yukon	Yukon
Simonot, Margot	Women's Directorate	Yukon
Taylor, Hon. Elaine	Deputy Premier, Minister responsible for Public Service Commission, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Minister responsible for Women's Directorate, Government of Yukon	Yukon
Taylor, Kelli	Women's Directorate, Yukon Government	Yukon
Trudeau, Harley	Government of Yukon	Yukon
CANADA		
Abbott, Lisa	Native Women's Association of Canada	Canada
Barnes, Chief Angie	Assembly of First Nations, Women's Council	Canada
Decontie, Lindsey	National Aboriginal Circle - NACAFV	Canada
Della-Picca, Roberta	Odawa Native Friendship Centre	Canada
Dickson, Jennifer	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Canada
Dinsdale, Peter	National Association of Friendship Centres	Canada

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Dopler, Tania	Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health	Canada
Enuaraq, Sipporah	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Canada
Fisher, Allison	Waband Centre for Aboriginal Health	Canada
Frawley-Henry, Marie	Assembly of First Nations, Women's Council	Canada
Gay, Alfred J.	National Association of Friendship Centres	Canada
Komaksiutiksak, Ulike	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Canada
Lamborn, Jennifer	Native Women's Association of Canada	Canada
Leadbeater, Jenny	Minwaashin Lodge	Canada
Lewis, Sherry	Native Women's Association of Canada	Canada
McGregor, Verna	National Aboriginal Circle - NACAFV	Canada
McHugh, Kathleen	Assembly of First Nations, Women's Council	Canada
Ménard, Ginette	Centre WAGE	Canada
Naqitaruik, Leesie	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Canada
Olson Harper, Anita	Native Women's Association of Canada	Canada
Paniaq, Melanie	Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada	Canada
Rodes-Wright, Jina	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples	Canada
Schuyler, Karen	Native Women's Association of Canada	Canada
Smith St-Georges, Annie	Centre WAGE	Canada
Villeneuve, Terry	Assembly of First Nations, Women's Council	Canada
Williams, Andrea J.	Native Women's Association of Canada	Canada
Wolski, Erin	Native Women's Association of Canada	Canada
Allen, David	Family Violence Prevention Unit, Public Health Agency of Canada	Canada
Cameron, Lorraine	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Carroll, Vanessa	INAC, Women's Issues and Gender Equality	Canada
Claxton, Jackie	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Cuillierrier, Shirley	RCMP	Canada

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Day, Linda	Aboriginal Women's Health and Healing Research Group	Canada
Deen, Saajida	Canadian Heritage	Canada
Dixon, Lisa	Indian and Northern Affairs	Canada
Drent, Elizabeth	Privy Council Office	Canada
Edwards, Teresa	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Fournier, Kathryn	Indian and Northern Affairs	Canada
Goodman, Helen	RCMP	Canada
Gunville, Louise	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Ievers, Florence	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Johnson, Ellisa	Health Canada	Canada
Karman, Zeynep	Status of Women Canada	Canada
King, Holly	Indian and Northern Affairs	Canada
KutchaW-Polak, Kelly	Department of Justice	Canada
Lamontagne, Colleen	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Lavergne, Valerie	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Leclerc, Huguette	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Lefèbvre, Nadine	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Lem , Camille	Health Canada	Canada
Lemay, Vincent	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Logue, Elizabeth	Privy Council Office	Canada
Magnan, Louise	Status of Women Canada	Canada
McIntosh, Margaret	Justice Canada	Canada
McLachlan, Patricia L.	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Miller, Kirsten	Indian and Northern Affairs	Canada
Montizambert, Lucinda	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Neves, Janet	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	Canada
Ogrodnik, Lucie	Statistics Canada	Canada
Olney, Marie	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Robinson, Matt	Indian and Northern Affairs	Canada
Sanderson, Elizabeth	Justice Canada	Canada
Sauriol, Monique Lucie	Indian and Northern Affairs	Canada

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROVINCE
Simon, Paula	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Sims-Jones, Nicki	Health Canada	Canada
Sokoluk, Lori	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Stewart, Susan	Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada	Canada
Sutton, Mary-Lou	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Thomas, Viola	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Waugh, Nanci Jean	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Wilson, Martha	Status of Women Canada	Canada
Agtuca, Jacqueline	Clan Star Inc.	Speaker
Chiodo, Debbie	CAMH Centre for Prevention Science	Speaker
Cuthand, Doug	Journalist and writer	Speaker
Hannis, Prudence	Researcher and writer	Speaker
Hodgson, Dr. Maggie	Advisor, Residential Schools	Speaker

**APPENDIX C
INFORMATION BOOTHS AND BEST PRACTICES**

TITLE AND FORMAT	NAME AND WEBSITE	CONTACTS
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR		
Violence Prevention Initiative (bookmark)	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Public Relations and Research Coordinator http://www.gov.nf.ca/vpi/	ArlenePenney@gov.nl.ca (709) 729-2992
Violence Prevention Initiative List of Publications and Reports (html and pdf)	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Public Relations and Research Coordinator http://www.gov.nf.ca/vpi/publications.html	ArlenePenney@gov.nl.ca (709) 729-2992
Celebrating Diversity Respecting Differences (brochure)	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Policy Office http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/exec/wpo/	WPO@gov.nl.ca (709) 729-5009
"The Path to the Good Life for Aboriginal Women" (report)	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Policy Office http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/exec/WPO/eng/publications/pathgoodlife2006.pdf	WPO@gov.nl.ca (709) 729-5009
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND		
Various On-Line Resources (links)	Government of P.E.I. Interministerial Women's Secretariat http://www.gov.pe.ca/tpw/iws-info/index.php3	fmmartin@gov.pe.ca (902) 368-5557
Police Response to Domestic Violence – A Provincial Overview August 2005 (pdf report)	Government of P.E.I. Health and Social Services http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/hss_policerespo.pdf	rmbrown@gov.pe.ca (902) 368-6712
Activities Update Summer 2006 (newsletter)	PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/actup_june2006.pdf	peiactsw@isn.net (902) 368-4510
About the Advisory Council – (links)	PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw/index.php3?number=70020&lang=E	peiactsw@isn.net (902) 368-4510
Women in Cities International Urban Forum III – Mayor's Task Force on Family Violence Pilot Site (pamphlet)	Government of P.E.I. City of Charlottetown, June 2006 Initiatives http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/acsw_mayor2.pdf	lmactsw@isn.net (902) 368-4510
Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence – 2005 (opinion piece)	PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/acsw_2005opinio.pdf	peiactsw@isn.net (902) 368-4510
NOVA SCOTIA		
Tripartite Forum (portfolio)	Mi'kmaq – Nova Scotia – Canada http://www.tripartiteforum.com/	denise@cmmns.com (902) 895-6385

TITLE AND FORMAT	NAME AND WEBSITE	CONTACTS
Making Changes: A Book for Women in Abusive Relationships - Third Edition – revised (pdf publication)	Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw/pubs2003_04/MakingChangesRevCorrectedENG.pdf	nsacsw@gov.ns.ca (902) 424-8662 Toll Free: (800) 565-8662
Aboriginal Women in Nova Scotia (fact sheet)	Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw/pubs2006_07/aboriginalwomen2006.pdf	nsacsw@gov.ns.ca (902) 424-8662 Toll Free: (800) 565-8662
A Healthy Balance – A community alliance for health research on women’s unpaid caregiving (links to reports)	Healthy Balance Research Program http://www.healthyb.dal.ca/reports.html	nadine.chaulk@dal.ca (902) 494-7850
NEW BRUNSWICK		
Creating Healthy Personal Relationships - An Information Booklet for Aboriginal Women (booklet)	Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS) http://www.legal-info-legele.nb.ca/showpub.asp?id=124&langid=1	pleisnb@web.ca (506) 453-5369
Aboriginal Communities in New Brunswick (links)	Government of New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat http://www.gnb.ca/0016/contacts-e.pdf	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 462-5177
Aboriginal Organizations in New Brunswick (index)	Government of New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat http://www.gnb.ca/0016/organ-e.asp	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 462-5177
Links to other Aboriginal Websites, such as the Aboriginal Canada Portal (list)	Government of New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat http://www.gnb.ca/0016/other-e.asp	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 462-5177
Aboriginal Affairs Grants Program (html)	Government of New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat http://www.gnb.ca/0016/program-e.asp	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 462-5177
2004-2005 Annual Report (pdf)	Government of New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat http://www.gnb.ca/0016/AnnRep2004-2005.pdf	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 462-5177
Women’s Issues (website)	Government of New Brunswick Executive Council Office http://www.gnb.ca/0012/Womens-Issues/index-e.asp	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 453-8126
Violence Prevention (website)	Government of New Brunswick Executive Council Office http://www.gnb.ca/0012/violence/index-e.asp	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 453-8126

TITLE AND FORMAT	NAME AND WEBSITE	CONTACTS
New Brunswick Directory of Services for Victims of Abuse (pdf)	Government of New Brunswick Executive Council Office http://www.gnb.ca/0037/report/Directoryeng.pdf	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 453-8126
Moncton announced as site of first specialized domestic violence court July 27, 2006 (news release)	http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/news/jus/2006e0984ju.htm	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 444-4454
Protection – Various Links such as Women Abuse Protocols, Child Protection, Family Violence, etc (website)	Government of New Brunswick Family and Community Services http://www.gnb.ca/0017/protection/index-e.asp	http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/pub/SendComments1.asp (506) 453-2001
QUEBEC		
Statistics on Conjugal Violence in Québec in 2003 (pdf publication - French only)	Gouvernement du Québec Ministère de la sécurité publique http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca	infocom@gouv.qc.ca (418) 646-6708
Government Action Plan 2004-2009 on Domestic Violence - Component on Native Communities (pdf publication)	Gouvernement du Québec Secrétariat à la condition féminine http://www.scf.gouv.qc.ca/pdf_an/angl-autochtones.pdf	cond.fem@scf.gouv.qc.ca (418) 643-9052
Report on Training Sessions Held for Native Women's Shelter Workers by Trainers of the Conjugal Violence Priority Committee 2003-2004 (pdf report)	Quebec Native Women Inc. (FAQNW) http://www.faq-qnw.org	info@faq-qnw.org (450) 632-0088
APITENDEMOWIN – Report of the First Seminar Dealing with Sexual in the Aboriginal Milieu (pdf & hard copy of report)	Quebec Native Women Inc. (FAQNW) (The Canadian Women's Health Network) http://www.cwhn.ca/search/pubRecord.htm?Objectld=107683&category=Sexual%20Assault	info@faq-qnw.org (450) 632-0088
Together in all equality! (brochure)	Quebec Native Women Inc. (FAQNW) http://www.faq-qnw.org	info@faq-qnw.org (450) 632-0088
Cycling to End Family Violence Cross Canada Cycle Tour 2006 (pamphlet)	Aboriginal Women on the Move http://www.aboriginalwomenonthemove.org/	sheila_swasson@globetrotter.net
Statistics on Conjugal Violence in Quebec in 2003 - Highlights (pdf)	Gouvernement du Québec Ministère de la sécurité publique http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/prevention_en.asp?txtSection=statistiques&txtCategorie=2003&txtSousCategorie=violconji	infocom@msp.gouv.qc.ca (418) 646-6708
Statistics on Sexual Aggressions – Statistics for 2003 - Highlights (pdf)	Gouvernement du Québec Ministère de la sécurité publique http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca/prevention/prevention_en.asp?txtSection=statistiques&txtCategorie=2003&txtSousCategorie=agsexuel	infocom@msp.gouv.qc.ca (418) 646-6708

TITLE AND FORMAT	NAME AND WEBSITE	CONTACTS
Haven House Native Women's Shelter – For a life free of violence (pamphlet)	Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government http://www.listuguj.ca/social_objectives.html	(418) 788-5544
Equal Access to Decision-Making - Information Guide 2006-2007 (pdf)	Secrétariat à la condition féminine http://www.scf.gouv.qc.ca/pdf_an/Guide_2006-2007_ang.pdf	Cond.fem@scf.gouv.qc.ca (418) 643-4991
Beijing + 10 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women – Together Toward Equality (brochure)	Secrétariat à la condition féminine http://www.scf.gouv.qc.ca/publications/anglais.htm	Cond.fem@scf.gouv.qc.ca (418) 643-4991
ONTARIO		
Promoting Healthy, Equal Relationships (ppt)	Minwaashin Lodge The Aboriginal Women's Support Centre http://www.minlodge.com	ikakekagumick@minlodge.com (613)741-5590 ext. 236
Things you need to know Street Smart Guide on Domestic Violence and Abuse (pdf)	GET STREET SMART HTTP://WWW.GETSTREETS.MART.ORG/UPLOADS/ASSETS/1/DOMESTICVIOLENCE.PDF	getstreetsmart@cmhasm.com (705) 759-0458
Domestic Violence and Abuse (info sheet)	STREET SMART SOLUTION c/o Canadian Mental Health Association http://www.getstreetsmart.org	getstreetsmart@cmhasm.com (705) 759-0458
Healthy Families, Healthy Nations Program (pamphlet)	Equay-wuk (Women's Group) http://www.equaywuk.ca/	equaywuk@nwconx.net (807) 737-2214 Toll Free: (800) 261-8294
Program & Project Locations (map)	Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy http://www.ahwsontario.ca/publications/projmap.pdf	info@ahwsontario.ca (416) 326-6905
Wife Assault & Family Violence from the Native Perspective: Not Just A Woman's Issue (handbook)	Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children http://www.metrac.org	info@metrac.org (416) 392-3135 Toll Free: (877) 558-5570
Supporting the Cycle of Healing (brochure)	Beendigen Inc. Since 1978 Supporting the Cycle of Healing http://www.beendigen.com	patriciaj@beendigen.com (807) 622-1121 (807) 344-9579
Aboriginal Diabetes Awareness (pamphlet)	Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) http://www.ontarioearlyyears.ca	onwa@shaw.ca (807) 623-3442 (800) 667-0816

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Girl Power Facilitator's Manual – A Guide to Running Girl Power Programs in Your Community! (pdf)	Nishnawbe Aski Nation http://www.nandecade.ca/article/gp-manual-131.asp	mgoodchi@nan.on.ca (807) 623-8828 Toll Free: (800) 465-9952
You Bet Your Life – Problem Gambling (pamphlet)	Problem Gambling Awareness (Ontario Native Women's Association) http://www.problemgamblingawareness.com/index.htm	vernalegarde@shaw.ca (807) 623-3442 Toll Free: (800) 667-0816
Wapekeka Suicide Prevention Program and, Neskantaga Community Healing (html)	Wapekeka First Nation http://wapekeka.firstnation.ca	(807) 537-1188
Who Knows What Goes On Behind Closed Doors... Report on Domestic Violence in Algoma (newsletter)	Algoma Health Unit http://www.ahu.on.ca/uploads/newsletters/AHUDom.Viol.05132MB.pdf	Blind River: (705) 356-2551 Elliot Lake: (705) 848-2314 Wawa: (705) 856-7208
MANITOBA		
About Women - Spring 2006 (newsletter)	Manitoba Women's Directorate http://www.gov.mb.ca/wd/	mwd@gov.mb.ca (204) 945-3476 Toll Free: (800) 263-0234
Mother of Red Nations Women's Council of Manitoba – General Info (mission, history, etc) (pamphlet)	Mother of Red Nations Women's Council of Manitoba http://morn.cimnet.ca/cim/92C270_397T25016.dhtm	morn@morn.ca (204) 942-6676
What is Bill C-31 (brochure)	Mother of Red Nations Women's Council of Manitoba http://morn.cimnet.ca/cim/dbf/Bill_C_31.pdf?im_id=4956&si_id=92	morn@morn.ca (204) 942-6676
Domestic Violence Prevention – A Workplace Initiative (pamphlet and stickers)	Manitoba Women's Directorate http://www.gov.mb.ca/wd/pdf_files/dvbook.pdf	mwd@gov.mb.ca (204) 942-3052 Toll Free: (800) 263-0234
Do you want to break the cycle? (pamphlet)	First Nation Healing Centre http://www.ahf.ca/fp/e_pull_project.php?id=4482.00&region=Manitoba	nancy.fnhc@mts.net (204) 645-2750
SASKATCHEWAN		
About the Status of Women Office (html)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
Action Plan for Saskatchewan Women – Moving Forward- (booklet)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/Action_Plan.pdf	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401

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Funding Opportunities for Saskatchewan Women and Families Directory (pdf)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/Funding%20Opportunities%202005.pdf	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
Profile of Saskatchewan Women (brochure)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/Profile%20of%20SK%20Women.pdf	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
Profile of Aboriginal Women in Saskatchewan (pdf)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/D057-ABW.pdf	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
40 Years and Moving Forward... The Evolution of Women's Programming in the Government of Saskatchewan (booklet)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/40years.pdf	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
Lists of Family Services (links)	Government of Saskatchewan Community Resources http://www.cr.gov.sk.ca/services/famyouth/familyviolence.html	http://www.cr.gov.sk.ca/comments/index.html
List of Programs and Services (index)	Government of Saskatchewan Justice http://www.saskjustice.gov.sk.ca/programs/default.shtml	webteam@justice.gov.sk.ca
Annual Key Dates for Women in Canada (html)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/Key%20Dates.html	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
Saskatchewan's Women Directory -Section 1: Aboriginal Women -Section 8: Violence Against Women (pdf)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/2005%20Directory.pdf	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
Links to F-P/T Counterparts (index)	Government of Saskatchewan Status of Women Office http://www.swo.gov.sk.ca/FPT%20Counterparts.html	swowebmaster@lab.gov.sk.ca (306) 787-7401
ALBERTA		
Aboriginal Framework News (newsletter)	Government of Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development http://www.aand.gov.ab.ca/AANDFlash/default.htm	aand.website@gov.ab.ca (780) 415-0875
Strengthening Relationships (pdf publication)	Government of Alberta Aboriginal Policy Framework http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/index.cfm?page=12	http://www.gov.ab.ca/home/index.cfm?page=12 Local: 310-4455 (780) 427-2711

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Healing Our Spirit World-Wide (HOSW) On-line Registration/ Info on Past and Upcoming Conferences (html)	International Indigenous Council for HOSW http://www.hosw.com	http://www.hosw.com (780) 447-4675 Toll Free: (866) 999-4679
The Rights Path – Alberta It’s Your Right to be Treated with Respect and Without Discrimination (hard copy)	Government of Alberta Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission http://www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca/publications/Pub_rights_path.asp	humanrights@gov.ab.ca Toll Free: (800) 232-7215 (877) 471-2171
Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying: Finding Solutions Together (pdf report)	Government of Alberta Children’s Services http://www.child.gov.ab.ca/whatwedo/familyviolence/page.cfm?pg=Roundtable%20on%20Family%20Violence%20and%20Bullying	cs.communications@gov.ab.ca (780) 422-3004
Taking Action on Family Violence (booklet)	Government of Alberta http://www.familyviolenceroundtable.gov.ab.ca/pdf/taking_action_on_family_violence.pdf	cs.communications@gov.ab.ca (780) 422-3004
Community Resource Guide Family Violence – It’s Your Business (booklet)	Government of Alberta Children’s Services http://www.child.gov.ab.ca/whatwedo/familyviolence/page.cfm?pg=Family%20Violence%20Prevention%20Community%20Resource%20Guide	cs.communications@gov.ab.ca (780) 422-3004
National Day of Healing and Reconciliation (NDHR) (booklet)	NDHR National Campaign Office (Native Counselling Services of Alberta) http://www.ndhr.ca/	info@ndhr.ca (780) 447-9342
Hinton Friendship Centre Mamowichihitowin - All Working Together (pamphlet)	Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association http://www.albertafriendshipcentres.ca/	hintonfc@telusplanet.net (780) 865-5189
Positions on Gun Control, Cross Training, etc (hard copy)	Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters (ACWS) http://www.acws.ca/news/positions.php	http://www.acws.ca/contact.php (780) 456-7000
BRITISH COLUMBIA		
First Citizens Fund – An Overview (pamphlet)	The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/prgs/fcfund/fcfund.htm	ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca (604) 660-2421 (250) 387-6121 Toll Free: (800) 880-1022
First Citizens Fund – Aboriginal Business Development (pamphlet)	The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/prgs/fcfund/busdev.htm	ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca (604) 660-2421 (250) 387-6121 Toll Free: (800) 880-1022

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First Citizens Fund – Heritage, Language and Culture (pamphlet)	The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/prgs/fcfund/culture.htm	ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca (604) 660-2421 (250) 387-6121 Toll Free: (800) 880-1022
First Citizens Fund – Aboriginal Families, Youth and Elders (pamphlet)	The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/prgs/fcfund/families.htm	ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca (604) 660-2421 (250) 387-6121 Toll Free: (800) 880-1022
Pan-Canadian Community Development Learning Network - Profile of Effective Practice - Survey and Case Studies (pdf)	The Canadian CED Network Strengthening Canada's Communities http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca	ccednet-rcdec.ca (250) 386-9980 Toll Free: (877) 202-2268
"Making Aboriginal Policy: A Conference Ten Years After the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples" - On-line Registration / Info on Past and Upcoming Conferences	Indigenous Bar Association in Canada http://www.indigenousbar.ca	germaine.iba@shaw.ca (604) 951-8807
A Guide To Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia (handbook)	Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation http://www.gov.bc.ca	EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca (604) 660-2421 (800) 663-7867
Speaking of Abuse: Violence Against Aboriginal Women in Relationships -Information About a Woman's Rights 2004 (handbook)	Legal Services Society in BC http://www.lss.bc.ca/resources/pubs_subject_aboriginal_law.asp	distribution@lss.bc.ca (604) 601-6075
BC Studies – The British Columbian Quarterly (pamphlet)	BC Studies – The British Columbian Quarterly http://www.bcstudies.com/	write_us@bcstudies.com (604) 822-3727
VictimLink (pamphlet)	VictimLink http://www.vcn.bc.ca/isv/victims.htm	hazel@communityinfo.bc.ca Toll Free: (800) 563-0808
Working With Aboriginal Child Victim Witnesses – Guidelines (booklet)	Government of British Columbia Victim Services	VSDVictimsServices@gov.bc.ca (604) 660-5199
What if...your community could connect with the world (pamphlet)	First Nations Technology Council (First Nations Summit) http://www.fntc.info/	info@fntc.info (604) 990-9939 Toll Free: (866) 990-9939
B.C. Committed to Making Communities Safer for Women (news release)	Government of British Columbia Ministry of Community Services http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2006CS0001-000003.htm	EnquiryBC@gov.ca (250) 356-6334

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NUNAVUT		
What Inuit Women Need in Order to Deal with Abuse and Violence (hard copy report)	Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council http://www.canadianbusinessdirectory.ca/profile.php?profile=301871	qullit@qnsw.ca (867) 979-6690 Toll Free: (866) 623-0346
Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council 2004/2005 Annual Report (hard copy)	Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council http://www.canadianbusinessdirectory.ca/profile.php?profile=301871	qullit@qnsw.ca (867) 979-6690 Toll Free: (866) 623-0346
Link to news release regarding 2005 poster entitled "Nunavummiut are working together...to end violence against women" (pdf)	http://www.gov.nu.ca/Nunavut/English/news/2005/nov/nov14.pdf#search=%22Nunavummiut%20are%20working%20together%20to%20end%20violence%20against%20women%20poster%22	http://www.gov.nu.ca/Nunavut/English/contact/s/ (867) 975-6052
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES		
Family Violence Prevention Programs (brochure)	YWCA - Alison McAteer House – Shelter for Abused Women and their Children http://www.hotpeachpages.net/canada/nwt1.html#Shelters	amh@yellowknife.ywca.ca (867) 873-8257 Toll Free: (800) 223-7775
Violence – Not part of our cultures, no place in our lives Resource Kit (hard copy)	Coalition Against Family Violence Status of Women Council of the NWT http://www.statusofwomen.nt.ca/resourcelibrary.html	leila@statusofwomen.nt.ca (867) 920-6177 Toll Free: (888) 234-4485
YUKON		
Safety Kit - Changes, Options, Choices – November 2005 (handbook)	Government of Yukon Stop the Violence in Yukon http://www.stopviolenceinyukon.ca/safetykit.html	stopviolenceinyukon@gov.yk.ca (867) 667-3030
Victim Services / Family Violence Prevention Unit (pamphlets)	Government of Yukon Community and Correctional Services http://www.justice.gov.yk.ca/prog/cor/vs/index.html	victimservices@gov.yk.ca or fvpv@gov.yk.ca (867) 667-8500 Toll free: (800) 661-0408 ext. 8500
CANADA		
Services for First Nations People – A Government of Canada Guide (hard copy)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/sg/index_e.html	InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca Toll Free: (800) 567-9604

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Promotional material such as bookmarks, tattoos/stickers in celebration of National Aboriginal Day, The Inuksuk: Sharing a Story and, many more (various formats)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Products and Resources http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/index_e.html	InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca or learningcircle@ainc-inac.gc.ca Toll Free: (800) 567-9604
Aboriginal Women – A Profile from the 2001 Census (pdf)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/abw/index_e.html	InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca Toll Free: (800) 567-9604
Far North Food: From Artic Char to Processed Snacks (Info sheet)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/pdf/fnf_e.pdf	learningcircle@ainc-inac.gc.ca Toll Free: (800) 567-9604
Food Mail (brochure)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Food Mail Coordinator http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/1brofoomai_e.html	foodmail@ainc-inac.gc.ca (819) 994-4810
Information on Spousal Rights to the Family Home on Reserves (pamphlet)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/wige/mrp/ios_e.pdf	mrp-bim@ainc-inac.gc.ca Toll Free: (800) 567-9604
Visions and Pathways Opportunities for Aboriginal Youth (hard copy)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/on/vipath_e.html	InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca Toll Free: (800) 567-9604
Overcoming Prejudice (brochure)	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (& Canadian Heritage) http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/qc/pr/pjd_e.html	InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca Toll Free: (800) 567-9604
Beginning a Long Journey: A Review of Projects Funded by the Family Violence Prevention Unit, Health Canada, Regarding Violence in Aboriginal (pdf)	Public Health Agency of Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/html/fvlong_e.html	ncfv_cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291
Woman Abuse - Overview Paper (pdf)	Public Health Agency of Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/html/femviof_e.html	ncfv_cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291
Violence in Aboriginal Communities - Overview Paper (pdf)	Public Health Agency of Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/html/fvaborcommunit_e.html	ncfv_cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291

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National Clearinghouse on Family Violence – A one-stop source of information on family violence (brochure and bookmark)	Public Health Agency of Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/	ncfv_cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291
National Clearinghouse on Family Violence - Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse - Overview Paper (pdf)	Public Health Agency of Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/html/nfntsxagrsexadult_e.html	ncfv_cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291
National Clearinghouse on Family Violence – Health Effects of Family Violence - Overview Paper (pdf)	Public Health Agency of Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/healtheffects-eng.pdf	ncfv_cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291
National Clearinghouse on Family Violence – Family Violence in Aboriginal Communities: An Aboriginal Perspective - Overview Paper (pdf)	Public Health Agency of Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/html/fvabor_e.html	ncfv_cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291
Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2005 (pdf)	Statistics Canada http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/85-224-XIE2005000.pdf	ncfv-cnivf@phac-aspc.gc.ca (613) 957-2938 Toll Free: (800) 267-1291
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (booklet)	Canadian Heritage http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pdp-hrp/docs/cedaw/cn_e.cfm	rights-droits@pch.gc.ca (819) 997-0055 Toll-free: (866) 811-0055
Strengthening the Relationship Report on the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable April 19, 2004 (pdf)	Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable http://www.aboriginalroundtable.ca/rtbl/strength_rpt_e.pdf	http://www.aboriginalroundtable.ca/cnts/index_e.html
Decriminalizing prostitution, a magnet for pimps and johns 10 September 2005 by Melissa Farley (pdf)	Sisyphe http://sisyphe.org/article.php3?id_article=1965	sitesisyphe@yahoo.fr
Ending Violence in Aboriginal Communities: Best Practices in Aboriginal Shelters and Communities – January 2006 (booklet)	National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) http://www.nacafv.ca/en/pdf/shelter_practice.pdf	info@nacafv.ca (613) 236-1844

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Sisters in Spirit Initiative (pamphlet)	Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) www.nwac-hq.org/	sistersinspirit@nwac-hq.org (613) 722-3033 Toll Free: (800) 461-4043