



# *Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention*

## *Five-Year Strategy*

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# Introduction

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## Defining Family Violence

The Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention works from the following definition of family violence:

*Family violence is any violence by one family member against another. It includes but is not limited to violence by one partner against another, by a parent against a child, by a child against a parent, between brothers and sisters, or involving grandparents.*

*It is an abuse of power within relationships of family, trust or dependency. It always involves someone using their power over another person in a way that is hurtful. This abuse takes many forms including psychological abuse, emotional abuse, physical violence, sexual abuse, financial abuse, neglect, abandonment, injury to pets, destruction of property, and homicide.*

While family violence occurs within personal relationships and relationships of trust, there is an undeniable interconnectedness with violence in the larger picture. If our family is not safe, our community is not safe. If the community is not safe, families are not safe.

Family violence occurs in all income and educational levels; in all religious, racial, and cultural groups; and in both genders. Abuse has a devastating “domino” effect. Children who experience or witness abuse often repeat the behaviour or become the victims of abuse themselves. Although alcohol and drugs may contribute to family violence, they do not

cause it. Being abusive is always a choice. Once a pattern of abuse has been established, it is very difficult to stop it without outside help. Help is available.

## Purpose of the Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to develop a framework for action, which will set the course for the next five years. The strategy is based on recent consultations involving many Islanders. The public consultations affirmed the work of the Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention under “Family Violence Prevention: A Strategy for the Future” and provided direction on current priorities. The consultations revealed a shift in the public’s response to family violence. There was a greater understanding and awareness of the issue of family violence. Most importantly, there was a commitment to work together towards ending family violence.

As a measure of the success of the first strategy, the second strategy builds upon the progress made using a similar framework for action. Although many of the issues and some of the action plans have been carried over from the 1995 strategy, progress has been made. There have been many actions taken and results realized. The committee has learned that the public is more aware and ready to act towards ending family violence, and considerable groundwork has been done to move these issues forward.

This strategy is aimed at maintaining what has worked, continuing actions that have resulted in success, introducing new initiatives, and addressing gaps. It places an increased

emphasis on the following: services for children, public education, and monitoring and evaluation. There were very strong and recurring messages heard throughout the consultations. Some of these have been consistent over the years as noted in the review of past reports on family violence. The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention has used these messages as the foundation for a coordinated response among government, the community, and police.

## Scope of the Problem

Family violence is a serious issue on Prince Edward Island. Anyone can be a victim of family violence and it can take many forms. Members of society who are disempowered are the most vulnerable; for example, children, women, older persons, visible minorities and disabled persons. Although both men and women can be violent, spousal violence and sexual assault directed at women are more frequent, more severe, and more often result in serious physical injury and emotional harm. The *1999 General Social Survey in Canada* found that in 70 per cent of situations where children witness violence, the violence is against their mothers. An analysis of 363 police files documenting domestic violence in PEI between 1996-1998 revealed that children were present in 207 (57 per cent) of these cases (Brown, 1998). Children who witness abuse suffer emotional trauma, show increased aggression, find it difficult to develop and maintain close relationships, and are more likely to become perpetrators or victims of violence themselves (Jaffe, Wolfe, Wilson 1990).

Potential physical and emotional impacts that family violence victims experience include, but are not limited to: destruction of property, loss of self-esteem, shame, fear, isolation, neglect,

abandonment, injury and death. The financial costs of family violence include heavy demands on health care, education, social services, judicial services and economic development. And the human costs are immeasurable!

The following statistics provide a brief snapshot of the extent of the problem and how Islanders are affected by family violence. These statistics are staggering, particularly in light of the fact that research indicates that most acts of family violence are not reported (Statistics Canada, 2002). While the statistics have increased over the past decade, (resulting from increases in reporting which are attributed to increased awareness) they represent only the tip of the iceberg. The real numbers are not known.

- Over 8,000 calls were received by Transition House Association in 2000.
- Transition House Association provided services to 829 women, affecting 843 children in 2000.
- Over 750 new cases opened at Victim Services including 87 sexual assault cases, 236 for wife assault, and 44 for other family abuse issues in 2000.
- Over 1,600 reports of child abuse/neglect were investigated by Child and Family Services in 2000.
- Over 120 emergency protection orders were granted since the *Victims of Family Violence Act* was proclaimed in 1996.
- Over 60 per cent of callers to the PEI Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre's crisis line are adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
- Over 110 referrals under the *Adult Protection Act* have been made to the Department of Health and Social Services in 2000.

# Developing the Strategy

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This is the second comprehensive strategy on family violence prevention on Prince Edward Island. Building on the initial strategy, it was developed as a collaborative effort among community, government and police. The initial five-year strategy was approved and released in 1995. Also in that year, a family violence consultant position was approved and resourced through a partnership between the Departments of Health and Social Services, Provincial Affairs and Attorney General, Education, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat. To implement the strategy, the Premier appointed a working committee of community and government officials with Hon. Marion Reid as chair. The committee's work has been supported by the family violence consultant, an administrative assistant and in-kind and monetary contributions by the community, various levels of government, and the business community.

The collective efforts of many people have resulted in an increase in the awareness of the impacts of family violence and ways to improve responses. The commitment to work collaboratively has resulted in significant progress as well as prompting leadership efforts from diverse sectors, such as private business, municipalities, and service organizations. During the first five years of the 1995 strategy, the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention:

- provided increased funding to Transition House Association for the establishment of community outreach workers and additional resources for Anderson House;
- provided increased funding to the PEI Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre for

counselling and support of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and of women involved in a recent sexual assault;

- assisted in the implementation of the *Victims of Family Violence Act* (proclaimed in 1996);
- supported the annual Purple Ribbon Campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and children, in partnership with the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women;
- conducted public presentations and published brochures, resource and public education materials;
- implemented a social marketing approach to shift attitudes regarding family violence;
- provided training for front-line service providers on the identification, detection, investigation and intervention required to effectively respond to victims of child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse;
- participated in research initiatives with other community agencies and government departments;
- partnered with community and government organizations in related projects;
- developed and implemented woman abuse protocols for hospital emergency rooms and income assistance and justice-related services; and
- coordinated initiatives for violence prevention promotion in the workplace.

In the Fall of 2001, the Premier joined the Chair of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention in announcing that community consultations would be held as part

of the development of a new five-year strategy.

Recognizing that it was important to hear the voices of Islanders on this issue, the Premier's Action Committee held forums in six communities across the province in November 2001. The committee also held a number of private consultations and received written submissions. Throughout the consultations, the public was asked to address the following main discussion questions:

1. *What are your concerns about family violence?*
2. *How is family violence being addressed now in your community?*
3. *What needs to be done about family violence in your community? In your province?*

This process provided an opportunity for the committee to hear from hundreds of Islanders, including individuals, community groups, service providers and community leaders who have experienced or are experiencing family violence. In addition to the information gathered from the public and private consultations, the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention reviewed the goals identified in the 1995 strategy and the findings of PEI reports concerning family violence since 1980. Through these processes, Islanders have clearly spoken. Family violence remains a serious issue in our families and our communities. Although progress has been made in intervention, prevention, and service delivery, unfortunately family violence on Prince Edward Island continues to be a pervasive reality with far-reaching impacts. Individuals, families and communities are affected. There are implications in almost every aspect of our Island society - education, health care, and economic development.

The public stressed that while there are many parts of the system working well and partnerships have grown over the past few years, there is a need to refocus, refine, and improve. Although awareness has increased and there has been some change in attitudes, there is much more that must be done in order to influence behaviour. Existing partnerships need to be sustained and enhanced and new partnerships need to be forged. Gaps in services and programs, both geographically and demographically, need to be addressed in order to provide a continuum of services designed to break the cycle of family violence. As well, communities, individuals and families have to take responsibility for their actions and make changes to end family violence. There is increasing recognition that this is a community issue and that there is a need to invest in people. Islanders want to know what they can do to help. There is a demand to do more, and they want to be more involved.

The committee also recognizes that while the voices of many Islanders were heard during the consultations, some of the most vulnerable members of society were not heard or represented. The committee is committed to ongoing consultations and will continue to make efforts to hear people who have not been represented.

# Vision and Principles

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After reviewing the extensive feedback received from Islanders during the consultations, the committee revisited and revised its original vision and principles. The following revised vision and principles are intended to form the basis of a renewed family violence prevention strategy. The vision statement represents the long-term ideal - it is an image of success. The vision is intended to challenge and inspire people to work together in a common direction. The principles complement the vision, set the parameters for action, and serve as criteria to assess future action toward reaching the defined vision.

## Vision Statement

*A society where all individuals are safe, respected and valued; where any form of violence is unacceptable; and where children, women, and men have opportunities to reach their full potential and contribute to the overall well-being of all families and communities.*

## Guiding Principles

- *Any form of violence in relationships is not acceptable*
- *All people and families are valued*
- *Everyone is entitled to a safe and secure environment, personal well-being, dignity and respect*
- *Everyone, including victims, survivors, witnesses and offenders, is entitled to accessible and appropriate quality service and information which is consistent and respectful*
- *All persons are equal regardless of race, religion, creed, color, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, ethnic or national origin*
- *Preventing and responding to family violence is a shared responsibility*
- *The knowledge of survivors is important in the design and delivery of services*



# Action Plan

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## Awareness, Education and Training

The committee was impressed with the level of awareness and education that was evident during the public consultations. In the reports relating to family violence prevention from the past 20 years, including the 1995 strategy, the priority focused on public awareness.

While the past decade has seen an increased focus on family violence and a new awareness as to the extent of the issue, the public still demands more education to change behaviours and reduce family violence. During the consultations, there were requests for information on how to become aware of family violence and how to respond to it. It was noted that public education should address historical patterns of violence, new patterns and emerging issues, as well as encourage victims and offenders to seek help.

### Goals:

- Increased awareness and sensitivity about the extent, impact and nature of family violence.
- Improved access to information relating to family violence.
- Enhanced training and understanding for those responding to family violence.

### Strategies

1. Implement a communications strategy prepared by the provincial government corporate communications group.
2. Promote customized training for key

responders to family violence, identifying the challenge of providing safety and support to victims and ensuring that customized training is kept current and sustained.

3. Promote supportive work environments for those responding to family violence.
4. Work with government agencies and community groups to incorporate information on healthy relationships, abuse, and resolving conflict into existing parenting courses.
5. Ensure that all public service and community agency employees who provide services to the public, their supervisors, and those who develop policy and programs, are knowledgeable about family violence.
6. Build upon the success of existing training programs and workplace projects in developing training material and opportunities for all employers and employees. This will include working with human resource staff in various organizations to ensure that training is provided on an ongoing basis.
7. Encourage educational and training institutions to incorporate family violence training when educating professionals and tradespeople.
8. Support the development and availability of education and awareness campaigns designed for young adults regarding healthy relationships.
9. Support the development and availability of an education and awareness campaign designed for men, promoting male leadership in ending family violence.

10. Promote research and public awareness on the changing patterns of violence; for example, the use of computers, incapacitating drugs, criminal harassment and babysitting issues.
11. Coordinate the development and distribution of family violence information in order to achieve consistent messages and improve accessibility.
12. Promote the inclusion of a page in all phone books dedicated to providing information on family violence resources.

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## Partnerships and Coordination

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An effective response to family violence requires individual and collective contributions to create violence-free relationships and communities. Much of the success to date in addressing family violence can be attributed to creative partnerships among organizations. These partnerships are informed by the voices of survivors and service, and share mutual commitments to improve coordination of programs and services. These collaborative efforts have resulted in considerable progress and can be expanded in the next five years.

The following goals and strategies are designed to sustain and broaden family violence prevention networks and expand partnership efforts toward the elimination of family violence. This will be a long-term effort that will improve the quality of life for generations to come.

### Goals:

- Enhanced community, government and police partnerships towards ending family violence.

- Coordinated development and delivery of family violence programs and services.

### Strategies

13. Promote effective community, government and police partnerships in all areas related to family violence prevention and intervention.
14. Build on existing partnerships and establish new ones in order to facilitate a consistent response and commitment to family violence prevention.
15. Encourage the recognition of family violence issues in policy development and decision-making processes.
16. Work with representatives in the addictions field to improve their knowledge of family violence.
17. Support communities, both geographic communities and communities of interest, who have experienced or been affected by family violence.
18. Work with local leaders and service providers in each region to increase the awareness and sensitivity to family violence and recognize the effects of family violence on economic development.
19. Promote the integration of family violence issues into health promotion and community safety strategies; and in particular, address in the Healthy Child Development Strategy and the Children's Mental Health Strategy the impacts on children who have been exposed to family violence..

20. Facilitate the application of educational programs for faith communities that want to build healthier families and communities.
21. Promote policies for the consistent application of criminal history reviews and screening procedures. These would apply to all people in government and community organizations working with, volunteering with, and having access to children and other vulnerable groups, including older persons, persons with disabilities, and visible minorities.

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## Service Delivery

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A number of components of the service delivery network that provided needed services for years are working well. However, the consultations revealed that there are many inconsistencies and gaps in the delivery of family violence services and programs. Service delivery concerns that remain outstanding are related to services for children and the accessibility of services to all Islanders.

The consultations clearly highlighted that children must be a priority in order to break the cycle of family violence. It is critical to provide timely and supportive help for children suffering from abuse. If children are not able to work through abuse, then as adults they may live out this abuse in different ways. There are a lot of adults who suffered abuse as children and are still in need of services because they never received the appropriate help.

Language, culture, ability, finances and/or location are among the many barriers to accessing programs and services. Many Islanders living in rural areas do not have access to the same level of service as those in

the urban centres. The consultations also revealed that support and services need to go beyond the initial contact and recognize that healing is a long-term process.

The following goals and strategies set out a framework to address a number of inconsistencies or gaps in service delivery and promote a continuum of programs and services which are designed to:

- place the safety of victims as a priority;
- improve the level of programs and services for children;
- increase the accessibility of programs and services for all Islanders;
- break the cycle of family violence;
- reduce the level of trauma, risk and re-victimization for victims;
- promote healing;
- provide support through transitional periods; and
- provide appropriate services to offenders in order to reduce the risk of re-offending.

### Goals:

- Improved quality and accessibility of services across the province, addressing the full spectrum of needs of victims, families, offenders and communities.
- Enhanced responses to family violence from community, government, and police agencies.
- Increased resources to provide front-line services.

## Strategies

22. Promote an increased focus on children's needs in the design and delivery of programs relating to family violence.
23. Promote the design, delivery, and expansion of programs and services for children, women and men across the Island.
24. Promote the establishment of programs that address the distinct needs of people who have been witnesses and/or were exposed to family violence.
25. Partner with government, educational institutions, and community agencies to promote educational employment and training programs designed specifically for survivors of family violence.
26. Explore, and where appropriate, promote the implementation of models of multi-disciplinary intervention teams to respond to family violence.
27. Promote the implementation and monitoring of the Child Sexual Abuse Rural Intervention Model.
28. Promote accessible programs and follow-up support that provides feedback from survivors for adult survivors of childhood abuse.
29. Explore alternative approaches to family violence intervention.
30. Advocate for the provision of adequate resources to enable service providers to consistently and effectively respond to service demands across the province,

recognizing that increased public education and awareness may generate increased demands for services.

## Policy, Legislation and Legal Issues

There is a variety of legislation and policies that set the agenda for how government responds to family violence. In recent years, PEI has responded with legislative changes including the proclamation of the *Victims of Family Violence Act* in 1996. This marked an increased commitment on behalf of the provincial government and was a significant step in improving responses to family violence in this province. This legislation has received notable attention from other jurisdictions. However, this is only one piece of the puzzle. Throughout the consultations, the public demanded increased safety for women and children, more appropriate sentencing, removal of gaps and barriers in legislation and policy, and protection of the best interests of children. Overall, the consultations revealed that more public confidence in the legal system is needed.

### Goals:

- Increased safety for victims of family violence.
- Increased focus on the best interests of children .
- Enhanced response to family violence issues.

### Strategies

31. Promote the consistent use, application and enforcement of existing criminal laws.

32. Ensure that all provincial legislation and regulations enable the effective development and implementation of services and programs.
  33. Promote appropriate sentencing to reflect the seriousness of family violence crimes.
  34. Remain informed on work of the federal/provincial/territorial working groups related to family violence.
  35. Encourage, promote and share research on deterrence models and risk management.
  36. Promote a uniform judicial response to child custody and access issues where family violence is present.
  37. Promote mechanisms for resolving conflicts which arise in judicial custody and access directives where family violence is present.
38. Ensure that those responding to family violence and those providing services have appropriate policies and protocols in place reflecting the principles of this strategy.
  39. Identify and work towards the removal of gaps and/or barriers in policy or legislation relating to the prevention of family violence, provision of services and accountability for action.
  40. Provide opportunities for criminal justice personnel to access current research on effective responses to family violence.
  41. Explore different family violence court models from other jurisdictions and make recommendations to enhance the provincial response.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

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Evaluation is an important learning and results management tool. Evaluations can also serve as a means of sharing information, incorporating a broad spectrum of perspectives and experiences, and communicating important messages. They contribute to informed decision-making and continuous improvement in the provision of services. A good feedback process between program implementation and evaluation contributes to the program's quality and sustainability. Evaluations have been conducted on various program and services related to family violence and have helped to identify new initiatives or approaches when needed.

The monitoring and evaluation process outlined below includes components of societal outcomes or benchmarks, evaluation of the strategy's success in meeting its goals, and an evaluation and monitoring framework for programs under the strategy. All of these monitoring and evaluation processes will require improvements in the information collection process.

The committee recognizes that individuals and families exist within communities and larger societies which are complex and dynamic environments. In the year 2000, a public opinion survey was conducted by Bradford Associates to provide current data on public attitudes toward family violence, with a focus on prenatal women and older persons. The research objectives of this survey were to:

- identify attitudes and opinions of Prince Edward Island residents toward family violence;
- assess and compare demographics

similarities and differences in attitudes and opinions;

- identify services that people access for information and assistance in dealing with family violence;
- gather information that will help in the prevention of family violence by developing strategies for public education initiatives; and
- collect data that will provide a benchmark for measuring the impact of social marketing efforts.

This survey provides valuable baseline information upon which to establish benchmarks and to compare attitudes and opinions in the future. While the goals and strategies laid out in this report are aimed at changing the pattern of family violence, the committee recognizes that they will not be the single contributing factor in influencing attitudinal and/or behavioural changes regarding family violence. Without attributing credit for all of the changes which may occur over the lifetime of this strategy, this information is invaluable in monitoring public perceptions and attitudes.

One outstanding issue relating to societal indicators is the need to recognize the link between family violence and health. While many sectors are affected by family violence, the committee believes that family violence needs to be recognized as a major health care issue within the province. The committee views this as a priority area and is committed to working to ensure that safety from violence is recognized as a determinant of health and that family violence indicators are important measures of health and healthy communities.

The monitoring and evaluation of the success of the strategy will involve looking at public demands and needs, but only within the context of the strategy. This will require the development of quantitative objectives which will set specific results to be achieved over a specified period of time. Many programs under the strategy are already using monitoring and evaluation tools.

The monitoring and evaluation of the various family violence programs and services addressed in the strategy will serve to determine if the current program activities are consistent with the original intent, identify lessons which can be learned from the delivery of the program, and determine if the programs are meeting the needs of the participants. It will also serve to monitor the various response systems focused on optimal outcomes for victims, offenders, and system coordination.

The committee will work to support these efforts and promote any new programs introduced to integrate monitoring and evaluation into the program development process.

The committee will be seeking in-kind contributions from provincial government departments to conduct evaluations as appropriate. The public will be kept informed of monitoring and evaluation activities in an annual report issued by the committee. The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention will continue to keep in contact with the community through hosting annual meetings with the regional family violence committees and the regional health boards.

# Implementation

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Implementation of this strategy will be guided by the ongoing efforts of the committee and its partners to establish priorities and identify resources and opportunities. The consultations and recommendations from past reports consistently identified increasing public awareness of family violence, enhancement of front-line services and improving services for children as priorities. Implementation of the strategies relating to these priority areas will require consideration of the resources required. Implementation will also involve continuing many programs and services already underway that are working well and serving the needs of Islanders. A number of efforts, however, may require reallocation of resources and will require increasing existing services in order to provide accessibility to programs and services in the Island communities in which they are required.

The committee recognizes that many service providers are currently struggling to address inconsistencies and gaps while operating with limited resources and uncertain budgets. Demand for services can be expected to increase as awareness increases. As a result, the committee believes that a review of existing needs assessments and the associated requests for resources is required, taking into consideration the strategy goals.

This strategy recognizes the importance of evaluation and, therefore, lays out an evaluation framework consisting of:

- societal outcomes or benchmarks;
- evaluation of the success of the strategy in meeting its goals; and
- an evaluation and monitoring framework for programs under the strategy.

The committee will be seeking in-kind support from government and community agencies to aid in this evaluation process.



# Conclusion

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This strategy, along with the initial five-year strategy, has come about through the collaborative efforts of individuals, the community, government, and law enforcement agencies. It has been developed in response to the voices of Islanders. The Premier's Action Committee extends sincere appreciation to those Islanders who provided input into this strategy and for the continued dedication of those working to prevent family violence.

This strategy sets out a framework of collective action to address family violence over the next five years with a number of strategies identified under the following key areas: education, awareness and training; service delivery; partnerships and co-ordination; and policy, legislation and enforcement. It recommends a sustainable process to implement the strategies and an evaluation process to measure the level of success.

This is an ongoing piece of work. In many areas, notable success should be achieved over the next five years. However, in some areas, the work over the next five years will lay the foundation for more long-term activities. In all cases, implementation will require dedication and a sustained commitment by government, the community, and individuals to work toward ending family violence. The Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention believes that the pieces are now in place to take this strategy to the next level and invites all Islanders to be part of the journey.

## Appendix A List of Strategies

### Awareness, Education and Training

1. Implement a communications strategy prepared by the provincial government corporate communications group.
2. Promote customized training for key responders to family violence, identifying the challenge of providing safety and support to victims and ensuring that customized training is kept current and sustained.
3. Promote supportive work environments for those responding to family violence.
4. Work with government agencies and community groups to incorporate information on healthy relationships, abuse, and resolving conflict into existing parenting courses.
5. Ensure that all public service and community agency employees who provide services to the public, their supervisors, and those who develop policy and programs, are knowledgeable about family violence.
6. Build upon the success of existing training programs and workplace projects in developing training material and opportunities for all employers and employees. This will include working with human resource staff in various organizations to ensure that training is provided on an ongoing basis.
7. Encourage educational and training institutions to incorporate family violence training when educating professionals and tradespeople.
8. Support the development and availability of education and awareness campaigns designed for young adults regarding healthy relationships.
9. Support the development and availability of an education and awareness campaign designed for men, promoting male leadership in ending family violence.
10. Promote research and public awareness on the changing patterns of violence; for example, the use of computers, incapacitating drugs, criminal harassment and babysitting issues.

11. Coordinate the development and distribution of family violence information in order to achieve consistent messages and improve accessibility.
12. Promote the inclusion of a page in all phone books dedicated to providing information on family violence resources.

### **Partnerships and Coordination**

13. Promote effective community, government and police partnerships in all areas related to family violence prevention and intervention.
14. Build on existing partnerships and establish new ones in order to facilitate a consistent response and commitment to family violence prevention.
15. Encourage the recognition of family violence issues in policy development and decision-making processes.
16. Work with representatives in the addictions field to improve their knowledge of family violence.
17. Support communities, both geographic communities and communities of interest, who have experienced or been affected by family violence.
18. Work with local leaders and service providers in each region to increase the awareness and sensitivity to family violence and recognize the effects of family violence on economic development.
19. Promote the integration of family violence issues into health promotion and community safety strategies; and in particular, address in the Healthy Child Development Strategy and the Children's Mental Health Strategy the impact on children that are exposed to family violence .
20. Facilitate the application of educational programs for faith communities that want to build healthier families and communities.
21. Promote policies for the consistent application of criminal history reviews and screening procedures. These would apply to all people in government and community organizations working with, volunteering with, and having access to children and other vulnerable groups, including older persons, persons with disabilities, and visible minorities.

## **Service Delivery**

22. Promote an increased focus on children's needs in the design and delivery of programs relating to family violence.
23. Promote the design, delivery, and expansion of programs and services for children, women and men across the Island.
24. Promote the establishment of programs that address the distinct needs of people who have been witnesses and/or were exposed to family violence.
25. Partner with government, educational institutions, and community agencies to promote educational employment and training programs designed specifically for survivors of family violence.
26. Explore, and where appropriate, promote the implementation of models of multi-disciplinary intervention teams to respond to family violence.
27. Promote the implementation and monitoring of the Child Sexual Abuse Rural Intervention Model.
28. Promote accessible programs and follow-up support that provides feedback from survivors for adult survivors of childhood abuse.
29. Explore alternative approaches to family violence intervention.
30. Advocate for the provision of adequate resources to enable service providers to consistently and effectively respond to service demands across the province, recognizing that increased public education and awareness may generate increased demands for services.

## **Policy, Legislation and Legal Issues**

31. Promote the consistent use, application and enforcement of existing criminal laws.
32. Ensure that all provincial legislation and regulations enable the effective development and implementation of services and programs.
33. Promote appropriate sentencing to reflect the seriousness of family violence crimes.

34. Remain informed on work of the federal/provincial/territorial working groups related to family violence.
35. Encourage, promote and share research on deterrence models and risk management.
36. Promote a uniform judicial response to child custody and access issues where family violence is present.
37. Promote mechanisms for resolving conflicts which arise in judicial custody and access directives where family violence is present.
38. Ensure that those responding to family violence and those providing services have appropriate policies and protocols in place reflecting the principles of this strategy.
39. Identify and work towards the removal of gaps and/or barriers in policy or legislation relating to the prevention of family violence, provision of services and accountability for action.
40. Provide opportunities for criminal justice personnel to access current research on effective responses to family violence.
41. Explore different family violence court models from other jurisdictions and make recommendations to enhance the provincial response.

**Appendix B**  
**Members of the Community Consultation Working Group**  
**of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention**

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Chair: (Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention)	Hon. Marion Reid
Resource:	Rona Brown
Administrative Assistant:	Cindy Ferguson
Transition House Association:	Joanne Ings
PEI Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre:	Lorna Hutcheson
Royal Canadian Mounted Police:	Cpl. Richard Thibault
Community Legal Information Association:	Ann Sherman
Interministerial Women's Secretariat:	Sandy Bentley
Office of the Attorney General:	Jill Lightwood Dave O'Brien Patsy MacLean Jennifer Cormier
Executive Council Office:	Rochelle Gallant
Advisory Council on the Status of Women:	Heidi Rankin

## Appendix C

### List of Consultations

#### Public Forums:

- Montague, Montague High School, November 5/01
- Charlottetown, Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean, November 14/01
- Summerside, Athena Consolidated School, November 19/01
- Abram-Village, Ecole Evangeline, November 21/01
- Souris, Souris High School, November 27/01
- Elmsdale, Westisle Composite High School, November 28/01

#### Private Sessions:

- Summerside, December 5/01
- Charlottetown, December 10/01

#### Submissions and feedback were received from the following organizations:

- West Prince Transition & Support Services
- West Prince Family Violence Prevention Cooperative
- Eastern Kings Committee for Peaceful Families
- East Prince Transition & Support Services
- Family Violence Prevention Eastern PEI
- Southern Kings & Queens Community Consultative Group

Letters, feedback sheets and e-mails were received from concerned individuals, victims and survivors.

## Appendix D References

*Adult Protection Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. A-5.

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# Family Violence Resource Guide

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

**POLICE** ..... 911

**Crime Stoppers** ..... (toll free) 1-800-222-8477

*If you are being abused or know of an abusive situation, you can call Crime Stoppers. You will be assigned a code number. We do not require your name. We guarantee that you will remain anonymous.*

**Anderson House** ..... (toll free) 1-800-240-9894

Charlottetown ..... 892-0960  
*24-hour service for physically and emotionally abused women and their children. Emergency shelter, food and clothing; crisis telephone service; counselling, emotional support, information and referral. Wheelchair accessible. Women are not admitted if they are under the influence of alcohol or non-prescription drugs. If they exhibit psychiatric problems beyond the staff's capability, or if their need is for shelter only.*

**Child Abuse Line** ..... (toll free) 1-800-341-6868

*Child protection services for abused children. After-hours calls concerning child abuse are screened and, if necessary, referred to workers on call across PEI.*

### PEI Rape and Sexual Assault

**Crisis Centre** ..... (toll free) 1-800-289-5656

Charlottetown ..... 566-8999  
*24-hour crisis line for victims of rape/sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse. Trained volunteers answer calls and provide support, information and advocacy. May accompany individuals in crisis to the hospital, police and other critical services. Individual and group therapy for survivors of sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.*

**Island Help Line** ..... (toll free) 1-800-218-2885

*24-hour free, confidential service for all Islanders providing information, support, crisis counselling on family matters, child abuse, alcohol and drugs, parenting and suicide.*

## REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

### Child and Family Services

Charlottetown ..... 368-5330

Souris ..... 687-7060

Montague ..... 838-0700

Summerside ..... 888-8100

O'Leary ..... 859-8811

*Financial assistance; homemakers and home helpers; child protection services; general counselling; transportation in cases of special need; day-care subsidy; and other social services.*

**POLICE** ..... 911

Charlottetown RCMP ..... 368-9300

Summerside RCMP ..... 436-9300

Alberton RCMP ..... 853-9300

Montague RCMP ..... 838-9300

Souris RCMP ..... 687-9300

Charlottetown Police Department ..... 629-4172

Summerside Police Department ..... 432-1201

Borden-Carleton Police Department ..... 437-2228

Kensington Police Department ..... 836-4499

## HOSPITALS

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Charlottetown ..... 894-2111

Prince County Hospital, Summerside ..... 432-2500

Stewart Memorial Hospital, Tyne Valley ..... 831-7900

Kings County Memorial Hospital, Montague ..... 838-0777

Souris Hospital, Souris ..... 687-7150

Western Hospital, Alberton ..... 853-8650

O'Leary Community Hospital, O'Leary ..... 859-8700

## JUSTICE & LEGAL SERVICES

### Victim Services

Charlottetown ..... 368-4582

Summerside ..... 888-8217

*Assists victims of crime across the province. Services include: information and referral; short-term counselling; assistance through the Court process; victim impact statements; and criminal injuries compensation.*

### Community Legal Information Association

Charlottetown ..... (toll free) 1-800-240-9798 892-0853

*Provides basic legal information including free pamphlets on a wide variety of legal topics to the general public.*

### Crown Attorneys

Charlottetown ..... 368-4595

Summerside ..... 888-8213

*The Crown Attorneys represent the Attorney General in the prosecution of all criminal cases under the Criminal Code of Canada and Provincial Statutes. In cooperation with Victim Services, Crown Attorneys assist victims with Court preparation upon request.*

**PEI Community Justice Resource Centre** ..... 368-6390

*Programming of the Centre focuses upon the delivery of services which will develop and reinforce positive lifestyles. Programs include the Turning Point Program which is a men's group counselling program aimed at helping men to stop violence against their female partners; the Female Anger Management Program; the Male Anger Management Program; and the Sexual Deviance Assessment / Treatment Program.*

### Family Legal Aid

Charlottetown ..... 368-6043

Summerside ..... 888-8219

*Services to low-income clients in family law matters such as separation, divorce, custody, for victims of family violence; also for child protection cases.*

### Family Court Counsellors

Charlottetown ..... 368-6056

*Reports to the Court, e.g., custody reports ordered by Supreme Court Justices; family and marital counselling; and referral to appropriate legal and other agencies.*

**Consumer Services** ..... (toll free) 1-800-658-1799

Charlottetown ..... 368-4580

*Assistance and counselling is available to any consumer with a debt-related problem.*

### Lawyer Referral Service

Charlottetown ..... (toll free) 1-800-240-9798

Summerside ..... 892-0853

*Legal advice provided early before your problems become complicated or expensive. Nominal fee for one-half hour advice. Monday to Friday. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

### Maintenance Enforcement

Charlottetown ..... 368-6010

*Enforcement of provincial orders and agreements and contact for out-of-province enforcement for the benefit of child and spousal support*

## COUNSELLING

### Community Mental Health Services

Charlottetown ..... 368-4430

Summerside ..... 888-8180

Montague ..... 838-0782

Souris ..... 687-7096

West Prince ..... 888-8180

*Treatment, assessment and consultation services.*

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Transition House Outreach Services

West Prince: Valerie Smallman ..... 859-8849

East Prince: Norma McColeman ..... 436-0517

Eastern PEI: Gwyn Davies ..... 838-0795

Queens County: Gloria Dennis ..... 566-1480

*A free and confidential service providing emotional support for women victimized by family violence.*

### Community and Family Services of PEI

Charlottetown ..... 892-2441

*Individual, family and marital counselling; information and referral; family life education; family advocacy; and specialize in anger management for victims and abusers. Ladies auxiliary provides a Christmas shop for low-income clients.*

### Pownal House

Charlottetown ..... 894-3515

*Individual, marital and family counselling; support and self-help groups; family life education program, and advocacy on behalf of clients.*

### Prince County Family Services Bureau

Summerside ..... 436-9171

*Supportive counselling and referrals for families of limited income and for unmarried mothers. Salvation Army*

Charlottetown ..... 892-8870

(after hours) ..... 566-9982

Summerside ..... 888-3870

(after hours) ..... 436-8072

*24-hour service. Emergency shelter, food and clothing; transportation in emergency cases if needed; pastoral counselling; operation of a senior citizen home; and provision of a chaplain to the Correctional Centre.*

## INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

### East Prince Women's Information Centre

Summerside ..... 436-9856

*Information and referral for women on issues such as employment, wife-battering, addictions, legal rights, sexual harassment, etc.*

Additional Support Information and telephone numbers:

02EC24-3146