



# Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

## **Addressing Domestic Violence in British Columbia**

**National Research Day 2012**

November 8, 2012

Vancouver, BC





## Purpose of today's presentation:

To provide an overview of the mandate and work of the new Provincial Office of Domestic Violence including:

- ***Taking Action on Domestic Violence in British Columbia*** (2012) action plan
- Development of a comprehensive three-year plan to address domestic violence in British Columbia



# Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

- On March 1, 2012 as an immediate response to the RCY report- *Honouring Kaitlynne, Max and Cordon: Make Their Voices Heard Now* the BC government announced a new Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) would be established
- PODV came into effect on March 26, 2012
- PODV is a permanent office situated in the Ministry of Children and Family Development and ensures continued leadership and accountability on domestic violence across govt




# Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

- 8 staff
- Staff come from various sectors – justice, police, community and child welfare
- Office is in Victoria



# Provincial Office of Domestic Violence Mandate and Responsibilities

- PODV is the permanent lead for government on domestic violence focussed on strengthening the services and supports available for children and families affected by domestic violence
- PODV is responsible for ensuring all provincial domestic violence policies, programs, services and training programs are delivered in a coordinated manner across government
- PODV is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and regularly reporting on the responsiveness of domestic violence programs, services, training and initiatives across government



# Provincial Office of Domestic Violence Principles

The work of PODV is based on the following principles:

- Prevention
- Protection (Safety)
- Adequate responsive services and supports
- Domestic violence requires a coordinated, holistic response



# Engagement and Consultation

**Engaging and consulting with government and community stakeholders and partners is critical to our work**

## **PODV works in collaboration with:**

- Provincial ministries, crown corporations, law enforcement agencies, anti-violence professionals, community stakeholders and partners and post-secondary institutions

## **PODV is committed to:**

- Listening to the voices of those impacted by domestic violence
- Demonstrating inclusivity , collaboration and respect



# Creating awareness of the office

To date:

- Engaged with a number of provincial and local organizations, groups and committees
- Presented at meetings, conferences and training event
- Strong relationships and partnerships are being built across the sectors
- Accessible by phone, email and on internet



# Key Deliverables

- Complete an extensive, in-depth identification and mapping of all government domestic violence polices, programs, services and training and map across BC where programs and services are located (October 2012)
- Complete an action plan, with specific targets and timelines, in response to the RCY report (September 2012)
- Develop a comprehensive, rolling three-year provincial plan to address domestic violence (ready for implementation in 2013)



# Identification and Mapping of Services and Programs

## Key Ministries:

- Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Children and Family Development, Education, Health, Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Justice and Social Development
- Crown Corporations:
- BC Housing, WorkSafe BC



# Identification and Mapping of Services and Programs con't

- Identifying legislation, policies, standards, types of data collected, training programs for service providers in these ministries
- A detailed report that maps domestic violence policies, programs and services across BC in 47 local service areas is being finalized and will be made public

# TAKING ACTION *on* DOMESTIC VIOLENCE *in* BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Prepared by the* PROVINCIAL OFFICE *of* DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
MINISTRY *of* CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

*In Response to the 2012 Representative for Children and Youth Report*  
HONOURING KAITLYNNE, MAX AND CORDON:  
MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD NOW

BRITISH COLUMBIA | SEPTEMBER 2012



Ministry of  
Children and Family  
Development



# Taking Action on Domestic Violence in British Columbia (Sept 2012)

- Released on Oct 10, 2012
- Responds to the 8 recommendations in the RCY report and outlines key deliverables, actions and timeframes
- Developed between April - July 2012
- Final presented to Representative for Children and Youth on July 31, 2012



# Taking Action on Domestic Violence in British Columbia (Sept 2012) con't

- In addition to responding to recommendations the action plan outlines the approach government will take over the coming month to strengthen how domestic violence is addressed in BC
- Commits to development and implementation of a provincial, three-year plan



# Recommendation I

To Ministry of Health, in partnership with MCDF:

- Take steps to ensure that all staff and professionals connected to their systems understand the risk factors relating to children of parents with a serious untreated mental illness



# Recommendation I Response

Tools and protocols for information sharing and referral process within both these systems are being developed to identify and support families when risk factors relating to children of parents with a serious untreated mental illness, problematic substance use or domestic violence are identified





# Recommendation I Response

Prototype locations within two BC communities (one rural and one urban) are being finalized to pilot and evaluate these tools and protocols. This will include hospital, primary-care and relevant health-authority and community-level services and victim-serving agencies (beginning in 2012)



# Recommendation 1

Implemented in 3 phases:

Phase 1 – Develop, pilot and evaluate protocols  
(2 communities)

Phase 2 – Pilot protocols developed in phase 1 in  
20 communities (starting in Oct 2013)

Phase 3 – Implement protocols province wide  
(Jan 2014)



## Recommendation 2

To BC Government – take steps to demonstrate a serious commitment to protect children exposed to and living in domestic violence circumstances

- Adequate funding
- Appointment of a permanent lead
- Continuous evaluation and reporting



# Recommendation 2

## Response

- Establish the PODV including funding
- Develop and monitor action plan in response to report
- Develop three year plan



# Recommendation 3

To MCFD:

- Propose required changes to legislation and develop policies, standards and training to provide social workers with clear direction in assessing the safety of children who are exposed to domestic violence



# Recommendation 3

## Response

- Consider amendments to CFCSA
- Review and update child protection and child and youth mental health policies
- Develop and implement standards and policies for clinical supervision of child protection staff
- Implement consequential amendments to CFCSA making breaches of protection order a criminal offence (effective March 18, 2013)



# Recommendation 4

To MCFD:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to improve the capacity of social workers and child and youth mental health professional to support children who are living in circumstances of domestic violence



# Recommendation 4

## Response

- Establish domestic violence leads in each MCFD service delivery area to provide consultation, training and coordination support
- Develop and implement training for MCFD social workers, supervisors and DAA social workers and supervisors (approx 3500) staff





## Recommendation 4

### Response con't

- Deliver child and youth mental health specific training in trauma focused cognitive behavioural therapy with modifications to include consideration of the impact of domestic violence on children and families
- Develop a case consultation mechanism in the Provincial Director of Child Welfare's office to provide consultation and direction to regional staff on high-risk cases involving domestic violence



## Recommendation 5

To MCFD:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive training program for supervisors on providing clinical supervision



# Recommendation 5

## Response

- Develop and implement a pre-appointment training program and certification for MCFD and DAA supervisors (approx 520 staff)



# Recommendation 6

To Ministry of Education:

- Develop and implement a plan to improve the capacity of school personnel to support and protect children living in circumstances of domestic violence



# Recommendation 6

## Response

- Establish an index of community resources in schools to inform students of support
- Deliver training on recognizing and responding to domestic violence to school personnel (approx 17,000)
- Support community based violence prevention programs in schools



# Recommendation 7

To Ministry of Justice:

- Develop and implement a plan to improve legal processes related to domestic violence cases



# Recommendation 7

## Response

- *Family Law Act* is being implemented on March 18, 2013
- Develop resource materials to support the legal community and public in preparing for transition to FLA
- Review the tele-bail process. Review will inform a proposal with possible options for consideration



## Recommendation 7

### Response con't

- Determine next steps regarding domestic violence courts upon review of the BC Justice Reform Initiative Report
- Introduce an enhanced flagging system in the computer system (JUSTIN) to improve identification of files involving domestic violence and child victims
- Implement online training to 2,500 support workers in victim services, violence against women and transition house programs on domestic violence safety planning





## Recommendation 8

To Ministry of Social Development:

- Develop and implement a plan to improve capacity of income assistance program to contribute to the protection of children who are living in circumstances of domestic violence



# Recommendation 8

## Response

- Develop and update policies regarding clients fleeing domestic violence
- Develop a domestic violence flag on the computer system to monitor new applications and existing clients



# Recommendation 8

## Response con't

- Develop and implement a case management role within existing field staff positions to make sure domestic violence policies are applied and complied with and to act as a point of coordination
- Deliver training on domestic violence to staff



# Provincial Three-Year Plan to Address Domestic Violence

The Plan will be focussed on the pillars of prevention, protection (safety) and responsive services.

The Plan will be based on outcomes and inclusive of:

- An Aboriginal specific strategy
- Specific approaches to support immigrant and refugee women and women with disabilities



# Provincial Three-Year Plan to Address Domestic Violence

- Will build on Taking Action plan and 2010 DV action plan
- Recommendations made over the years from inquests, RCY reports, Coroner's domestic homicide panel. and other reports will be reviewed and considered



# Provincial Three-Year Plan to Address Domestic Violence

- Mapping exercise will identify strengths and gaps in services and programs
- Implementation must be well-planned, resourced, monitored and evaluated in order to successfully achieve the outcomes
- Training needs across the sectors will be a priority



# Developing the plan

- PODV is engaging with community and government professionals
- PODV hosted a provincial information exchange and consultation forum on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>
- Consultations will continue throughout the fall and winter using a variety of engagement strategies and approaches
- The plan will be ready for implementation in the Spring 2013



# Concluding Remarks

- Domestic Violence is Not a Private Matter
- Domestic Violence is Everyone's Responsibility
- It is essential that we all work together to end violence and build safe communities





# Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

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