

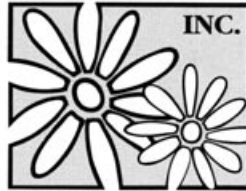
# Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women



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Honourable Margaret Ann Blaney  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
PO Box 6000  
Fredericton NB  
E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Blaney:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Report of the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women.

As the Working Group's co-chair I have witnessed first-hand the dedication and generosity of contribution of both the community and government partners in this initiative. I sincerely believe the advice we present to you today accurately reflects the issues encountered by the women who are survivors of violence and the issues encountered by the system which is trying to help these women. The recommendations, as presented, should chart a course of collective action which will allow us to alleviate the problem of violence against women.

On behalf of the Working Group, I would like to applaud your commitment to this issue and the process undertaken. We trust government will positively receive these recommendations in view of its commitment to assist the most vulnerable of our citizens.

Sincerely

Nancy Hartling  
Co-Chair  
Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women





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## **INTRODUCTION**

In October 2000, women around the world marched to raise awareness on violence against women and poverty among women. In New Brunswick, approximately 400 women rallied at the Legislature and presented their concerns and recommendations to government. This event was the stimulus for the establishment by government of the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women.

The Working Group's mandate is to develop a comprehensive strategic framework that brings together recommendations from all areas of the province to alleviate the problem of violence against women.

The Working Group is a partnership between government and the community working together to develop concrete, actionable advice to government in a quest to address the issues of violence against women from the women's perspective and the system's perspective. Its membership reflects this partnership. Twenty-three community representatives from all regions of the province as well as senior government officials from the key Departments of Health and Wellness, Family and Community Services, Public Safety, Justice, Education, and Training and Employment Development brought their varied expertise to the issues.

To support the Working Group, three sub-committees were established in the areas of prevention and education, service delivery, and policy and communications. To reflect the ongoing partnership, these sub-committees included both community and government participation.

The Working Group recognized early in the process, that the quality of the advice and recommendations it would develop would be contingent on ensuring that the work represented as many voices as possible. It was critical to hear from survivors, perpetrators, and as many service providers as possible. To facilitate this, a series of focus group sessions and informal dialogues were carried out over the months of March to September 2001. Participants included victims, perpetrators, educators, teachers, nurses, police officers, judges, social workers, crisis intervenors, community volunteers and others. The recommendations contained in this report are the product of these collective processes.

The Working Group would like to thank the many New Brunswickers who have contributed to its work and who continue to be committed to eliminating violence against women.

## **Vision**

**THE MINISTER'S WORKING GROUP ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BELIEVES THAT ALL NEW BRUNSWICK FAMILIES MUST LIVE IN A SECURE, NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FREE OF ABUSE AND VIOLENCE.**

The Working Group believes this vision should be adopted by society in general. Alleviating violence against women requires sustained commitment, leadership and energy over time, by government and by the community. Each individual has a role to play in achieving this vision.

## **Principles/Values**

1. Violence against women is a serious health, social, and economic issue.
2. Families must live in a secure, nurturing environment free of abuse and violence.
3. Family violence, in many of its forms, is a criminal act and should be treated as such in all aspects of society.
4. Women must have access to information and options to support them in their decision making.
5. Interventions dealing with incidences of violence against women are long-term and systemic in nature and address the individual service needs of victims, children and perpetrators.
6. Poverty or the threat of poverty should not be a barrier for a woman seeking to leave an abusive situation.
7. Formal and informal caregivers/service providers should be helpful and do no further harm.



## **The Problem**

***Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms... Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men, and to the prevention of women's full advancement.<sup>1</sup>***

The Working Group defines violence against women as any physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial abuse of women that occurs in the home, workplace or in the community at large.

Over three decades, significant advancements have been made to address this issue. Transition houses were established to support abused women and their children. Committees were formed at the local level to work to alleviate violence against women. Public awareness campaigns were launched in some provinces to educate citizens about the problem and effects of this violence.

The costs of violence against women – both financial and emotional – are immense. Abused women suffer the loss of self-esteem, fear, shame, loss of income, physical scars and, in some cases, loss of life. These costs are immeasurable. The emotional impacts on children who witness violence, or who themselves are victims, are long-term and severe.

Research has been done, however, to measure the economic costs of violence against women. A 1995 study conducted by the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children at the University of Western Ontario looked at selected Canadian economic costs of three forms of violence against women: sexual assault/rape, women abuse in intimate partnerships and incest/child sexual assault. The study looked at four policy areas: health/medicine, criminal/justice, social services/education and labour/employment and estimated the costs were:

- Social service/education: \$2,368,924,298
- Criminal Justice: \$871,908,583
- Labour/employment: \$576,764,400
- Health/medical: \$408,357,041

This totals more than \$4 billion annually. If one were to estimate these costs on a per capita basis this would represent approximately \$127 million for New Brunswick.

<sup>1</sup> Beijing Platform for Action, United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995, para. 112 & 118

The report distinguishes between government, personal and third party costs of violence against women. The government costs include things such as incarceration of people convicted of rape, assault and child molestation. Personal costs are those which include loss of income for the victim due to hospitalization or other sick time taken, transportation, and accommodation costs. Finally, third-party costs are those incurred when someone agrees to shelter a friend who has been abused or an insurance firm's expenses covering the benefits claimed by a woman who has experienced violence. These costs are divided among the government, 87.5%, the individual 11.5% and third-party, 0.9%.

## **Prevalence of Violence Against Women**

The 1999 General Social Survey found that only 37% of violent acts involving female victims were reported to police. Many victims of violence do not report incidents of violence due to factors such as the secrecy of the issue, dependency on the perpetrator, lack of knowledge about assistance, and fear of repercussions. (Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2000, Statistics Canada) It is therefore impossible to have a complete picture of the magnitude of violence against women. What we do know, however, is that:

### **Canada:**

- One in four Canadian women have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner. (Violence Against Women Survey, 1993, Statistics Canada)
- One in two Canadian women have experienced at least one incident of violence since the age of 16. (Violence Against Women Survey, 1993, Statistics Canada)
- In 1999, eight women per million couples were murdered by their intimate partners – down from 12.8 in 1991. (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey)
- Children heard or saw one parent assaulting the other in 37% of all Canadian households. In 70% of these cases, the assaults were against their mothers. Over one-half of the female victims in these cases feared for their lives because of the violence. (Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2001, Statistics Canada)
- The five-year prevalence rate of spousal violence was 8% of women and 7% of men in 1999. Although the rates are similar for women and men, it must be noted that women generally are subjected to more severe and more frequent forms of violence; (i.e., twice as many women as men were beaten, five times as many choked, and almost twice as many had a gun or knife used against them). (General Social Survey, 1999, Statistics Canada)

- In 1999, 77% of incidents of criminal harassment (stalking) reported to police were directed at female victims. (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey)
- 39% of women have been sexually assaulted since the age of 16. (Violence Against Women Survey, 1993, Statistics Canada)
- 53% of women disabled from birth have been raped, abused, or assaulted. (Lynn & O'Neill)
- Aboriginal women report higher than average rates of spousal violence. (Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2001, Statistics Canada)
- In 69% of substantiated cases of child sexual abuse; the victim was female. (Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 2001, Statistics Canada)

### **New Brunswick:**

- The 5-year prevalence rate of spousal violence is 9% for women and 7% for men. Although the rates are similar for women and men, it must be noted that women generally are subjected to more severe and more frequent forms of violence; (i.e., twice as many women as men were beaten, five times as many choked, and almost twice as many had a gun or knife used against them). (1999 General Social Survey, Statistics Canada)
- 14 New Brunswick women died as a result of violence inflicted upon them by their current or ex-partner between 1992 and 1999. (NB Family Violence Criminal Justice Statistical Reports)
- 29% of girls in Grades 7, 9 and 11 have experienced at least one incident of dating violence. (Dating Violence Research Team)
- In 84% of the criminal harassment charges laid in New Brunswick between April 1, 2000 and March 31, 2001, the victims were women. (New Brunswick Justice Information Service)

## **FRAMEWORK ELEMENTS**

To achieve the vision of the Working Group in accordance with its principles and values, work is required in the following areas:

- leadership and co-ordination;
- legislation;
- stability and sustainability;
- prevention and education;
- policy and support issues;
- service delivery; and
- accountability.

This section details the Working Group's identification of issues in each of these areas as well as recommendations to bring about positive change. The following ten recommendations have been determined to be priorities:

1. That transition houses be funded at 100% of approved cost. Consistent criteria should be applied across the province. **(Recommendation 9, p. 18)**
2. That social assistance and housing policies and procedures be amended to:
  - create an exception to the Household Income Policy for women who have been victims of abuse. This would allow these women (with or without children) to share accommodations without deduction on their social assistance;
  - fully communicate with regional front line offices the premise that women who have been abused are a priority group and are to be treated as such;
  - streamline and render the application for benefits process more easily accessible and considerate of the woman's physical and mental state at the time of application. For example, social assistance applications should be taken in the transition house rather than the woman, who may well be showing signs of abuse, mingle with other applicants in a waiting room.
  - enhance transitional benefits and supports by:
    - extending the period of time for which the health card is provided;
    - ensuring childcare assistance is provided for these women when pursuing a training, education or employment opportunity; and
    - extending these transitional benefits to women who have experienced abuse and are not eligible for social assistance but who are low-income (i.e. less than \$20,000/year).

- extend eligibility to the Transitional Assistance rate for single women who have experienced abuse;
  - increase the number of rental subsidies available to women (with or without children) who have experienced abuse. The efforts of the Minister of Family and Community Services in addressing these issues is acknowledged and supported.
  - provide assistance for the transportation of children in transition houses to their school where possible. Changing school for the child during this period should be avoided as it increases the trauma being experienced.
  - ensure the appeal process is streamlined and rendered more user-friendly for women who have been victims of violence. Administrative procedures should be examined in this context. Access to the client's file should be assured.
  - create a better working relationship between Department of Family and Community Services case workers and transition house workers based on respect for each other and for women in transition. **(Recommendation 28, p.23)**
3. That appropriate resources be dedicated within the Executive Council Office (Status of Women) to be charged with:
- the ongoing provision of advice to the Minister;
  - the co-ordination and the facilitation of communications between government and community including the sharing of best practices;
  - the overseeing function related to implementation of the action plan;
  - the promotion of research and dissemination of findings;
  - the promotion of evaluation of existing and new programs; and
  - the provision of leadership in public awareness, education and prevention initiatives. **(Recommendation 1, p. 16)**
4. That government invest in training of its service providers in the following ways:
- by providing ongoing training in the abuse protocols;
  - by developing and delivering orientation packages for new employees; and
  - by providing in-service training to all service providers. **(Recommendation 16, p. 20)**
5. That, in partnership with Aliant (NB Tel), an abuse information page be developed and incorporated in all phone books in the province. It is further recommended that, to ensure citizens are aware of the existence of such a page, the profile be raised through an awareness campaign. **(Recommendation 17, p. 20)**

6. A. That, in partnership with existing facilities, (i.e. family resource centres, family violence crisis centres, community health centres), a network of resource centres be established to provide a safe place for women to access information and counselling and to hold discussion groups.
- B. That these centres be resourced with an outreach component to reach women in more isolated areas and to act as an ambassador for women in working their way through the system.
- C. That staff at these centres be knowledgeable of the special needs of diverse groups. **(Recommendation 46, p. 27)**
7. A. That curriculum be implemented for Grades K-12 on healthy relationships.
- B. That training of teachers in this curriculum and its delivery be monitored.
- C. That this program be mandatory at all grade levels.
- D. That the expertise of community be utilized in its implementation.
- E. That role-play be integrated as an important component of such a curriculum. **(Recommendation 20, p.20)**
8. That a provincial policy on second stage housing and sexual assault services and supports be developed and funded accordingly. **(Recommendation 31, p. 24)**
9. A. That over the course of the next calendar year, government take leadership with the participation of community as appropriate, to:
  - conduct an extensive review of legislation adopted in other Provinces; and
  - develop a discussion paper which outlines the feasibility of such legislation in New Brunswick as well as explore the options which might be effective in the context of the provincial justice system.
- B. That the proposed legislation, if deemed feasible, be introduced in the Legislature in the Spring, 2003. **(Recommendation 7, p. 17)**
10. That a public awareness campaign be undertaken over a number of years using a broad spectrum of mechanisms and targeting different groups, i.e. victims, abusers, informal helpers, etc. This campaign must ensure the special needs of immigrant, aboriginal, and disabled women are taken into consideration. **(Recommendation 18, p. 20)**

## **Leadership And Co-ordination**

### **Issues**

The Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women provides a means to bring together the perspectives of government and community in order to address the issue of violence against women. The need to continue to address the issue through this shared focus was readily identified.

The joint forum had some unanticipated benefits. Community groups were able to share ideas and best practices. There is no ongoing mechanism in place at present to allow such sharing to take place. Providing a forum to exchange information, thereby eliminating duplication of effort, allows more time for the direct provision of services and supports to women who have experienced violence in their lives. From government's perspective, the joint forum provided an opportunity for policy advisors and planners to get direct feedback in terms of the impact of issues, policies and actions on the front lines.

A recurring theme in all of the discussions was the silo effect between government departments themselves as well as between government and community. This happens provincially, but even more important, occurs locally. Communication is part of the answer in breaking down these silos. The degree of the problem varies from region to region, from community to community. In a number of areas, partnerships have been forged. In other areas these partnerships are absent. The need to help build community capacity and focus around issues of violence, however, is key.

In addition to the direct harm caused to women, research has shown the devastating long-term effects on children who witness abuse against their mother. Violence against women has impacts far beyond the individual and her children, however, and is a serious public health, social and economic issue which must be addressed across sectors.

## Recommendations

1. That appropriate resources be dedicated within the Executive Council Office (Status of Women) to be charged with:
  - the ongoing provision of advice to the Minister;
  - the co-ordination and the facilitation of communications between government and community including the sharing of best practices;
  - the overseeing function related to the implementation of the government action plan;
  - the promotion of research and dissemination of findings;
  - the promotion of evaluation of existing and new programs; and
  - the provision of leadership in public awareness, education and prevention initiatives.
2. A) That the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women be continued and meet on a yearly basis to:
  - consider progress achieved on the action plan;
  - suggest adjustments where and if needed; and
  - continue to provide advice to the Minister.

B) It is further recommended that membership on the Working Group be modified to include perspectives from the academic community, businesses and professional organizations (e.g. physicians, nurses, teachers).
3. That the Executive Council Office (Status of Women) work in partnership with many organizations to facilitate the strengthening of existing community-government partnerships such as the Provincial Caring Partnerships at the local level, and the creation of new partnerships where these do not exist.
4. That the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women's Strategic Framework be widely communicated and distributed across the province.
5. That each department involved in the carrying out of the government action plan clearly identify its responsibilities and obligations (financial and human resources) within their departmental work plans.
6. That a Ministerial Committee be struck to allow for broader consideration of the issue and to serve as a coordinating mechanism for long-term actions which cross various departments. This Committee should meet annually, or more often if deemed necessary.



## **Legislation**

### **Issues**

Women who have experienced violence have identified that their chief priorities are safety, for themselves and for their children, as well as timely and effective information on options. The Working Group expressed the strong belief that violence against women must be seen as a “criminal act”. To change public attitudes and start making a positive step forward in the lives of these women, one must go beyond the platitudes of simply stating that “violence against women is unacceptable”. These platitudes have not proven to be a deterrent for the perpetrators and certainly have not provided the impetus for women to take the necessary steps to ensure their right to live free of violence is respected.

One particular avenue explored by the Working Group was legislation which enshrines its vision, principles, goals, and values, and also creates new and different options for women. Several other provinces (i.e. Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba) have legislation in place, particularly as it relates to family violence. The Prince Edward Island model received notable attention from Working Group members. An important feature of this legislation is that aggressors can be removed from premises as opposed to women having to flee. More importantly, however, is the fact that the legislation provides the abused person with access to resources (i.e. car, cheque book) and temporary child custody. The presence of Justices of the Peace in Prince Edward Island is to be noted. Justices of the Peace can issue orders which require ratification by a judge within five days. Justices of the Peace do not exist in the New Brunswick system.

### **Recommendations**

7. A. That, over the course of the next calendar year, government take leadership with the participation of community as appropriate, to:
  - (a) conduct an extensive review of legislation adopted in other provinces. Particular emphasis should be placed on assessing the provisions of the Prince Edward Island legislation;
  - (b) develop a discussion paper which outlines the feasibility of such legislation in New Brunswick as well as exploring the options which might be effective in the context of the provincial justice system. The discussion paper would also need to fully identify implementations and resourcing issues. It should set the stage for a legislative framework so therefore it needs to be in the public domain to solicit the necessary stakeholder and citizen dialogue.
- B. That the proposed legislation, if deemed feasible, be introduced in the Legislature in the Spring, 2003.

## **Stability/Sustainability**

### **Issues**

Uncertainty relating to program and budget approvals from year to year has hampered community agencies in their efforts to do long-term planning. This has become problematic as considerable time and energy goes into the funding application process with the results of their applications often becoming known well into the next fiscal year. This directly impacts on their ability to attract and retain good qualified staff, which in turn, directly influences the provision of services.

As a result of discussions, it became evident that government approved or purchased community services are not necessarily funded at the full cost of the service. For example, transition houses are funded at 80% of the approved operating budget. There is an expectation that these community groups and organizations will undertake fundraising activities to cover the remainder of costs. The Working Group believes that these services are essential services and therefore should be funded accordingly. From a pragmatic perspective, it should be noted that time and energy used by staff to fundraise is time and energy taken away from the direct delivery of services to women, children and men.

A lack of certainty or stability in many community programs and services is one of the key reasons why program evaluation has been difficult to implement, i.e. "Why evaluate if we're not sure we'll be around next year!"

To further complicate the issue, there is insufficient transparency in the current system that deals with funding of community services and programs thus, unintentionally creating competition among the groups for the same public dollar. The Working Group's vision of working together to improve the lives of these women, dictates that this unhealthy competition must disappear.

### **Recommendations**

8. That the funding application process for community groups be streamlined and be accompanied by transparent criteria and decision-making.
9. That transition houses be funded at 100% of approved cost. Consistent criteria should be applied throughout the province.
10. That funding for government purchased services and programs be approved on a three-year basis. Moreover, a user-friendly mechanism be developed to ensure that a yearly review and adjustment process is part of the funding criteria.
11. That a review be undertaken to assess the adequacy of public support provided to existing community services and to address any identified anomalies over the course of the five-year government action plan.
12. That all public funding accorded to programs, services and initiatives dealing with violence against women be public information and included in a report card. This will further enhance accountability within the system.

## **Prevention and Education**

### **Issues**

After more than two decades of work in the area of violence against women, a large proportion of the population, including many service providers, still does not understand what constitutes abuse. (HEAR) Education and training is a priority. The Working Group agreed that many professionals require training on the impacts and dynamics of violence against women and what victims need from the professionals they turn to for help. In particular, health care providers were targeted as one group with an essential training requirement as they are often the first point of contact for abused women. Research has found that the first response to a disclosure is critical to further disclosure. It is clear from research also, that women need safe access to information. (HEAR) Pamphlets and information cards taken home by a victim can jeopardize the victim's safety if found by an abusive partner.

Minority groups of women, (i.e. immigrant, disabled and aboriginal) face particular difficulties. Immigrant women may live in isolation, not only because of geography, but also due to language. Women with disabilities suffer abuse at twice the rate of able-bodied women. First nations children in public schools face extreme social and cultural differences. The Working Group believes that all individuals, especially youth, must understand diversity and be respectful of differences.

Treatment for abusers, and education and awareness programs for all ages are critical. All focus groups, including abusers, spoke of the importance of early intervention. Schools play an integral role in changing the attitudes of young people regarding substance abuse, drunk driving, etc. Schools also could have a significant impact on changing attitudes with respect to violence against women. The socialization of girls and boys needs to be addressed so that women become less vulnerable and more economically independent, and men learn alternative ways to express their masculinity. 'Kids listen to other kids' was heard often during the sub-committee discussions. Experiential training is seen as the most effective way to learn at all age groups, but it is believed that youth, in particular, learn best through programs that include role-play and are youth focused and youth driven. The Working Group noted there is a significant gap in education and prevention programs for youth aged 11 to 14.

As noted earlier, violence against women is a significant health issue. Public health nurses could be significant partners in the area of education and prevention. In addition, students may more readily discuss relationship and sexual health issues with public health nurses than with teachers, and public health nurses may be more comfortable discussing these issues. The Working Group sees the Healthy Learners Program as one method of addressing the unique emotional, social and health requirements of youth.

While the school setting provides a wonderful opportunity to instill positive attitudes in our children, all is wasted if examples of respect and tolerance are not seen in all areas of children's lives. Violence prevention begins at home and parents need to be equipped to teach children about appropriate behaviors.

## Recommendations

13. That universities, colleges and other training institutes be strongly encouraged to incorporate education in violence issues in the professional training of doctors, nurses, social workers, police, judges, clergy, dentists, and day care workers.
14. That all three abuse protocols – woman, child, and adult victims of abuse – be reviewed and updated in consultation with community groups.
15. That professional organizations set aside time each year for ongoing sensitization on the issue of violence against women.
16. That government invest in training of its service providers in the following ways:
  - by providing ongoing training in the abuse protocols;
  - by developing and delivering orientation packages for new employees; and
  - by providing in-service training to all service providers.
17. That, in partnership with Aliant (NBTel), an abuse information page be developed and incorporated in all phone books in the province. This page should include information on the definition of abuse and crisis numbers for both victims and abusers. It is further recommended that, to ensure citizens are aware of the existence of such a page, the profile be raised through an awareness campaign.
18. That a public awareness campaign be undertaken over a number of years using a broad spectrum of mechanisms and targeting different groups, (i.e. victims, abusers, informal helpers). This campaign must ensure that the special needs of immigrant, aboriginal, and disabled women are taken into consideration.
19. That abuse information be incorporated into second-language training programs for immigrants.
20. A) That curriculum be implemented for Grades K-12 on healthy relationships, including a critical examination of stereotypical gender roles, respect for differences, anti-bullying messages, and information on healthy sexuality, assertive communication training, and the dynamics of violence.  
B) That training of teachers in this curriculum and its delivery be monitored to ensure its success.  
C) That this program be mandatory at all grade levels.  
D) That the expertise of community be utilized in its implementation.  
E) That role-play be integrated as an important component of such a curriculum.
21. That experiential programming, such as the Making Waves Program, which involves students in its design and implementation, be supported by governments at all levels and the community at large.

22. That the Healthy Learners Program be expanded to include Grades 6 to 8 and integrated into all schools throughout the province.
23. That the Quality School Program\* be reviewed to ascertain its applicability to New Brunswick schools.
24. That information on abuse be distributed to new parents by including it in various packages, such as the Born to Read Program distributed at birth, and with materials distributed at the 3.5 year screening, and at kindergarten entry.
25. That, in addition to teachers, parents be invited to participate in the Making Waves Program.
26. That the content of parenting classes offered throughout the province be reviewed with the aim of adding information on healthy relationships and abuse.
27. That government and community groups form a partnership with Sports NB to ensure violence, harassment and abuse in sports is not tolerated.

## **Policy/Support Issues**

### **Issues**

Violence against women is more than a women's issue. The Working Group strongly believes that violence against women is a societal issue affecting every man, woman and child in the province. Therefore, policies and supports must be targeted at:

- the woman victim/survivor of violence;
- the perpetrator;
- the children who have witnessed violence; and
- the general population.

Policies and programs need to reflect that the system (both formal and informal) respect the woman's decision-making right. The woman must be free to make the decision that's right for her, when it's right for her. Policies, programs and interventions by all parts of the system should be supportive and helpful. The principle of "do me no harm" must prevail.

Women who have experienced violence in their lives as well as children who have witnessed violence or have experienced violence themselves, need an effective system of supports. Research supports that the healing/recovery process is a long-term process and, therefore, the supports in place need to take this into account. Policies and programs which take effect for short periods of time can have the unwanted result of a woman (and child[ren]) returning to the violent environment.

\* *Quality Schools are those where, among other criteria, relationships are based upon trust and respect and parents are encouraged to become involved.*

In 2000, only 38% of female spousal violence victims in New Brunswick reported the crime to the police and only 41% used a social service. (Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2001, Statistics Canada) Therefore policies must be supportive of those seeking assistance from the formal system and also have the potential to reach the large number who do not enter the system.

Members repeatedly expressed concern about children who have witnessed violence. The efforts of the Minister and the Department of Family and Community Services in developing services for children accompanying their mothers in transition houses are applauded. Three concerns still need to be addressed:

- access to services for children in transition houses (aged 7 to 18 years);
- access to services for child witnesses of violence whose mothers do not go to transition house;
- follow-up and ongoing support services for all children who have witnessed violence.

If these services are not provided to children, an opportunity for breaking the cycle of violence and vulnerability over the longer term has been lost.

Many women who experience violence either do not have children or have waited until their children are grown and have left home before seeking assistance. The current mix of policies and programs is mostly designed and implemented with women with children in mind. Policies need to be sensitive to this issue.

Safety is the paramount priority of the Working Group, and research findings indicates that the most dangerous period for a woman occurs after she has left the aggressor. Policies need to diminish, not increase the risk factor.

Men who perpetrate violence cannot be seen only as part of the problem; they need to be part of the solution. Through research and focus group discussions with these men, it is evident that many were victims of abuse (physical, sexual, other) as children. With no intervention, the cycle of violence repeats itself. Though the focus of the Working Group chiefly concerned women (and children), services for aggressors need to be part of an effective response to the issue.

Inherent in the woman's decision to remain in or leave an abusive situation is the fear or threat of poverty. The importance of economic independence for women cannot be minimized. Therefore, education, training and employment opportunities for women are critical. In tandem, financial and other supports for women during their transition from a life with violence to a life free of violence, must be supportive and not punitive. Although a number of program areas (e.g. social assistance, subsidized housing, legal aid, etc.) have identified abused women as a "priority group", the Working Group identified several gaps which are highlighted in the recommendations.

Supportive policies targeted at youth are also of key interest to the Working Group. Issues concerning legal consent of minors as they come forward for help from a teacher, guidance counsellor, school psychologist, public health nurse or other school official, is of concern as it relates to the legal liabilities. Seeking the permission of the parent may not be appropriate if the parent is the perpetrator or if the parent is not ready himself or herself to come forward and disclose. Focus groups of youth have identified this as an issue. Moreover, they also strongly indicated that the procedures in schools for accessing the professional resources are not conducive to disclosure. For example, announcing appointments with the psychologist over the class intercom may not encourage a young person to come forward.

Another significant issue relating to young people is the gap in access to services for those aged 16 to 18. Child protection comes into play until age 16. Access to other social programs (e.g. social assistance, housing) is available only when the individual has reached age 19. There is a significant gap that needs to be bridged.

In addition, the Working Group strongly believes that in order to make a difference over time, there must be significant consequences to actions. Otherwise, perpetrators will not necessarily take responsibility for their criminal act. Although sentencing provisions fall within the realm of federal jurisdiction, the province should show leadership in discussions with the federal government to help bring about positive change.

## Recommendations

28. That social assistance and housing policies and procedures be amended to:

- Create an exception to the Household Income Policy for women who have been victims of abuse. This would allow these women (with or without children) to share accommodations without deduction on their social assistance.
- Fully communicate with regional front-line offices the premise that women who have been abused are a priority group and are to be treated as such.
- Streamline and render the application for benefits process more easily accessible and considerate of a woman's physical and mental state at the time of application. For example, social assistance applications should be taken in the transition house instead of having the woman, who may well be showing signs of abuse, mingle with other applicants in a waiting room.
- Enhance transitional benefits and supports by:
  - extending the period of time for which the health card is provided;
  - ensuring childcare assistance is provided for these women when pursuing a training, education or employment opportunity; and
  - extending these transitional benefits to women who have experienced abuse and are not eligible for social assistance but who are low-income (i.e. less than \$20,000 annually).

- Extend eligibility to the Transitional Assistance rate to include single women who have experienced abuse.
  - Increase the number of rental subsidies available to women (with or without children) who have experienced abuse. The efforts of the Minister of Family and Community Services in addressing these issues is acknowledged and supported.
  - Provide assistance for the transportation of children in transition houses to their school, where possible. Changing schools for a child during this period should be avoided as it increases the trauma.
  - Ensure the appeal process is streamlined and rendered more user-friendly for women who have been victims of violence. Administrative procedures should be examined in this context. Access to a client's file should be assured.
  - Create a better working relationship between Department of Family and Community Services case workers and transition house workers based on respect for each other and for women in transition.
29. That a process of universal screening for the detection of violence against women be instituted in government offices (i.e. regional service delivery, hospital emergency rooms, maternity wards, doctor's offices). Significant assessment tools already exist and could be modified to meet New Brunswick realities. Implementation of a universal screening process must be accompanied by training for service providers. Issues of privacy and confidentiality must be addressed.
30. That an appropriate policy with respect to services for all children (aged 0 to 18 years), who have been witnesses of violence be developed.
31. That a provincial policy on second stage housing and sexual assault services and supports be developed and funded accordingly. The policy development is to be carried out in conjunction with the community.
32. That access to domestic legal aid be improved by:
- ensuring women who are victims of abuse are aware of their entitlements and available services under the program;
  - ensuring flexibility is applied when assessing the value of a woman's equity in order to be eligible for division of marital property. This currently is set at \$20,000. In applying this criteria, program officials should take into account whether the woman can actually access this equity (i.e., may still be under the control of the aggressor).
  - ensuring that parenting education offered under the program is accessible throughout the province, in a timely manner, and that parents are supported in attending if their financial situation is a barrier.



33. That all Departments render their program information (i.e. benefits, eligibility criteria) accessible to the population. This includes providing the information in alternate formats.
34. That in custody and access cases, the friendly parent and maximum contact provisions not apply where there is evidence of domestic abuse.
35. That the federal government be lobbied to enhance sentencing provisions in cases of violence against women.
36. That the federal government be lobbied to provide financial assistance and other required services to low income women who have been victims of violence so they are able to attend parole hearings.
37. That all policies and programs be screened to ensure they meet the special needs of immigrant, disabled, aboriginal, military and rural women.
38. That Employee Assistance Programs for the public service be enhanced to cover special services that may be required by women who are victims of violence.
39. That the benefits (compensation, training) of staff in approved funded services be improved. In addition, these individuals should be able to access government sponsored training opportunities.
40. That programs targeting school violence be fully supported.
41. That access to mental health, alcohol and drug dependency services for women who have been victims of violence be improved.
42. That options for emergency shelter for rural women (i.e., locations where there is no transition house) be explored.
43. That the system identify and provide necessary security supports in those cases where the woman, having left the aggressor, is at high-risk of further violence (i.e. personal alarm system, beepers).
44. That a policy be developed to ensure that men who aggress also receive appropriate, timely and sustained services.
45. That provisions with respect to the age of consent for treatment/intervention for children below the age of 16 be reviewed with the objective of facilitating a child's ability to seek assistance.

## **Service Delivery**

### **Issues**

As noted earlier in this report, a large proportion of abused women do not seek assistance from the formal system. It is important to find support mechanisms for these women. Through research and focus group sessions, it has become evident that 'one size' does not fit all. There is a need for more choice and flexibility in services aimed at assisting abused women and their children. A Saint John study, *Meeting the Needs of Abused Women, Where We Are, Where We Need to Be*, revealed that women who are reluctant to go to transition houses, would seek information on options and peer counselling from a drop-in centre. The concept of 'resource centres' emerged from discussions on this study. The Working Group believes there is infrastructure in place to support such centres and is confident that government and the community can make this concept become a reality.

There is at present, only one sexual assault crisis centre in the Province. The centre receives calls from all areas of the province, and a small number from other Maritime provinces. Chimo, police, hospitals, and government agencies all make referrals to the centre. Volunteer counsellors at the centre noted that victims of sexual assault require counselling and are reluctant to go to mental health clinics as they feel they are not mentally ill. There is a need for support services to victims of sexual assault in emergency rooms in all hospitals on a 24-hour basis.

Services to child witnesses of abuse are seen as a necessary component to ending intergenerational violence, and to assist in healthy development. Although a program is being developed for the 0 to 6 age group in transition houses, a serious gap continues to exist. As noted earlier, only 41% of female spousal violence victims use any type of social service. In addition, children and youth over six years of age have no access to the program.

Research has shown that a large proportion of abusers suffered physical or sexual abuse as a child. This was confirmed in a focus group session with abusers where 100% of the participants disclosed they were victims of child abuse.

Concern was expressed by members of the Working Group that linkages do not exist between criminal and family justice services. These concerns were reiterated during a dialogue session held with judges. While some information is passed between the courts, judges believe they don't necessarily receive all the information necessary to make fully informed decisions with respect to custody and access. During a focus group session with research team co-ordinators of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research, it was pointed out that providing custody and access to abusers who have not undergone extensive treatment tends to perpetuate intergenerational violence.

The Working Group recognizes that unless treatment is provided to offenders, the abuse will continue. Judges point out that while they can order treatment, if the abuser is from a small or rural community, there are barriers to attending treatment sessions,

(i.e. transportation, availability). In addition, if prevention is a top priority, counselling services must be made available to perpetrators, who have been convicted, never been charged, as well as potential perpetrators.

Rural women face an especially fearful situation with respect to RCMP response time to calls for assistance. In some small communities, there are no officers on duty between the hours of 4 p.m. and 7 a.m.

It is clear there is no clear picture of services available in various communities and those trying to help victims, perpetrators and their families would be assisted by an inventory of services – government and community – that can be kept up-to-date, distributed periodically and available via Internet.

## Recommendations

46. A) That, in partnership with existing facilities, (i.e. family resource centres, family violence crisis centres, community health centres), a network of resource centres be established to provide a safe place for women to access information and counselling, and to hold discussion groups.
  - B) That these centres be resourced with an outreach component to reach women in more isolated areas and to act as an ambassador for women working their way through the system.
  - C) That staff at these centres be knowledgeable of the special needs of diverse groups.
47. That a person trained in counselling victims of sexual assault be available to hospital emergency rooms, on an 'on-call' basis, to ensure the immediate needs of the victim are met and provide referrals to other services which may be needed.
48. A) That, since they are a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week operation, transition houses be resourced with a separate information line to serve those women who have been abused and who are reluctant to use crisis services.
  - B) That, where transition houses do not exist, arrangements be made with existing infrastructures, (i.e. family resource centres, family violence centres, community health centres), to provide services on a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week basis.
49. That a treatment program for adult survivors of child abuse be developed and made accessible throughout the province.
50. That the London Family Court Clinic model and other innovative models be examined with a view toward creating better linkages between the family and criminal justice systems.

51. That free counselling be made available to convicted and non-adjudicated abusers on a province-wide basis.
52. That a 24-hour help line be implemented to assist men who feel they are at risk of abusing.
53. That alternative solutions to police coverage in rural communities be sought and that police throughout the province give priority to domestic violence calls for assistance.
54. That an inventory be produced on services available in each region to assist victims, aggressors and children. This inventory should be updated periodically and available via Internet.

## **Accountability**

### **Issues**

The Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women believes that all parts of the system (i.e. community, government) must be held accountable for their actions. Progress can be ascertained only if measured and reported. Participants believe that the Strategic Framework and government action plan must be subject to public scrutiny for true accountability to exist.

Moreover, there is a need to create a positive culture of evaluation encompassing both government and community programs, policies and actions. This is the only way to ensure that available resources are being targeted to programs and services that actually have the desired impact on people's lives. There is significant work to be done in this area. There will be several challenges, including finding appropriate mechanisms to define "success" as well as tackling the myths associated with evaluation, (i.e., the fear that evaluation is used to cut costs or cut programs). The positive evaluation culture sought is where "learning" becomes the primary objective and the perspectives of the individual receiving the service are valued.

## **Recommendations**

55. That a yearly report card on the government action plan be developed by the Executive Council Office (Status of Women) in conjunction with the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women. The report card would focus on the achievements during the year as well as actions not completed and the reasons for same. The report card should be widely communicated and distributed across the province. It should evolve, over time, as a communication tool to sensitize and educate the general public on violence issues.
56. That a strong link be forged between government departments, service providers, community agencies and the research community to ensure research agendas meet service provider needs.
57. That the research community be engaged to assist in the development of common evaluation tools/strategies.
58. That all government-funded programs/services tied to the government action plan include an evaluation component. The evaluations undertaken ensure the opinions and views of people receiving the services are heard and considered.
59. That the education/prevention strategy include an evaluation component to measure the impact on attitudes and values. This will require establishing a baseline against which progress can be measured. This can be best accomplished through a "public attitude survey".

## **CONCLUSION**

The Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women defines violence against women as any physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial abuse of women that occurs in the home, workplace, or in the community at large. It believes that all New Brunswick families should live in a secure, nurturing environment free of abuse and violence. The Working Group also believes that violence against women is a significant health, social and economic issue that needs to be addressed by all members of society.

In the preceding pages, the Working Group has set out seven framework elements: leadership and co-ordination; legislation; stability and sustainability; prevention and education; policy and support issues; service delivery and accountability. Issues and recommendations have been identified in each of these areas.

The Working Group strongly believes that current services must be sustained, and in some cases enhanced. It also recognizes that in order to eliminate violence against women over the longer-term, prevention and education initiatives are priorities.

It is hoped the advice contained in this Strategic Framework will be useful to government as it works with community to address violence against women.

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## **Appendix A**

### **Summary of Recommendations**

#### **Leadership and Co-ordination:**

1. That appropriate resources be dedicated within the Executive Council Office (Status of Women) to be charged with:
  - the ongoing provision of advice to the Minister;
  - the co-ordination and the facilitation of communications between government and community including the sharing of best practices;
  - the overseeing function related to the implementation of the action plan;
  - the promotion of research and dissemination of findings;
  - the promotion of evaluation of existing and new programs; and
  - the provision of leadership in public awareness, education and prevention initiatives.
2. A. That the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women be continued and meet on a yearly basis to:
  - consider progress achieved on the action plan;
  - suggest adjustments where and if needed; and
  - continue to provide advice to the Minister.

B. It is further recommended that membership on the Working Group be adjusted to include perspectives from the academic community, businesses and professional organizations perspectives (e.g. physicians, nurses, teachers).
3. That the Executive Council Office (Status of Women) work in partnership with many organizations to facilitate the strengthening of existing community-government partnerships such as the Provincial Caring Partnerships Project at the local level, and the creation of new partnerships where these do not exist.
4. That the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women's Strategic Framework be widely communicated and distributed across the province.
5. That each department involved in the carrying out of the government action plan clearly identify its responsibilities and obligations (financial and human resources) within their departmental work plans.
6. That a Ministerial Committee be struck to allow for broader consideration of the issue and to serve as a coordinating mechanism for long-term actions which cross various departments. This Committee should meet annually, or more often if deemed necessary.



### **Legislation:**

7. A. That, over the course of the next calendar year, government take leadership with the participation of community as appropriate, to:
  - conduct an extensive review of legislation adopted in other provinces; and
  - develop a discussion paper which outlines the feasibility of such legislation in New Brunswick as well as exploring the options which might be effective in the context of the provincial justice system.
- B. That the proposed legislation, if deemed feasible, be introduced in the Legislature in the Spring, 2003.

### **Stability/Sustainability:**

8. That the funding application process for community groups be streamlined and be accompanied by transparent criteria and decision-making.
9. That transition houses be funded at 100% of approved cost. Consistent criteria should be applied throughout the province.
10. That funding for government purchased services and programs be approved on a three-year basis. Moreover, a user-friendly mechanism be developed to ensure that a yearly review and adjustment process is part of the funding criteria.
11. That a review be undertaken to assess the adequacy of public support provided to existing community services and to address any identified anomalies over the course of the 5-year government action plan.
12. That all public funding accorded to programs, services and initiatives dealing with violence against women be public information and included in a report card.

### **Prevention and Education:**

13. That universities, colleges and other training institutes be strongly encouraged to incorporate education in violence issues in the professional training of doctors, nurses, social workers, police, judges, clergy, dentists, and day care workers.
14. That all three abuse protocols – woman, child, and adult victims– be reviewed and updated in consultation with community groups.
15. That professional organizations set aside time each year for on-going sensitization on the issue of violence against women.

16. That government invest in training of its service providers in the following ways:
  - by providing on-going training in the abuse protocols;
  - by developing and delivering orientation packages for new employees; and
  - by providing in-service training to all service providers.
17. That, in partnership with Aliant (NBTEL), an abuse information page be developed and incorporated in all phone books in the province. It is further recommended that, to ensure citizens are aware of the existence of such a page, the profile be raised through an awareness campaign.
18. That a public awareness campaign be undertaken over a number of years using a broad spectrum of mechanisms and targeting different groups, i.e. victims, abusers, informal helpers, etc. This campaign must ensure that the special needs of immigrant, aboriginal, and disabled women are taken into consideration.
19. That abuse information be incorporated into second language training programs for immigrants.
20. A. That curriculum be implemented for Grades K-12 on healthy relationships.  
B. That training of teachers in this curriculum and its delivery be monitored.  
C. That this program be mandatory at all grade levels.  
F. That the expertise of community be utilized in its implementation.  
G. That role-play be integrated as an important component of such a curriculum.
21. That experiential programming, such as the Making Waves Program, which involves students in its design and implementation, be supported by governments at all levels and the community at large.
22. That the Healthy Learners Program be expanded to include Grades 6 to 8 and integrated into all schools throughout the province.
23. That the Quality School Program\* be reviewed to ascertain its applicability to New Brunswick schools.
24. That information on abuse be distributed to new parents by including it in various packages such as the Born to Read Program distributed at birth, and with materials distributed at the 3.5 year screening, and at kindergarten entry.
25. That, in addition to teachers, parents be invited to participate in the Making Waves Program.
26. That the content of parenting classes offered throughout the province be reviewed with the aim of adding information on healthy relationships and abuse.
27. That government and community groups form a partnership with Sports NB to ensure violence, harassment and abuse in sports is not tolerated.

\* Quality Schools are those where, among other criteria, relationships are based upon trust and respect and parents are encouraged to become involved.

## **POLICY/SUPPORT ISSUES:**

28. That social assistance and housing policies and procedures be amended to:
  - Create an exception to the Household Income Policy for women who have been victims of abuse.
  - Fully communicate with regional front line offices the premise that women who have been abused are a priority group and are to be treated as such.
  - Streamline and render the application for benefits process more easily accessible and considerate of the woman's physical and mental state of mind at the time of application.
  - Enhance transitional benefits and supports by:
    - extending the period of time for which the health card is provided;
    - ensuring child care assistance is provided for these women when pursuing a training, education and employment opportunity; and
    - extending these transitional benefits to women who have experienced abuse who are not eligible for social assistance but who are low-income.
  - Extend eligibility to the Transitional Assistance rate to include single women who have experienced abuse.
  - Increase the number of rental subsidies available to women (with or without children) who have experienced abuse.
  - Provide assistance for the transportation of children in Transition Houses to their school where possible.
  - Ensure the appeal process is streamlined and rendered more user-friendly for women who have been victims of violence.
  - Create a better working relationship between Department of Family and Community Services case workers and transition house workers based on respect for each other and for women in transition.
29. That a process of universal screening for the detection of violence against women be instituted in government offices (i.e. regional service delivery, hospital emergency rooms, maternity wards, doctor's offices). Issues of privacy and confidentiality must be addressed.
30. That an appropriate program be implemented for all children (aged 0 to 18 years), who have witnessed violence.
31. That a provincial policy on second stage housing and sexual assault services and supports be developed and funded accordingly.

32. That access to domestic legal aid be improved by:
  - ensuring women who are victims of abuse are aware of their entitlements and available services under the program;
  - ensuring flexibility is applied when assessing the value of a woman's equity in order to be eligible for division of marital property, (i.e., take into account whether the woman can actually access this); and
  - ensuring that parenting education offered under the auspices of the program be accessible throughout the province, in a timely manner, and that parents are supported in attending if their financial situation is a barrier.
33. That all Departments render their program information (i.e. benefits, eligibility criteria) accessible to the population.
34. That in custody and access cases, the friendly parent and maximum contact provisions not apply where there is evidence of domestic abuse.
35. That the federal government be lobbied to enhance sentencing provisions in cases of violence against women.
36. That the federal government be lobbied to provide financial assistance and other required services to low income women who have been victims of violence so that they are able to attend parole hearings.
37. That all policies and programs be screened to ensure they meet the special needs of immigrant, disabled, aboriginal, military and rural women.
38. That Employee Assistance Programs for the public service be enhanced to cover special services that may be required by women who are victims of violence.
39. That the benefits (compensation, training) of staff in approved funded services be improved. In addition, these individuals should be able to access government sponsored training opportunities.
40. That programs targeting school violence be fully supported.
41. That access to mental health, alcohol and drug dependency services for women who have been victims of violence be improved.
42. That options for emergency shelter for rural women (i.e., locations where there is no transition house) be explored.
43. That the system identify and provide necessary security supports in those cases where the woman, having left the aggressor, is at high-risk of further violence (i.e. personal alarm system, beepers).
44. That a policy be developed to ensure that men who aggress also receive appropriate, timely and sustained services.

45. That provisions with respect to the age of consent for treatment/intervention for children below the age of 16 be reviewed with the objective of facilitating a child's ability to seek assistance.

**Service Delivery:**

46. A. That, in partnership with existing facilities, (i.e. family resource centres, family violence crisis centres, community health centres), a network of resource centres be established to provide a safe place for women to access information and counselling, and to hold discussion groups.
- B. That these centres be resourced with an outreach component to reach women in more isolated areas and to act as an ambassador for women working their way through the system.
- C. That staff at these centres be knowledgeable of the special needs of diverse groups.
47. That a person trained in counselling victims of sexual assault be available to hospital emergency rooms on an 'on-call' basis, to ensure the immediate needs of the victim are met and provide referrals to other services which may be needed.
48. A. That, since they are a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week operations, transition houses be resourced with a separate information line to serve those women who have been abused and who are reluctant to use crisis services.
- B. That, where transition houses do not exist, arrangements be made with existing infrastructures, (i.e. family resource centres, family violence centres, community health centres), to provide this service on a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week basis.
49. That a treatment program for adult survivors of child abuse be developed and made accessible throughout the province.
50. That the London Family Court Clinic model and other innovative models be examined with a view toward creating better linkages between the family and criminal justice systems.
51. That free counselling be made available to convicted and non-adjudicated abusers on a province-wide basis.
52. That a 24-hour help line be implemented to assist men who feel they are at risk of abusing.
53. That alternative solutions to police coverage in rural communities be sought and that police throughout the province give priority to domestic violence calls for assistance.

54. That an inventory be produced on services available in each region to assist victims, aggressors, and children. This inventory should be updated periodically and available via Internet.

**Accountability:**

55. That a yearly report card on the government action plan be developed by the Executive Council Office (Status of Women) in conjunction with the Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women.

56. That a strong link be forged between government departments, service providers, community agencies and the research community to ensure research agendas meet service provider needs.

57. That the research community be engaged to assist in the development of common evaluation tools/strategies.

58. That all government funded programs/services tied to the government action plan include an evaluation component. The evaluations undertaken ensure that the opinions and views of people receiving the services are heard and considered.

59. That the education/prevention strategy include an evaluation component to measure the impact on attitudes and values. This will require establishing a baseline against which progress can be measured.

## Appendix B

### Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women

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Minister of Public Safety & Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

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NB Coalition of Transition Houses

**Norma Dubé**

Executive Council Office

**Monique LeBlanc**

Department of Public Safety

**Marg Malone Currie**

Executive Council Office

**Joanne Fletcher**

Department of Health and Wellness

### **Education/Prevention**

**M. Aaron White**

Men Against Sexual Aggression (MASA)

**Maureen McIntosh**

Coalition Against Abusive Relationships (CAAR)

**Thérèse Murray**

Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation

**Chantal Varin**

Centre de prévention de la violence familiale de Kent

**Martine Haché**

Table de concertation sur la violence familiale

**Leslie Monaghan**

Charlotte Co. Caring Partnership

**Hope Brewer**

Department of Training and  
Employment Development

**Stella Nicholas**

Family Violence Services

**Simone Leibovitch**

Coalition of Transition Houses

**Irmgard Stehlmann**

NB Women's Intercultural Network

**Debrah Westerburg**

Woodstock Caring Community

**Dick Quigg**

Department of Family and Community Services

**Anne Macies**

Department of Education

**Charles O'Donnell**

Department of Public Safety

**Anthony Knight**

Youth Council of New Brunswick

**Norma Dubé**

Executive Council Office

**Marg Malone Currie**

Executive Council Office



## ***Sub-Committees of Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women***

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### **Service Delivery**

***Nancy Hartling***

Women's World March Committee,  
Support for Single Parents

***Simone Leibovitch***

Coalition of Transition Houses

***Lorraine Whalley***

Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

***Rina Arseneault***

Women's World March Committee,  
MMF Centre for Family Violence Research (UNB)

***Natalie McBride***

Gignoo Transition House

***Irmgard Stehlmann***

NB Women's Intercultural Network

***Bob Steele***

Department of Family and Community Services

***Brenda Thomas***

Department of Public Safety

***Jim Burns***

Department of Justice

***Elaine Stewart***

Executive Director, Second Stage Safe Haven

***Janet MacKenzie***

Department of Health and Wellness

***Annette Harland***

Department of Health and Wellness

***Marg Malone Currie***

Executive Council Office

***Norma Dubé***

Executive Council Office

## **Appendix C**

### ***Minister's Working Group on Violence Against Women***

#### **Focus Group Sessions**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Group</i></b>
April 21, 2001	Coalition of Transition Houses – Transition House Crisis Intervenors
April 25, 2001	Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre – Volunteer Collective
April 27, 2001	Red Cross Society – Abuse Prevention Team
April 28, 2001	Making Waves – Student Advisory Committee
April 30, 2001	N. B. Teacher's Association
April 30, 2001	Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation – FHS Chapter
April 30, 2001	Provincial Caring Partnerships Committee
May 23, 2001	Coalition of Transition Houses - Client Advisory Committee
May 24, 2001	Charlotte County Caring Community
May 29, 2001	Centre for the Prevention of Family Violence in Kent County Telehealth Nurses
June 1, 2001	Co-ordinators - Muriel McQueen Fergusson Research Teams Abusers in Treatment – Moncton & Fredericton Family Services
June 9, 2001	Comité Aviseur Vague par Vague
June 14, 2001	Chief Judge Camille Dumas and Associate Chief Judge James McNamee, N. B. Provincial Court
June 19, 2001	Region 3 Women's Health Project - Domestic Violence Care Practice
June 28, 2001	Fredericton City Police – Victim Services Unit
August 31, 2001	Crown Prosecutors
July 10-12, 2001	Site Visits, Prince Edward Island Government and community intervenors
August 21, 2001	Principal, teachers – Beaverbrook School Moncton

## **Meetings with Groups involving the Minister**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Group</i></b>
April 25, 2001	NB Co-ordinators of Research Project on Violence and the Girl Child
May 23, 2001	Coalition of Transition Houses - Client Advisory Committee

## **Visits to Service Providers by Minister**

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Service Providers</i></b>
March 12, 2001	Miramichi Emergency Centre for Women
March 14, 2001	Liberty Lane
March 20, 2001	Crossroads for Women
March 23, 2001	Second Stage/Safe Haven, Hestia House
September 10, 2001	Fredericton Transition House, Gignoo Transition House
September 12, 2001	Accueil Ste. Famille, Maison de Passage House, Services à la famille Népisiquit
September 14, 2001	Maison Notre-Dame, Escalle Madavic, Sanctuary House
September 17, 2001	Sussex Vale Transition House
September 18, 2001	Fundy Transition House

## **Submissions Received**

MOVE (A multidisciplinary coalition of violence prevention educators)  
Coalition of Transition Houses  
Advisory Committee to the Coalition of Transition Houses

