

**MANITOBA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2013/2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Manitoba Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) was established on June 16, 2010. The DVDRC examines domestic violence homicides that are no longer before the courts in order to identify trends, risk factors and systemic concerns to prevent future tragedies and recommend changes for improvement. Manitoba's approach extends beyond a "paper-only review" by interviewing families, friends, co-workers and other relevant representatives of the victim and offender who are able to share important information about the patterns and trends associated with domestic violence homicides. To ensure that the reviews are relevant to current service delivery models, the committee generally focuses on select matters that have occurred since 2006.

Manitoba's DVDRC is not legislated. Therefore, to mitigate privacy risks, Manitoba Justice – Victim Services completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and asked that participating committee members enter into memorandums of understanding and confidentiality agreements. In addition, to assure an appropriate balance of protection of privacy and effective case reviews, both a DVDRC working group and an advisory committee were established. Advisory committee members include representatives from RESOLVE, Education, Status of Women, Probation Services, Prosecution Services, Victim Services, the Family Violence Prevention Program, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), the RCMP and the special advisor on domestic violence. Representatives of the smaller working group, who also sit on the advisory committee, include individuals from WPS, RCMP, Probation Services, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Prosecution Services and Victim Services.

The DVDRC began two reviews in 2012/13. However, during the analysis of the second review, the Advisory committee recommended that the working group gather further information. Therefore, the second case study was not completed until 2013/14. Since the creation of Manitoba's DVDRC, three reviews have been completed. The recommendations below stem from the two reviews that were finalized in 2013/14.

Recommendations: Case Study #1

Recommendation 1:

Expand WISE to target employers who employ a large youth and young adult demographic ex: restaurants, retail business

Recommendation 2:

Expand healthy dating and sexuality education for youth

Recommendation 3:

Work with faith-based communities to create training and awareness materials

Recommendations: Case Study #2

Recommendation 1:

Review and explore a process for medical professionals to provide referral resources to clients whom they feel have been impacted by domestic abuse

Recommendation 2:

Review and explore how to further educate domestic violence victims on risk factors related to drug and alcohol relapse