

**MANITOBA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2014/2015

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 completed one review in 2014/15. Another case was selected for review, however, was not completed until 2015/16 due to the availability of interview participants. This review will be included in next year's (2015/16) report. Since the creation of Manitoba's DVDRC, four reviews have been completed. The recommendations below stem from the review that was finalized in 2014/15.

Recommendations:

1. Recommendation:

Facilitate discussions between DVDRC committee members and Circling Buffalo to explore different ways to promote community-led initiatives that address domestic violence

2. Recommendation:

Explore ways to ensure police document all responses for service whether requests are initiated through calls to 911 or during encounters while on patrol