

**MANITOBA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2016/2017

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. In 2016/2017, advisory committee members included representatives from RESOLVE, Education, Indigenous and Northern Relations, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, 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, Department of Emergency Medicine/Faculty of Medicine/University of Manitoba, and the Consortium of Family Violence Service Providers. 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 2016/17. Since the creation of Manitoba's DVDRC, seven reviews have been completed. The four recommendations below stem from the review that was finalized in 2016/17.

Recommendation 1:

Manitoba's DVDRC will seek out information from other jurisdictions in order to complete a thorough review of the victim or offender's background to determine primary risk factors and identify possible points of intervention.

Recommendation 2:

Ensure that service providers receive information regarding the strong link between substance abuse and domestic violence.

Recommendation 3:

Explore the use of domestic violence risk assessment tools at the Crisis Stabilization Unit and Crisis Response Unit.

Recommendation 4:

The DVDRC will share the factors associated with increased risk of victimization of Indigenous women (e.g. childhood sexual abuse, family instability and drug and alcohol abuse) with government interdepartmental committees tasked with developing prevention and/or intervention initiatives.