

**MANITOBA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2015/2016

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 2015/2016, advisory committee members included 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, Department of Emergency Medicine/Faculty of Medicine/University of Manitoba, the Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issues 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 two reviews in 2015/16. Since the creation of Manitoba's DVDRC, six reviews have been completed. The recommendations below stem from the two reviews that were finalized in 2015/16.

Recommendations:

Case #1

1. **Recommendation:**

Partner with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba to share knowledge, insight and skills related to identification of risk factors associated with partner abuse and substance use.

2. **Recommendation:**

Expand healthy dating and sexuality education for boys by developing materials that promote healthy messages about relationships and sexuality.

Case #2

1. Recommendation:

Using social media, explore ways to offer victims and perpetrators of intimate partner abuse, a safe way to seek assistance.

2. Recommendation:

Explore ways to increase timely access to mental health resources for youth at the first incidence of risky behavior.

3. Recommendation:

Provide educators with training and expert resources to develop and enhance their knowledge base of exploitive relationships and human trafficking.