

“Building a Bigger Wave”

Provincial Violence Against Women Coordinating Committees (VAWCCs)

Forum Report

November 7 and 8, 2011



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Acknowledgements

As organizers for the "Building a Bigger Wave" ("BBW") Provincial Forum for "Violence-Against-Women Coordinating Committees" (VAWCCs), we wish to thank the *Ontario Trillium Foundation* and the *Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)* for the funding and support that allowed the Forum, and the planning of the Forum, to occur. Thank you also to the "Planning Committee" participants for surrendering two days in late March 2011 to roll up your sleeves and dig in so enthusiastically to the planning process.

A special thank-you goes to Louise Pitre, Darlene Ritchie, and Nneka McGregor who provided their unique talents and leadership at some of the most memorable moments in the Forum. We also want to thank the Honourable Marion Boyd (former Attorney General of Ontario) for connecting us to the early days of VAWCCs and for bringing her wisdom and encouragement to those who continue to work for change.

Thank you Joy Lang, Mary Magni, and the nameless others for their quiet work in the background that made the registration and other administrative tasks run so smoothly. We would be remiss if we did not also acknowledge the important contribution of Liisa Sorsa who listened so carefully to capture and reflect our thoughts and ideas in the wonderful series of story maps.

Finally, thank you to all of the participants for your commitment and passion to the issue and for the two days we spent together. We heard from many people that it was an inspiring and hopeful experience. Your individual and collective energy and enthusiasm was very present throughout the Forum; and for that, we are truly grateful. As Margaret Wheatley has said, "We can only be wise together."

May the force be with us in the building days to come.

– Margaret and Colleen
(on behalf of the "Southwest Regional Coordinating Committee")



Executive Summary

Enthusiastic representatives from 42 VAWCCs came together on November 7 and 8, 2011 in Toronto to explore their interest and collective will in developing a provincial network for coordinating committees in the province of Ontario. At the conclusion of the Forum, and with 88% of MCSS-funded committees represented, there was a clear mandate to move to the next step of building the network. As well, there was a specific call-to-action to mobilize committees across the province in 2012 to support the "Sisters in Spirit" Campaign, to raise awareness of the alarmingly-high rates of violence against Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

The two-day Forum had four goals:

1. Context - understanding the history of VAWCCs in Ontario and the current state of VAWCCs
2. Projects - displaying the great range of innovative work of the VAWCCs through the "Marketplace" displays
3. Collaboration and Inclusivity - exploring and discussing how we can build a collaborative and inclusive provincial network
4. Next Steps - identifying action items for the development of a provincial network

Prior to the Forum, VAWCCs were asked to submit online information about their committees, as well as suggestions for topics to be covered at the Forum. Highlights of the surveys were presented during the morning session of the first day.

Over the course of the two days of the Forum, the overarching and dominant theme from the participant discussion was: If we are to end "violence against women", we need a whole-community approach. *We want to learn HOW to "build a bigger wave" of local and provincial action TOGETHER.*

In addition, a number of recurring themes emerged:

- Inclusion is a core value and practice for VAWCCs.
- "Violence against women" (VAW) includes domestic AND sexual violence.
- Women with lived experience have a central role to play.
- We need to engage youth and men in community-based work.
- We need to mentor future leaders.
- There are both benefits and challenges to collaboration.
- There are strategies and structures that can help us to "build a bigger wave". These include information sharing, working together on projects, and developing/supporting regional and provincial networks.

The Forum provided an important first step toward the realization of a provincial network that will be designed to support the VAW sector through: relationship-building; increasing the visibility of local and provincial projects; and, demonstrating greater regard for the challenging work of collaboration. A list of action items was compiled during the final afternoon session.

What is a Network?

- non-hierarchical
- flexible connections
- loosely-defined roles
- communication is the primary link between members

Action Items:

- 1. Begin development of the networking mechanisms required for ongoing communication between VAWCCs and the evolution of a provincial network.**
 - create a Forum Report and PowerPoint presentation that representatives can take back to the their respective committees
 - ask specific questions for committees to reflect on and provide answers to
 - create a database with information on committees (including contact information)
 - develop and implement a website with post-Forum content
- 2. Achieve something tangible together!**
 - encourage committees to support the “Sisters in Spirit” Campaign in October 2012 - our first provincial challenge to see what our combined energies can accomplish
- 3. Support the development of regional coordination, where local committees are interested.**
 - the “Southwest Regional Coordinating Committee” (“SWRCC”) will provide support to areas interested in implementing a similar model
 - communicate with the MCSS about forming a partnership to initiate and convene regional committees
 - explore the availability of web-based meeting support for Northern communities
- 4. Develop an “Implementation Plan” for the provincial network.**
 - determine the mandate, scope, and membership of a provincial network
 - develop networking strategies with other provincial organizations that work in the VAW sector - for example, *Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH)*, *Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)*, *Ontario Network of Victim Service Providers (ONVSP)*
 - discuss the government role’s in the integration of domestic violence and sexual assault service activities with *OWD, MCSS and MAG*
 - create strategies to address the specific provincial issues identified by VAWCC representatives at the Provincial Forum:
 - building more effective relationships between the VAW and justice sectors
 - improving the diversity of sector representation at VAWCC tables
 - offering women with lived experience and grassroots leadership a place at the table
 - exploring models of inter-sectoral work where all forms of violence are included

The November “Wave”

There were 42 of 48 committees represented at the “Building a Bigger Wave” Provincial Forum for VAWCCs. In addition, 130 people attended and participated in a variety of activities over the two days - contributing their passion and ideas to discussions and envisioning the future. Relevant action items were identified.

The post-Forum evaluations clearly indicated that participants felt the Forum was worthwhile and that there would be support from their respective committees to support the development of a provincial VAWCC network.

This report has been written to reflect the Forum activities and themes - both for those who attended and for those who did not.

The Forum is a first step. More than anything, the overarching intent of this event is to “build a bigger wave” of activity that is inclusive of all people working to end violence against women.

The concept of “building a bigger wave” comes from the image of throwing a pebble into a pond. The ripples go out in all directions - each little wave of activity has an impact and has the potential to become part of a bigger wave. We believe that if we put our collective VAW hands, hearts, and brains together, we can make more and bigger waves in all directions to end violence against women.

Background and Overview of the Provincial Forum

An Idea Turns Into an Event:

The “Building a Bigger Wave” Provincial Forum for VAWCCs was conceived over several meetings of the “SWRCC” - a regional table of eight VAWCCs in south-western Ontario that have been meeting monthly since 2004. Over the years, the “SWRCC” has undertaken a number of regional initiatives including the hosting of a police forum to explore the challenges of mandatory charging and managing high risk, a world café on collaboration, a workshop to educate and engage local VAWCCs on the “Aboriginal VAW Strategy”, and a regional project to implement “Neighbours, Friends, and Families” (“NFF”) in the workplace. “SWRCC” members are clear that there are many benefits to connecting with other VAWCCs in their region.

The “SWRCC” is organized by field staff through the regional office of the MCSS, in partnership with the regional office of the “Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division” (“VVPD”) of the *Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG)*. The committee provides a unique opportunity for local VAWCC leaders and funders to think and talk together about the issues related to violence against women and the coordination of efforts, actions, and services. The agenda is entirely community driven.

Members of the “SWRCC” wondered aloud if there would be interest from other regions to meet and discuss the possibility of developing a provincial network. It was felt that even if there wasn’t a collective will to develop the network, there would be great benefit in bringing together members of various VAWCCs in the province. As a result, in late September 2010, an e-mail was sent to the chairs of 48 VAWCCs (from a list of MCSS-funded committees) to inquire if other committees thought it was an idea worth pursuing and to see if there was support for the “SWRCC” writing a funding proposal to the *Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF)*. Contacting committees proved to be the first challenge. Nevertheless, within a few

days, representatives from 27 committees had responded to endorse the idea. A proposal for a two-day Forum was submitted to the OTF for the November 2010 deadline and was approved in February 2011.

At the same time, MCSS was approached to provide funding for a planning session for the Forum. MCSS generously agreed, and a two-day meeting was quickly organized. While the “SWRCC” was willing to initiate the planning meeting, broader participation was needed. Another e-mail was sent to VAWCCs and 20 committees provided representatives for the planning session. The planning session was held at the end of March 2011, where the main goals of the Forum were identified. A series of teleconferences followed to complete the details of the Forum agenda and the discussion topics presented in this report.



One of the pre-Forum actions identified during the planning session was to create a survey for VAWCCs so that a profile of committee activities throughout the province could be compiled. As well, questions were included to solicit ideas, suggestions, and priorities for the Forum. Response to the survey was excellent, and a picture of VAW coordination has emerged from the different committees across the province.

Highlights of Forum Activities:

The forum began with a prayer and a song provided by Aboriginal Elder Rose Logan and Darlene Ritchie. To emphasize the rich diversity in the room, participants were invited to stand and give words of welcome in their original language.

Facilitators Colleen Purdon and Louise Pitre introduced the agenda, and the day was underway. One of the highlights of the Forum was the work of Liisa Sorsa from *ThinkLink Graphics*, who created amazing graphic “story maps” of the different portions of the Forum. The story maps and PowerPoint presentations from the Forum are available for download and can be found on the “Building a Bigger Wave” (“BBW”) website.

Day 1 (Morning Session): Understanding the History of VAWCCs in Ontario

Speaker: The Honourable Marion Boyd

Former Attorney General of Ontario, Marion Boyd, was asked by the planning group to be the first speaker at the Forum. Prior to her influential term as a politician, Marion was the Executive Director at a women’s counselling agency and was also one of the original members of one of the first VAW coordinating committees (in London, Ontario). She was asked to provide her best advice for the building of a provincial network from her experience as a politician and as a community leader. Marion’s messages of encouragement set the tone for the day and included:

- the importance of engaging decision-makers (and how difficult that is to do)
- the necessity of working together – despite the diverse mandates and beliefs in the room
- not getting discouraged – it is a movement that can be more difficult to organize with the different ideologies and perspectives that exist (but, we need the diversity)
- confronting the “elephants in the room” (i.e., working through the conflicts)
- engaging high-level bureaucrats and politicians (and identifying the barriers to doing this)
- not working in isolation
- not being hesitant to talk about the REAL issues
- realizing that the women’s movement was originally white and middle-class and knowing that the impact of the criminalization of woman abuse is different in different communities
- the next “big thing” to figure out: what is justice? (The principle of justice differs, and when delivered, it has to feel like justice to the people involved.)

Forum Theatre Presentation

– by Louise Pitre and the “SWRCC”:

To create an emotional grounding for the Forum, the “SWRCC” staged a tableau – a scene of actors frozen in time that explored another way of knowing and learning that looks beyond words and cognitive processes. The scene represented “our struggles to make things better for the women and men we represent or serve”. Audience members were invited to participate as “actors” and to interject themselves into the scene to add additional elements, voices, and perspectives. The following universal themes were observed:

- Everyone wants to feel a sense of belonging and have a voice that is heard.
- Isolation is common – connections among the actors were not always evident, just as they are not always evident in our work.
- There are as many different perspectives of the same “scene” as there are participants.
- There is some fear – about making mistakes, not having a voice, failure, loss, etc.
- The stakes are high for everyone as there is always a personal “risk” involved.

The actors in the tableau attempted to create the “ideal” system and discovered that there were many versions. One participant remarked, “No wonder the work of collaboration can be so difficult.” The importance of inclusion, recognizing the value and contribution of each participant, encouraging and drawing upon the diversity of perspectives, building relationships, and making the connections between people and organizations more visible are critical elements to transforming the current system with respect to VAW work.

VAWCC Survey Presentation

Colleen Purdon presented an overview of the survey information that was gathered prior to the Forum. Thank you to everyone who participated. The PowerPoint presentation and complete survey report is available on the “BBW” website (www.buildingabiggerwave.org).

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS:

- excellent response rate of 62 responses
- over half of the respondents are leaders/past leaders with their respective VAWCCs
- survey responses provide a snapshot of the history and current work of the sector in Ontario

NOT ALL VAWCCS ARE THE SAME:

- 40% are multi-sector committees, with a focus on domestic and sexual violence
- 23% focus only on domestic violence
- 13% focus on all forms of violence in intimate relationships
- 13% focus on all forms of violence in communities
- some include “elder abuse” as well as domestic violence

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION:

- over half of VAWCCs report a core membership
- VAWCCs report that some important sectors and services are not members (or are inactive)
- membership differs among VAWCCs; some have been successful in recruiting a broad range of community partners
- active participation by all member agencies is an issue

GEOGRAPHY AND REGIONAL CONNECTIONS:

- 2/3 of VAWCCs are in rural communities (or rural areas with an urban centre)
- only 4% of respondents were in remote areas
- 1/3 of committees also belong to a regional coordinating committee; the remainder either don't have a regional committee or don't know if there are any in their respective areas

STRUCTURE AND FUNDING:

- most report an effective structure – with formal officers, minutes, and “Terms of Reference”
- most have project sub-committees
- 75% have acquired paid staff within the past five years
- 80% receive government funding
- 90% use government or foundation grants to carry out projects
- most do not fundraise or have member dues

A RICH AND LONG HISTORY:

- 1/3 of VAWCCs have been in existence for more than 20 years
- 1/3 have been in existence for more than 10 years
- 1/3 have been in existence for less than 10 years

TOP FIVE VAWCC ACTIVITIES REPORTED IN THE SURVEY:

1. training on woman abuse issues (77%)
2. public awareness campaigns (71%)
3. “NFF”, “Voisin-es, Ami-es, et Familles”, and “Kanawayhitowin” campaigns (61%)
4. protocol development (59%)
5. violence-prevention campaigns (58%)

SUCCESSES:

- public awareness campaigns and projects
- “Court Watch”
- projects for youth
- survivor-engagement projects
- conferences and workshops
- promotion projects

VAWCC CHALLENGES:

- member participation
- funding
- alignment of community and government priorities
- low profile of VAWCCs in their respective communities

COLLABORATION:

- 70% of respondents said members work together effectively, have a shared vision, and welcome diverse opinions and expertise.
- 50%, however, said that meetings are energizing and productive only SOME of the time. (How can the time spent together be more productive?)
- Low levels of community recognition for VAWCC work is an issue.

DIVERSITY:

- Some VAWCCs have a membership that reflects the diversity in their communities.
- Many said that they either do not have a diverse membership, or diverse groups are members but don’t attend or participate.
- About 1/3 of the respondents indicated that they are not working on increasing membership diversity.
- The survey points to a need to increase diversity by examining possible engagement and inclusion strategies.

PARTICIPANTS HAD A RANGE OF QUESTIONS THEY WANTED TO EXPLORE AT THE PROVINCIAL FORUM:

- Why do we want to collaborate? Who benefits?
- What would be our vision and purpose as a provincial network?
- How can we collaborate provincially?
- Are we ready to collaborate? What are the obstacles?

WHAT DO WE WANT FROM THE FORUM?

- formation of a provincial VAWCC network
- a common voice and some common plans at the provincial level
- practical tools (e.g., a shared list of VAWCCs contacts)
- information-sharing and learning opportunities
- opportunities to connect and be energized
- a better understanding of collaboration and inclusivity

Day 1 (Afternoon Session): Provincial Projects and the “Marketplace”

The following five projects/initiatives with a provincial scope were presented:

“Neighbours, Friends, and Families @ Work” (“NFF@Work”)

– Barb MacQuarrie, Community Director

Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAWC)

When the “Occupational Health and Safety Act” changed in June 2010 to include domestic violence as a workplace hazard, new opportunities were created for the original objectives of “Neighbours, Friends, and Families” to teach everyone in Ontario the warning signs and to engage the broader population in the issue. The very real opportunity to build new relationships across all sectors has never been so achievable. The adaptation of “NFF” to become the core content of workplace training as “NFF@Work” is testimony to the power of grassroots and community leadership, ingenuity, and strong collaboration.

As the provincial manager for “NFF”, and more recently the domestic violence workplace program called, “Make It Our Business”, CREVAWC is working with VAWCCs to implement “NFF@Work” so that VAW expertise can inform, support, and guide Ontario employers as they prepare their organizations to address domestic violence in the workplace.

There are a number of benefits to participation in this program for VAWCCs:

- an opportunity to broaden the scope of audiences we can reach with gender-based, VAW-informed messages about prevention and responses
- wider public engagement and understanding of VAW issues
- potential for a coordinated approach across the province
- a means of addressing the problem of the low level of recognition for VAWCC work (which was identified in the pre-Forum survey)
- building relationships with non-profit, public, and private sector workplaces
- increasing visibility and support for our work

VAWCCs that want to implement the program can contact Eric Magni at CREVAWC for more detailed information. See www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca and www.makeitourbusiness.ca

“Sisters in Spirit” Campaign

– Darlene Ritchie, Executive Director, At^lohsa Native Family Healing Centre

Darlene sounded a passionate call-to-action on behalf of Aboriginal women in Canada and condemned the inaction of government and police and the unjust treatment of the historical owners of Crown lands.

The *Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC)* launched the national “Sisters in Spirit” Campaign in March 2004 to raise public awareness about the alarmingly-high rates of violence against Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. *NWAC* believes we have an urgent state of affairs with respect to the safety of Aboriginal female in this country.

The “Sisters in Spirit” Campaign lost funding under the federal Conservative government despite the reality that Aboriginal women are eight (8) times more likely to experience domestic and sexual violence and five (5) times more likely to be killed than non-Aboriginal women. They also experience the poorest living conditions in the country.

Every October 4th, *Amnesty International* partners with the *Native Women’s Association of Canada*, *KAIROS*, the *National Association of Friendship Centres*, the *Canadian Federation of Students*, and other organizations to call for an end to violence and discrimination against Aboriginal women and girls in Canada.

There are 38 missing Aboriginal women in Ontario and over 500 in Canada. More than half of the missing Aboriginal women are under the age of 26. There is a great opportunity for VAWCCs across the province to show their solidarity and support for the “Sisters in Spirit” Campaign on October 4, 2012, through a national day of remembrance and action.

For more information, please refer to: www.amnesty.ca/campaigns/sisters_vigils.php and/or www.sistersinspirit.ca/campaign.htm.

“Sexual Violence Action Plan” (“SVAP”)

– Sly Castaldi, Executive Director, Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis

Sly began her presentation by acknowledging that VAW includes domestic and sexual violence. She urged Forum-goers to go back to their local VAWCC tables to have conversations about how to build bridges between domestic and sexual assault services, using violence against women as the common ground. She went on to suggest that as a sector, we need to do coalition-building, and that the time is now to figure out how to achieve that.

The “Sexual Violence Action Plan” follows eight years of persistence in urging the Ontario Liberal government to develop an action plan specific to sexual violence. The message carried by *Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)* to the government included:

1. “Listen to survivors of sexual violence and women’s advocates.”
2. “Acknowledge that different women experience sexual violence + and are targeted for acts of sexual violence + differently.”
3. “Create an Action Plan that envisions an Ontario where all women are safe from all forms of sexual violence and the threat of sexual violence in their homes, workplaces, places of education, and in their communities.”

The *Ontario Women's Directorate* announced a four-year "Sexual Violence Action Plan" in March 2011. In addition to the list of activities that will be included in the "SVAP", *OCRCC* and *Action Ontarienne Contra La Violence Faite aux Femmes (AOCVF)* have some further recommendations:

- Critically examine the systems and institutions in Ontario that address sexual violence.
- Recognize the skills and knowledge that diverse women and survivors of violence bring to the work.
- Realize that different women experience violence differently.
- Utilize approaches that do NOT focus on restricting women's movements or activities.
- Employ prevention and response strategies that do NOT focus solely on police reporting/criminal justice responses to sexual assault and domestic violence.
- Frame sexual violence as a social problem, rather than a mental-health problem from which the survivor must be "cured".
- Liaise with other groups, survivors, and demographics that can share their expertise on sexual violence and help to implement the plan.
- Develop an approach that is much more comprehensive and enduring than this four-year plan.

"Community Report Cards"

- Anne Armstrong, *Niagara Coalition to End Violence-Against-Women AND*
Ian DeGeer, *Researcher and Ph.D. Candidate*

The *Niagara Coalition to End Violence against Women (Niagara CEVAW)* hired Ian DeGeer to undertake a "Community Report Card" on domestic violence. CEVAW was motivated to initiate this undertaking by previous report cards that were developed by the "Grey Bruce Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee" in 2002. The process involved the collection of statistics from VAW agencies from across the Niagara Region that were compiled to create a detailed picture of the issue for this geographic area. Additionally, stakeholder and service-user input via interviews and focus groups provided additional voices to the discussion created during the report card process.

"Community Report Cards" provide a method by which the community response to domestic violence can be told, and this has the effect of engaging people in new ways because they can see themselves as being part of the solution and/or problem. The report card has also been used to create a discussion with government agencies using an evidence-based report. In addition to the benefits of stimulating discussions across sectors, the release of the report card allowed for a more coordinated approach in project proposals.

In thinking about possible provincial projects for the VAWCC network, if even a few communities agree to undertake the completion of "Community Report Cards", there would be the opportunity to develop a standard series of questions that would allow the collection of comparable data - that would collectively allow us to piece together a more comprehensive picture of domestic violence in Ontario.

“Ontario Woman Abuse Screening Project”

- Saundra Lynn Coulter, Project Team Leader, London Abused Women's Centre

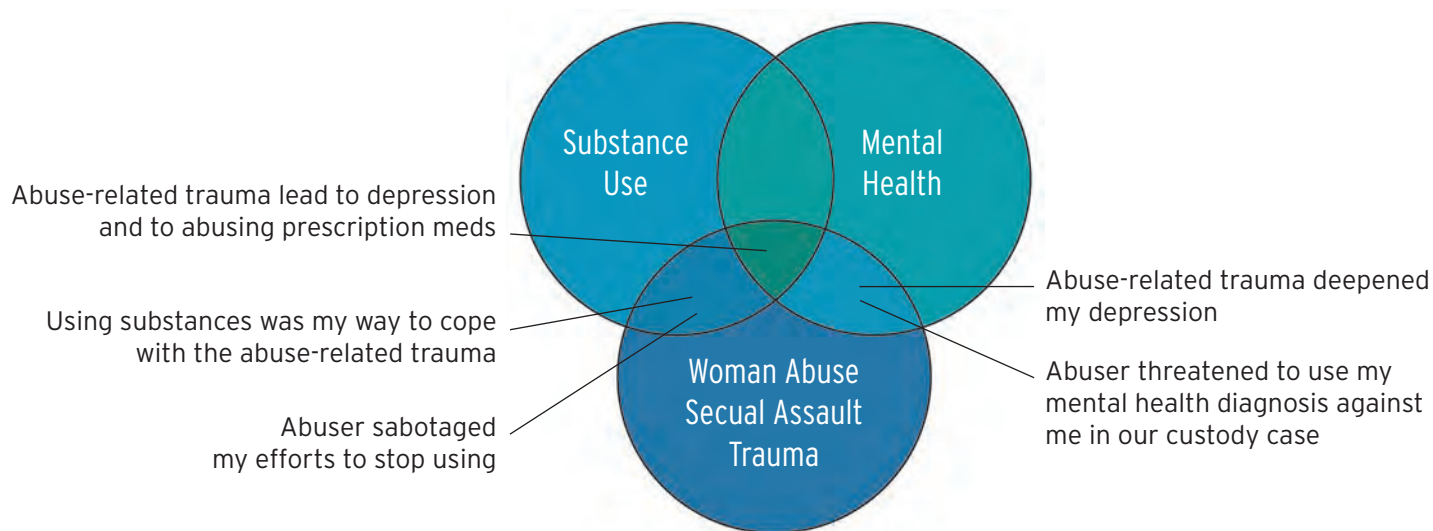
Saundra Lynn introduced the “Ontario Woman Abuse Screening Project” with a sub-title: How we are making “Every Door a Right Door”. Professionals from woman abuse, sexual assault, mental health, and addiction sectors are collaborating with women who have lived experience to implement woman abuse, sexual assault, and/or trauma-informed screening to improve services and outcomes for women. The project is funded by the *Ontario Trillium Foundation*.

The project acknowledges the prevalence of co-occurring issues and the increasing complexity of providing meaningful support and services to women dealing with overlapping issues of abuse, mental health, and addictions. Through consultations, women with lived experience identified that they have trouble navigating these systems and that they want to be treated like a “whole person” - regardless of which issue initially brings them to the service system. This means that agencies must work together so that their staff have the capacity to:

- screen for abuse and trauma by asking the “right” questions in an informed, sensitive way;
- identify and respond to abuse/trauma;
- provide abuse/trauma-informed services; and,
- improve services for abused women with mental health and/or addiction issues.

The collaboration includes more than 130 agencies, VAWCCs, and programs (both community and hospital-based AND primarily from the mental health, addiction, woman abuse, and sexual assault sectors) from eleven regions of Ontario, as well as women with lived experience.

The inter-relationship between abuse, mental health, and addictions can be illustrated as follows:



Regions now working to implement screening and woman abuse/sexual assault/trauma-informed services include: London-Middlesex; Sudbury-Manitoulin; Grey-Bruce; Chatham-Kent; Hamilton; Northwestern Ontario; Thunder Bay; North Bay; and, Ottawa.

Additional regions are being invited to join. If your region is interested in participating, please contact Saundra-Lynn at slcoulter@womanabusescreening.ca or refer to the project website at www.womanabusescreening.ca.

The “Marketplace”: Showcasing Innovative VAWCC Projects and Initiatives in Ontario

17 VAWCCs and eight provincial organizations and projects participated in the “Marketplace”. Forum participants had the opportunity to visit the displays during the unstructured portion of the afternoon.

Following this, representatives from the committees/organizations providing displays gave brief overviews of their respective exhibits. Participants then had the opportunity to meet with the various “Marketplace” representatives to explore various projects or initiatives in more depth.

Day 2 (Morning Session): Collaboration and Inclusivity

The second day of the Forum began with a morning song, sung by Darlene Ritchie. Facilitators Colleen Purdon and Louise Pitre welcomed everyone back.

“Comfy Chair Conversation”

–Yasmin Hussain, Sarah Scanlon, and Shauna Kechego-Nichols (moderated by Louise Pitre)

The second day started by looking to the future, through a conversation about collaboration and inclusivity in the VAW sector with three, young community leaders.

QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION SNAPSHOTS:

1. What called you to this work?

- friends disclosed about sexual violence, dating violence
- learning at university about the history of violence
- growing up surrounded by violence; working on projects
- learning that I could be in charge of my own destiny; I did not need to live in violence
- working in the community - feeling touched by others’ stories and becoming passionate about being part of the change

2. Do you have a voice in the VAW movement?

- The movement needs to mentor and support young women and their leadership.
- Women who were in the movement for many years gave me a voice; now I am doing what those women did for me - listening to young women who are 14 and 15.
- There are many ways to build a voice. Mine comes from doing the work and having opportunities to learn and grow and speak about our work.
- Girls want to provide leadership so that things that happened to them won’t happen to others.
- We need to create spaces for young women and girls to have important conversations. We need mentors to help build the confidence to use your voice.

3. What does leadership mean to you?

- Leadership means not being afraid to speak out about what is important for you; to speak honestly and truthfully, even when it hurts. It's all about moving forward into the future - a better tomorrow.
 - Leadership is shared, collective, working together in participatory ways. It is an uncomfortable feeling that you are working alone. There are so many possibilities and it does not mean that we all agree, but it is better together - working from a place of collaboration (not talking and preaching).
 - Leadership means a lot of talking, sharing, discussion. I have a lot of issues with leadership (vulnerable to the ego); but think - who gave me that right? The idea of speaking on behalf of people makes me uncomfortable. There are many people speaking on behalf of others, who are not listening, in this movement. We need to be much more conscious about speaking "for" women, young women. They have their own voices.
- It is so important to create spaces where people can explore their boundaries. We need to expect respect with young people. Situate yourself - recognize the positions of power in the movement. Why do we have so many hierarchies in this movement? Care less about hierarchies and funders.

4. Are there differences between the generations - between the ways we see this work?

- The idea that there is a generation implies there is a beginning and an end to each generation. The whole notion of younger women doing things differently sucks.
- We need one another; we are not different.
- Funders require us to focus on them - crones and young women are not having the necessary conversations we need to have.
- I don't think it is helpful to think of the differences between women - but to look at the intersection of violence and many other issues in women's lives.
- There is a need for more diversity and creativity in the way we can address the issues.
- Many newcomer, immigrant, minority people need a different language that describes their situation - not the language of feminism.
- I always connected with the older ones; they are who I learn from. For me there is not an "us and them".

5. Have we made a change? What do you need? Where do we go next?

- We need to let people living with abuse know that they have choices - you were not born to live this way. When I was young I didn't know this.
- The missing piece is men - they need mentors. Men play a vital role in the health of our communities.
- We need to work with people where they are - work that is diverse.
- The movement is missing a memory. What is the reason we are doing this work? Creating institutions and hierarchies has taken us a step back.
- We are reporting to funders, not doing prevention, community development, working with survivors.
- We need to get on social media - that is where young people are.
- Have crucial conversations with young people - not at them. Create the spaces for them.
- Create opportunities for people to speak and do things together. Not all of the work can happen with social media.
- Offer small projects and meaningful work that young people create and can do - engagement on their terms.

Day 2 (Afternoon Session): "Building a Bigger Wave": Steps to a Provincial Network

Speaker: Nneka McGregor, *WomenatthecentrE*

Nneka MacGregor is the co-founder and Executive Director of the *Women's Centre for Social Justice* (better known as the *WomenatthecentrE*) - a members-based, non-profit organization created by women survivors of gendered violence, for women survivors. The organization strives to ensure that social policies and practice are responsive to the needs of women fleeing abuse and their children, through directly engaging women with the lived experience.

Nneka told her story of an abusive marriage that she endured for 19 years. When she finally left the relationship, she expected that the justice system would help her and justice would be done. Instead, she found the system response to be upsetting and silencing. She was forced to be dependent on her family when her ex-husband cut her off from their financial resources and the system offered her no recourse. Her experience made her angry - not in a destructive way, but instead in a manner that lights a fire to make social change. Messages from her talk included:

- Advocates helped (e.g., Those who said, "You can do anything, you can do everything, tell me what you need.").
- There is a need for advocates to stand behind and offer support - not to tell you what to say or what to do.
- Survivor is a positive word - I didn't do anything wrong. We are strong and articulate. What I as a woman survivor can see laying down is what you see standing up.
- We need more service providers and advocates working with women.
- Using my voice, talking about my lived experience, has been my therapy.
- We need to be at the table, speaking for ourselves. No matter how many women you have talked to, you cannot speak for the women with lived experience.
- *WomenatthecentrE* was founded in 2007. Approximately 300 women are members and have established chapters across the province. The organization has a diverse, nine-member Board of Directors. Important to have women who look like you. Each Board member has a portfolio that is their area of interest.



Steps to a Provincial Network:

The final portion of the afternoon was spent in small-and-large-group discussions. Elder Cindilee Ecker-Flagg and Darlene Ritchie provided final prayers and a song to send everyone safely home.

Important discussions and ideas were shared throughout the two days of the Forum. The vision of "Building a Bigger Wave" to end violence against women now moves to our home communities and local tables. The next step has to include the broader engagement of local VAWCC members. These committees are a rich resource of relationships that can help to weave the fabric of the provincial network. The challenge of how to grow and move as a network can only be a shared endeavour - one that includes every person who wants to be a part of the change.

Themes: Conversations that Matter

Over the course of the two days of the Forum, there were opportunities for small-and-large-group discussions in each of the sessions. One of the objectives of the Forum was to create the time and opportunity for meaningful conversations (in the sense that "together we are wise"). On both days there were structured discussions based on a "World Café" approach - where people explored questions to reach deeper levels of meaning and to bring individual and collective knowledge and diversity of perspectives to the fore. Some of the questions that were discussed were:

- What is emerging that is new? What futures have become visible?
- What needs our immediate attention?
- If you were not afraid, what bold action would you take?

Participants made table notes that were collected and transcribed after the Forum. A review and analysis of individual notes, and notes from the larger group discussions, resulted in some broad themes about what needs to happen to actually end violence against women. The dominant theme from the participant discussion was: *If we are to end "violence against women", we need a whole-community approach. We want to learn HOW to build a bigger wave of local and provincial activity TOGETHER.*

In addition the following broad themes were identified:



(1) "Inclusion is a core value and practice for VAWCCS"

Participants emphasized the importance of approaching violence-against-women issues in their committee and community work through inclusive approaches, as follows:

- VAWCC membership needs to reflect the full diversity of the community;
- broad representation and participation from social service and justice sectors;
- paying attention to Aboriginal culture, living conditions, and concerns;
- making space for everyone at the table and using processes that are responsive to everyone;
- understanding privilege, the history of oppression, and "us and them" dynamics;
- recognition of the diversity that exists within linguistic and cultural communities;
- utilizing intergenerational membership and approaches; and,
- awareness of accessibility issues and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

"Create a space for diversity in practice, in analysis."
(table note)

“Gather people together to start a “Sisters in Spirit” action in a community comprised of predominately white people.” (table note)

“We are all struggling; working at the same issues. We can work together to share ideas, build new solutions, learn from each other’s successes and failures, and build community relationships and connections of support.”
(evaluation comment)

At the same time, many participants noted that their committees were not representative and/or they struggled personally and/or as committees to bring and maintain diverse perspectives to the VAWCC table. Participants said they wanted more inclusive memberships and approaches, and needed to make inclusion and diverse membership a high priority for their committees. They noted that VAW workers are often the driving forces behind, and the primary “doers” in, many committees. Other sectors may be present, or nominally involved in the work, but the leadership and time invested in VAWCC activities often comes from the VAW sector. There was discussion that a broader sharing of the workload, and the development of strategies to engage and retain diverse sectors and communities, were the keys to committee sustainability.

There were several suggestions on how to increase inclusion and belonging for VAWCCs:

- Spend time de-mystifying our differences and learning about differences. Knowledge is power and is the foundation for inclusion. Expand our personal and committee willingness to learn.
- Recognize the fundamental interconnectedness between all women dealing with violence.
- Learn from Aboriginal communities on how to work with multiple generations.
- Create space and time at VAWCCs to develop practical ways to be inclusive.
- Provide space for members to share what they need. Listen to what works and what doesn’t work.
- Work for a membership that includes: Aboriginal, Francophone, immigrant, and ethnic minorities; persons with disabilities; LGBTQ people; sexual and domestic violence sectors; women with lived experience; young feminists; and, other sector professionals.
- Ask minority groups about how they can be better engaged and included.
- Hold a multicultural event to learn about one another - to open up the conversation and build relationships.

Participants noted the connection between inclusive practices and the notion of “belonging”. When there is respect, space, connections, resources, and a focus on shared work/projects, there is an increased sense of belonging, and more effective work is possible.

There was discussion on how the dynamics of “us and them” needs to be understood and continually addressed to build inclusion. Participants acknowledged that working across diverse sectors is challenging, and they had many examples where differences led to exclusion, isolation, or the marginalization of individuals and groups. There was, however, a broad agreement that VAWCCs need to be places where differences are welcomed, and diverse members belong to an organization focused on common, shared, goals to end violence against women.

Many participants expressed their desire to build inclusion by supporting the “Sister’s in Spirit” Campaign to address the issue of violence towards Aboriginal women and girls (including the more than 600 missing Aboriginal women in Canada).



(2) Violence against women includes domestic violence and sexual assault

Government funding and program delivery has separated the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault, and created a false dichotomy between service providers and within coordinating committees in some communities. The province currently funds these committees as “Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committees” (DVCCCs), with a mandate of addressing domestic violence issues. These committees, however, differ widely across the province, and many work actively to address both sexual and domestic violence.

Forum participants asked for more inclusive language and suggested that a provincial network address violence against women in all its forms. They were clear that the current government-funded DVCCC model and mandate does not adequately support work to end sexual violence, and that an integrated and cohesive approach is needed to ensure that sexual violence is addressed effectively. It was also noted that where DVCCCs have sexual assault service providers at the table, it can sometimes be challenging to get an equal focus on both domestic and sexual violence. Sexual assault service providers indicated that they often struggle to get time and resources dedicated to sexual violence issues.

Some representatives reported that there is little willingness on the part of their respective DVCCCs to bring sexual violence issues to the table, and that domestic violence and sexual assault service providers do not work together in a coordinated or collaborative way in their communities. Other participants, however, reported that their committee mandates and activities effectively addressed violence against women, with both sexual assault and domestic violence services providers at the table as a component of their community VAW strategies.

Ontario’s “Sexual Violence Action Plan” does offer concrete strategies for communities to utilize in taking a coordinated approach to sexual assault prevention and education, and provides opportunities for connections between domestic violence and sexual assault service providers.

Participants suggested that:

- Local committees should provide opportunities for sexual assault and domestic violence service providers to collaborate in order to build integrated community strategies.
- Both domestic violence and sexual assault should be included in the respective mandates of every VAWCC.
- Committees should consider concrete ways to utilize the provincial “Sexual Violence Action Plan” to support their integrated community work.
- Government funders should support committees for their work on all VAW initiatives (not solely domestic violence activities), and remove barriers to a more integrated violence-prevention approach.
- Committees should examine current, successful, integrated approaches that support a comprehensive community strategy.

“Survivor is a positive word – I didn’t do anything wrong. We are strong, articulate. What I as a woman survivor can see laying down is what you see standing up.”

(Nneka McGregor)

(3) Women with lived experience have a central role to play on VAWCCS

Women with lived experience of abuse have important information, insights, and knowledge for VAWCCs and for community service providers. Forum participants noted that VAWCCs and service providers need to create opportunities for women to contribute and help to set the direction for community action.

Participants noted that VAWCCs need to hear from those who use services, and from women who are dealing with abuse, but are not connected to the system. Committees can play a key role in engaging women living with violence (e.g., Aboriginal women). There was agreement that survivors' voices are critical to the work of VAWCCs, and there is a need to move survivors' voices from the periphery. Some specific recommendations include:

- Give women the space to share what they need - a safe space to give us meaningful feedback.
- Listen to survivors.
- Develop more programs and increase funding for survivor engagement so they can become advocates for themselves and others.
- Provide support for survivors to increase their ability and confidence to sit in rooms with service providers and engage in conversations about what they need, what worked, and what has not been helpful.
- VAWCCs can shift their focus to work with survivors - especially those from cultural or religious minorities.

(4) Engage youth and men in community work

Participants stressed the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders and membership in VAWCC work. Three groups that emerged as priority areas for VAWCC engagement were identified as: youth in general, young women (in particular, young feminists), and men.

Youth: The voices and participation of all youth, young women, and young feminists, needs to be present at the table and in all aspects of VAWCC work. VAWCCs need to harness the energy of youth in prevention and education, and support the development of youth leadership. Youth should be involved in the work in a meaningful way, and VAWCCs need to actively engage, mentor, and collaborate with youth.

Youth contribute to renewed energy, speaking truths, creativity, risk taking, and a focus on the future. They will be responsible for carrying knowledge forward and building long-term sustainability for a "bigger wave".

"Survivor is a positive word - I didn't do anything wrong. We are strong, articulate. What I as a woman survivor can see laying down is what you see standing up." (Nneka McGregor)

Participants had some concrete suggestions on how to engage and support youth, young women, and young feminists in VAWCC work:

- Explore the use of social media to engage, educate, connect, and learn more about youth and their issues.
- Reach out to youth and provide supports.
- Mentor and support young people so they learn from the experiences of others, build on the wisdom and learning of older women, make mistakes within a circle of support, and learn about how to be "leaders for change".
- Create a space for younger and older feminists to discuss any "elephants in the room".
- Develop a Canadian history of violence against women, with a variety of women sharing their stories/histories. Engage young people to see where we were versus where we are today.

Men: Many, but not all, participants noted that engaging men in violence against women issues is necessary. They noted that it is important to build common ground with men and include men in both prevention strategies and service delivery. They also said that VAWCCs need to be more serious about the inclusion of men and boys in solutions, and make room for their voices and perspectives.

"Think outside the box. Engage youth and learn from them to be brave enough to challenge the status quo." (table note)

"Younger women feel judged when older feminists are questioning how committed they are to ending VAW when they speak about involving men." (table note)

“Men need to be back in the circle - healthy men and men in abusive situations.”
(table note)

“The people that matter for the client aren’t present. They need to be part of the conversation, for example judges/justice, Ontario Works, family and criminal lawyers. There is a gap in coordination.”
(table note)

There was a word of caution that engaging men should not be at the cost of losing women’s voices on the issue. Men are needed as allies, and the voices of women from the VAW movement are important in engaging them.

Engaging men helps to teach appropriate relationships and behaviours and create a unified approach to addressing violence against women. It is an alternative to the dynamics of “men versus women”. Participants also noted that the ability to serve men and boys can be limited by government agencies that fund services only for women.

Successful programs and approaches to engage men in violence-against-women initiatives that were identified by participants include:

- “I am a Kind Man” (*Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres*)
- “Don’t Be That Guy” Campaign (*Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton and Edmonton Police Service*)
- “The Man Box” (Tony Porter speech at a “TED” conference: www.ted.com/talks/tony_porter_a_call_to_men.html)
- conferences for boys
- speakers - for example, Lee Ferral, a sexual assault survivor who speaks to young men (*Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte and District*)
- “speaker’s series” (e.g., where male victims speak to frontline workers about how to engage male victims of sexual abuse)

(5) There are both benefits and challenges to collaboration

Participants indicated in the pre-Forum survey that they wanted to talk about collaboration, and they posed specific questions they wanted to explore during the Forum. The following is a summary of Forum discussion notes that provide answers to some of their questions:

1. *Why do we want to collaborate and who benefits?*

- We want learn from one another - there is a great deal of knowledge, expertise, and experience in VAWCCs from which communities would benefit if we could access these strengths and work more collaboratively. There is value in our collective wisdom and experience.
- VAWCCs often face common difficulties (e.g., lack of diversity in the membership, problems engaging the justice sector, low visibility in the community, core members who do all the work, mandate and structural issues) that would be easier to address if there was more collaboration across the province.
- Committees struggle to work in a collaborative way with community stakeholders and need support, information, resources, and skill development to work more cooperatively within communities. More effective collaboration benefits communities and survivors of violence.
- More resources are needed provincially and in communities to promote VAW awareness and prevention activities. Collaboration helps us to share resources and more cost-effective approaches, and learn how other communities work with limited resources. It could also help us acquire more funding provincially and within our communities.
- Voices from our communities need to be heard; and we want to develop a stronger VAW voice provincially. Currently, the sectors that have the least power do most of the work on violence against women. Collaboration would help these sectors to have a stronger influence with government funders, policy makers, and the general public.

“Before we can go provincial my local DVCCC needs to be more collaborative and functioning.”
(table note)

- We want to stop judging each other and work collectively. Participants said they were tired of competing for scarce resources and working in isolation. Coordination and collaboration between VAWCCs would help us to deal with conflict in a healthy way and build new energy.
- Government funders and policy makers should work more collaboratively between ministries as this would benefit service delivery (and help to address gaps in service) in the VAW sector.
- In order to influence system change (e.g., in the justice sector) we need to be able bring many groups and sectors together for discussion, planning, and action. VAWCCs would have more opportunities to influence system change if there was increased collaboration among them.
- We want the needs and issues of all geographic communities to be heard - especially rural and remote areas. Collaboration would allow us to access information about the issues in diverse communities, and share and compare this information when developing strategies for change.

2. *Are we ready to collaborate and what are the obstacles?*

- VAWCCs reported that they are at various stages of readiness to engage in provincial collaboration. Most participants said that they, and their respective committees, would be willing to collaborate provincially; but, some said they first need to learn more about collaboration, and practice this within their own communities.

There was some concern expressed that VAWCCs will be pushed to collaborate provincially when they are not ready or interested in being part of a provincial network. Some participants suggested that short-term, focussed, cooperative efforts (that have clear outcomes) are good starting points for provincial collaboration.

Some obstacles to collaboration that were noted by Forum participants are:

- lack of resources (time and money) to promote awareness and collaboration between agencies within communities
- groups are often at the VAWCC table, but sometimes the issues are not - VAWCC members need to find a way to work together
- divisions and challenges at VAWCC tables that make collaboration more difficult include: politics, conflicts between mandates, power struggles, fatigue, hidden agendas, and other “elephants in the room”
- the absence of key sectors and organizations at VAWCC tables that are critical to a coordinated community response
- specific collaboration issues were noted by participants regarding: high-risk teams, “Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committees”, family and criminal court systems, domestic violence and sexual assault services, the Children’s Aid Society, and police services
- many VAWCCs do not include diverse and representational membership, and/or do not have an awareness or commitment to addressing the needs of diverse communities
- government-funding bodies that work in a top-down (hierarchical) fashion, or directives that require community organizations to work in a top-down manner

“Collaboration feels impossible when the sectors that play major roles with VAW are determined to stay in silos.”
(table note)

(6) There are strategies and structures that can help us to “Build a Bigger Wave”

The Provincial Forum was an opportunity to explore possibilities for “building a bigger wave” of awareness and action. The Forum discussions served to identify preliminary strategies and structures that will help to achieve this goal in communities and across the province. These strategies and structures include information-sharing, working together on projects, and building regional and provincial networks.

Strategies: The group discussions focussed on strategies that could be carried out in communities across the province to create this “bigger wave”. There is a lot of quality, highly-innovative, local work occurring that could have a larger influence if implemented regionally and provincially. This includes:

- conducting “Community Report Cards” to measure responses to VAW in many communities (and collecting common statistics that would provide a provincial “snapshot” of VAW)
- wider implementation of current province-wide projects such as the “Ontario Woman Abuse Screening Project” and the “Neighbours, Friends, and Families” program
- participation in the “Sisters in Spirit” Campaign in October 2012 by VAWCCs across the province
- utilizing province-wide marketing approaches re: VAW strategies
- setting up a centralized website, blog, and social-networking site for VAWCCs to share information, innovative ideas, and important community work
- sharing research that has been collected from diverse communities to identify the most important issues for women survivors
- building more effective relationships between the VAW and justice sectors
- exploring models of inter-sectoral work where all forms of violence are included
- offering women with lived experience and grassroots leadership a place at the table
- improving the diversity of sector representation at VAWCC tables

Structures: Developing new and more comprehensive ways of connecting and linking agencies, communities, and VAWCCs is needed to overcome isolation, and to help those in the VAW sector learn from each other and “build a bigger wave”. This includes:

- recognizing the importance of relationships and collaboration to overcome the internal conflicts that divide us
- developing more regional networks (using the model and experience of the “Southwest Regional Coordinating Committee” and other existing regional committees)
- creating a provincial network of VAWCCs, with a provincial vision and local content that will support the sharing of knowledge, mutual learning, and opportunities for collaborative work
- organizing forums and annual provincial meetings to share knowledge and develop action plans

There were also some questions raised, as follows:

- What skills do people bring to the table?
- How do we coordinate the skills, knowledge, and other assets of the members?
- What could be the role of the Ontario Women’s Directorate and other government funders?

“VAW includes poverty, sexual violence, prostitution, and human trafficking. We need a broad, bold wave. How do we move forward where all issues are equal? How do we expand without losing our purpose?”
(table note)

Action Items

- 1. Begin development of the networking mechanisms required for ongoing communication between VAWCCs and the evolution of a provincial network.**
 - create a Forum Report and PowerPoint presentation that representatives can take back to their respective committees
 - ask specific questions for committees to reflect on and provide answers to
 - create a database with information on committees (including contact information)
 - develop and implement a website with post-Forum content
- 2. Achieve something tangible together!**
 - encourage committees to support the "Sisters in Spirit" Campaign in October 2012 - our first provincial challenge to see what our combined energies can accomplish
- 3. Support the development of regional coordination, where local committees are interested.**
 - the "Southwest Regional Coordinating Committee" will provide support to areas interested in implementing a similar model
 - communicate with the MCSS about forming a partnership to initiate and convene regional committees
 - explore the availability of web-based meeting support for Northern communities
- 4. Develop an "Implementation Plan" for the provincial network.**
 - determine the mandate, scope, and membership of a provincial network
 - develop networking strategies with other provincial organizations that work in the VAW sector (e.g., OAITH, OCRCC, ONVSP)
 - discuss the government role's in the integration of domestic violence and sexual assault service activities with OWD and MCSS
 - create strategies to address the specific provincial issues identified by VAWCC representatives at the Provincial Forum:
 - building more effective relationships between the VAW and justice sectors
 - improving the diversity of sector representation at VAWCC tables
 - offering women with lived experience and grassroots leadership a place at the table
 - exploring models of inter-sectoral work where all forms of violence are included

Summary

The Provincial Forum for VAWCCs was an exciting and energizing two days. It provided an important first step toward the realization of a provincial network that will be designed to support the VAW sector through: relationship-building; increasing the visibility of local and provincial projects; and, demonstrating greater regard for the challenging work of collaboration.

The evaluations from participants were extremely positive, and many people said that they felt energized and were going back to their communities with new ideas and connections. An evaluation summary is attached to this report as an appendix.

The pre-Forum survey asked VAWCC representatives what they wanted from the Forum, and their objectives were as follows:

- ✓ create a common voice and some common plans at the provincial level
- ✓ develop practical tools (e.g., a list of VAWCC contacts)
- ✓ information sharing and learning
- ✓ making connections
- ✓ becoming energized
- ✓ developing a better understanding of collaboration and inclusivity

The evaluations and the rich discussion reflected in this report suggest that the Forum was successful in meeting these goals.

In order to move forward, next steps include the distribution of this report and a PowerPoint presentation for participants to take to their respective VAWCCs for discussion and decision-making.

There are also plans to seek funding to convene a “Working Group” of representative VAWCC members in March 2012 to develop an implementation plan for the creation of a provincial network. In addition, work is being done on a website where VAWCCs can post information and best practices from the field, and connect with one another.

The building of the “bigger wave” is under way. The Forum confirmed the passion and creativity within the VAWCC sector and the commitment of its members to ending violence against women, and in families and communities. What we need now is to be more connected and aware of the resources, knowledge, experience, and opportunities within the VAWCC community.





Appendices

1. Forum Evaluation Summary:

Questions	1 Don't Agree	2	3	4	5 Strongly Agree
The Forum was a good use of my time.	1% (1/82)	0% (0/82)	23% (19/82)	39% (32/82)	37% (30/82)
The flow of the Forum kept me engaged.	0% (0/82)	11% (9/82)	32% (26/82)	32% (26/82)	26% (21/82)
I see the value of a provincial VAW network.	0% (0/81)	1% (1/81)	12% (10/81)	27% (22/81)	59% (48/81)
I believe my committee will support the development of the network.	0% (0/79)	1% (1/79)	17% (13/79)	33% (26/79)	49% (39/79)
The venue was comfortable, hospitable.	0% (0/82)	4% (3/82)	6% (5/82)	29% (24/82)	61% (50/82)



2. Marketplace Participants:

VAWCCS

Algoma Council on Domestic Violence

Chatham-Kent Co-ordinating Committee to End Domestic Violence

Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women/Coalition d'Ottawa Contre la Violence Faite aux Femmes

Comité Réseau d'Ottawa

Grey Bruce Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee

Elgin Alliance to End Violence

Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee

The Coalition to End Violence Against Women Niagara

Renfrew County Committee for Abused Women

Domestic Assault Review Team Waterloo

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Monitoring Committee

Muskoka Domestic Assault Review Team

Victim Issues Coordinating Committee - Brockville

Lanark County Sexual and Domestic Violence Advisory Committee

Southwest Regional VAW Coordinating Committee

District of Parry Sound Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee

Timmins Family Violence Interagency Action Committee/Comité d'action Inter-agence Contre la Violence Familiale de Timmins

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS

WomenatthecentrE

"Ontario Woman Abuse Screening Project"

"Neighbours, Friends, and Families"

"NFF@Work"

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

"Sisters in Spirit" Campaign

Sexual Assault Centre London

Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration

3. Committees Represented at the Forum:

VAWCCS

1. Aboriginal Domestic Violence Committee of Thunder Bay
2. Algoma Council on Domestic Violence
3. Brant's Response Against Violence Everywhere (BRAVE)
4. Chatham-Kent Co-ordinating Committee to End Domestic Violence
5. Comité de Coordination des Services Communautaires d'aide aux Victimes de Violence Familiale de Prescott-Russell
6. Comité Réseau d'Ottawa
7. Community Abuse Advisory Committee of Timiskaming
8. Coordinating Committee to End Women Abuse in Thunder Bay
9. District of Parry Sound Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee
10. Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee of Windsor-Essex County
11. Domestic Assault Review Team Dufferin-Caledon
12. Domestic Assault Review Team Waterloo Region
13. Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committee of the Kenora Rainy River Districts
14. Elgin Alliance to End Violence (EAEV)
15. Greater Sudbury Coalition to End Violence Against Women/La Coalition du Grand Sudbury Pour éliminer la Violence Faites aux Femmes
16. Grey Bruce Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee
17. Guelph Wellington Action Committee on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
18. Haldimand and Norfolk Justice for Women Review Team (J4WRT)
19. Halton Violence Prevention Council
20. Lennox and Addington Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee
21. Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee
22. Kingston/Frontenac Anti-Violence Coordinating Committee
23. Lanark County Sexual and Domestic Violence Advisory Committee
24. London Coordinating Committee to End Violence
25. Middlesex County Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse
26. M'Nidoo Minissing Coalition Against Domestic Violence
27. Muskoka Domestic Assault Review Team
28. Niagara Coalition to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW)
29. Northumberland Domestic Abuse Monitoring Committee
30. Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women/Coalition d'Ottawa Contre la Violence Faite aux Femmes
31. Oxford County Domestic Assault Review Team
32. Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse
33. Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network
34. Quinte Coordinating Committee Against Violence
35. Renfrew County Committee for Abused Women
36. Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, and Akwesasne Community Action Network Against Abuse
37. Simcoe County Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee
38. Stop Violence Against Women Committee
39. Timmins Family Violence Interagency Action Committee/Comité d'action Inter-agence Contre la Violence Familiale de Timmins
40. Victim Services Committee of Leeds and Grenville
41. Woman Abuse Council of Toronto
42. York Region Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS

1. WomenatthecentrE
2. Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration
3. Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
4. Carrefour des Femmes du Sud-ouest de l'Ontario
5. Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario
6. Ontario Network of Victim Service Providers
7. Centre for Research and Education on Violence against Women and Children
8. Ontario Public Service
 - a. Ontario Women's Directorate
 - b. Ministry of Community and Social Services
 - c. Ministry of the Attorney General - Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division (VVPD)

PROJECT COORDINATORS/FORUM FACILITATORS

Colleen Purdon, Grey Bruce Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee AND Southwest Regional Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee

Margaret MacPherson, Southwest Regional Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee

FORUM FACILITATOR

Louise Pitre, Sexual Assault Centre London AND London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse

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Building a Bigger

VAW COMMUNITY COORDINATION
in Ontario



Past & Present

MARION BOYD

FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL

VAW CC MEMBER

WE ARE GOING TO BE BUILDING A BIGGER WAVE

WE'LL HAVE CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER ABOUT COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Provincial VAW FORUM



MEET AND TALK TO NEW PEOPLE!

THEY ARE NOT GENERALLY TRAINED TO WORK WITH VICTIMS...

THE POLICE WERE FINDING IT WASN'T EFFECTIVE

POLICE

COMMUNITY FOCUSED ON THE ISSUES

ONLY 3% THOUGHT THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH POLICE WAS EFFECTIVE

RESEARCH ON WHAT WAS ACTUALLY HAPPENING

IN LONDON, ONT A PROJECT WAS FORMED... WITH FEDERAL DOLLARS

ADVISORY BOARD FORMED...

FEEL THE ENERGY AND COMMITMENT IN THE ROOM



SALVATION ARMY PROVIDED SUPPORT STAFF

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS A MOVEMENT TO HAVE ASSISTANCE WITH THE VICTIMS

• THEY NEEDED ASSISTANCE WITH PROSECUTION

1982

VAW WAS FINALLY RECOGNIZED AS A SERIOUS ISSUE

1985

- ELECTION -

Politics plays a BIG ROLE...

IN THESE TIMES IT'S HARD TO GET CONTINUITY

WE LEVERAGED SERVICES

WE WORKED WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE POLICIES PUT IN PLACE

WE WERE ABLE TO WORK AROUND THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

WE WERE ABLE TO V WITHIN THE OF AG WHEN FO COM

Wave



4. Forum Planning Group:

1. Allyson Coogan, Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committee of the Kenora Rainy River Districts
2. Anne Armstrong, Niagara Coalition to End Violence Against Women
3. Jane Scheel, Haldimand and Norfolk Justice for Women Review Team
4. Thom Rolfe, Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee of Windsor-Essex County
5. Debbie Zweep, Thunder Bay and District Coalition to End Woman Abuse
6. Tim Kelly, sits on 4 VAWCCs in the southwest (London, Middlesex, Oxford, Elgin)
7. Lisa Wilde, Stop Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee, Perth County
8. Pam Fasullo, Chatham-Kent Co-ordinating Committee to End Domestic Violence
9. Anne Elliott, Grey Bruce Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee
10. Louise Pitre, London Coordinating Committee to End Violence
11. Ginette Demers, Greater Sudbury Coalition to End Violence Against Women
12. Julia Manual, Waterloo Domestic Assault Review Team
13. Lisa LeBrun, Timmins and Area Family Violence Coalition
14. Maureen Forbes, Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network
15. Pamela O'Bumsawin, Greater Sudbury Coalition to End Violence Against Women
16. Julie Shaw, Victims Issues Committee Leeds and Grenville,
17. Erin Williams / Stefanie Lomatski, Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women
18. Sue Weir, Lennox Addington Interval House AND Lennox and Addington Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee
19. Sarah Phoenix, Quinte Coordinating Committee Against Violence
20. Kate Wiggins London Coordinating Committee to End Violence
21. Kathryn Eggert, Middlesex Community Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee
22. Corrie Close, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee
23. Gayle Manley, Algoma Council on Domestic Violence
24. Nneka MacGregor, WomenatthecentrE

PLANNING GROUP FACILITATORS

Colleen Purdon, Grey Bruce Violence Prevention Coordinating Committee AND Southwest Regional Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee

Margaret MacPherson, Southwest Regional Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee

