

Building A Bigger *Wave*

| ONTARIO NETWORK FOR
VAW COORDINATING COMMITTEES





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Coordinating Committees

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Coordinators

COLLEEN PURDON
MARGARET MACPHERSON
LISA WIDDIFIELD

Advisory Team

AMBER WARDELL, *Haldimand-Norfolk*
COREY ALLISON, *Middlesex County*
DONNA KROOCMO, *Rainy River*
DOROTHY DAVIS, *Windsor*
HARMY MENDOZA, *Toronto*
ERIN LEIGH, *Ottawa*
EVA KRATOCHVIL, *Windsor*
GISELLE LUTFALLAH, *Oxford County*
JULIE-JEANNE D'ARC LATRÉMOUILLE, *Ottawa*
KATHRYN EGGERT, *London*
LAURE PREVOST, *Ottawa*
LOUISE PITRE, *London*
MARIANNE PARK, *Oxford County*
MARLENE HAM, *Toronto*
MONICA RIUTORT, *Peel*
PAM FASULLO, *Chatham-Kent*
PAM HANINGTON, *Huron County*
SLY CASTALDI, *Guelph-Wellington*

Acknowledgements

As the coordinators for the Building a Bigger Wave Ontario Network (BBWON), we would like to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the generous funding and support that has allowed the network to continue to develop over the past two years.

We also wish to express gratitude for the ongoing support from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, most notably Nathalie Grenier (Program Supervisor) and Gabe Minor (Community Program Manager) from the West Region. Supporting the network with a teleconference line has allowed regular contact to be maintained throughout the network's dreaming and forming phases.

A heartfelt thank you to the BBWON Advisory Team of passionate volunteers who met monthly to design the most excellent agenda for two-day Fall Forum this past October... and then agreed to stay on as the network advisors beyond the forum.

Thank you also to Wendy Hall as our registrar and the Southwest Region Coordinating Committee members Pam Fasullo, Pam Hanington, Lisa Wilde, Thom Rolfe and Kate Wiggins for all of their behind the scenes work.

We are the ones we have been waiting for.

– ALICE WALKER

A special thank you goes to everyone who contributed to the success of the forum, from the audience and from the stage. We have heard from many people who expressed appreciation for an experience described as renewing, filled with goodwill, inspirational, hopeful and fun. The forum stands for us as just the most recent example of what we can create together, and everyone has a share in the outcome.

Finally, thank you to everyone who shares the passion and commitment for community coordination and coordinating committees in Ontario. Creating a world that is free of violence against women and children is our common bond. You support BBWON in so many ways; know that each interaction you have with the network strengthens the thread. Your engagement and input lets us know that the vision of working together for large-scale social change, in a network of relationships where everyone is welcomed and valued, is not in the future – it is happening now, and we make it more so with every action and every step forward.

MARGARET, COLLEEN & LISA
BBWON coordinators

Executive *Summary*

The 2015 Building a Bigger Wave Ontario Network (BBWON) Fall Forum took place on October 29th and 30th in Toronto. More than a hundred representatives from forty-seven Violence Against Women Coordinating Committees (VAWCCs) came together with partners and allies to review the achievements of the Network since the first gathering in 2011, to discuss current issues and ideas and to set a future course. The forum was designed to fully engage and take the pulse of where people and communities are in the moment, in the room, and in their local VAWCC's.

Clicker technology was used to generate immediate feedback through anonymous voting and to help participants 'see' the shared ground surface. The two days included themes and discussions designed to help participants see themselves and the work of coordinating committees as being a vital part of a growing wave of collective activity rippling into committees across the province to engage everyone in the large work of creating a safe, supportive, just and peaceful society. The common goal of VAWCCs is to end violence against women and children.

THE FORUM AGENDA BROUGHT FOCUS TO THE ONGOING NETWORK COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY WITH SESSIONS LED BY:

■ Dr. Dawn Harvard and Gail Gallagher from the Native Women's Association. They spoke passionately about the missing and murdered indigenous women and the many ways that our Aboriginal sisters continue to experience discrimination and racism in Canada. The talks reminded the audience why supporting Sisters In Spirit vigils on October 4th is an ongoing Network commitment. VAWCCs were encouraged to educate themselves on indigenous issues as a way to take action that supports the Truth & Reconciliation recommendations.

■ Members of the VAW Roundtable:

- Sly Castaldi and Farrah Khan described the evolution of the VAW Roundtable as the permanent multi sector table that will advise government on VAW matters.
- Freeyelle Menal Mehari from the Canadian Federation of Students spoke of the experience of young women on university and college campuses across the country, telling the audience that one in five women students are assaulted while only 9 out of 102 Canadian universities and colleges had sexual assault policies prior to the firestorm of media attention this past year.
- Jean McDonald from Maggie's Sex Worker's Action Project spoke about the harm reduction agency that is run by and for sex workers. Maggie's is the oldest of its kind in Canada. Maggie's is founded on the belief that to improve their lives, sex workers must take the power to control their own destinies.

■ Maïra Martin, Executive Director with Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes presented information about AOcVF's extensive work to support Francophone women and to bring greater awareness to Francophone issues in Ontario. AOcVF is working with BBWON coordinators to expand the Network capacity to communicate with and include the VAW Francophone community.

■ Eva Kratochvil from the Windsor VAWCC is both a survivor and a frontline worker at Hiatus House in Windsor. She led a panel that provided the forum audience with examples of leadership, projects and committee work that gives meaning to the call for 'meaningful' inclusion. She spoke to the additional barriers that survivors with disabilities face with accessibility and in finding support to be able to contribute their unique perspectives and experience.

This was a very interactive and pulse taking event—literally a “building” experience.

The forum also included opportunities to look forward and identify potential projects that can contribute to our achieving “collective impact”.

- Erin Leigh (Ottawa) and Harmy Mendoza (Toronto) talked about the potential to link formal research more directly with VAWCCs and the Network.
- Barb MacQuarrie (London) provided recent research on domestic violence in the workplace and the potential to build private, public, not-for-profit relationships.
- Colleen Purdon, Southwest Regional VAW Coordinating Committee, outlined the findings from a one year research and community development project carried out by VAWCCs in the Southwest. The project brought together women, men and VAWCCs to look at improving the system response for people dealing with concurrent mental health, addiction and abuse/trauma issues.
- Mark Holmes (Ottawa) described partnering with BBWON over the past year in trying to push the PAR crisis up to a system level discussion in the broader context of engaging all men to end violence against women.
- Nneka McGregor and Vivien Green (Toronto) provided findings from a two year Court Watch process that reveals serious and ongoing issues in the criminal justice system.
- Pam Cross (Oshawa) and Erin Leigh explored interest with the audience in developing provincial capacity to work with the media more effectively and confidently.

Three actions were identified as take-home items for forum participants to engage their VAWCC membership.

- BBWON as a standing agenda item
- Taking one article from the BBWON newsletter to regular meetings
- Discussing and pursuing agreement on potential provincial projects

Evaluations of the forum show that participants felt it was a valuable two days and the evolution of the Network aligns with individual and committee aspirations. We also heard over the two days that participation in the Network has reduced the sense of isolation many feel and has contributed to more robust discussions at local tables.

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MCSS COMING OUT OF THE FORUM:

- That DV3Cs be renamed to VAWCCs to be more intentional about including sexual violence
- That additional annualized funding be provided to VAWCCs to facilitate survivor inclusion as a strategy to strengthen coordinating committees
- That MCSS work with BBWON to support provincial forums every two years

Background & Overview

The idea of 'building a bigger wave' was first conceived in 2005 by a group of leaders from Violence Against Women Coordinating Committees (VAWCCs) in southwest Ontario. It was Colleen Purdon who first named us. The group had been meeting since the fall of 2004 as a regional VAWCC to explore the potential of regional coordination and perhaps most important, to support each other as leaders working in the VAW sector. Isolation and feeling overwhelmed was a common experience described by most at the very first meeting. In the years that have followed, the Southwest Region VAWCC (SWRCC) has become a vital resource of support and replenishment for the members, as well as a highly productive committee. The vision of enlarging the pool to a provincial level was validated in 2011 when forty-two of a possible forty-eight VAWCCs met for the first time to discuss the merits of developing a provincial network. A resounding 'yes' set us off down the evolutionary path of BBWON that leads to the 2015 Fall Forum described in this report.

(Excerpt from the 2011 report)

Over the course of the two days of the [2011] Forum, the mandate emerged: 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.

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.

FOUR ACTIONS WERE IDENTIFIED IN 2011:

1. Begin development of the network (report-backs, website, distribution list)
2. Achieve something tangible together! (Support Sisters In Spirit)
3. Support development of regional VAWCCs where interest is found
4. Develop an implementation plan

Achievements were made on each action item. The website was launched, nine newsletters published and the distribution list has grown. Between 35-40 VAWCCs have supported Sisters In Spirit vigils and activities on October 4 since 2011. Implementation planning happened that resulted in an Advisory Team and guidelines for the network. BBWON coordinators met with VAWCCs to talk about regional coordination when requested. Although regional coordination is still an idea that has interest, it is the least developed (yet) of our 2011 goals.

These are significant achievements that speak to the importance of building relationships and learning to work together across the province to end violence. Now, the 2015 BBWON forum has generated the next set of actions and priorities.



Why Building a Bigger Wave?

The concept of building a bigger wave can be read in a number of ways – depending on the situation. This ‘fluidity’ of meaning also supports the multiplicity of voices and perspectives that networks are designed to surface.

Building a bigger wave describes an image of throwing a pebble into a pond. The ripples go out in all directions – each little wave of activity has an impact on the environment and has the potential to become part of a bigger wave.

Other meanings can include supporting and contributing to the current wave of feminism that has recently become more visible with a Premier and Prime Minister identifying as feminists. It can also point to the creative destruction that big consolidated water can produce when it forms into tidal waves. Creative destruction is an important and necessary element of innovation and change.

Who attended the forum?

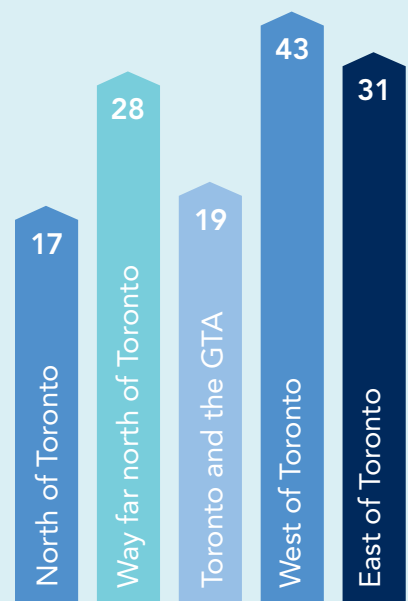
The 2015 BBWON forum was well attended with forty-seven out of a possible forty-eight VAWCCs sending representatives. Just shy of 140 people participated. 130 also attended in 2011.

There was good representation from each of the different regions. Toronto, (as the centre of the universe) framed the clicker question “where is your home?”

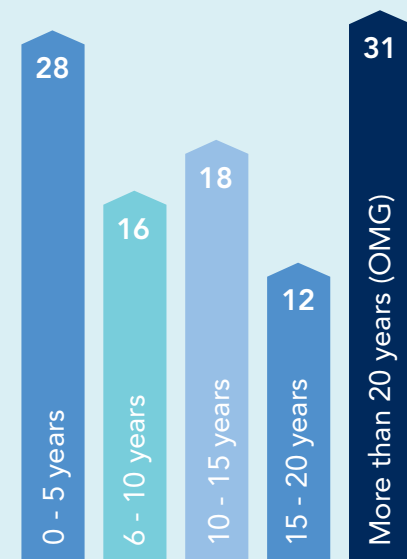
2015 saw a predominantly VAW sector audience. Sector breakdown of 2015 participants:

■ 60% VAW sector	■ 4% mental health & addictions
■ 11% social services	■ 1.5% criminal justice sector
■ 8% government	■ 0.08% education / health
■ 6% volunteers and advocates	■ 9% other

WHERE IS YOUR HOME?



I HAVE WORKED/ADVOCATED IN VAW SECTOR FOR:



Highlights *of Forum Activities*

The forum began with a welcome and greetings from BBWON Coordinators, Colleen Purdon and Margaret MacPherson. Amy Desjarlais, from the Native Canadian Centre in Toronto opened the forum with a prayer and inspired words of hope and courage for the two day event. Women's Issues critics, Peggy Sattler (NDP) and Laurie Scott (PC) and Assistant Deputy Minister (MCSS) Karen Chan brought greetings from the government with the shared recognition that violence against women is a non-partisan issue.

Clicker technology was brought to the forum to allow anonymous voting throughout two days. The voting provided additional insights as 'reality checks' and also allowed forum participants to ask "burning questions" to the other VAWCCs.

Following the speakers, small group table discussions were held to surface "brilliant ideas" about how the different initiatives being presented are relevant for VAWCCs and what VAWCCs might do to support them.

Happily, Liisa Sorsa from ThinkLink Graphics returned to capture the flow of the discussions and ideas in visual story maps. We were also very pleased to have simultaneous translation available at this forum. The PowerPoints and story maps from the forum are all available on the BBWON website.

DAY 1

Morning Session

Colleen reviewed the accomplishments of the Network since 2011.

The BBWON Hall of Fame:

- 9 BBW Newsletters (2012-2015)
- 6 Member Surveys (2011-2015)
- 10 PPT Presentations (2012-2015)
- 6 Projects - Support and Facilitation (2012-2015)
- 3 Proposals for funding (2011-2015)
- 10 Interventions as Advocates (2012-2015)
- 3 Reports (2012-2015)
- BBW Websites – old and new!

The screenshot illustrates how BBWON is working. We have developed the ability to spark local discussions, share information between communities and engage VAWCCs in identifying trends, gaps, issues and opportunities. The different 'waves' of our combined

activities ripple out into the communities and back to the network centre and/or move from local tables out to provincial perspectives and other VAW organizations. It has been four years of ongoing communication and development.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

BBWON coordinators have met with senior bureaucrats and politicians to brief them on the Network and to make them more aware of the great work that happens at many local tables. The Network provides the infrastructure that can make VAW expertise, experience and ideas at the local level more accessible. Our message: there are many ways to support the development of BBWON and to tap into the wealth of resources in the VAW sector – if people know about it!

TO SURVEY OR NOT TO SURVEY – THAT IS THE CLICKER QUESTION!¹

VAWCCs were surveyed twice in 2015 leading up to the forum. Almost all committees responded to the first with slightly more than half responding to the second. Clickers showed that:

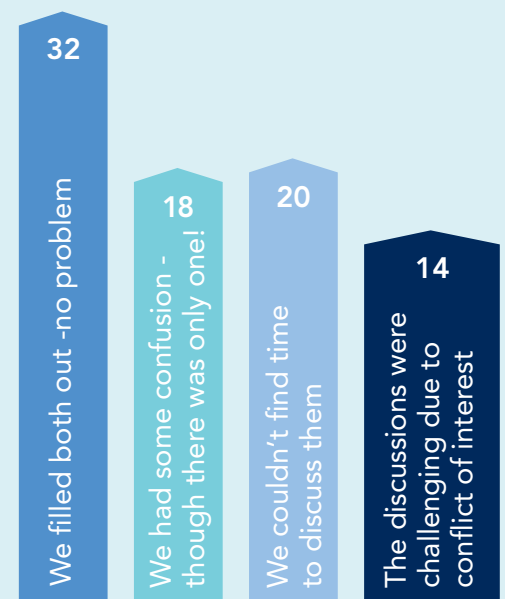
- 20% of respondents had some confusion that there were two surveys
- 23% couldn't find time for the discussion
- 17% had conflict of issues that made the discussion challenging
- 38% had no problem

When asked how the surveys work for VAWCCs, forum participants told us:

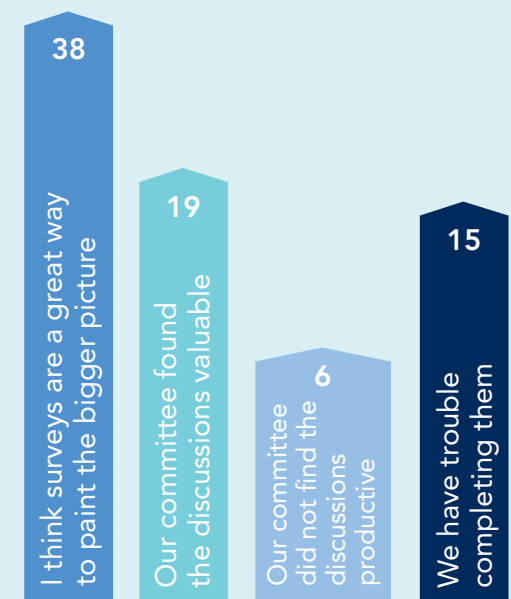
- 48% believe surveys work to paint the big picture
- 25% found the discussions to be valuable
- 8% did not find the discussion productive
- 19% have trouble completing them

The rate of response of the surveys undertaken in 2015 along with additional clicker feedback tells us that surveys are a valuable tool for the Network. Anecdotally, we heard from several committees that reported the survey discussions were important and sparked some of the best discussions the committee has had in recent years. Lessons can be learned from our first experience and more discussion is needed about some of the barriers that committees face.

REALITY CHECK BBWON surveys this year



REALITY CHECK BBWON surveys this year



¹Note that more than one representative from some VAWCCs voted on the questions.

²Transforming Our Communities: http://www.springtideresources.org/sites/all/files/Transforming_Our_Communities.pdf

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – DR. DAWN ‘MEMEE’ HARVARD PRESIDENT, NATIVE WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

2015 was an important year for Canada with the release of the Truth and Reconciliation recommendations. BBWON welcomed Dr. Harvard to the forum to speak about the vulnerability of indigenous women and to call for a national inquiry for the missing and murdered women. She told a moving story about the day her young daughter recognized that she has limits on her future because she is an “Indian”.

The presentation reminded participants why supporting Sisters In Spirit has continued to be a provincial network priority action. The daily reality of our indigenous women is a national shame. Over 40% live in poverty. They are 8 times more likely to be killed than non-Aboriginal women. They are more likely to experience domestic and sexual violence, racism,

gender discrimination, incarceration and child welfare involvement.

It is estimated that 30-40% of children in care are Aboriginal. More children are in the child welfare system now than were in the residential school system. Child welfare involvement is cited as the most common factor among girls who enter the sex trade.

In addition to the call for a national inquiry, Dr. Harvard included ideas for community-based solutions that NWAC is supporting. She also spoke about the importance of engaging everyone to educate themselves and speak out with indigenous peoples.



Brilliant ideas

Ensure inclusivity at VAWCC tables – invite local Aboriginal/First Nations leaders to join us if they are not already members.

Educate our VAWCCs about indigenous issues – educate our Boards too – in support of TRC recommendations.

Support Sisters In Spirit on October 4th.

VAW ROUNDTABLE PANEL PRESENTATION

A permanent VAW Roundtable was struck by Premier Kathleen Wynne in 2015. This is such an important development for the VAW sector that the forum planning group wanted to make space to hear about the Roundtable early on the agenda.

Sly Castaldi and Farrah Khan, CoChairs of VAW Roundtable spoke about the Roundtable mandate to advise government on all matters related to violence against women. There is emphasis right now on the Sexual Violence & Harassment Action Plan and the Roundtable has provided input that led to changes.

The Roundtable has identified 8 key areas:

1. Inclusive initiatives for women with disabilities, Deaf and hard of hearing women
2. Sexual Harassment

3. Sustainable funding for the VAW sector
4. Education, research and data availability
5. Access to services for diverse communities
6. Violence in the workplace
7. Enforcement of legislation
8. Role of the Roundtable/how the Roundtable’s advice will be applied in practice

To date, the Roundtable has had three knowledge exchanges to learn about the different member organizations and related issues.

- Aboriginal Women’s Working Group
- Rural and Northern Women’s Services
- Canadian Federation of Students

DAY 1

Morning Session

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Freelyelle Menal Mehari from the Canadian Federation of Students presented on the thirty year old CFS initiative “No means No” that has been expanded to address and challenge the rape culture with consent-based education, policies and practices.

As of November 2014, only 9 out of 102 Canadian universities and colleges had sexual assault policies. One in 5 women students are assaulted.

CFS has recommended a \$6M Sexual Assault Resource Support Fund be established on university and college campuses to address low reporting and to support students who have experienced sexual assault.

Many sexual assaults on campus occur in the first 8 weeks of school. CFS has recommended mandatory consent education during orientation and throughout the school year.

CFS holds a seat on the Roundtable and continues to work with government to hold individual institutions accountable.

MAGGIE’S – TORONTO SEX WORKER’S ACTION PROJECT

Jean McDonald from Maggie’s spoke next about the Sex Worker’s Action Project.

Maggie’s is a harm reduction agency primarily funded through the AIDS Bureau of the Ontario Ministry of Health.

The organization is run by and for sex workers. Maggie’s is the oldest of its kind in Canada.

The mission is to provide education, advocacy, and support to assist sex workers to live and work with safety and dignity. Maggie’s is founded on the belief that to improve their lives, sex workers must take the power to control their own destinies.

Maggie’s provides safer sex and safer drug use supplies, education, and support.

They work with sex workers of all genders, and from all sectors of the sex trades. Many are lower income, Indigenous, of colour, and or transgender.

The working group on Access without Fear is bringing issues related to women with precarious immigration status to the Roundtable. These are some of our most vulnerable women who face violence in all facets of their lives including psychological violence from the state in the form of detention and deportation. The Review of Ontario Police Services Act presents a unique and innovative opportunity to address violence against migrant women in Ontario, and to ensure greater access to services, supports and to the Justice System itself.

DAY 1

Afternoon Session

BUILDING THE WAVE: MEASURING AND EVALUATING COMMUNITY IMPACT

The afternoon session began with a presentation by Colleen Purdon and Pam Hanington. They discussed the potential to use provincial projects to achieve “collective impact” on ending violence against women. Collective Impact is a model for advancing social change that has gained strong favour with both the provincial and federal governments in the past couple of years. The model has been critiqued as having a number of serious issues, including a distinct lack of critique with respect to gender inequality, intersectional and socio-economic analysis. Despite the problems, the concept of working together to achieve collective impact has resonance for network building and BBWON has adopted the framework to adapt it to our shared VAW work.

Two of the key conditions for Collective Impact are shared measures and reinforcing activities under a large common goal. The common goal for BBWON is ending violence against women and children. Our contribution is specifically around strengthening VAW leadership and community coordination through VAWCCs.

The afternoon session focused on presenting projects that have potential to become provincial BBWON initiatives where we can begin to identify shared measures and activities that can demonstrate movement and change.

BBWON has already begun work that lends itself to collective impact:

We have a **common agenda** to increase visibility and functioning of VAWCCs in service to ending violence against women and children.

We have participated in **mutually reinforcing activities** such as supporting Sisters In Spirit each October.

We have begun to collect data that can become **shared measurements** through surveys.

We have ongoing and **continuous communication** happening through newsletters, emails and working groups.

We have **backbone support** from three volunteer coordinators and an advisory team.

The values of the Network need to lead the way in developing evaluation tools and processes. We are inclusive, valuing all contributions, working with those who show up and respecting diversity of perspective and experience.

We want to:

- Focus on learning, not proving
- Know what we are measuring
- Include multiple designs for multiple users
- Identify shared measurement
- Pay attention to what we expected and what we didn't expect
- Seek to get a broad sense of contributions to observed change rather than attributing change to specific activities.

The presentation concluded with a recommendation to organize a BBWON evaluation working group.

89% of forum participants indicated with clickers that they support making the link between ending VAW and working with men.

POTENTIAL PROVINCIAL PROJECTS

1. Mandatory Charging

In 2009, The Domestic Violence Advisory Council recommended reviewing the effectiveness of mandatory charging. In 2015, Erin Leigh and the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women proposed a provincial project that the Building a Bigger Wave Ontario Network could lead together. By pooling a small amount of resources, \$157 per committee, \$7500 would be raised; the amount to be matched by MITACS, a national funder. This would fund the first phase of a project to look at the impact of mandatory charging on women. Erin presented the idea to VAWCCs at the forum.

Harmy Mendoza, WomanACT (Toronto) spoke at the beginning of the presentation to endorse the initiative for specific reasons. Toronto has seen an increase in dual and sole charging as an unintended consequence of mandatory charging.

She went on to propose other potential areas such as healthcare and child protection where VAWCCs can come together to integrate research with coordination and work closely to explore impact community impacts.

(Note: the Mandatory Charging project was supported by VAWCCs following the forum and is underway at the time of this report)

2. Make It Our Business

Barb MacQuarrie from the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAWC) spoke about domestic violence in the workplace and the potential for a provincial initiative that will build relationships with the VAW sector and the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

In 2014, CREVAWC and the Canadian Labour Congress led the first national study on domestic violence in the workplace. The findings show that over 30% of workers experience domestic violence in their lifetime and more than 50% experience it at work in the form of harassing phone calls, text messages, stalking and the abusive partner showing up at the workplace.

With Ontario leading the way with legislation that requires employers to protect workers from domestic violence and most recently sexual harassment, there is opportunity for the VAW sector to develop a Safe at Work program, within

a social enterprise frame, that will make VAW expertise available to employers through local VAW agencies. The program would include safety planning and risk assessment. Ontario employers need VAW expertise to help them support women and create safe workplaces.

CREVAWC has piloted a workplace champion model in both rural and urban settings and is interested in partnering with VAW leaders to develop the Safe at Work program.

3. Men's Action Plan

Mark Holmes, Partner Assault Response (PAR) leader from Catholic Family Services in Ottawa spoke about a groundswell of support that has developed over the past year in support of the PAR program. Changes in recent years by the Ministry of Attorney General have eroded the program to the point that it has become unstable and in some communities no longer viable. A VAWCC leader challenged MAG to consider the community implications in 2014. The challenge became a rallying point for others in the sector similarly concerned.

As the only community-based program funded to deal with offenders in Ontario, a broad group of VAW researchers and leaders came together in 2015 to request from MAG greater collaboration, accountability and transparency with respect to funding and program decisions. The group is calling for a comprehensive review of PAR at the system level. What began with individual concerns for PAR has coalesced into the organization of PAR providers as the PAR Alliance and the beginning of a broader system level discussion about how to engage men to end violence against women. This initiative has been called the Men's Action Plan (MAP). It is a community led initiative that is working to bring together communities and government in high level discussions that will take place centrally and at local VAWCC tables. MAP is designed to move Ontario toward more prevention. The potential for the Building a Bigger Wave Network to contribute local perspectives from VAWCCs is one way the Network can support the work and also address the BBW priority to engage men identified at the 2011 forum. VAWCCs will have another opportunity for input through the 2016 survey that will explore the community impacts of MAG decisions over the past year.

Anyone interested in learning more about MAP can contact Mark Holmes or the Building a Bigger Wave coordinators.

² Transforming Our Communities: http://www.springtideresources.org/sites/all/files/Transforming_Our_Communities.pdf

³ MITACS is Mitacs is a national, not-for-profit organization that has designed and delivered research and training programs in Canada for 15 years. Working with 60 universities, thousands of companies, and both federal and provincial governments, they build partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada. <https://www.mitacs.ca>

4. Court Watch Report: Still Unbalanced

WomenatthecentrE executive director Nneka MacGregor and Vivien Green, presented the 'Still Unbalanced' court watch report, which found Ontario's system for dealing with domestic abuse is disorganized and under-resourced.

Toronto-based WomenatthecentrE, a 600-strong group of survivors, conducted a year-long court-watch project to monitor Toronto's Specialized Domestic Violence Courts and the way they handle cases. Nneka said the results shed light on a serious problem. To a large extent the courts appeared to be disorganized, under-resourced and lacking in their ability to consistently hold perpetrators accountable for their criminal behaviour.

WomenatthecentrE is calling for a systemic review of the criminal justice system to protect victims. The group also wants judges to receive domestic violence training and publicly condemn violent and abusive behaviour "at every opportunity" in the courtroom. Toronto's Specialized Domestic Violence Courts have been operating for 15 years, yet survivors continue to speak about how the criminal justice system re-victimized and re-traumatized them. This frustration, shared repeatedly among the group's members, kick-started the court-watch project. Students and volunteers were sent in as "court watchers" to report first-hand on 40 domestic violence cases heard in Toronto in 2013 and 2014.

The Still Imbalanced report finds there is no system oversight, women are falling through the cracks and men are not being held accountable. Many cases were delayed or adjourned because of what appear to be avoidable problems. Too often judges do not understand and/or do not show sensitivity to the complexity of power relations in domestic violence. Court Watch initiatives in the past in other communities have had similar findings. Nneka and Vivien encouraged VAWCCs to consider the potential to use the Court Watch model as a provincial initiative.

5. No Wrong Door

Strategies to Improve Services and Community Collaboration for People with Abuse/Trauma, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Issues

Colleen Purdon reported on NWD. It began as a local Grey-Bruce project in 2008 looking at the intersections between abuse, mental health and addictions. The Southwest Region VAWCC adapted it as a regional project in 2014-15 with seven VAWCCs participating. The project was expanded to consider the system response to childhood trauma/ abuse/ sexual abuse on men as well as women.

Focus groups, interviews and forums were held with service users and providers. Service users identified recurring issues that have long been recognized such as the need to tell traumatic stories repeatedly, long waits for service, the fragmentation of the system that deals with diagnoses in isolation and a lack of integration between service sectors.

Service users also noted there are helpful services and people in every community – who are welcoming, listen, take a holistic approach and provide good information about other supports. In all participating communities, people said they are alive today because of the help they received.

The mapping exercise revealed that women and men use an average of 7.5 different services. Sexual abuse services are not often used, by women or men. People have patterns of extensive service use around crisis – usually involving hospital emergency services. Family doctors are often gateways to services, but often not helpful. Many men and women had a long history of service use.

Intersections of issues - service users identified:

Mental Health

Depression (92%)
Anxiety (86%)
Chronic Stress (64%)
Panic Attacks (61%)
Suicide Attempt (50%)
PTSD (49%)
Eating Disorder (37%)

Abuse /Trauma

Emotional abuse by partner (78%)
Sexual abuse as child (55%)
Physical abuse by partner (55%)
Witnessed abuse as child (53%)
Child abuse/neglect (53%)
Traumatic loss of family member (53%)
Sexual abuse as teen/adult (46%)

Substance Abuse

Addicted partner (48%)
Addiction issues in child's family (46%)
Alcohol addiction (37%)
Binge drinking (37%)
Addiction to non-prescription drug (34%)
Addiction to multiple substances (30%)

DAY 1

Afternoon Session

Seven themes emerged from the community workshops including the need for education and awareness on trauma impacts, integration and coordination of services in communities and at the government level, meeting basic needs such as housing, the importance of challenging 'us and them' thinking that stigmatizes people as being 'broken' as victims and survivors, instead of as whole people with traumatic life experiences.

The project experience restated the importance of engaging service users in community conversations as a way toward mutual learning, innovation and healing for everyone. All of the tools are available and the potential for a No Wrong Door provincial project stands ready.

REALITY CHECK

Following the provincial project session, clickers were used as a reality check for the audience to weigh in on whether their VAWCCs are likely to be interested in provincial projects: the majority are or could be, more discussion and information is needed.

All of the projects that were presented received interest. The audience was asked to anticipate which projects would have resonance for their VAWCCs. Individuals could select as many projects as they wanted:

Mandatory Charging 65 respondents

Make It Our Business 30 respondents

Men's Action Planning 62 respondents

Court Watch 85 respondents

No Wrong Door 33 respondents

As a network, it is conceivable that multiple projects could be undertaken within the Network by different communities.



HEARING FROM OUR PARTNERS AND ALLIES

1. Native Women's Association

Building on the morning presentation by Dawn Harvard, Gail Gallagher, also from the Native Women's Association spoke about NWAC projects that are underway. She began her presentation by talking about the experience of aboriginal women and the intergenerational impacts of untreated trauma that include:

- forced loss of culture, language and traditional values
- sexual abuse
- difficulty bonding with others or forming relationships
- lack of parenting and life skills
- loss of self-respect / respect for others
- drug / alcohol abuse to cope with painful memories

More than 40% of Aboriginal women in prison have been to Indian Residential Schools; have been placed in foster care and/or have parents who went to Indian Residential Schools.

In addition to ongoing research NWAC leads:

Sisters In Spirit began in 2005 with awareness raising of violence against Aboriginal women. NWAC began to document all the known cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. In 2014, the RCMP verified that 1,181 women are missing or murdered in Canada. Sisters In Spirit vigils are held every October 4th to support the families and to engage all Canadians.

Project PEACE – (Prevention, Education, Action, Change, Education) is a three year project to create safety nets for Aboriginal women and girls. A toolkit has been developed to help achieve personal and professional life goals.

Supporting our Aboriginal sisters is an ongoing action item for BBWON.





2. Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes

Maïra Martin, Executive Director with Action ontarienne presented information about AOcVF's work to support Francophone women and to bring greater awareness to Francophone issues in Ontario.

AOcVF is a provincial feminist organization committed to ending violence against women. Membership includes six women's shelters and sexual assault centres. The broader AOcVF network also includes and supports other French language organizations that may not be official members but are part of the AOcVF community.

In past years, AOcVF has been instrumental in creating new French language services in the field of violence against women. (eg Carrefour women southwestern Ontario in London, the Gateway Centre Villa Renewal in Timmins and the house in Toronto)

AOcVF brings specialized expertise to the provincial level as a member of the VAW Roundtable, able to provide perspectives and analysis on both VAW and Francophone issues.

AOcVF activities include:

- Development and consolidation of services in French
- Supporting the work of community interveners
- French services and resource development for women
- Prevention and Awareness

AOcVF also provides public education and training on domestic and sexual violence as the provincial manager for the voisin-es, ami-es et familles (Neighbours, Friends & Families) and the Traçons-les-limites (Draw the Line) sexual violence public education campaign.

AOcVF has a legal service for Francophone women across the province and creates tools and resources that support women, intervenors, caregivers and children with manuals, videos, games and a kit for preparing children to testify in court. The Building a Bigger Wave Ontario Network will work closely with AOcVF leaders in the coming year to expand the Network leadership and reach to be more inclusive of the Francophone community.

SHOWCASE – boasting rights for excellent VAW leadership, projects and events Seventeen VAWCCs and provincial organizations and projects participated in the 2015 Showcase. Forum participants had the opportunity to visit the displays during the unstructured portions of the afternoon and again at the close of the day. Forum evaluations in both 2011 and 2015 tell us that the Showcase is an important part of the forum, providing face to face opportunities to learn what VAWCCs and partner organizations are working on. The list of Showcase participants is included in the appendices.

The afternoon finished with small group discussions at tables. The comments and brilliant ideas are also included in the appendices.

DAY 2

Morning Session

The morning began with an opening song from Darlene Ritchie to “pierce the sky with our voices”.

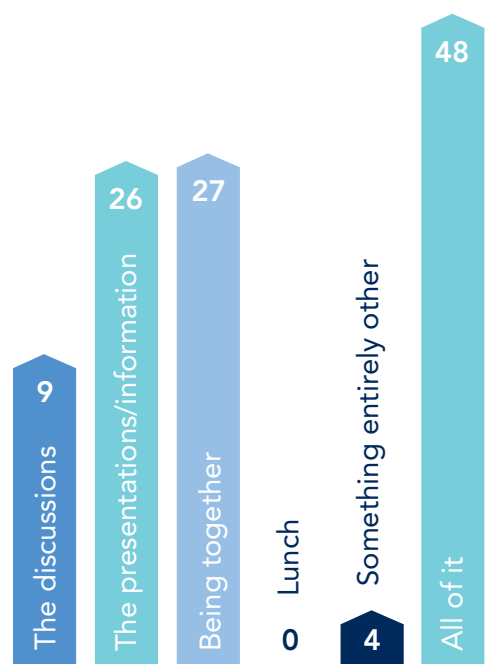
Clicker feedback from day 1 was positive.

Next, Margaret and Colleen showed the home page of the new BBWON website and logo. Participants indicated support for the new look.

INCLUSIVITY PANEL

A priority identified in 2011 and again in 2015 is the importance of including survivor voices in projects, on committees and in the VAW leadership role. Although it is recognized as a priority, by both VAWCCs and the government, there are a number of challenges that need to be named and addressed.

REFLECTIONS DAY 1 – WHAT WAS THE BEST PART FOR YOU?



Challenges include valuing lived experience alongside professional perspectives and experience, being able to hear critical comments of the system and ideas for change. Survivors participate on VAWCCs as the only members who are not paid by an organization. Lack of resourcing undermines individual capacity to participate fully and does not recognize the value of survivor involvement. The danger of tokenism requires ongoing scrutiny and dialogue to ensure the participation is active and evolving. Survivor experiences with services can make for uncomfortable discussions if the committee is not prepared to explore and examine the way their organizations and the system actually work for people. Nevertheless, in spite of the challenges there is a broad understanding in the sector that one way to make real system change is to amplify and learn from the voices and experiences of the people who have been most impacted.

Eva Kratochvil from the Windsor VAWCC is both a survivor and a frontline worker at Hiatus House in Windsor. She led the panel in providing the forum audience with examples of innovative projects and committees that move well beyond tokenism to meaningful inclusion.

Pat Breton, a professor at York University, teaching Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies, spoke first about her experience working with survivors on a project that was designed to bring women from the margins to the middle of the work as creators developing new collaborations instead of plugging them into “old structures”.

We didn't want to be statistics – we wanted to educate the community from a survivor perspective.

– FORUM PARTICIPANT

Marlene Ham is the OAITH (Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses) Provincial Coordinator. She spoke about the OAITH Survivor Inclusion project as a transformative experience that led to changes at OAITH with the permanent expansion of the Executive Board to include survivors.

Paula Lang is a survivor and an Executive Member on the Algoma Council on Domestic Violence and is a co-founder of Freedom Sisters. Paula spoke about the importance of being part of the executive committee...

Ruby is a co-founder HER Grey Bruce, and a member of the two county VAWCC, Violence Prevention Grey Bruce. The coordinating committee provides a small amount of funding that allows HER Grey Bruce to operate independently. Ruby presented some of the innovative projects that HER Grey Bruce has initiated and spoke about the empowering impact of having support that values the survivor experience. She asked the audience to support a HER Grey Bruce survey on the Family Responsibility Office.

Eva wrapped up the panel with a summary of how VAWCCs can act on the priority to be more inclusive and encouraged each committee in the room to take up action. She encouraged VAWCCs to become aware and take

Other recommendations include:

- BBWON needs to push for a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women for Canada, and advocate with the new government.
- BBWON can collect the different models of survivor engagement with VAWCCs across the province as a resource for the sector
- Recommendation that there be a partnership between OAITH and BBWON as a resource for survivor engagement, with Women at the CentrE as a resource for all VAWCCs to engage CEOS (Context Experts of Ontario)

INFLUENCING CHANGE: WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

The idea of developing capacity as a network to work more effectively with the media had strong resonance with the forum audience.

Clickers were used to assess the current state for VAWCCs of working with the media and to explore the level of interest to build capacity and skill at local and provincial levels. There was strong endorsement that will generate next steps beyond the forum to hold a workshop.



Brilliant ideas – Survivor Inclusion

Have a serious conversation at the next VAWCC meeting to discuss the challenges and barriers to including survivors. Ask – how serious are we about inclusion and what are we willing to do to make it happen?

Use existing funding to create a place at the table and/or to support a working group that is led by survivors, working on issues, ideas and initiatives they develop.

steps to reduce the additional barriers of accessibility that women with disabilities face. She encouraged the Network to collect the different models of survivor engagement across the province as a resource for VAWCCs. To the government, a recommendation was made to make annualized funds available to committees to pay survivors to participate. She closed with a pithy title derived from the collective impact world that has begun to reference survivors and people with lived experience as “context experts”. Eva’s suggestion was to create a ‘CEO’ for the VAW sector as “Context Experts of Ontario”.

Clicker respondents told us that:

- 94% believe VAWCCs should have an active role in working with media
- 5% believe their committee has a positive working relationship with media
- 20% do not have a positive working relationship with local media
- 44% are unsure or have never thought about it
- 84% want to learn to use the media more effectively
- 58% monitor their local media coverage of VAW stories
- 86% would like to work with other VAWCCs at a provincial level to help shift media coverage of VAW issues

DAY 2

Morning Session

Toward provincial coordination, the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) has created a media hub that will be linked with the new BBWON website.

Executive Director, Erin Leigh made a brief presentation on the hub to show the features that include being bilingual, content on domestic and sexual violence, specific content for the LGBTQ community and about Missing and Murdered Indigenous women. There is also a section of survivor interviews.

Pam Cross is a feminist lawyer and the Legal Director at Luke's Place in Oshawa. She is a longtime VAW advocate who has given many print, radio and television interviews.

She spoke about her experience working with the media and provided a handout set of guidelines for the audience.

In her presentation, Pam encouraged VAWCC members to build relationships with local reporters and journalists and provided advice about how to both give and decline interviews. (See appendices for guidelines) Pam is very interested to develop provincial capacity to work with the media and will work with the BBWON coordinators to develop a workshop in 2016.

MEDIA PANEL – SHOULD VAWCCs HAVE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN WORKING WITH THE MEDIA?



Brilliant ideas – Working with media

Have your coordinating committee chair or designate arrange a meeting with the local editor to discuss projects/initiatives on an annual basis

Create a local media award or recognition for good reporting

Educate journalists/editors on triggering images – introduce them to the media hub

Engage reporters to create a media series on local VAW issues

DAY 2

Afternoon Session

REFLECTION – WHAT DO YOU NEED AS AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE HEALTHY IN THE WORK? WHAT DOES YOUR COMMITTEE NEED?

- I need opportunities for self care: debriefing space; a safe work environment, staying up to date with developments and VAW issues
- I need support from the agency and Board – encouragement to participate on the VAWCC
- Retirement plans and benefits
- We have to be ok with not being able to 'do it all', know our limits to maintain our passion for the work
- My employer (health) to understand why we have to be at the VAWCC table
- We need coordination to be valued – not just off the side of our desks
- More connection with other VAWCCs

Building the Wave: The BIG Picture

Margaret and Colleen began that last session of the forum with a presentation about how important it is for us to see the work of VAWCCs as being part of a much bigger picture. Our goal to have collective impact means that we are doing different things, in different parts of the province; that can combine and align for large scale social change.

Our secrets to success are staying connected, using the Network to communicate and build on local-regional-provincial initiatives and to support one another in engaging government, the broader community and our own members at VAWCC tables under the shared goal to end violence against women and children. Violence against women is a non-partisan issue.

As a Network, we can support provincial VAW leadership at the Roundtable and VAW associations like OAITH, OCRCC and AOcVF by engaging our communities in provincial campaigns and projects. We can commit to inclusivity by expanding our local memberships to encourage people who are most often silenced through social norms and structural violence to join us. We can become more diverse by learning to listen for and seek out difference and by creating a welcoming, warm and supportive space for differences in perspectives and experience to show up at our tables.

All of our efforts matter and have impact. No contribution is too small to be recognized, no voice or experience is not wanted. The Network allows us to make our efforts more visible and to think together about how to move the needle of system change.

Challenge and Context: Paternalism is a problem

There is complexity and contexts that shape our current big picture. In the Spring 2015 issue of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives titled, *The Long Shadow of Mike Harris*, the report lays out the devastating legacy of Harris that persists to the present day. One passage that is particularly relevant to BBWON points to a shift in attitude that has occurred between government and community that has ongoing implications for working collaboratively:

He [Harris] changed the relationship between government and those organizations and individuals who depend on government for support. The idea that civil society should be seen as a partner of government in building a better society was replaced by a new idea: that society should be regarded as parasitic supplicants whose fate depended on the grace and favour of government.

There have been particular instances and events over the past year where the rootedness of the attitude comes into focus in some government departments and initiatives. Whenever community leadership is reduced to an issue to be 'managed' and VAW expertise ignored as being 'self-interested', we know that we are stuck in the paternalism of the Harris quagmire. What to do about it requires leadership, mobilization and a capacity to persist together in spite of the drag from individual day-to-day pressures. Any erosion of funding or programming that impacts women's safety compels us to stand together in order challenge and change the situation. VAWCCs have clearly identified disturbing trends in the system this past year that require everyone's attention.

Wherever relationships between government and community are dysfunctional, it is vital that we figure out how to restore them to a functioning partnership that also respects the difference of roles. The time has never been better to work at this with a Premier who has been fearless in naming and addressing violence against women as a priority issue. At the same time, she has also publicly mandated the bureaucracy to work more collaboratively with community partners. BBWON is doing everything we can to be good partners. Partnering and respect does not negate the need for a critical lens on the status quo. We can be critical and collaborative at the same time. The VAW sector will always hold a tension with government that puts women's lives ahead of economic pressures. That is our role.

*You can't be part of
the solution unless
you are part
of the problem.*

CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO AND OURSELVES: SILOES IN SILOES

Over the past year, the PAR crisis blew up because a small government department was put in a position to make structural changes (starting in 2014) to a foundational program without any known evidence or meaningful consultation to support the path. PAR is a critical piece of a community response to violence against women and yet it is marginalized within the government body. How we deal with offenders has direct, and too often, devastating consequences for women.

Decisions are made about a program, without knowledge or apparent regard for the implications of the community impacts. On the surface, the struggle to draw attention to the big picture implications of the PAR crisis has bogged down in a variety of power struggles that both sucks the life out of everyone and, ensures the continuation of the status quo. VAWCCs are well positioned to anticipate and name those impacts and to raise the alarm before decisions are made – which could and should be a benefit under a shared responsibility to end VAW.

The larger and more pressing issue is that important decisions that support or erode the system are made in isolation every day because there is no real integration yet between ministries and between levels of government and with community. The same is true in communities where agencies and sectors work in isolation, in siloes. This is our status quo – despite strong evidence and wide understanding that working separately is a pervasive problem. In the same way that community leaders have been banging at the door of MAG, survivors bang at the door of VAWCCs.

Learning to see ourselves as part of the problem can help shift the discussion to a system level. In a sense, we all need to hear the banging and respond by opening the door and welcoming whoever is there.

The goal is elevate VAW issues to a system level so that we can think together across traditional divides. We must continue to call for the 'new imperative' of a comprehensive, integrated violence prevention strategy that aligns the different action plans, ministries and communities. We must continue to demonstrate the value of coordination in a network of relationships that facilitates dialogue and the exchange of ideas.

MORE BIG PICTURE CONTEXT: THE VAW AUDIT

The Ministry of Community and Social Services was criticized in the 2014 VAW Audit for not paying closer attention to VAWCCs.

In 2015, MCSS worked with shelters to develop operating standards. Shelter leaders have reported the process was positive and that MCSS values VAW leadership and expertise. In 2016, MCSS will turn its attention to VAWCCs. Forum participants were asked to provide advice to MCSS about how best to work with us.

Ideas included:

- Work with us; engage in meaningful consultation and collaboration
- Come and see what we you – you are always welcome
- Be an advocate for the sector
- Value our expertise and experience
- Support us in increasing our diversity and leadership

**See the full list in the appendices*

Through the Sexual Violence & Harassment Action Plan, government has acknowledged the problem with calling coordinating committees DV3Cs:

Strengthen the focus on sexual violence at Ontario's 48 Domestic Violence Community Coordinating Committees, which work locally to prevent domestic violence and improve services to women who experience domestic abuse.

MCSS: SUPPORT THE POTENTIAL OF A NETWORK

The BBW Network has been designed to support the movement of local VAW innovation and expertise up through hierarchies and across communities. We can make MCSS look good!

We are working with the idea that it is possible to stimulate discussions that ripple out through the BBW network into communities from a provincial group or from a local table. The mandatory charging project is one example of an idea that started with a local VAWCC to become a provincial initiative.

We propose to use the Network to support an integrated approach to ending VAW.

The vision is to use the Network and VAWCCs as existing infrastructure that we can use to explore issues and trends in different communities. The Men's Action Plan is just the first example of how this might work. Several ministries are currently funding a variety of men's initiatives with no apparent overarching strategy or even awareness of the different initiatives. VAWCCs can provide information about what is happening in their communities, point to possible projects and partnerships and identify issues and trends that can help create a provincial view.

In the MAP example, we propose to use the Network to gather local input that can be rolled up for the VAW Roundtable to help inform related discussions. The thinking is that this will support the alignment of efforts across related VAW issues and also the leadership of the Roundtable. The Roundtable in turn intersects and informs senior level bureaucrats (Deputy Minister's interministerial table). Our goal is to facilitate the flow of information, innovation and ideas up, down and across the system. The VAW Roundtable stands as the primary connection with government and with multiple groups and associations working on a range of VAW related issues. BBWON has already begun to function in this way. The VAW Roundtable has been established. Only the interministerial table has to be convened to put the pieces together. BBWON has been working with the Roundtable and MAP throughout 2015 to support the emergence of this big picture possibility.

DAY 2

Afternoon Session

UNREGULATED CAPITALISM (NO APOLOGIES)

Margaret insisted that we cannot talk about the big picture without acknowledging that unregulated capitalism is an underlying cause of system failure and individual suffering as wealth goes up the social ladder to the few and increasing poverty presses down on the majority. Paired with gender inequality and racism, indigenous women and single moms with kids generally, are among the poorest people in Canada. The narrative of scarcity is not true, there is enough money and resources in the world to feed and shelter everyone. The problem is the distribution of wealth and greed. Advocates and leaders name the intersections of root causes (racism, sexism, ableism etc.) as the way to get at them in order to bring about social change. They know that if we do not address root causes we are tinkering with deck chairs on a sinking ship. It keeps us busy but does not really change anything. The ship is still going down.

Unregulated capitalism is a root cause of violence against women. It is steeped in industrial age values that have proven to be unsustainable. A new worldview has been emerging over the past thirty years. This worldview recognizes we are one people on a living, finite planet. The relationships of all life are part of a whole system and as such are totally interdependent. We need each other. In an eco-system, our diversity is our strength. We are only as strong as our most vulnerable people. Those pushed to the edges of mainstream society have much to offer and can help lead us away from the status quo. It is the scarcity narrative that keeps us fighting over scraps and amongst ourselves.

If we want a just world, we must be bold and unapologetic in connecting the dots from violence against women all the way up to the 1%. As part of our advocacy, we can stand together and name greed while we call for increased accountability and the regulation of capitalism that could actually serve democracy. It may seem like a big, impossible task, but there are more and more of us at the base of the social pyramid. Remember that history has not been kind to the 1% who ignore the masses. (kidding... sort of)

THE BIG PICTURE STARTS WITH YOU (US!)

VAW Coordinating Committees are an important resource for Ontario. VAWCCs are comprised of passionate people from multiple sectors who come together to coordinate their efforts and make their communities safer. Strengthening VAW leadership and VAWCCs is the reason to be for the Network.

The forum generated new ideas and substantiated the importance of continuing to build capacity and reach. Ultimately the success of the Network is dependent upon the participation of VAWCCs and the understanding that BBWON is the action that demonstrates the truth that 'together we are stronger' and everyone has an important role to play.

COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING THE BUILD THE NETWORK – ACTION ITEMS LEAVING THE FORUM

Final clicker questions showed that:

- 100% of forum participants are willing, or have already, made BBWON a standing agenda item
- 98% are willing, or already do, bring one newsletter article to the attention of their committee members at regular meetings
- 100% will promote at least one provincial project to their committee

Note that the mandatory charging project was endorsed with the money needed successfully pooled, within a month following the forum!

The forum closed with the inspired poetry of Holly Painter and the moving words of Amy Desjarlais.

Strategic Directions – strengthen coordination and integration

FOCUS ON COLLABORATION, ENGAGEMENT, ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

The Advisory team discussed ideas and themes that surfaced at the forum and synthesized them into strategic directions to guide Network activity for the coming two years.

BUILDING A BIGGER WAVE ONTARIO NETWORK: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2016-2018

	<i>Collaboration</i> Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase diversity and inclusion in the Network 2. Work on joint projects 	<i>Engagement</i> Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct surveys to increase engagement 2. Stimulate deeper engagement at local tables through shared activities 	<i>Advocacy</i> Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Imperative - we need a comprehensive strategy 2. Work with MCSS to strengthen coordination 3. Connect to national/ international initiatives (WHO etc.) 	<i>Communication</i> Goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop provincial approach to working with media 2. Making the big picture visible (trends, issues, innovations) 3. Improve communication between VAWCCs
Local Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VAWCCs do outreach to increase membership diversity 2. VAWCCs participate in provincial projects 	BBWON is a standing agenda item for local VAWCCs VAWCCs complete surveys upon request	VAWCCs report on local advocacy initiatives	VAWCCs submit local new stories Train VAWCC on media hub, build skills to work with media
Provincial Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support development of Francophone leadership team 	Develop surveys, gather data, report back Meet with relevant partners and allies	Provide suggestions to MCSS to strengthen coordinating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund forums • Advocate with other ministries 	Media Hub added to BBW website Hold Media workshop
Local Tools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and Information-sharing PowerPoints (available on the website) 	Surveys	Regular updates via email - include questions for VAWCCs to discuss issue at hand	Tool for tracking local new stories
Provincial Tools	Education and Information-sharing PowerPoints (available on the website) plus example: Truth and Reconciliation	Survey report-backs	Think Tanks Support VAW leadership on issues	Media Hub Newsletters Website

Appendices

1. TABLE DISCUSSIONS AND BRILLIANT IDEAS
2. SHOWCASE PARTICIPANTS

Appendix 1:

Brilliant Ideas and Table Discussions

DAY 1

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION & SEXUAL VIOLENCE & HARASSMENT ACTION PLAN – HOW CAN VAWCCS SUPPORT THEM?

- Write to politicians/parties and ask when they will act on proposed inquiry, hold gov't accountable for TRC recommendations
- Ensure Aboriginal/First Nations represented at our CC tables- so we can learn and join from them and act with them
- Distribute TRC Recommendations to CC's for endorsement
- Highlight UN Declaration of Human Rights and intersection with TRC
- Dedicate training dollars and CC's to educate on Indigenous issues/knowledge
- Educate boards on TRC and SVHAP

SVHAP:

- Survey and collect info on critical issues and forward to Roundtable
- Regular updates from roundtable
- Educate the Judiciary, lawyers and child protection workers on DV/SVHAP
- Create a dedicated committee within CC's for SVHAP
- Report Card on Universities and Colleges regarding safety standards, consistent standards

Other:

- More information on diversity and inclusion for CC's
- Push OWD to create survivor engagement funding – annualized
- BBWON can help VAWCC's develop best practices to engage men at local level and bring men's expertise the provincial level. Men have expertise on men's violence that will help us!
- Short emails with links for more info – too much reading/newsletter long
- Improve information sharing between DVCC's – create opportunities to share

DAY 1

BRILLIANT IDEAS: WHAT CAN WE ACHIEVE TOGETHER?

- Need younger and more diverse members
- Need more money for coordination and hours, should not be seen as volunteer work – essential work
- So many demands, little time for coalition building
- Funding for survivor groups to do more and participate more
- BBW create Template resources for sharing with CC's
- Connect with neighbouring CC's for sharing events and training

- Broaden the distribution lists to include all CC members
- More lead time for surveys and input back – only meet monthly
- More on women and child poverty oppression
- Why is forum only every 4 years??
- More online resources
- Share workplans; coordinator role guidelines; chair and cochair guidelines, governance structures guidelines
- Surveys in French

DAY 2

THEMES, IDEAS, ACTIONS

Review of DAY 1 – Themes:

- Provincial alliance
- Sisters in Spirit/MMAWomen/ TRC – everyone's issue
- VAW is everyone's issue
- Interest in being involved with Men's Action Plan
- Building the Bigger Wave with collaboration – creating a shared vision
- Bring BBWON info from forum to VAWCC!
- Learned of different projects
- Learned about First Nations and WILL learn more, will read the TRC
- Respect for diversity; inclusion; working together
- MAP – Courtwatch projects
- Validating – keeps from feeling isolated; inspires and invigorates us
- Gives us a venue to share information which empowers us
- Small group work finds common areas of interest and is inspiring

Ideas:

- Information shares at a provincial level
- Having access to what has been done in other CC's/province
- Interest in knowing the composition of CC's across the Province – may assist other with recruitment to CC
- What are you doing with the Artwork
- Bring SVAP and TRC reports to VAWCC table for review and discussion and endorsement (2)
- Have a survey on the different projects proposed and discuss which of these projects would be a good fit for our community (met needs best)
- CourtWatch is a great idea – HOWEVER – it is already name for a Fathers Rights Group
<http://www.canadacourtwatch.com/>
- Other VAWCC's can seek our support help from other parts of the province
- Sexual abuse rating system for Colleges and Universities
- Make a homemade billboard and display femicide rates from OAITH with posters and lights

Actions:

- Bringing together/ collaboration of frontline and Government because we can't do this separately – United Voice
- Mapping of Men's Services/gaps across the province
- Shared research
- Follow up on Newsletter and Website
- Evaluate at what level our VAWCC is incorporating of SVHAP in our work
- Look at the SVHAP and we can integrate into our work
- Make and put up billboard
- Support Mandatory Charging Research
- Circulate SVHAP

DAY 2

BRILLIANT IDEAS: INCLUSIVITY

Inclusion:

- Inviting other agencies to the table
- Ways to support other agencies doing good work – finances
- Children could be more at the centre of our work; violence learned behaviour early; model peace
- Increase frequency of meetings and give feed-back in more timely fashion
- Give feedback in more timely fashion
- Include more men and Muslim women
- Understand that everyone has work and responsibilities beyond the committee
- Create restricted facebook page and post active on going info there rather than looking at so man emails

BBW Role:

- There is a large disconnect between our northern VAWCC's – North Bay and Timiskiming) and BBW – suggestions on how to improve relationship?

DAY 2

BRILLIANT IDEAS: WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

Ideas for engaging and educating the Media:

- Inform local reporters on VAW issues ; Connect to media – meet; introduce – talk about VAW (2)
- Invite media to the hub (3)
- An event, invitation to do a media series on VAW/ Host lunch and learn media event- invite media/ Coalition members to be educated on the cycle of violence, what the roles are of community agencies eg: Victim services; Police; VWAP; crown; shelter etc
- Media plays an important role
- Have coordinating committee chair or designate, arrange a meeting with the local editor to discuss projects/initiatives on an annual basis
- Media appreciate sharing info – they don't have the knowledge
- Start with media champions ..create momentum with other media outlets and jump on to
- Discuss idea of media award or recognition at VAWCC
- Campaign about 'good reporting' that CC's can all share
- Educate journalists/editors on triggering images

Ideas for VAWCC's to Media awareness:

- Build Media policy and social media policy into TOR / Each CC's have a communications person and spokesperson (3)
- Have a clear media policy with timelines around responding to a situation – so that the committee designate can respond to media requests in timely way
- Intro and use of media hub to VAWCC (2)
- Media hub resources for people who work in VAW sector: kept up to date; common key messages
- Quick analyses of hot topics – provide what's been done in the past – best practices
- VAW workers seen as inherently bias but we are experts
- Letter writing campaigns via email: BBW /Pam Cross – someone – creates email/letter and sends out to network and all VAWCC's cut and paste and forward to partners; Use also to inundate a news paper to prevent idiotic moves like in Ottawa sun re: Wilno
- Write an op-ed for Women Abuse Awareness Month
- Are CC's voice of the community and Org's – perhaps for CC events? But beyond? What can they speak to? Do media releases for
- Social media can be used to counter negative media

How can BBW support you with Media?:

- Really look at a workshop on learning more on media responses (3)
- BBW could assist with VAWCC's TOR; how to create structure media policy- best practices of other VAWCC (2)
- Key messaging as sector too: BBW could survey coalitions to determine what our key messages as a sector are; As a coalition decide on our key messaging so we have a united role
- BBW could help with key messaging – cheat sheets that can be shared across province (2)
- How to use social media to advantage
- Help build provincial capacity

DAY 2

BRILLIANT IDEAS: CARE AND FEEDING

Individual Self Care:

- Need more self-care time and resources – difficult work and many demands on our time – hard to find time for self-care – more resources to be healthy (3)
- Opportunities for: self-care; debriefing space; safe work environment; staying up to date with developments and VAW issues
- Change the bar – recognizing the amount and VALUE of the work
- Burnt out and tired, very little time for fun
- Be OK with the fact we can't do it all; knowing limits; learning to say no
- need to maintain feeling passionate about the issues
- need to Rejuvenate; find Balance
- support from agency; board; supervisors: members need support and encouragement to participate on the VAWCC
- Retirement plans/benefits
- Work from home when possible
- Equal distribution of work at work
- Feel supported as a representative of my agency to actively participate on local VAWCC; (from Health dept); Sometimes I have to make a case for why health has to be at the table to my employer – I am supported by VAWCC
- NOT to be off the sides of our desks
- Training and skills transfer for areas I am not confident in
- More connection with other VAWCC's

Committee:

- Right people at table with a passion for the work and willingness to do the work
- Set reasonable outcomes for CC
- Look at who sits at the table and invest in adding people – youth etc – with new ideas and energy
- Use resources effectively; NO duplication
- Knowing what CC's decision making limits are
- Time to buy into shared values/goals
- Positive regard toward workers and clients
- To know and see the goals achieved/accomplished
- Shared decision making & Clear communication back to member agencies
- More engagement from CC's members
- Need more OWD project funding
- Have access to latest research (interdisciplinary)
- Resources \$\$ salaries to attract/incentives for 'other' sectors
- Funders need to see the importance of this work and fund it – a fulltime position for each VAWCC
- Male allies need to be included to engage and mobilize men
- Need to talk about violence perpetrated on men

DAY 2

OUR BEST ADVICE FOR MCSS

Direct interaction with VAWCC's

- Work with us - Meaningful consultation- Collaborative discussion
- Support BBW – use the network
- When developing policies, checking with the people who will implement
- Use your resources to support membership diversity
- Resources to conduct workshops and speakers, in other sectors too like legal and police
- Sit at the table; be a partner even as the funder
- Be an advocate for the sector
- Come see what we do – you are always invited
- We have expertise – access it; use it; champion it; listen carefully and act accordingly
- Continue to fund VAWCC's
- Consult with us widely before imposing standards
- Leave us flexibility to be creative
- Meaningful ground up consultation on a regular basis; especially on policy/legislation
- Any outcomes need to come from the CC's not top down
- Listening and supporting us
- Adequate funding

- Finance us more
- Read our reports
- People at the tables are experts at the local level
- Recognize the value of the work being done on the ground
- Ensure regular contact with program supervisors
- Paying survivors to sit on VAWCC's

Broader expertise - needs

- Significant expertise at BBW – use it
- BBW helps us to keep going – good value for the money – fund regular gatherings province wide/ Mof LTCare funds for advocacy groups to meet annually
- Provide a tool for us to input our research and Help us with data collection
- Translation into other languages beyond French
- Align our goals/plan (easier to develop projects and justify funding for projects aligned with a mutual plan)
- MCSS should give all CC's guidelines on they want us to do (so that we are all doing the same thing)
- Create a Road Map (with us)– what is it what does it look like? Can we ignore funding?

Across ministries and levels of govt

- Protect VAW expertise – don't let other ministries water down the work / make violence, poverty, oppression, discrimination gender neutral language
- Engage other ministries – ask them to direct their agencies to send decision-makers to VAWCCs (health, education, children's)
- Other ministries to be involved a the ground level; while this is a non-partisan issue it is also an inter-ministerial issue
- Effective cross ministry collaboration
- Connect to feds – a national strategy connected to the new imperative
- Encourage municipalities to engage with CC's and support
- Accountability goes up and down – works both ways : Prov and Local
- Are there survivors of sexual violence on the student federation roundtable?
- Integrate TRC recommendations into your work – connect to VAWCC's

Appendix 2:

Showcase participants

1. Building a Bigger Wave Ontario Network
2. Comité réseau d'Ottawa
3. CREVAWC – Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women & Children
4. Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee Windsor – Essex
5. DV3C Kapuskasing and Réseau de violence familiale Cochrane nord
6. Greater Sudbury Coalition to end Violence Against Women
7. Halton Violence Prevention Council
8. HER Grey Bruce
9. Justice for Women Review Team – Haldimand-Norfolk
10. Muskoka DART
11. Native Women's Association of Canada
12. OCTEVAW – Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women
13. Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH)
14. Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres (OCRCC)
15. Peel Institute on Violence Prevention
16. Violence Prevention Grey Bruce
17. WomenatthecentrE
18. Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes