

**Ontario's Response to Jury Recommendations – Part II
Culleton, Kuzyk, and Warmerdam (CKW) Inquest
(Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk & Nathalie Warmerdam)**

June 2023

Recommendation 1: Formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic.	
Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Rejected	
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
<p>The term epidemic is used for the spread of disease, specifically “[an] outbreak of infection that spreads rapidly and affects many individuals in a given area or population at the same time” (Public Health Agency of Canada). Similarly, within the public health context of the <i>Health Protection and Promotion Act</i>, an outbreak is understood to be the spread of an infectious or communicable disease in a community. In this regard, intimate partner violence (IPV) would not be considered an epidemic as it is not an infectious or communicable disease.</p> <p>Ministries appreciate the intent of the recommendation and acknowledge that IPV is a serious issue. We continue to work to address IPV using a concerted, whole-of-</p>	

government approach. As reflected in this document, ministries are committed to working collaboratively on:

- Enhancing supports for IPV survivors and improving their experience in navigating systems, by exploring investments and opportunities to:
 - Improve current systems, coordination, collaboration and communication between service providers and sector partners,
 - Enhance training and education offered to frontline personnel, and,
 - Stabilize funding to IPV service providers across sectors.
 - Enhance to court supports for IPV survivors and ensure that police services have the ability to submit proposals that support integrated IPV service models.
- Studying the best approach for permitting disclosure of information about an individual's history of IPV and potential risk to partners who request this information (e.g., a Clare's Law-type mechanism).
- Exploring opportunities to:
 - Enhance perpetrator programming to improve outcomes and protect survivors.
 - Increase workforce training and development for IPV service providers.
 - Expand and increase capacity of Indigenous-specific IPV prevention programs.
 - Enhance IPV/gender-based violence (GBV) training and resources offered to justice and youth justice personnel, while also examining enhancements to GBV prevention programming.
 - Stabilize and expand existing youth justice programming, including programs that are culturally responsive for Indigenous and racialized communities, and improve the services addressing the intersection of child protection and IPV perpetration in the province.

Recommendation 2: Establish an independent Intimate Partner Violence Commission dedicated to eradicating intimate partner violence (IPV) and acting as a voice that speaks on behalf of survivors and victims' families, raising public awareness, and ensuring the transparency and accountability of government and other organizations in addressing IPV in all its forms. The Commissioner should have sufficient authority to ensure meaningful access to any person, document or information required to accomplish the Commission's mandate. The Commission should be provided with adequate and stable funding to ensure effectiveness.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Rejected	
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
<p>Ministries support the underlying intent of this recommendation, which is to advance accountability for preventing and reducing intimate partner violence (IPV) in Ontario, as well as ensuring that survivors are heard and their needs are addressed in the justice system.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation would be duplicative of existing offices, programs and services that support/advocate for survivors and their families, raise public awareness of IPV, ensure transparency and accountability of government and evaluate and consult on programs and services.</p>	

Recommendation 3: Engage in meaningful consultation with IPV stakeholders and experts in the field, to determine the mandate and responsibilities of the IPV Commission, which may include:

- a) Driving change towards the goal of eradicating IPV in Ontario,
- b) Evaluating the effectiveness of existing IPV programs and strategies, including the adequacy of existing funding,
- c) Analyzing and reporting on all IPV-related issues with a view to improving awareness of IPV issues and potential solutions,
- d) Advocating for survivors and their families having regard to addressing the systemic concerns of survivors navigating the legal system.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Rejected	
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
<p>Ministries support the underlying intent of this recommendation, which is to advance accountability for preventing and reducing intimate partner violence (IPV) in Ontario, as well as ensuring that survivors are heard and their needs are addressed in the justice system.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation would be duplicative of existing offices, programs and services that support/advocate for survivors and their families, raise public awareness of IPV, ensure transparency and accountability of government and evaluate and consult on programs and services.</p>	

Recommendation 4: Create the role of a Survivor Advocate to advocate on behalf of survivors regarding their experience in the justice system.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Rejected	
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
<p>Ministries support the underlying intent of this recommendation, which is to ensure survivors are heard and their needs are addressed in the justice system.</p> <p>Several existing government and community services, such as the Family Court Support Worker Program, Sexual Assault Centres, the Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario program and the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, already play a key role in supporting IPV survivors as they engage with the justice system. This includes assisting survivors of IPV to navigate the court process, informing them of their rights, and advocating for their needs to be addressed within the justice system.</p> <p>Ontario's <i>Victims' Bill of Rights</i> (VBR) also supports and recognizes the needs of victims of crime and includes a set of principles that guide how justice system officials should treat victims at different stages of the criminal justice process. Under the VBR, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is an advisory body that provides advice on victims' issues to the Attorney General, including ways to ensure that the principles of the VBR are respected as survivors engage with the justice system. The OVC's advice is informed by its board members' expertise and through consultation with a range of people to understand experiences in the justice system, including survivors of crime, those supporting survivors of crime, criminal justice personnel, academics and others with expertise in victimization.</p>	

Recommendation 5: Immediately institute a provincial implementation committee dedicated to ensuring that the recommendations from this Inquest are comprehensively considered, and any responses are fully reported and published. The committee should include senior members of relevant ministries central to IPV and an equal number of community IPV experts. It should be chaired by an independent IPV expert who could speak freely on progress made on implementation.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Rejected	
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
Existing stakeholder engagement committees/tables across government will be leveraged, augmented by targeted consultation with stakeholders/sectors not represented on current tables, to provide input and advice on the implementation of CKW inquest recommendations.	<p>A number of committees and tables are already convened that provide stakeholders with an opportunity to engage with government on key issues related to IPV. For example, there are provincial committees such as the Partner Assault Response Program Service Delivery Table and the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council, and local/regional committees such as the 48 Violence Against Women Coordinating Committees and the Domestic Violence Courts Advisory Committees found in every court jurisdiction.</p> <p>These tables can be used to provide advice as responses to recommendations are further developed for implementation. The use of these existing committees may also best align with the varying implementation timelines of different initiatives undertaken.</p>

Recommendation 9: Explore incorporating restorative justice and community-based approaches in dealing with appropriate IPV cases to ensure safety and best outcomes for survivors.	
Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
	<p>Ministries offer a variety of restorative justice (RJ) programs, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth-Specific RJ Programs overseen by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). This includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Four Indigenous RJ Initiatives exclusively serving Indigenous youth and communities; b. 39 RJ programs (including two Indigenous RJ Initiatives) as a part of the Youth Justice Committee (accessible for all youth, including Indigenous-identifying youth); c. Eight Restorative Justice and Conflict Mediation Programs (RJCM) as part of the Enhanced Ontario Youth Action Plan (accessible for all youth, including Indigenous-identifying youth); and, d. Nine Indigenous Extrajudicial Measures (EJM) programs and three Indigenous Extrajudicial Sanction (EJS) programs that may offer elements of RJ practices as part of their approach. 2. 58 Indigenous-Specific RJ Programs which are funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG). During a review of existing programming, expansion of the offences deemed eligible for

	<p>enrollment to include more IPV-related offences, as well as expansion of the number of programs, will be further explored. In April 2023, MAG and MCCSS have worked collaboratively to support the designation of Indigenous-specific community-based programs for persons charged with IPV related offences. MAG has also begun preliminary research on other RJ approaches for IPV cases that are not eligible for Indigenous-specific RJ programs, drawing from the experiences of Indigenous-specific programs and from other RJ programs for IPV perpetrators and survivors in Canada and internationally.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14: Create a "Universal RMS" records management system accessible by all police services (including federal, provincial, municipal, military and First Nations) in Ontario, with appropriate read/write access to all IPV stakeholders, including Probation, CFO, Crown's offices, Ontario Court of Justice, Superior Court of Justice, correctional institutions and parole boards. Police services that wish to use their own RMS are to update IPV information into the Universal RMS.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Accepted in part</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>
<p>The Criminal Justice Digital Design (CJDD) is a joint initiative between the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) and the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG). CJDD is modernizing the justice system, from beginning to end, to enable information, data, documentation and evidence on criminal cases to be shared digitally with justice sector partners on-demand. Through integrations, CJDD will enable various systems, including records management systems, to exchange information and to standardize outputs.</p>	<p>CJDD integrations are already being used to support digital data and media exchanges across the justice sector (e.g., the implementation of eIntake - which was fully implemented across police services as of June 2022 and is used by police to electronically send/receive documents and data for consideration by a Justice of the Peace).</p>

<p>At this time, SOLGEN is pursuing a series of data integrations between existing police, prosecution, court and other existing criminal justice sector systems to share critical information throughout the justice sector. The government and police services are exploring connecting existing RMSs into a cohesive ecosystem. This will allow police services to retain current RMSs and not violate contractual agreements while enabling data and other information to flow digitally.</p>	<p>In partnership with MAG and in consultation with other relevant Ontario Public Service partners (such as privacy, cyber security, etc.), SOLGEN continues to assess the technological landscape across all justice sector systems to digitize the sharing of critical information between partners.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: Review policies to ensure the timely, reliable, consistent, and accurate dissemination of information, including the use of emergency alerts and media releases, where the police are aware of circumstances that could put the public in danger, and that the focus is on safety when developing policies regarding what information to share with whom and when. Consideration should be given to disseminating information through alternative methods where cellular service is not consistently available.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Accepted</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>
	<p>We are taking action to ensure the safety of victims and the public. To that end, the Ministry of the Solicitor General maintains the <i>Preventing or Responding to Occurrences Involving Firearms Guideline</i> (LE-029) to assist police services in investigations that involve firearms. Per this guideline, police services are required to set out the steps that officers should take to prevent or minimize the potential risk of violence involving a firearm by an individual or suspect who has been involved in any domestic violence occurrence, or occurrence involving child abuse, sexual assault, criminal</p>

harassment, hate/bias motivated crime, uttering death threats, threatened suicide or an emotionally disturbed person.

LE-029 also requires police services to set out policies on information sharing, including timely and prompt entry of information into the Firearms Interest Police (FIP) database and prompt response to FIP queries from the Chief Firearms Officers (CFO) and other police agencies. This ensures that the CFO and Firearms Officers are alerted, when screening applications for firearms licences, about individuals who have:

1. Been involved in incidents of domestic violence, threats of violence, harassment, etc.
2. Have warrants for arrest.
3. Refused licences and authorization.
4. Attempted to bring firearms into or out of Canada without proper authorization.

Police-specific policies concerning information sharing about emergency alerts and media releases that include information about risks to the public are overseen by the respective police services. In August 2020, police services were advised through a Ministry of the Solicitor General All Chiefs/Chairs Memorandum of the process for requesting an emergency alert through the OPP's Provincial Operations Centre.

Current procedures may involve notifying and engaging members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), area police resources, emergency responders, and media and members of the public through various levels of communication.

Specifically, to inform the public when the police are aware of circumstances that could put the public in danger, they may utilize the national Alert Ready system, part of a national service designed to deliver critical and potentially life-saving emergency alert messages to Canadians. Emergency Broadcast Intrusive (BI) alerts are distributed on radio, TV and compatible wireless devices to ensure the public has information needed in emergencies and they can receive it in the shortest possible time. BI alerts will interrupt all TV and radio programs being broadcast at the time. The use of wireless compatible devices will also be interrupted in the area of concern. The OPP issues Alerts on behalf of police services across Ontario.

For an alert to be issued it must meet the following criteria:

1. Urgency: Immediate – Responsive action should be taken immediately by those receiving the public safety (policing) emergency alert.
2. Severity: Severe – There is a significant threat to life.
3. Certainty: Observed – The police service has confirmed there is an ongoing public safety event.
4. The threat is neither isolated nor contained.

Once these criteria are satisfied, to maximize the sharing of information with the residents of Ontario:

1. Emergency messaging will interrupt all TV, radio, and compatible wireless devices within the identified geographical area. Television and radio stations do not involve the use of cellular service.
2. Messaging from this system will also be posted on Facebook and the National Public Alerting System website.
3. The Alert is also shared on the respective regional OPP twitter and social media accounts.

A Public Safety (Police) Emergency Alert process is taught to OPP officers for domestic violence occurrences where specific criteria is met.

In addition, per subsection 2(1) of the Disclosure of Personal Information Regulation., O. Reg. 265/98, made under the *Police Services Act*:

2. (1) A chief of police or his or her designate may disclose personal information about an individual to any person if,

(a) the individual has been convicted or found guilty of an offence under the *Criminal Code* (Canada), the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) or any other federal or provincial Act;

(b) the chief of police or his or her designate who would disclose the personal information reasonably believes that the individual poses a significant risk of harm to other persons or property; and,

(c) the chief of police or his or her designate who would disclose the personal information reasonably believes that the disclosure will reduce that risk.

3. (1) A chief of police or his or her designate may disclose personal information, as described in subsection (2), about an individual to any person if the individual has been charged with, convicted or found guilty of an offence under the *Criminal Code* (Canada), the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) or any other federal or provincial Act. O. Reg. 265/98, s. 3 (1).

(2) If subsection (1) applies, the following information may be disclosed:

1. The individual's name, date of birth and address.
2. The offence described in subsection (1) with which he or she has been charged or of which he or she has been convicted or found guilty and the sentence, if any, imposed for that offence.
3. The outcome of all significant judicial proceedings relevant to the offence described in subsection (1).
4. The procedural stage of the criminal justice process to which the prosecution of the offence described in subsection (1) has progressed and the physical status of the individual in that process (for example, whether the individual is in custody, or the terms, if any, upon which he or she has been released from custody).
5. The date of the release or impending release of the individual from custody for the offence described in subsection (1), including any release on parole or temporary absence.

We are committed to ensuring that victims and public safety is a priority and will also apply this lens when developing new and revising existing policies for Probation and Parole Officers (PPOs). Current policies direct PPOs on sharing information with the police in instances where they believe a victim, group of persons or the public may be at risk. Where cellular service is not

	consistently available, PPOs may share information with victims in hard copy format.
Recommendation 18: Recognize that the implementation of the recommendations from this Inquest, including the need for adequate and stable funding for all organizations providing IPV support services, will require a significant financial investment and commit to provide such funding.	
Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
	<p>Ministries are committed to working together to strengthen their strategic approach to funding for IPV services and supports.</p> <p>Currently, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services is using evidence and data to identify gaps and needs, strengthen system capacity, and help establish an evidence-informed business case to stabilize sector funding and strengthen the funding model for IPV services to better reflect current needs and demographics. This process will incorporate a broad range of equity considerations, including rural and remote factors, underserved and vulnerable populations, and other factors; and, have the flexibility to respond to the barriers identified in these recommendations. The ministry also continues to leverage federal and provincial opportunities for collaboration across governments and with community partners on strategic investments responding to this recommendation.</p>

The province is also exploring opportunities to stabilize funding across sectors. For instance, to help relieve immediate financial and service pressures, on December 13, 2022, Ontario announced an investment of over \$2 million in one-time funding for the Ministry of the Attorney General's Partner Assault Response program.

Indirect support for IPV projects in communities is also provided through SOLGEN's locally tailored, competitive and application-based community safety grants which can be utilized by police services, in collaboration with community partners, to implement programs/initiatives that are locally identified and tailored. This includes opportunities to support innovative/collaborative local IPV service delivery models. For example:

1. Under the 2022-2025 CSP Grant cycle, the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board is receiving funding that is partially used to support their Safe Centre Response Team (SCRT) pilot project, which focuses on IPV. Specifically, in January 2023, Peel Region announced the SCRT pilot – a collaboration between the Safe Centre of Peel and the Peel Regional Police – which was developed in response to the need for IPV prevention and early intervention in the region. The SCRT pilot includes two response teams comprised of a mobile support worker with experience in Gender Based Violence (GBV) and a specially trained police officer that provide appropriate, timely and complex care and support in intimate partner incidents.
2. Specific to the 2021-22 and 2022-23 Victim Support Grant program cycle, \$5.9 million was allocated over the two fiscal years. The priority focus for 2021 to 2023 was specifically on supporting survivors of intimate partner violence and human trafficking. With

	<p>support from the federal government, funding was provided to 37 police services working in collaboration with local organizations and community partners across the province.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Specialized Investigator and Survivor Supports for First Nation Police Services and 2. Social Navigators for First Nation Police Services initiatives under the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Fund Grant Program provide funding to build the capacity of First Nations police services to deliver specialized abuse issues investigative supports (including for intimate partner violence, sexual assault and human trafficking investigations) and to provide for social navigators to support early preventative access to community safety and well-being services that can divert at-risk individuals from cycles of incarceration and/or victimization. 4. Opportunities exist for applicants to the Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant to expand the use of social workers and crisis workers in their proposals in future iterations of the grant.
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Recommendation 21: Develop a plan for enhanced second-stage housing for IPV survivors.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.

This recommendation is being implemented through ongoing programs and initiatives that provide housing supports for survivors of IPV and persons who wish to leave a situation of abuse or trafficking.

Ministries fund and/or provide oversight for a number of housing programs and initiatives that support survivors of abuse (including IPV) and trafficking. Second-stage housing, as a type of supportive housing, is one part of the housing continuum.

To support accessibility and affordability of housing for survivors of IPV, ministries have taken a holistic approach through the implementation of the following programs/initiatives:

1. **Transitional and Housing Support Program (THSP):** THSP is a resource for women (and their dependents) experiencing violence that helps them regain their lives, facilitates access to housing supports and navigates a range of wraparound services and supports. The 2021 Budget included an \$18.5 million enhancement over three years beginning in 2021-22 in the THSP.
2. **Special Priority Policy (SPP) for survivors of abuse and trafficking:** The SPP provides survivors of abuse and trafficking with priority access to rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance, which is primarily funded and administered at the local level by 47 Service Managers*.
3. **Anti-Human Trafficking Community Support Fund (AHT-CSF):** This joint federal-provincial initiative is funded under the 2016 *Social Infrastructure Fund - Investment in Affordable Housing (SIF-IAH)* and provides operating funding for rent supplements and housing allowances to assist survivors of trafficking, as well as capital funding for the construction/acquisition and rehabilitation/repurposing of supportive or transitional housing for this population. Funding has been committed and is administered by 10 Service Managers and one Indigenous Program Administrator* who work directly with approved organizations.

Ministries also fund programs/initiatives where survivors of IPV are included in a priority group, including **the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) Program**. COHB was established under the National Housing Strategy agreement with the Canadian government, the COHB provides monthly housing assistance directly to households to help with rent. Benefits are portable and can be used across Ontario. Survivors of domestic violence (including IPV) and trafficking are one of six groups provided with priority access to this program. In 2023-24, Ontario is providing \$148.6 million in COHB funding, which includes \$11.5 million that has been dedicated to survivors of GBV. Additionally, the province continues to negotiate with the federal government on additional funding that would be dedicated to survivors of GBV through the COHB program.

Additionally, ministries fund programs that allow Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators to provide funding to initiatives that support survivors of IPV. These include:

1. The **Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP)** provides funding to two Indigenous Program Administrators to provide housing assistance and support services for Indigenous people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including Indigenous survivors of abuse or trafficking.
2. **The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)** supports Ontario's 47 Service Managers in providing affordable housing and support services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Service Managers may utilize HPP funding to create and/or operate transitional housing to support survivors of abuse or trafficking.

	<p>3. The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI), established under the National Housing Strategy agreement with the Canadian government, protect affordability for households in community housing; support the repair, renewal and expansion of community housing supply; and address local housing priorities. Funding can be used towards the creation or repair of second stage and transitional housing projects that may support survivors of abuse and trafficking.</p> <p>Note: The term Service Managers includes regional governments, counties or separated cities, and District Social Services Administration Boards, which are boards established in each of the 10 districts in Northern Ontario. Indigenous Program Administrators include Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services and Miziwe Biik Development Corporation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 22: Fund for “safe rooms” to be installed in survivors’ homes in high-risk cases.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Rejected</p>	
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>
<p>We recognize the critical importance of safety for survivors of IPV, including cases considered to be high-risk.</p> <p>There are existing mechanisms in place in Ontario that support survivor safety. For example:</p>	

- Violence against women programs provide safety planning through the development of personal safety strategies which reflect the survivor's personal circumstances, needs and choices.
- Victim Quick Response Program+ (VQRP+) supports victims, their immediate family members, and witnesses in the immediate aftermath of violent crimes by providing short-term financial support with essential expenses. This includes home safety expenses including installing safety-related equipment, where this is necessary to mitigate the risk of a victim being re-victimized.

While the purpose of safe rooms is to decrease or eliminate the immediate threat of violence, in practice, they can pose risks to the survivor if misused or used against them by a perpetrator.

We will continue to explore opportunities to address safety that can benefit a wide range of victims, including cases considered to be high risk, through continuous improvement to existing services and supports.

Recommendation 23: Develop and implement a new approach to public education campaigns to promote awareness about IPV, including finding opportunities to reach a wider audience in rural communities. These messages should promote broad recognition of how to seek support, risk factors, and warning signs of IPV, community and bystander engagement, be accessible in multiple languages and in multiple formats, and ensure that rural residents can identify themselves in the messaging and materials.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?

If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?

Accepted

In progress

Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.

Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.

We continue to make investments and consider opportunities to strengthen community-based education and awareness initiatives across the province

	<p>based on best-practices in violence prevention, with a particular focus on underserved (i.e., rural, remote and priority) communities.</p> <p>In November 2022, Ontario endorsed the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence. This opportunity will be leveraged, in collaboration with government and community partners, to strengthen violence prevention education and awareness initiatives. Funding is currently provided to 22 non-profit community organizations to implement province-wide and local gender-based violence (GBV) community-focused education and awareness building initiatives as part of the Preventing Gender-based Violence (PGBV) Program. These projects promote broad recognition of how to seek support, identify risk factors and warning signs of GBV, promote community and bystander engagement, and are geographically and culturally relevant, trauma-informed and responsive to local needs. Projects such as the Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County which provides public education, training and awareness raising on GBV and how to support GBV survivors within Renfrew County.</p>
<p>Recommendation 28: Review existing training for justice system personnel who are within the purview of the provincial government or police services.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Accepted</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>

Ministries are engaged in an ongoing review and expansion of training materials to ensure the most up-to-date research and information is captured. This includes:

- A review of existing IPV-related training by the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) for Crowns and Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) staff, including Crown summer school courses, VWAP IPV-related training modules and conferences to explore opportunities for enhancements. A speciality IPV educational page for Crowns has also been launched by MAG as part of its electronic library to enhance accessibility of all new and existing IPV resources, and to ensure there is ongoing and timely maintenance and updating of this material for all prosecutors.
- Ongoing review of foundational and mandatory training for front-line staff in secure custody/detention facilities and probation offices (including youth justice institutions) operated by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This ongoing review consider opportunities to enhance trauma-informed approaches when working alongside both IPV survivors and perpetrators in the youth justice system.
- Domestic violence and case management related trainings have been updated, with the range of courses expanded to provide better support to Probation and Parole Officers (PPO) working with offenders and victims. Additionally, PPOs are highly trained staff who require an academic pre-requisite in the form of a university degree in social services and receive comprehensive job training which includes specialized training to work with domestic violence and survivors.
- All courses offered to police officers by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are reviewed by the Provincial Police Academy on a regular

basis, including trauma-informed considerations. In 2023, OPP's Intimate Partner Violence Investigators (IPVI) training will be reviewed, and recommendations of this Inquest will be considered regarding trainer capacity, sustainability and opportunities for refresher trainings.

- The Ontario Police College (OPC) provides domestic violence training for recruits, front-line supervisors and domestic violence investigators. The OPC routinely reviews its training to ensure police understand victimization and respond in a trauma-informed, compassionate and appropriate way to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Training is also reviewed and updated to consider and include recommendations from inquests. The Basic Constable Training program now includes victim-focused and sensitivity components, and a Domestic Violence Investigation course is available for experienced police investigators. Since 2018, 180 police officers have been trained as Domestic Violence Investigators.

Recommendation 29: Provide professional education and training for justice system personnel on IPV-related issues, which should include:

- a) Annual refresher courses,
- b) Risk assessment training with the most up-to-date research on tools and risk factors,
- c) Trauma-informed practices, including an understanding of why survivors may recant or may not cooperate with a criminal investigation, best practices for managing this reality, and investigation and prosecution of perpetrators,
- d) Crisis management training,
- e) The availability and use of weapons prohibition orders in IPV cases,
- f) Meaningful screening of sureties,
- g) Greater use of court-ordered language ensuring alleged and convicted offenders will not reside in homes that have firearms,
- h) Indicators of IPV including coercive control, and awareness of risk factors for lethality (including destruction of property, especially by fire, harm to pets, strangulation, criminal harassment, stalking, sexual violence, and threatening police),
- i) Unique rural factors,
- j) Firearm risks, including the links between firearm ownership and IPV,
- k) Opportunities for communities, friends, and families to play a role in the prevention and reporting of IPV.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
Ministries will explore areas where professional education and training can be bolstered, particularly in the areas of trauma-informed practices, risk indicators (including coercive control and risk factors for lethality), and unique rural factors.	Policing: Police specific training is mandated by the provincial government and requires that all frontline members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) attend Intimate Partner Violence Investigators (IPVI) training on risk indicators and assessment, unique rural factors, as well as safety planning. This course also provides mandatory trauma-informed online training, crisis management

and training on identification of prohibition orders to all members. Members also receive training regarding firearm seizures, *Criminal Code* seizure authorities and public safety seizure grounds through a local Crown Attorney. All courses offered to police officers by the OPP are reviewed by the Provincial Police Academy on a regular basis which includes trauma-informed considerations. In 2023, OPP's IPVI training will be reviewed, and recommendations of this Inquest will be considered regarding trainer capacity, sustainability and opportunities for refresher trainings.

The Ontario Police College (OPC) also provides domestic violence training for recruits, front-line supervisors and domestic violence investigators. The OPC routinely reviews its training to ensure police understand victimization and respond in a trauma-informed, compassionate and appropriate way to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Training is also reviewed and updated to consider and include recommendations from inquests. The Basic Constable Training program now includes victim-focused and sensitivity components, and a Domestic Violence Investigation course is available for experienced police investigators. Since 2018, 180 police officers have been trained as Domestic Violence Investigators.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has also partnered with academics from Wilfrid Laurier University and Toronto Metropolitan University and collaborated with academia, community, policing partners and persons with lived experience to support development and delivery of the Mental Health Crisis Response Training (MHCRT) curriculum for Ontario municipal and First Nation police services and the Ontario Police College - with the objective of delivering standardized training content. This made-in-Ontario, evidence-informed and scientifically validated scenario-based curriculum and

evaluation framework is designed to enhance officer competencies by further developing de-escalation and communication strategies, mental health awareness, empathy and cultural safety in responding to citizens in mental health crisis. A scientific validation study for the virtual reality (VR) modality of the MHCRT demonstrate improved outcomes for police officers on mental health literacy, identifying signs and symptoms of mental health crisis, empathy, and attitudes on mental illness.

Justice Partners: On March 8, 2023, the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) held a conference which focused on trauma-informed investigations, prosecutions, survivor representation and support for cases involving sexual violence, including IPV cases. Over 300 participants attended the event either in person or virtually. Attendees included Crowns, police, victim services workers, and lawyers who represent survivors. Planning is underway for the 2023 IPV Court Co-Leads Conference. For this conference, MAG will be focusing on many of the areas identified in this recommendation. Additionally, MAG recently launched a speciality IPV educational page for Crowns as part of its electronic library in order to enhance accessibility of all new and existing IPV resources, and to ensure there is ongoing and timely maintenance and updating of this material for all prosecutors.

Youth Justice: Currently, Ontario provides foundational and mandatory training for front-line staff in secure custody/detention facilities and probation offices (including youth justice institutions) operated by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This involves trauma-informed approaches to working with young people in the youth justice system. Ongoing review will consider opportunities to enhance trauma-informed approaches when working alongside both IPV survivors and

perpetrators in the youth justice system. In addition, as part of implementing an integrated Trauma Informed Service Model in youth justice programs, the existing mental health training curriculum will be enhanced to expand awareness of mental health and wellness in youth, and to build skills and capacity to integrate trauma-informed approaches and practices into all staff and youth interactions. This includes recognizing and responding to the Adverse Childhood Experiences of youth (e.g., domestic or GBV, childhood neglect, abuse).

Community Correctional Services: Probation and Parole Officers (PPOs) are highly trained staff requiring an academic pre-requisite in the form of a university degree in social services and receive comprehensive job training which includes specialized training to work with domestic violence offenders and survivors. In recent years, domestic violence and case management related trainings have been updated with the range of courses expanded to better support PPOs working with domestic violence offenders and victims. Further, all PPOs are required to complete a standardized five weeks of basic training, assigned pre-read tasks, additional e-learning modules, and separate courses to build capacity in dealing with specialized casework such as Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment and working with domestic violence offenders and victims.

Recommendation 32: Establish a province-wide 24/7 hotline for men who need support to prevent them from engaging in IPV.	
Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	Pending
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
<p>Ministries recognize the importance of preventing IPV before it occurs. Offering preventive services to men before they engage in IPV requires addressing the underlying factors causing crisis and ensuring that appropriate referrals to services can be made.</p> <p>We will assess the pathways, resources and supports for men across the province to better understand the current state and explore opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>We will undertake cross-ministerial efforts, including across the health, mental health and justice sectors, to understand the needs and gaps in underlying factors causing crisis for men. Ministries will also explore opportunities to leverage the existing ecosystem of services and capacities (technology, population capacity, information and referral practices) to meet crisis needs, identify entry points to service for men and referral pathways to enable connections to appropriate services and supports, and increase effectiveness and coordination of services to make referrals.</p>

Recommendation 33: Provide services aimed at addressing perpetrators of IPV that should include:

- a) An approach that is not one-size-fits-all,
- b) A variety of group-based interventions augmented with individual counseling and case management sessions to assess and manage risk and to supplement services, as needed, to address individual needs,
- c) Peer support and appropriate circles of support,
- d) Prioritizing the development of cross-agency and cross-system collaborative services,
- e) Service models in the areas of substance use and abuse, general criminal behaviour, mental health, fathering, and culturally specific services,
- f) The ability to respond immediately with risk management services in collaboration with IPV service providers,
- g) Being accessible by clients voluntarily and via referral, and not just through the criminal justice system,
- h) Programs are funded at a level that anticipates an increased stream of referrals,
- i) Make in-custody IPV programs available in the community as well so that offenders can complete programs started in custody,
- j) Conducting audits of PARs and other perpetrator intervention programs for efficacy, consistency, and currency,
- k) Increasing program availability and develop flexible options for IPV perpetrators on remand, serving sentences, and in the community.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
	<p>Ministries offer a wide range of services aimed at addressing perpetrators of IPV.</p> <p>The Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) offers evidence-based correctional programs that are designed to provide education, encourage pro-social activity, increase motivation and rehabilitate offenders.</p>

Programming is offered along a continuum of interventions ranging from Life Skills (basic level) to advanced/intensive level programming, and programs are designed to be culturally, ethnically and gender responsive.

Indirect support to IPV projects in communities is also provided through locally tailored, competitive and application-based community safety grants administered by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, which can be utilized by police services, in collaboration with community partners, to implement programs/initiatives that are locally identified and tailored. These include:

1. **Community Safety and Policing (CSP) Grant:** Provides eligible police services/boards with flexibility to implement initiatives that address policing needs and priority risks related to safety and well-being, which can include initiatives relating to IPV. For example, in January 2023, Peel Region announced the Safe Centre Response Team (SCRT) pilot – a collaboration between the Safe Centre of Peel and the Peel Regional Police – which was developed in response to the need for IPV prevention and early intervention in the region. The SCRT pilot includes two response teams comprised of a mobile support worker with experience in gender-based violence (GBV) and a specially trained police officer that provide appropriate, timely and complex care and support in intimate partner incidents.
2. **Victim Support Grant (VSG):** The VSG program aims to help to improve access to critical supports for victims and survivors of intimate partner violence/domestic violence, human trafficking and child exploitation, including culturally appropriate supports for racialized victims/survivors. This grant focuses on providing funding to police services to develop new or enhanced victim/survivor supports in collaboration with local community organizations, agencies, or

Indigenous communities. Specific to the 2021-22 and 2022-23 VSG grant program cycle, \$5.9 million was allocated over the two fiscal years. The priority focus for 2021 to 2023 was specifically on supporting survivors of intimate partner violence and human trafficking. With support from the federal government, funding was provided to 37 police services working in collaboration with local organizations and community partners across the province.

3. **Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) Enhancement Grant:** MCRT's dispatch health and/or crisis response professionals with police to provide integrated supports to individuals and families in the community experiencing crisis. Opportunities exist for applicants to the Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant to expand the use of social workers and crisis workers in their proposals in future iterations of the grant.
4. **Specialized Investigator and Survivor Supports for First Nation Police Services:** This initiative under the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Fund Grant Program provides funding to build the capacity of First Nations police services to deliver specialized abuse issues investigative supports (including for intimate partner violence, sexual assault and human trafficking investigations). These specialized supports are intended to enhance trauma-informed and culturally responsive policing throughout an investigation to better meet the needs of at-risk Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. Since the initial launch of this funding in 2021-22, these capacity-building efforts have supported specialized, victim-centered policing on over 1,300 calls for service impacting vulnerable populations. At least 11 new community partnerships have also been established by police services to support trauma-informed and

culturally responsive investigative processes and reduce the risk of victimization.

5. **Social Navigators for First Nation Police Services:** In response to the need for trauma-informed, holistic supports and wraparound services in Indigenous communities, this initiative under the MMIWG Fund Grant Program funds First Nation police services to employ social navigators. Social navigators are civilian coordinators that help victims and at-risk individuals through partnerships with service agencies and community supports in areas of concern (e.g., intimate partner violence, mental health, addictions, homelessness, etc.). These navigators support early preventative access to community safety and well-being services that can divert at-risk individuals from cycles of incarceration and/or victimization. Since the initial launch of this funding in 2021-22, First Nation police service recipients have recruited and onboarded eight social navigators who are enhancing police service capacity and supporting and coordinating access to important wraparound services through community partnerships. These social navigators work closely with Elders, police partners and community agencies to establish risk indicators, identify available resources and develop effective referral pathways for victims and at-risk individuals.

Additionally, on December 13, 2022, the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) announced an investment of over \$2 million in one-time funding for the Partner Assault Response (PAR) program to help relieve immediate financial and service pressures. A PAR Service Delivery Table was also established to provide feedback on PAR service delivery matters. The Delivery Table first met in April 2023 and will be engaged in discussions

	<p>about opportunities to introduce program enhancements and how best to implement any changes to the program. Opportunities to strengthen PAR programming so that it is more flexible and responsive to individualized client needs will also be explored.</p> <p>MAG is also working closely with existing Indigenous-specific Intimate Partner Violence Prevention (IPVP) program providers to increase capacity. This includes exploring opportunities to address service gaps for Indigenous communities. MAG is also working to address service gaps across the province through expansion of IPVP services through new Indigenous service providers.</p> <p>Funding is also provided by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services for three GBV prevention-intervention programs serving male youth who have or are at-risk of committing GBV. These programs address the underlying factors of GBV and deliver responsive and culturally relevant approaches to reducing GBV among Indigenous and Black youth.</p>
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Recommendation 34: Recognize the specialized knowledge and expertise of IPV service providers involved in perpetrator intervention and support the development of workforce capacity within the sector by developing and providing competency-based training opportunities. Service contracts should include funding for supervision and ongoing professional development, and mental health support.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.

Ministries are examining ways to build workforce capacity of IPV service providers across various programs and services.

Ministries recognizes the expertise of IPV service providers involved in perpetrator intervention, and is supportive of examining ways to build workforce capacity for:

1. **Partner Assault Response (PAR) Program Service Providers:** The Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) provides annual funding to existing PAR providers. MAG has established a PAR Service Delivery Table to provide feedback on PAR service delivery matters. The PAR Service Delivery Table will also be engaged in discussions on potential approaches for:
 - a. The development of ongoing competency-based training opportunities for IPV perpetrator intervention service providers; and
 - b. The identification of funding needs for supervision and ongoing professional development, as well as mental health supports for IPV perpetrator intervention service providers.
2. **Indigenous-specific Intimate Partner Violence Prevention (IPVP) Providers:** MAG is working with current IPVP service providers to identify service gaps and exploring opportunities to increase the capacity of current IPVP programs across Ontario.
3. **Probation and Parole Officers:** (PPOs) are highly trained staff requiring an academic pre-requisite in the form of a university degree in social services and receive comprehensive job training which includes specialized training to work with domestic violence and survivors.
4. **Three GBV Prevention-Intervention Programs:** Funded by MCCSS, the programs deliver services to male youth who have or are at-risk of committing GBV. These programs address the underlying factors of GBV and delivers responsive and culturally relevant approaches to reducing GBV among Indigenous and Black youth. As a part of this initiative, a GBV Programming Community of Practice (CoP) has also

	<p>been established, bringing together diverse justice, community, and academic partners, to promote knowledge exchange and community capacity building, to inform GBV community-driven program design, implementation and evaluation, and to strengthen connections amongst justice, education, and other community partners. MCCSS continues to explore opportunities to stabilize, enhance, and expand existing GBV prevention and intervention programming for justice-involved youth at risk of experiencing and/or perpetrating GBV, including opportunities for IPV/ GBV training and resources, to promote awareness, education, and sector capacity amongst youth justice professionals, justice-involved youth's families / caregivers, and community partners.</p>
<p>Recommendation 35: Address barriers and create opportunities and pathways to services for IPV perpetrators that can be accessed in the community. Referrals to service providers should be made as early as possible and should be repeatedly and persistently offered to both engage perpetrators and reinforce the need for perpetrators to be accountable for their abusive behaviours.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Accepted</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>
	<p>Ministries are committed to taking action via inter-ministerial collaboration to develop appropriate referral pathways and cross-sectoral service coordination to improve outcomes for perpetrators (including youth) who have, or are at risk-of, committing GBV-related offences. For example, as part of the 2022 to 2025 transfer payment agreements, to support continuous</p>

program improvement, Partner Assault Response (PAR) program service providers were tasked with undertaking activities designed to improve coordination and collaboration across the sector. Some of these activities include facilitating access to culturally appropriate services; conducting community outreach to increase program awareness; and the provision of information to clients about locally available services and victim rights.

Indirect support to IPV-related projects in communities is also delivered by the Ministry of the Solicitor General through time-limited and competitive public safety grants which can be utilized by police services, in collaboration with community partners, to implement programs/initiatives that are locally identified and tailored. These include:

1. **Community Safety and Policing (CSP) Grant:** Provides eligible police services/boards with flexibility to implement initiatives that address policing needs and priority risks related to safety and well-being, which can include initiatives relating to IPV. For example, under the 2022-2025 CSP Grant cycle, the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board currently receives funding that is partially used to support their Safe Centre Response Team (SCRT) pilot project, which focuses on IPV. Specifically, in January 2023, Peel Region announced the Safe Centre Response Team (SCRT) pilot – a collaboration between the Safe Centre of Peel and the Peel Regional Police – which was developed in response to the need for IPV prevention and early intervention in the region. The SCRT pilot includes two response teams comprised of a mobile support worker with experience in GBV and a specially trained police officer that provide appropriate, timely and complex care and support in intimate partner incidents.

2. **Victim Support Grant (VSG):** The VSG program aims to help to improve access to critical supports for victims and survivors of intimate partner violence/domestic violence, human trafficking and child exploitation, including culturally appropriate supports for racialized victims/survivors. This grant focuses on providing funding to police services to develop new or enhanced victim/survivor supports in collaboration with local community organizations, agencies, or Indigenous communities. Specific to the 2021-22 and 2022-23 VSG grant program cycle, \$5.9 million was allocated over the two fiscal years. The priority focus for 2021 to 2023 was specifically on supporting survivors of intimate partner violence and human trafficking. With support from the federal government, funding was provided to 37 police services working in collaboration with local organizations and community partners across the province.
3. **Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) Enhancement Grant:** MCRT's dispatch health and/or crisis response professionals with police to provide integrated supports to individuals and families in the community experiencing crisis. Opportunities exist for applicants to the Mobile Crisis Response Team Enhancement Grant to expand the use of social workers and crisis workers in their proposals in future iterations of the grant.

Youth Probation Services and Youth Custody/Detention Programs are overseen by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and support intervention, rehabilitation and reintegration of youth in the youth justice system to improve youth outcomes and community safety and reduce recidivism. MCCSS also focuses on prevention and early intervention for youth at-risk or who have committed GBV.

Recommendation 36: Improve the coordination of services addressing substance use, mental health, child protection, and IPV perpetration, and encourage cross-agency service provision and case management.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
	<p>Ministries are taking action using a concerted whole-of-government approach to improve coordination of services.</p> <p>Please see recommendation 35 response for further details on grants, initiatives and programming provided by the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN), the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG).</p> <p>In addition, SOLGEN is exploring opportunities to improve discharge/release planning and ensure integrated, coordinated services and new or enhanced Community Reintegration Planning Tables to streamline referrals to agencies providing support for complex and high-risk cases. Community reintegration planning is the process that prepares an individual for release from custody and seeks to impact recidivism and will involve working with justice partners and leveraging interjurisdictional best practices. Further, many PPOs currently participate in domestic violence high-risk committee meetings and situation tables, where available, aimed to provide support to offenders and</p>

victims through a coordinated approach. SOLGEN will continue to develop partnerships with external stakeholders to improve outcomes for perpetrators, victims and communities.

MCCSS also funds a number of initiatives aimed at improving the coordination of services addressing child protection and IPV perpetration in the province. The Community Capacity Building (CCB) program was first launched in 2006 to support Ontario's Differential Response Model. As part of the policy framework set out under CCB, community-based initiatives are chosen for their ability to enhance linkages between children's aid societies and community programs and decrease the intensity of child and youth involvement in the child protection system by addressing and mitigating risk factors which precipitate child welfare involvement. Currently, several community-based agencies receive funding to deliver IPV-focused programming to fathers in the province.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health has developed several initiatives in partnership with MAG, SOLGEN and MCCSS to support people with mental health and addiction issues who become involved in the criminal justice system. Most of these programs work closely with mental health courts, community reintegration tables, and community safety and well-being tables. These include:

1. **Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT)** - Health care professionals who attend crisis situations in partnership with police to engage individuals in distress, de-escalate the situation, and connect them with needed services such as safe beds and transitional case managers and minimize their interaction with the criminal justice system.

2. **Mental Health Court Support Workers (MHCSW):** Workers provide community MHA referrals and support as well as court diversion services whenever appropriate, to mentally ill individuals in conflict with the law. There are designated MHCSWs who work specifically with people with Dual Diagnosis across the province.
3. **Justice Supportive Housing:** Dedicated, long-term, stable, supportive housing units for people living with MHA issues who are at risk of repeat justice involvement. These units are available to people who are being released from custody and/or participating in court diversion.
4. **Release From Custody Workers (RFCW):** Provides short-term transitional case management support to persons with mental health and addictions issues who are leaving detention from a provincial correctional institution. RFCWs collaborate with and support discharge planners and social workers at the institution in order to plan and support successful community re-integration. The case management function is intended to support successful reintegration by supporting transition and access to community mental health and addictions services. The intended program outcomes are three-fold:
 - a) to facilitate transition to the community.
 - b) to reintegrate incarcerated individuals with mental health and addictions issues into community living with appropriate supports to help alleviate recidivism; and
 - c) to establish "networks" of support for previously incarcerated individuals in the receiving community.

Recommendation 37: As new services are funded, include aims and outcomes associated with building an underlying network of specialized services to address IPV perpetration and developing messaging around its availability.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
	<p>Ministries are taking action via inter-ministerial collaboration to develop appropriate referral pathways and cross-sectoral service coordination to improve outcomes for perpetrators (including youth) who have, or are at risk-of, committing GBV-related offences. See the response to recommendation 35 for more details.</p> <p>As part of this work, ministries will consider aims and outcomes associated with building an underlying network of specialized services to address IPV perpetration and the development of messaging around its availability.</p>

Recommendation 38: Ensure that IPV-related public education campaigns address IPV perpetration and should include men's voices, represent men's experiences, and prompt men to seek help to address their own abusive behaviours. They should highlight opening the door to conversations about concerning behaviours.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	Pending

Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
Ministries will explore options to leverage existing programs and initiatives aimed at education and awareness, including the Preventing Gender-based Violence (PGBV) Program, and engage with relevant stakeholders to identify gaps and needs to determine next steps in addressing this recommendation.	<p>Community organizations are currently funded to implement province-wide and local GBV education and awareness building initiatives as part of the province's Preventing Gender-based Violence (PGBV) Program.</p> <p>This program promotes broad recognition of how to seek support, identify risk factors and warning signs of GBV, promote community and bystander engagement, and is geographically and culturally relevant, trauma-informed and responsive to local needs. Options will be explored, including opportunities to leverage the existing Gender-based Violence Prevention Program, and stakeholders will be engaged to identify gaps and needs in supporting men to address concerning behaviour.</p>
<p>Recommendation 39: Endeavour to minimize destabilizing factors for perpetrators of IPV that increase risk, correlates of IPV, and barriers for survivors to leave violence. Specific consideration should be given to financial instability, housing insecurity, and mental health issues, including addictions treatment options, and how these factors and potential solutions are affected by rural contexts.</p>	
Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
	Ministries are taking action using a concerted whole-of-government approach to minimize destabilizing factors and to explore opportunities to ensure services promote family safety, healing, and prevent recurrence of violence and support survivors with recovery and long-term stability through

improved access to housing, childcare, and mental health and addiction services.

In 2020, the Ministry of Health (MOH) released Roadmap to Wellness, the governments plan to build a world-class Mental Health and Addiction (MHA) system. Supported by a commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over ten years, Roadmap is adding capacity to meet demand, filling gaps in the care continuum, and creating a provincial infrastructure for an MHA continuum of care that connects community, primary and acute care to better wrap around the needs of people with MHA issues. Since 2019-20:

- The government has flowed \$525 million in new base funding for MHA services and supports, meaning we are on track to meet our Roadmap funding commitment. This funding is supporting a range of services, including child and youth mental health, addictions services, supportive housing, mental health and justice and Indigenous mental health and addictions.
- We have invested \$93 million in new base funding in addictions services and supports, including bed-based services (BBS), day/evening treatment, and mobile services (e.g., mobile withdrawal management). Through this funding, the province has increased access to addictions medicine by investing in Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinics, which offer medical, psycho-social, and care navigation supports on a low-barrier basis to people who are ready to get help for their substance use issues.
- We have invested in the creation of a 22-site network of youth wellness hubs, which offer developmentally appropriate primary, mental health and addictions care to people aged 12 to 25 to fill the gap in services for youth addictions.

	<p>Additionally, in February 2022, Ontario announced the Addictions Recovery Fund: a one-time investment of \$90 million over three years that is supporting the opening of more addictions beds and other community services and supports. Ontario has also made investments in virtual addictions services. In 2021-22, the province announced funding for virtual intensive treatment pilot delivered by Renascent, a Toronto-based addictions service provider. The province has also invested in Breaking Free, a self-guided online tool to support people with mild to moderate substance use issues.</p> <p>Please see recommendation 21 for a list of initiatives that address housing insecurity for survivors of IPV and persons who wish to leave a situation of abuse or trafficking. Please see recommendation 36 response for further details on grants, initiatives and programming provided by Ontario.</p>
<p>Recommendation 46: Study the best approach for permitting disclosure of information about a perpetrator's history of IPV and the potential risk to new and future partners who request such information, with a view to developing and implementing legislation. In doing so, study Clare's law in the United Kingdom and similar legislation in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, Bill 274 (Intimate Partner Violence Disclosure Act, 2021), and any other relevant legislation and policy. In the interim, develop a draft policy that can address this issue.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Accepted in part</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>

<p>Ministries will further study the best approach for permitting disclosure of information about an individual's history of intimate partner violence (IPV) and potential risk to partners who request this information (e.g., a <i>Clare's Law</i>-type mechanism). There are already some systems in place for sharing information and supporting victims that address some aspects of a <i>Clare's Law</i>-type mechanism (e.g., Domestic Violence Occurrences Guideline; Major Case Management software). As a result, ministries will focus their efforts on studying a potential <i>Clare's Law</i>-type mechanism rather than developing an interim policy that could risk delaying progress in exploring the best approach to developing a disclosure scheme, and/or could duplicate existing services and programs.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services, Ministry of the Solicitor General, Ministry of the Attorney General, and Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery have been working together for several months to study the best approach for permitting disclosure of information about a perpetrator's history of IPV. As part of this ongoing collaborative work, ministries are examining <i>Clare's Law</i>-type mechanisms and other relevant legislation, as well as consulting with provincial partners in other jurisdictions (e.g., Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba) to consider whether intended goals could be achieved through amendments to existing policy tools or if new policy tools need to be developed (i.e., new legislation). Recommendation 17 (i.e., flagging records of individuals with histories of IPV-related incidents in police databases) has already been accepted in Part I of Ontario's response.</p>
<p>Recommendation 47: Set up IPV Registry for repeat IPV offenders similar to the <i>Sex Offender Information Registry Act</i> registry.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Rejected</p>	
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>
<p>There are a range of existing mechanisms in place that track and record information about IPV occurrences in Ontario. In Ontario, an IPV registry would likely duplicate and complicate existing mechanisms already in place, such as Ontario's Major Case Management (OMCM) system, the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), Domestic Violence Occurrence Guidelines, and the Criminal Justice Digital Design (CJDD) initiative.</p>	

The OMCM system records instances of IPV when such occurrences are connected to homicide cases, found human remains, and missing person occurrences, where the circumstances indicate a strong possibility of foul play. Information contained in the mandated OMCM software is accessible to all municipal police services in Ontario as well as the Ontario Provincial Police. Additionally, CPIC is an integrated database where specific law enforcement data can be entered, electronically queried, and shared with law enforcement partners. Custody and control of the information entered on CPIC is deemed to be the sole domain of the agency making the entry. Special Interest Person (SIP) is also a category within the CPIC system and is used to record data on persons who are known to be dangerous to self or others.

Other recommendations have also been accepted in full or in part that serve similar purposes to an IPV registry. As noted in the Part I response to Recommendation 17, Ontario's Domestic Violence Occurrences Guideline states that police services' procedures should provide that, in cases involving high risk or where there is a repeat offender, the offender should be entered into the SIP category on the CPIC as soon as possible (and no later than within 24 hours). In all cases, the record should make specific reference to the person's history of domestic violence and include a Caution "F" for family violence. Additionally, as set out in the response to Recommendation 14 above, police services are currently working to connect existing records management systems with the CJDD initiative. The CJDD initiative is being used to enable information, data, and documentation regarding dangerous and repeat offenders to be shared digitally and on-demand across the justice sector to standardize output of information for those accessing data.

Furthermore, other registries (e.g., related to sex offenders) are generally only used for additional investigative purposes and have limited access due to privacy concerns. They have also been subject to Charter challenges.

<p>Although the concept of an IPV registry may seem to support a Clare's Law-type mechanism, no other Canadian jurisdictions have required a dedicated registry to support their respective Clare's Law-type mechanisms.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 49: Start grassroots "Safe Spaces" program that businesses can participate in where survivors can feel safe and ask for information (e.g., pamphlets and handouts from women's shelters, VWAP and men's programs).</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Accepted in part</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>
<p>The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) conducted preliminary research and findings indicate challenges in implementing the Safe Spaces model in rural communities.</p> <p>MCCSS will focus its efforts on exploring opportunities and best practices, as well as seeking stakeholder input, on how best to improve Safe Spaces in diverse communities.</p>	<p>MCCSS currently provides funding for community-based education and awareness initiatives through the Preventing Gender Based Violence (PGBV) Program. Opportunities to leverage and build on GBV prevention education and awareness initiatives to improve Safe Spaces in communities will be further explored.</p>

Recommendation 54: Enhance court supports for IPV survivors and develop an IPV-focused model for criminal courts similar to the Family Court Support Worker Program. Consideration should be given to the independent legal advice program for survivors of sexual violence as a model for IPV survivors.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
Opportunities to enhance existing supports for IPV survivors going through the court process will be further explored.	<p>Programming offered by the Ministry of the Attorney General, such as the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) and Indigenous-specific Victim Services, already provide support for IPV survivors going through the court process. Although special processes exist that enhance the supports offered to survivors of IPV, opportunities for further enhancements to VWAP for IPV cases will be explored.</p> <p>Additionally, in Ontario, survivors of IPV, who have been sexually assaulted are eligible for the Independent Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault program. Consideration will be given to expanding this program or other legal support programs to all IPV survivors in a manner that doesn't duplicate existing services that provide independent legal advice to survivors of IPV.</p>

Recommendation 58: Commission a comprehensive, independent, and evidence-based review of the mandatory charging framework employed in Ontario, with a view to assessing its effect on IPV rates and recidivism, with particular attention to any unintended negative consequences.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
<p>At this time, the Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) does not have plans to commission an independent review of the mandatory charging framework. However, as part of future regulatory development work under the <i>Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019</i>, which could consider the development of relevant, adequate and effective policing standards relating to various types of investigations (including IPV), SOLGEN would conduct a thorough review of the Policing Standards Manual (PSM) and its guidelines in relation to this recommendation. As part of any potential future review that may be undertaken by the ministry, SOLGEN will also consider any independent external reviews and studies that currently exist in relation to mandatory charging frameworks.</p>	<p>Ministries appreciate the intent of the recommendation and acknowledge that intimate partner violence is a serious issue. We continue to work to address intimate partner violence using a concerted, whole-of-government approach.</p> <p>SOLGEN maintains the Policing Standards Manual (PSM), which contains guidelines that are advisory in nature, to assist police services with the development of their own policy/procedures as part of the requirements of the <i>Police Services Act</i>. Under the PSM, the Domestic Violence Occurrences (LE-024) guideline includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 15 includes the mandatory charge policy which states that in all domestic violence occurrences, an officer is to lay a charge where there are reasonable grounds to do so. • Section 16 states that a decision to lay charges should not be influenced by any of the following factors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. marital status/cohabitation of the parties; b. disposition of previous police calls involving the same victim and suspect;

- c. the victim's unwillingness to attend court proceedings or the officer's belief that the victim will not cooperate;
 - d. likelihood of obtaining a conviction in court;
 - e. verbal assurances by either parties that the violence will cease;
 - f. denial by either party that the violence occurred;
 - g. the officer's concern about reprisals against the victim by the suspect; or
 - h. gender, race, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status or occupation of the victim and suspect.
- Section 17 states that an officer should explain to both the victim and the suspect that it is their duty to lay a charge when there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed, and that only a Crown can withdraw the charge.
 - Section 20 indicates that procedures should address dual charges, as well as the laying of counter-charges, and highlight the importance of determining the primary offender in order to distinguish assault from defensive self-protection.

As part of future regulatory development work under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, which could consider the development of relevant, adequate and effective policing standards relating to various types of investigations (including IPV), SOLGEN would conduct a thorough review of the PSM and its guidelines in relation to this recommendation. As part of any potential future review that may be undertaken by the ministry, SOLGEN will also consider any independent external reviews and studies that currently exist in relation to mandatory charging frameworks.

Recommendation 59: Conduct study of judges' decisions in IPV cases and track in longitudinal studies for recidivism, violence escalation, and future victims.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Rejected	
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
<p>Ministries appreciate the intent of the recommendation to study judicial decisions in relation to data on recidivism, violence escalation, and future victims.</p> <p>We recognize the importance of the independence of the judiciary and non-interference by the government with judicial decision making. Academics and researchers with expertise in this area would be best positioned to undertake this type of study.</p>	

Recommendation 61: Require that primary actors advise the CFO in a timely manner of expected and changed residential addresses of individuals who have been placed under weapons conditions.

Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?	If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?
Accepted in part	In progress
Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.	Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.
A Firearm Interest Police entry submitted by a police service to the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) does not currently include the residential address of individuals who have been placed under weapons conditions. As part of potential future work on reviewing the Policing Standards Manual and its guidelines, SOLGEN will continue to review the	The Ministry of the Solicitor General (SOLGEN) maintains the Preventing or Responding to Occurrences Involving Firearms Guideline (LE-029) to assist police in their investigations. Paragraph 3 of LE-029 requires every police service's procedures to set out the steps that officers should take to prevent or minimize the potential risk of violence involving a firearm by an individual

recommendation to assess the appropriate amendments to enhance the guideline in response to this recommendation.

or suspect who has been involved in any domestic violence occurrence, or occurrence involving child abuse, sexual assault, criminal harassment, hate/bias motivated crime, uttering death threats, threatened suicide or an emotionally disturbed person by:

- a. determining whether any of the individuals involved in the occurrence own, possess or have access to a firearm, ammunition, firearms certificate, registration certificate, permit, licence or authorization regardless of whether sufficient grounds exist to lay a charge against the individual;
- b. assessing whether there are reasonable grounds for believing there is a threat to safety, including in all domestic violence occurrences considering the risk indicators identified in the domestic violence supplementary report form;
- c. considering and exercising, where applicable, all powers available to search and seize firearms, ammunition, or related licences, certificates or permits;
- d. applying for a prohibition order under section 111 of Part III of the *Criminal Code* or seeking a revocation under *The Firearms Act*, unless such an order has been imposed under section 515 or any other section of the *Criminal Code*; and
- e. documenting their actions with an explanation.

Additionally, paragraph 5 of LE-029 requires every police service to have procedures on information that should:

- a. address the Firearm Interest Police (FIP) category of CPIC and should be consistent with Policing Services Division's Bulletin 4/98 on FIP Records that was distributed with the All Chiefs Memorandum 98-077 on September 29, 1998;

	<p>b. require timely and prompt entry of information into FIP; and c. provide for a prompt response to FIP queries from the CFO and other police agencies.</p> <p>As part of potential future work on reviewing the Policing Standards Manual and its guidelines, SOLGEN will continue to review the recommendation to assess the appropriate amendments to enhance the guideline in response to this recommendation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 86: Reconvene one year following the verdict to discuss the progress in implementing these recommendations.</p>	
<p>Has recommendation been (a) accepted, (b) accepted in part, or (c) rejected?</p>	<p>If accepted, is implementation (a) pending, (b) in progress, or (c) complete?</p>
<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Provide an explanation if (b) or (c) and, if (b), indicate an alternative approach to achieve the same aim.</p>	<p>Provide a detailed update on the steps taken and planned with respect to implementation.</p>
	<p>Representatives from the Government of Ontario will attend the meeting scheduled by the Office of the Chief Coroner to reconvene the parties to the CKW inquest on June 28, 2023.</p>