

# VAWIR

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RELATIONSHIPS

A Community Call for Action against Intimate Partner Violence



# WHO WE ARE

~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

**THE PRINCE GEORGE  
VAWIR COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
WORKS TO ENSURE A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY AND  
JUSTICE RESPONSE  
TO THOSE IMPACTED BY INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.**





**Our Community Table**





# Key Terms

1. IPV
2. Women Centered Framework



# What is IPV?

## Intimate Partner Violence

The World Health Organization identifies IPV as a major global public health concern, as it affects millions of people and can result in immediate and long-lasting health, social and economic consequences.

- IPV impacts people of all genders, ages and socioeconomic, racial, educational, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. However, women experience this form of gender-based violence at much higher rates, most often perpetrated by men.
- IPV can occur in both public and private spaces, as well as online. When children are exposed to IPV, it is considered a form of child maltreatment.



# What is IPV?

IPV can happen:

- within a marriage, common-law or dating relationship
- regardless of the gender and sexual orientation of the partners
- at any time during a relationship and even after it has ended
- whether or not partners live together or are sexually intimate with one another

IPV can include:

- coercive control
- criminal harassment (also referred to as stalking)
- emotional/psychological abuse
- financial abuse (also referred to as economic abuse)
- physical abuse
- reproductive coercion
- sexual violence
- spiritual abuse
- technology-facilitated violence (also referred to as cyberviolence)





# Women Centered Framework

British Columbia Transition House Society -BCSTH (2025) outlines that an Intersectional Feminist Framework is essential when doing this work.

Intersectional feminist framework:

- Recognizes that feminism means different things to different people
- Encompasses a gender based analysis but takes into consideration other social structures and power relations that impact women's lives (for example, racism, ableism, heterosexism, etc.)
- Encourages us to reflect on our own social positions in our daily interactions: what are our interests, perspectives, and in what ways do we hold and exert power?
- Enables us to strategize around how to make our services more inclusive by asking questions around: Who is included and who is missing? Who is being heard and who is silenced?



# Women Centered Framework

Most importantly we support BCSTH's position that:

“The term “women” refers to and is inclusive of all self-identified women... and that while gender-based violence has significant impacts on cis-gender women and girls in Canada, 2SLGBTQQIA+ and gender diverse people are disproportionately impacted by experiences of violence.” (BCSTH, 2025).





# Women Centered Framework

“Anybody can be abused, no matter their background, identity, or circumstance. But women, girls, and gender-diverse people are at high risk of gender-based violence. Some are at even higher risks, due to the additional discrimination and barriers they face.” – Canada Women’s Foundation

(2025)



# WHY IPV COORDINATION?



**THE GOAL OF THE GROUP IS TO INCLUDE KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO IPV.**

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE IPV COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

1. TO BE INCLUSIVE AND ADVOCATE FOR EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE ACCESSING SERVICES WHILE BEING SENSITIVE TO THE CHALLENGES OF RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, AGE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS, AND/OR ABILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS.
2. TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT FORUM FOR COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND SYSTEM AGENCIES WHO RESPOND TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.
3. TO IDENTIFY AND SEEK SOLUTIONS TO BARRIERS THAT PREVENT OR IMPEDE

# WHY IPV COORDINATION?



## OBJECTIVES OF THE IPV COORDINATION COMMITTEE

4. TO SUPPORT TRAINING ON THE DYNAMICS OF IPV.
5. TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF IPV.
6. TO REVIEW OUR TERMS OF REFERENCE ANNUALLY TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVENESS.
7. TO UTILIZE FUNDING AS APPROPRIATE TO ENHANCE THE WORK OF THE IPV COORDINATION COMMITTEE.



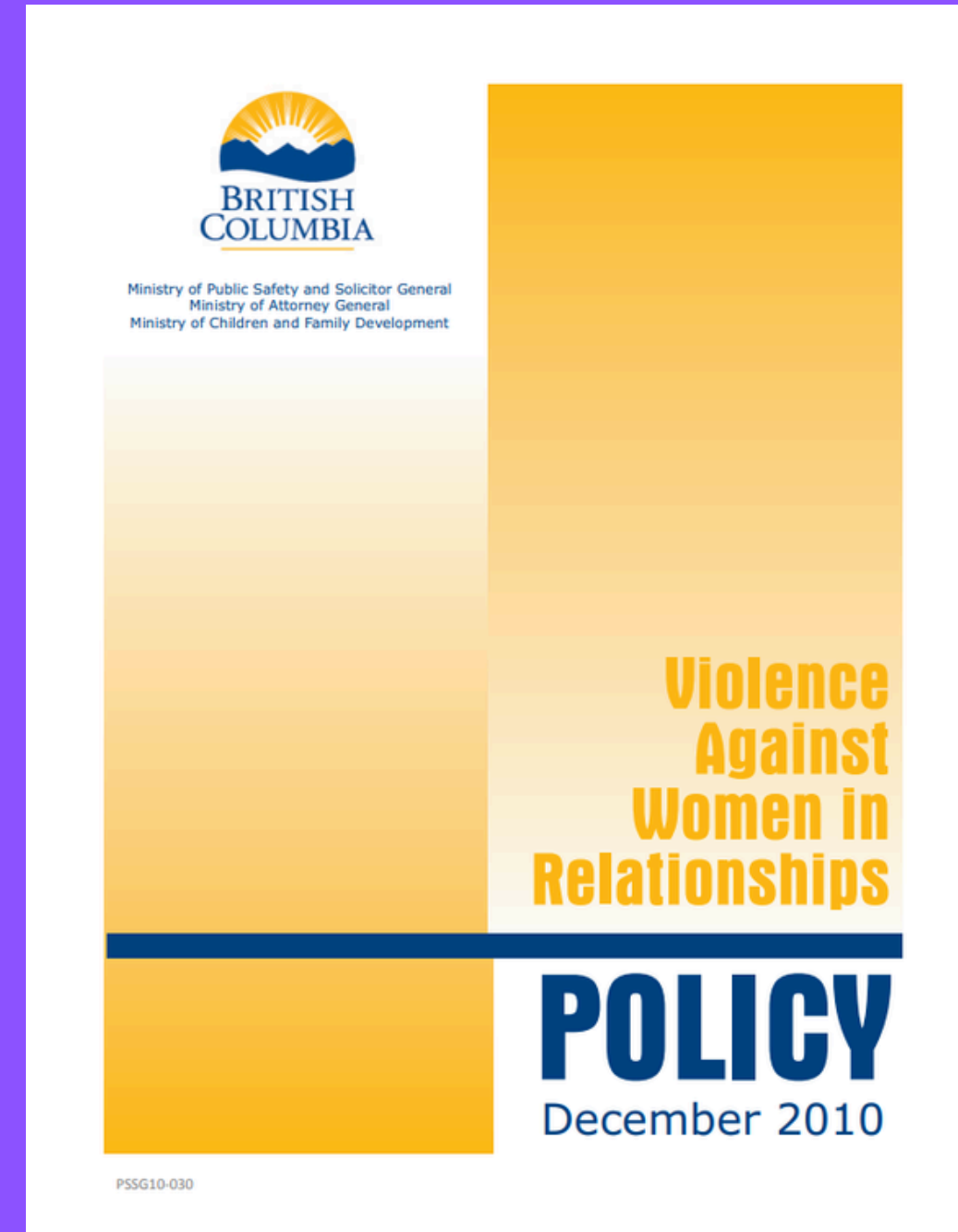
# Key Stats

1. The 2019 General Social Survey on Canadian's Safety (victimization) shows that only 19% of spousal violence victims reported their abuse to police. That reporting percentage has actually dropped almost 10% within the last 20 years \*Source – Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics of Statistics Canada
2. However, Between 2018 to 2023 police-reported IPV increased by 13% (Conflicting data).
3. Women and girls represent four in five (78%) of victims of Intimate Partner Violence
4. Intimate partner violence in the North was 21% higher in 2023 than in 2018. (With overall violent crime rising 28%)

\*Source –STATS CAN [The Daily — Trends in police-reported family violence and intimate partner violence in Canada, 2023](#)



# VAWIR POLICY



# #AccelerateAction

Why are we here today...

## 1. Mayor and Council Support of Work

- Recognition on City Website
- Support at our events, initiatives and more

## 2. Mayor and Council Attending a VAWIR Meeting and ongoing representation

- We would like to see all Mayor and Council attend at least one meeting with a representative attending ongoing
- Find out what we do, how you can be apart of the action
- Learn more about IPV and the response that is needed at a municipal level





# #AccelerateAction

Why are we here today...



March 8th -  
International  
Women's Day

3. Bi-Yearly meetings/presentations with Mayor and Council to learn more about what the Committee is doing and what Mayor and Council is doing to address IPV
  - How can we support you?
  
4. Calls for Justice: For All Governments
  - Considering our location, population and more we encourage Mayor and Council to review the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into MMIWG
  - We need to act now and address violence against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ Peoples

# #AccelerateAction

Why are we here today...

## 5. Royal Proclamation: Purple Thursday

March 8th -  
International  
Women's Day



# #AccelerateAction

Why are we here today...

March 8th -  
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## 6. Epidemic of Violence

Intimate partner violence and human trafficking are an "epidemic" in Prince George, says Mayor Simon Yu in a report to council.

Yu asked councillors to support the idea of joining the B.C. Human Trafficking Prevention Network during council's Monday, July 22 meeting.

In the report, Yu notes that the city's standing committee on intergovernmental affairs has been exploring the issue for several months, and his goal is "to provide council with opportunities to enhance the municipality's role as a partner in fighting human trafficking and raise awareness on related issues."

The report states that logistics at the committee level meant the request had to be filed as a mayor's report.

Council will be asked Monday to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic. In his motion, Yu notes that 20,000 women a year experience intimate partner violence in B.C., and also that the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime states men in Canada experience intimate partner violence in significant numbers, yet little attention has been paid to their needs.

"The City of Prince George has an opportunity to use our voice to support work that draws attention to these issues," the mayor's report states. "If we choose to make such a declaration, we can also reach out to our colleagues in local government and ask that they consider doing the same to increase the impact."

Council approved a draft motion to declare an epidemic and signed the statement of support to join the B.C. Human Trafficking Prevention Network.



What can we do together?



**THE END**

# A Community Call for Action against Intimate Partner Violence

