



# DAWN CANADA

## EVA-BC Workshop

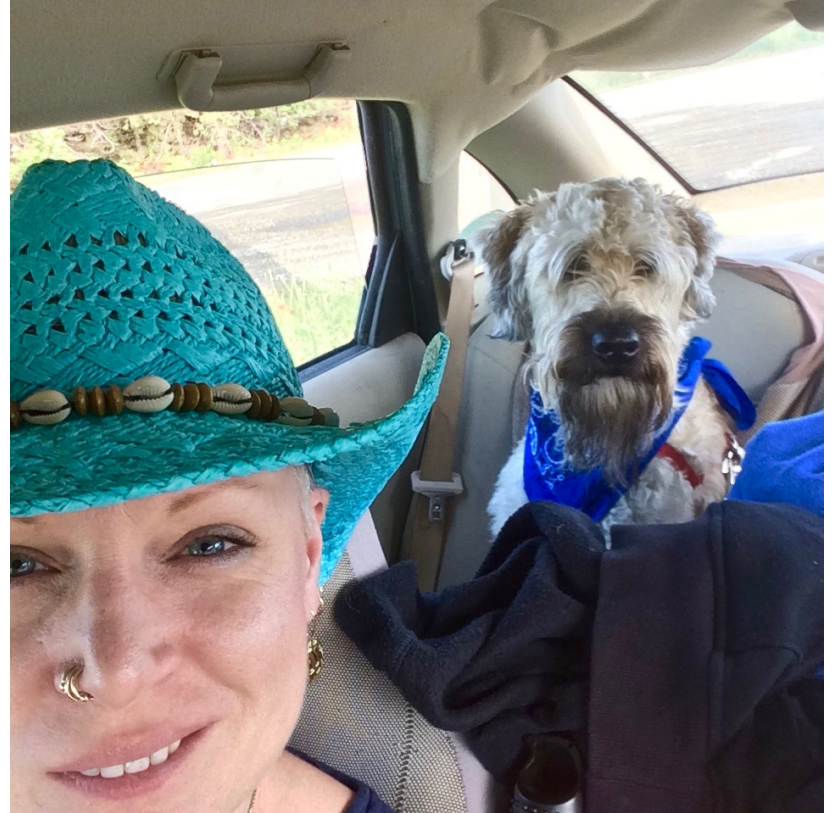
Best Practices for Women with Disabilities and  
Women: Avoiding Secondary Violence through  
Systemic Barriers

**Friday November 25, 2016**

**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE &  
DISABILITY**



# INTRODUCTIONS



# ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definitions
WWD/DW	Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
DAWN	DisAbled Women Network of Canada
LPS	Legislation, Policy and Service Responses to Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women in Canada
NAC	National Advisory Committee on Violence against WWD/DW
PRAT	Provincial Regional Advisory Committee
TOR	Terms of References
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation



According to the World Health Organization's 2011 report on disability, there are over **one billion people** with disabilities worldwide, more than half of which are women, making US the world's largest minority group.

World Health Report on Disability, 2011

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70670/1/WHO\\_NMH\\_VIP\\_11.01\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70670/1/WHO_NMH_VIP_11.01_eng.pdf)



Women with disabilities and  
Deaf women are at a higher risk of  
being  
targets of violence  
due to social views and prejudices  
regarding disability.

Parliamentary Brief – Promising practices to end violence against women study  
FEWO, December 2, 2014: <http://www.dawncanada.net/?=1729>



For women and girls with disabilities,  
their experience of violence often  
remains  
hidden and unaddressed  
due to the multiple barriers they face  
in accessing sexual and reproductive  
health, psychosocial, and criminal  
justice services.



Human Rights Watch:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/03/05/include-women-girls-disabilities-anti-violence-efforts>

Fifty eight percent  
of all complaints received by the  
Canadian Human Rights  
Commission in 2015 were based  
on the grounds of disability.

Canadian Human Rights Commission:  
<http://www.chrcreport.ca/en/numbers>



## ENCOURAGING COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

- Addressing violence against women with disabilities is a collective responsibility
- National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women (NAC)





## ABLEISM AS A FORM OF VIOLENCE

- Ableism is a form of violence against women with disabilities and Deaf women
- Women with disabilities and Deaf women experience unique forms of violence.
- Rape mythology and ableism create misconceptions of gender-based sexual violence and place women with disAbilities at greater risk for sexual assault.



Centre for Research & Education  
on Violence Against Women & Children

LEARNING NETWORK

## LearningNetwork Brief 11

**Ableism – A Form of Violence Against Women**  
Critical Reflections by Fran Odette

*Facilitate. Educate. Collaborate.*

## WOMEN ARE BECOMING DISABLED THROUGH VIOLENCE

- Women survivors of intimate partner violence are vulnerable to traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- They report elevated rates of TBI (35 to 80%) (Kwako et al., 2011)
- Criminalized women with TBI have more history of physical (68%) and sexual abuse (60%) than those without TBI



## **WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES NEED:**

- Knowledge of where to get help and information in the community
- Awareness of their rights to equitable service
- Access to inclusive and accessible supports and services in their communities
- Peer support groups to provide social support and combat isolation
- Strategies and support for building self-esteem, empowerment and self-determination
- Well-trained advocates to help navigate the system
- Access to more supports and services in their communities

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## OUR VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY

- Build a body of evidence
- Address systemic barriers
- Support leadership of women with disabilities and Deaf women
- Shift responsibility for violence-prevention to larger community / society

## ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

- National Accommodation and Accessibility Survey (NAAS)
  - A review of access to shelters and transition houses (2007-2009)
  - Confirmed the need for better outreach to women with disabilities and Deaf women
  - An audit tool that continues to be available

### NAAS pt 1 Contact /General Info/Accessibility SNAAP partie 1

#### 1. CONTACT INFORMATION/COORDONNÉES

National Accommodation and Accessibility Survey  
 Sondage national sur l'accessibilité et les mesures d'accommodement  
 DAWN-RAFH Canada  
 DisAbleD Women's Network Canada  
 Réseau d'action des femmes handicapées du Canada  
 110, rue Ste Thérèse, bureau 005  
 Montréal, QC H2Y 1E6  
 (514)396-0009



1. Please enter in your contact information. SVP entrez vos coordonnées.

Name of transition house/Nom de votre maison de transition

Address/Adresse:

Address 2/Adresse 2:

City/Town/Ville/village:

Province/Province:

Postal Code/Code postal:

Email Address/Adresse courriel

Phone Number/ Numéro de téléphone:

2. Additional Information/reenseignements supplémentaires

TTY/ATS:

## •In Focus: Bringing Women with Disabilities into the Picture (2010-2014)

- National pan-Canadian anti-violence initiative
- Two projects in one
- Funded by Status of Women Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors (ESDC)
- Community development approach
- Brought together service providers (police, victims services, shelter workers, counselors) with women with disabilities and Deaf women in 13 communities across Canada



○  
**SUPPORTING THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN  
WITH DISABILITIES**

Develop tools for women with disabilities and Deaf women

Equip them with knowledge and skills for self-advocacy

Support their leadership at the community level

## BUILDING LEADERSHIP VOICES: WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES AND DEAF WOMEN SPEAK ABOUT SYSTEMIC VIOLENCE

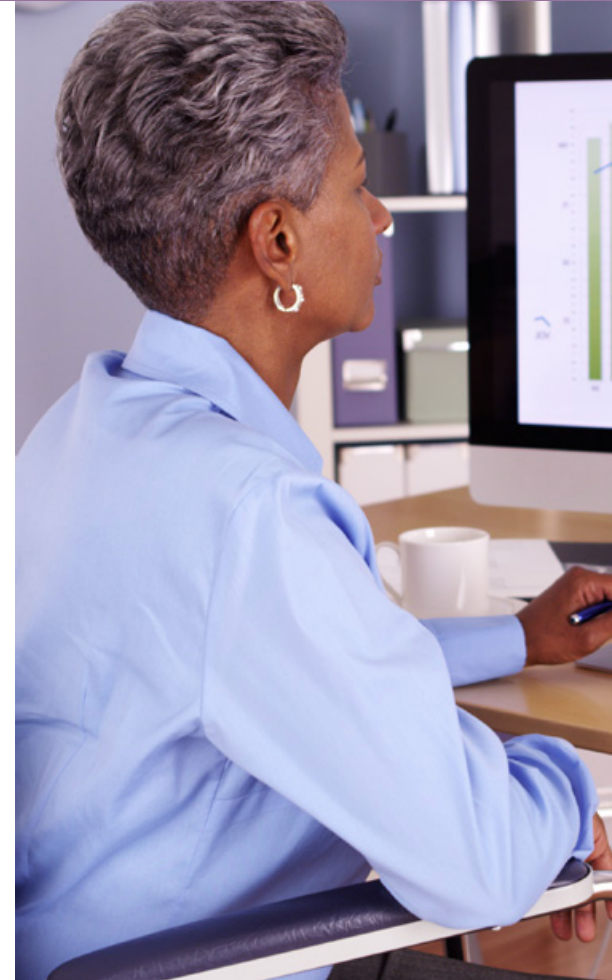
- Develop the leadership capacity of WWD/DW to influence policy and programs in police services, victim services, and violence against women (VAW) services :
  - by strengthening their skills and capacity to articulate their recommendations to policy and program makers, as well as to the general public via social and traditional media
  - by conducting and record interviews to gather their recommendations related to the types of violence prevention policy and service responses that they require





## ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS THROUGH POLICY CHANGE

What do you need from DAWN to meet the women's needs at your organization and community?



# DAWN CANADA'S RESPONSE

## Legislation, Policy & Service Responses to Violence Against Women with Disabilities & Deaf women in Canada (LPS) project



- Current work: Legislation, Policy & Service Responses to Violence Against Women with Disabilities & Deaf women in Canada (LPS) project.
- Multi-year 2015-2018 – **funded by Status of Women Canada**
- 3 provinces: British Columbia, Ontario and Québec
- 3 sectors: violence prevention, victim services and police services
- Goal: To bridge the gap between policy and service delivery by providing WWD//DW with an opportunity to propose responses directly to policy makers and service providers.



# OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness of policy/programs makers and service providers of the specific needs of WWD/DW who are experiencing violence.
- Encourage the development of provincial/territorial policies, programs and services so that they are better able to address secondary or systemic violence against WWD/DW.
- Empower WWD/DW to provide their recommendations and solutions to addressing secondary or systemic violence directly to policy makers and service providers.





## Video and Discussion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EovgP4YXjL8>

## WHAT IS POLICY?

Definition

Distinctions between federal, provincial, regional, and organization policy

Are you aware of any nat./prov. policies that apply to WWD in relation to your work? If so, how do they impact your practice.

## Discussion

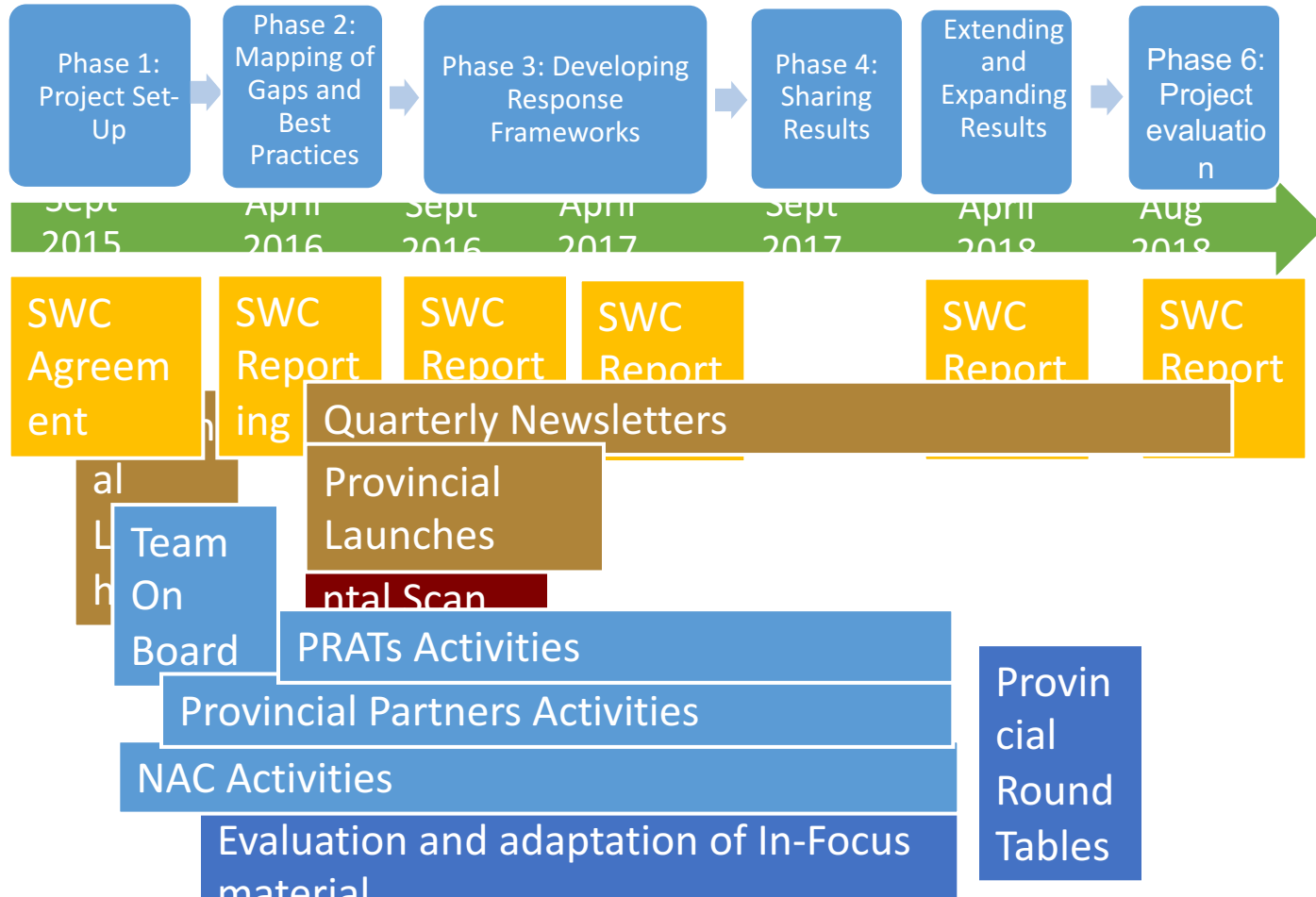
How do you and your organizations support women with disabilities and Deaf women?

Do you believe policy is working?

Does your organization have a policy in place?

What are some of your main issues?

# KEY PROJECT MILESTONES/ACTIVITIES



# PROJECT STRUCTURE

## PRATs

- 4-5 Provincial Regional Advisory Team (PRAT) in each province
- Composed of WWD/DW, Police, Victim Services and VAW sectors representatives

## Provincial Partners

- 2-3 provincial partners in each participating province (BC, Ontario and Quebec)
- Will help with the development and implementation of the PRATs

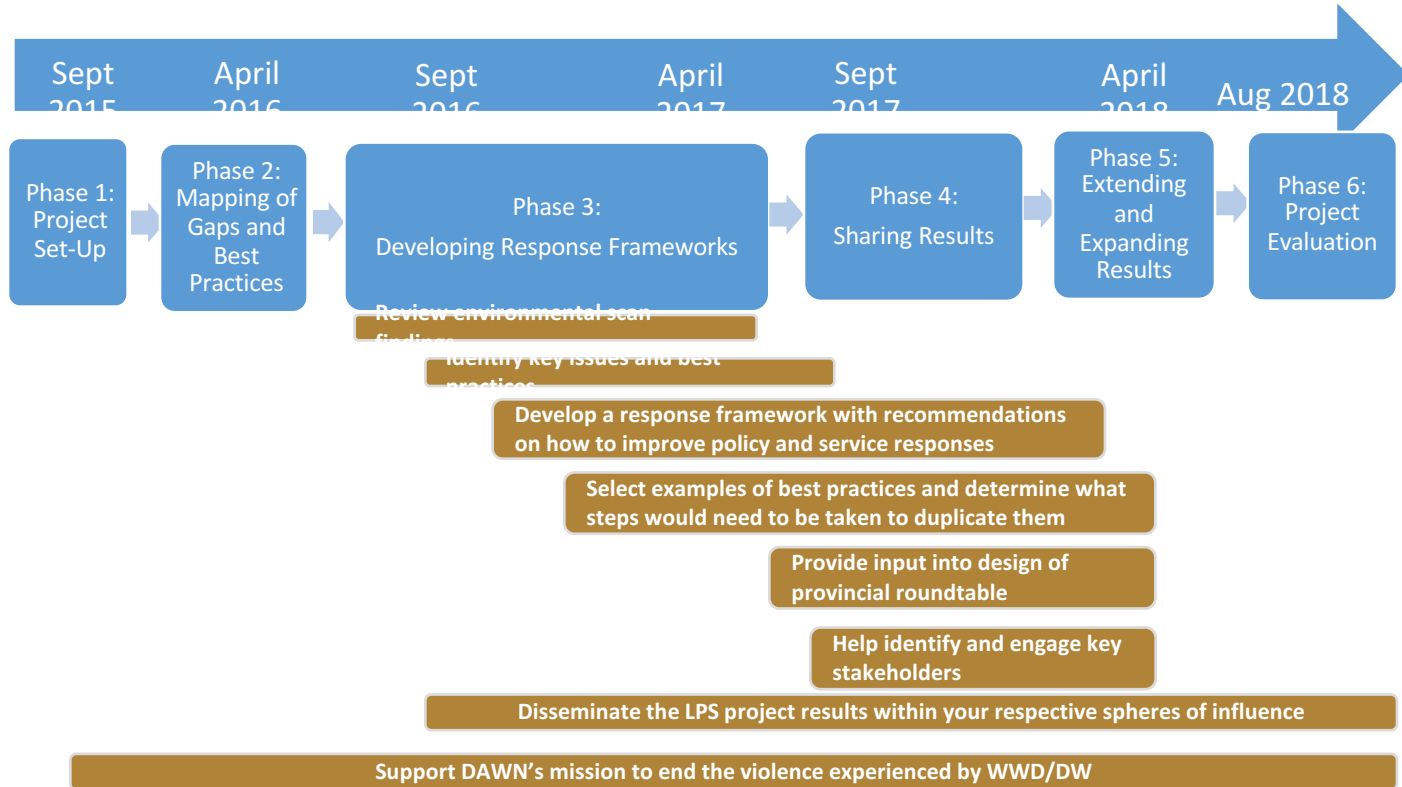
## National Advisory Committee

- 10-15 experts, advocates and researchers and includes representatives from the VAW, Justice and Victim's Services sectors

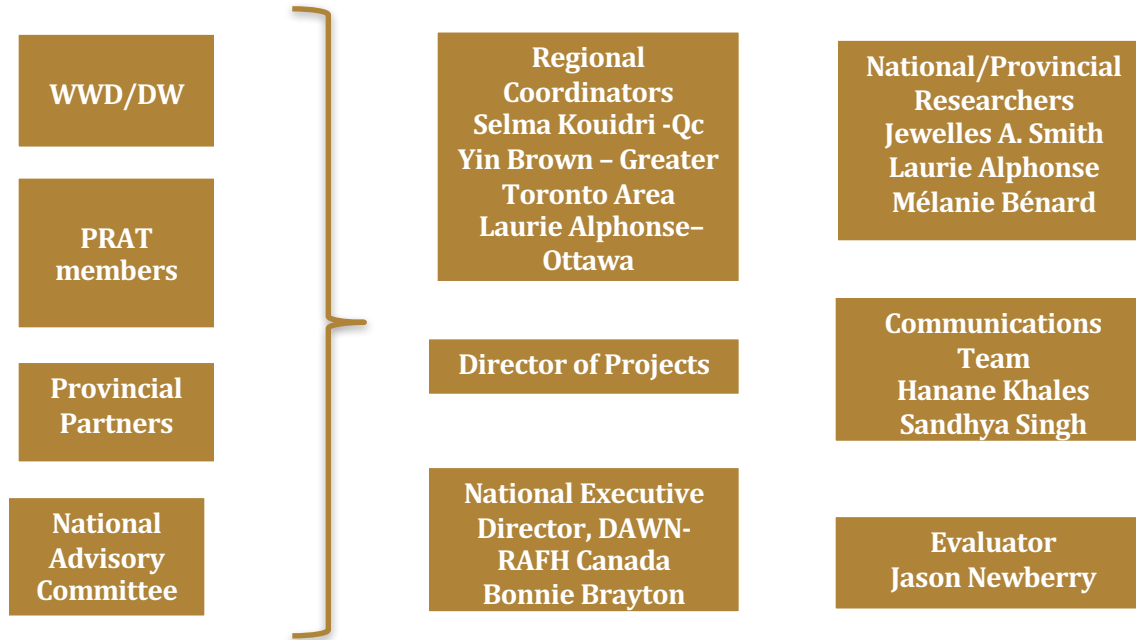




# ROLES OF PRATs



# PROJECT TEAM





# Timelines

# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Organisation

Canadian Labour Congress

Canadian Institute of Health Research, Research Chair in Gender Work

YWCA Canada

Canadian Women's Foundation

Native Women's Association of Canada

Co-Chair, Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)

Canadian Network of Shelters and Transition Houses

Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC)

Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions

Canadian Labour Congress

Canadian Chiefs of Police

National Crime Prevention or Crime Prevention Ottawa /CODA

Office for Disability Issues Policy Branch

Status of Women Canada Policy Branch

Public Safety/Department of Justice Policy Branch



# ROLES OF NATIONAL ADVISORY

## National Advisory Committee

- Provide advice and recommendations to improve responses to violence against WWD/DW in Canada.
- Recommend how to improve policy and service responses with a specific focus on successful interventions, emerging best practice and the development of a national resource and referral service and a pan-Canadian response to the specific needs of WWD/DW.
- Review the preliminary research from the LPS project and provide advices and feedback on the direction and content.
- Where possible, inform DAWN of potential supplementary funding for the LPS initiative at the national or provincial level in order to fully implement the project.
- Dissemination of the LPS project results within your respective spheres of influence.
- Support DAWN's mission to end the violence experienced by WWD/DW.



## CONFIRMED PARTNERS

- Ending Violence Association of BC
- Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship
- National and Quebec City
- YWCA Canada
- Association du Québec pour l'intégration sociale
- Fédération des mouvements personnes d'abord du Québec
- Regroupement Québécois des Centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel
- Girls Action Foundation
- Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes
- Réseau international sur le processus de production du handicap



## ROLES OF PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

### Provincial Partners

The main focus of the collaboration is to exchange knowledge to ensure better implementation of the LPS project to ensure we will be better able to address needs and issues of WWD/DW related to violence.

- Identify key decision-makers and community leaders in their province for each PRAT.
- Review environmental scan findings and provide additional input on policy and service provision gaps and best practices in the area of secondary systemic violence.
- Review response framework developed by PRATs and comment on one or two policy and service gaps and propose steps for addressing identify by PRATs.



## ROLES OF PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

### Provincial Partners (cont.)

- When possible, will provide logistical support or assistance to identify meeting locations for the regional working groups.
- Collaborate for grant applications to provide additional funding to the LPS Project.
- Ensure intersectionally instruments are used in the context of the LPS Project as applicable in national, provincial research and PRATs.
- Help with publication of the LPS Project finding.
- Other Areas of Collaboration related to the LPS Project may be further explored or developed.







## Regional Teams in BC

Revelstoke

Vancouver

Haida Gwaii

Prince George



## ROLES OF PROVINCIAL REGIONAL ADVISORY TEAM (PRAT)

### PRAT

- Review environmental scan findings from national and provincial research and provide feedback and advices on the content.
- Identify key issues within their community as well as best practices related to secondary systemic violence against WWD/DW.
- Develop a response framework – identifying one or two policy and service gaps and propose steps for addressing with advices and recommendations to improve responses to violence against WWD/DW.



## ROLES OF PROVINCIAL REGIONAL ADVISORY TEAM (PRAT)

### PRAT (cont.)

- Help identify and engage key stakeholders, policy makers, decision-makers to participate in the provincial roundtable.
- Disseminate the LPS project results within their respective spheres of influence.
- Some members of the working groups will participate in regional/provincial activities to increase awareness of the issues and best practices related to violence against WWD/DW.
- Support DAWN's mission to end the violence experienced by WWD/DW.



## About the Project

- Methodology
- Criteria
- Timelines





## Methodology

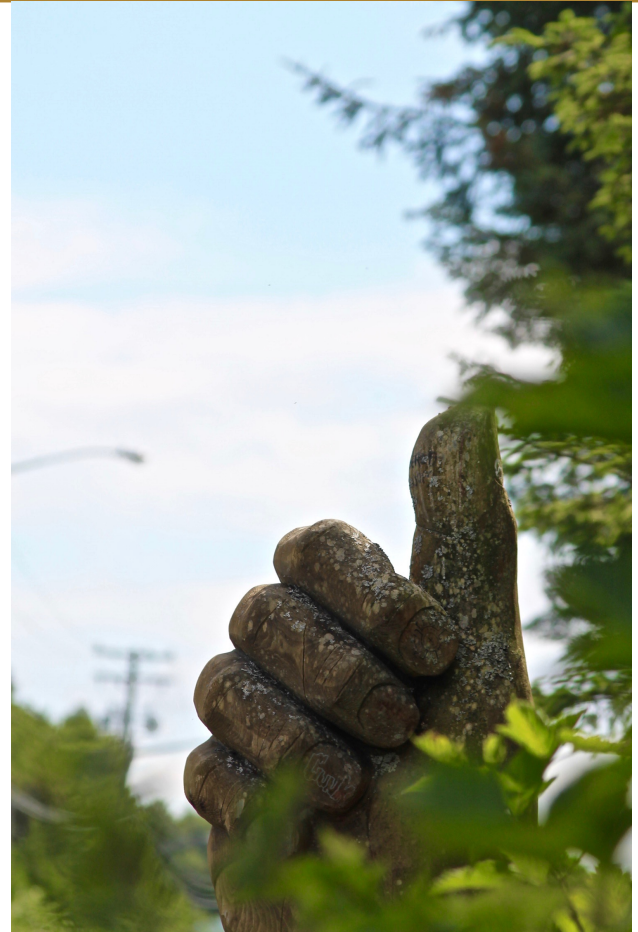
## LPS research in BC—Criteria for scans

### Development Process

- What triggered the development of this law / policy?
- Who was involved in its development?
- Were women with disabilities and/or Deaf women consulted in the development process? If so, at what stage?

### Scope

- What is the scope of this law / policy (i.e. is it municipal, provincial, federal or international)?
- Is it specifically about violence against women?
- What is its stated objective?
- Which ministries or organizations are responsible for its implementation?



## LPS research in BC—Criteria for scans

### Disability Specificity

- Is this law / policy specifically aimed at or about women with disabilities and/or Deaf women?
- If not, does it mention women with disabilities and/or Deaf women?

### Intersections

- Does this law / policy mention other marginalized groups (ex. visible minorities, newcomers, religious minorities)?
- Does it take intersectionality into account (i.e. diverse identities and forms of discrimination experienced with women with disabilities and Deaf women)?
- Does it address challenges specific to rural (vs urban) communities?



## LPS research in BC—Criteria for scans

### Accessibility

- Is this law / policy available in alternative formats (i.e. sign language, brail, plain language, etc.)?
- Does it mention accommodations for women with disabilities and/or Deaf women?

### Effectiveness

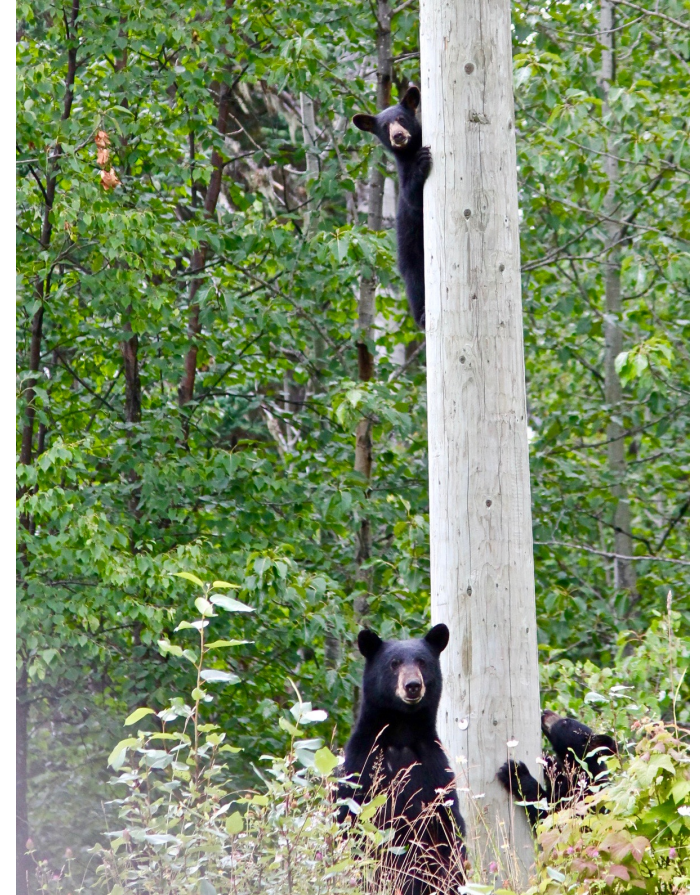
- Has this law / policy accomplished its stated objective (ex. based on results of a formal review or report)?
- Are there implementation guidelines?
- Are there monitoring mechanisms?





## LPS research in BC—First Impressions

- Documents and websites reviewed
- Federal versus Provincial differences in legislation and policy
- Reactionary Policies: Picton, Schoenborn, Smith
- Child Protection based rather than women's safety prioritized
- Not easily accessible for women to locate
- In general, no clear plan to support women with disabilities and Deaf women

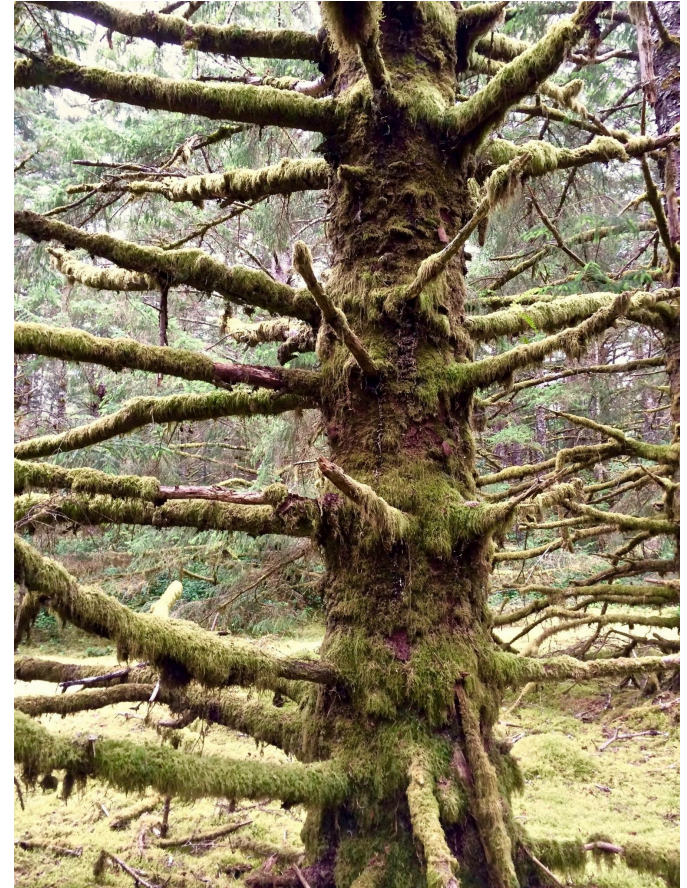


## LPS research in BC—Policies Reviewed



## LPS research in BC

- Early Gaps between policy and practice
- Definitions—not all definitions align
- “And people with Disabilities”
  - Problematic to remove gender
- Lack of clear resources set up for WWD/DW
- Policy not geared for needs of WWD/DW
- Rural to Urban issues
- Lack of funding to implement new policy
- In BC, positive to see that disability organizations are part of the consultations now.
- Formats tend to be only pdf and disability specific information is not easy to locate if it exists



## LPS research in Quebec

### 2012-2017 Government Strategic Plan on Domestic Violence

- Specifically address WWD in Commitment #49
- Concerns that there are no clear actions to alleviate DV and SV
- no articulation of needs to have the programs accessible to them. We can see that Domestic violence and sexual violence are considered as the most important problems faced by women and girls
- Intersectionality is mentioned in some policy but not all
- Women with disabilities are included in “groups at higher risk”
- Although community groups like COPHAN and DAWN are consulted, there is not much weight given to their concerns
- Vulnerable groups are listed (i.e. Aboriginal women, immigrant women), but disabled “people” thus ignoring the very real experience of disabled women and girls.
- Need specific education and tools that are not yet available

## LPS research in Ontario

- In Ontario the VAW sector is both helped and hindered by Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Most VAW sector Agencies are not covered by the Act because they are less than 50 employees
- Ontario's Action Plan to end Sexual Violence does note the high victimization rates of women with Disabilities but does not mention Deaf women
- And particular responses to Assist women are not in place. Victims Service provided by the province does have accessibility provisions but accessing them is difficult because availability varies by municipal it and is directly contingent on navigating a complex system
- System services are in place but not coordinated.

## What we are discovering

- Many policies mention women with disabilities as a vulnerable group but do not provide specific tools
- Many policies are reactionary in nature
- Must have a monitoring process to be effective
- Too often, frontline workers are not trained in the policies
- Legislation and Policy is often too generalized and is not able to meet specific needs of WWD/DW
- Accessibility is rarely addressed
- Disabled Women Must be consulted in the process



## How do we do better?

- How have you and your organizations supported women with disabilities and Deaf women?
- Policy Translation
- Take the policies that exist and implement these
- Workshops using toolkits



## **VIOLENCE RESULTS IN DISABILITY**

- Women are becoming disabled through violence
- Women survivors of intimate partner violence are vulnerable to traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- They report elevated rates of TBI (35 to 80%) (Kwako et al., 2011)



## **WOMEN WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE BEING CRIMINALIZED**

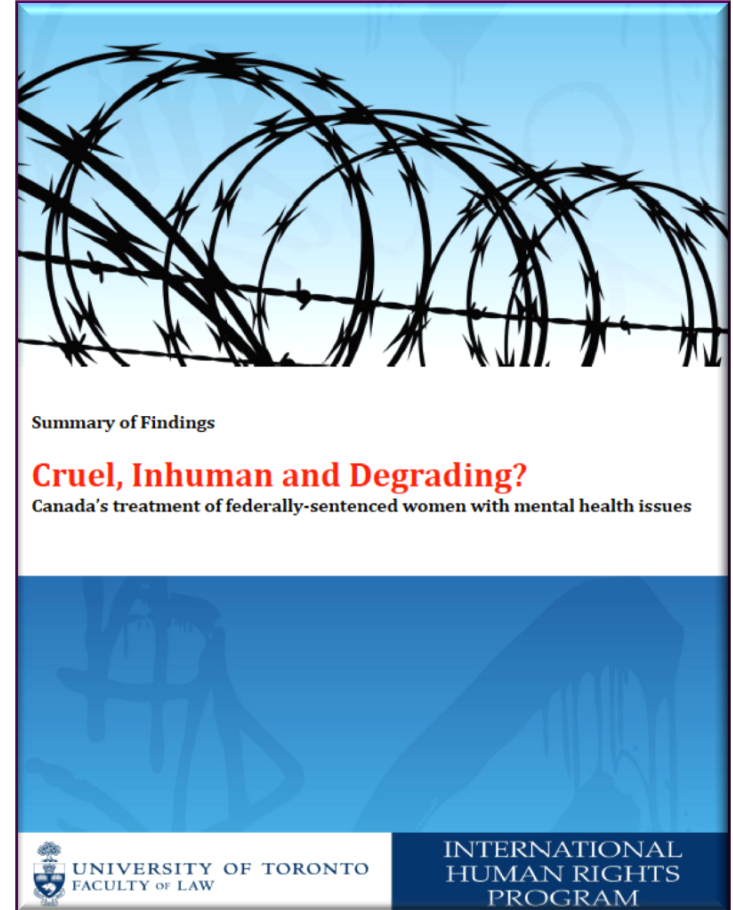
- Almost 40 per cent of Ontario female prisoners have a history of traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Unlike the men participating in the study, half of these women sustained a TBI before committing their first crime.

Traumatic Brain Injury and Early Life Experiences Among Men and Women in a Prison Population. Colantonio et al., 2014

## WOMEN WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE BEING CRIMINALIZED

- Research indicates that at least one in three Federally Sentenced Women suffers from a mental health issue
- Ashley Smith's incarceration and death are an example

Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading? Canada's treatment of federally-sentenced women with mental health issues University of Toronto Faculty of Law International Human Rights Program, 2012



## WOMEN, SEX WORK AND DISABILITY

- Just over one third of sex workers(35%) in this study said they had a long term disability before becoming sex workers.
- These figures are well above the Canadian average.

<http://www.understandingsexwork.com/> October 2014



## EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

- Beating the Odds: Violence against Women with Disabilities by Jillian Ridington (1989)
- Meeting Our Needs: An Access Manual for Transition Houses by Shirley Masuda and Jillian Ridington (1992)



## EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

- Responding to Violence Against Women with Disabilities: An Assessment of Police Training Needs by Ellen Frank (1993)
- Don't Tell Me to Take a Hot Bath: Resource Manual For Crisis Workers by Shirley Masuda (1994)



## EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

- Women with Disabilities and Abuse – Access to Supports by Doris Rajan (2011)
- Ableism – A Form of Violence Against Women: Critical Reflections by Fran Odette (2013)
- Violence Against Women with DisAbilities and Deaf Women: An Overview by Fran Odette and Doris Rajan (2013)

## Discussion

What do they need to do their work more effectively with WWD?

And, therefore, what organizational policies and provincial (or national policies) should be created or modified to better support on the ground practices?



## MOVING FORWARD – COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

- A Pan-Canadian response to the specific needs of women with disabilities and Deaf women
- A national resource and referral service
- A stepped process that leads to collective action!





## ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

- National Accommodation and Accessibility Survey (NAAS)
  - An audit tool for shelters and transition houses (2007-2009)
- In Focus: Bringing People with Disabilities into the Picture (2010-2014)
  - Community development approach
  - Brought together service providers (police, victims services, shelter workers, counselors) with women with disabilities and Deaf women

## ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS THROUGH POLICY CHANGE

- Legislation, Policy and Service Responses to Violence Against Women with Disabilities and Deaf Women in Canada (2015 - present)
  - Pan-Canadian project funded by Status of Women Canada
  - Assess policy gaps in 3 provinces – Quebec, Ontario and BC

## ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC BARRIERS THROUGH POLICY CHANGE

- Analyze gaps in service delivery in police, victims services and violence-prevention services (shelters, counselors)
- Women with disabilities and Deaf women provide responses directly to policy makers and service providers

## SUPPORTING THE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

- Develop tools for women with disabilities and Deaf women
- Equip them with knowledge and skills for self-advocacy
- Support their leadership at the community level



## MOVING FORWARD

- A Pan-Canadian response to the specific needs of women with disabilities and Deaf women
- A national resource and referral service
- A stepped process that leads to collective action





## Next Steps

- Confirm and complete environmental scans and summaries
- Key informant interviews to validate early findings and fill in gaps
- Input from PRATs

**WE CAN TELL!  
WE WILL TELL!**

Information for  
women with  
disabilities about  
identifying and  
reporting abuse

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=dPKu2YoCLI8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=dPKu2YoCLI8)



## Discussion

- Do you know women with disabilities in your community who are leaders and would be interested in being advisors to this project?
- Are you aware of policy or practice in your work that could inform this project moving forward?





## CONTACT US/JOIN US/SUPPORT US!

Web: [www.dawncanada.net](http://www.dawncanada.net)

Twitter: [@dawnrafhcanada](https://twitter.com/dawnrafhcanada)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dawnrafhcanada](https://www.facebook.com/dawnrafhcanada)

Email: [jewellessmith@gmail.com](mailto:jewellessmith@gmail.com)  
[admin@dawncanada.net](mailto:admin@dawncanada.net)

Tel: 1 866 396 0074

