

Yellowknife Interagency Family Violence and Abuse Protocol

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History

- May 2003: NWT Action Plan on Family Violence 2003-2008 was prepared by the Coalition Against Family Violence
- The GNWT responded in October 2004 with 72 action items
 - Goal: improving the community response to families experiencing violence.
- Protocol work started in the winter/spring of 2005

GNWT Response Action Items

1. Provide a coordination function for the development of an integrated response to family violence incidents in Yellowknife.
2. Based on lessons learned from the above pilot, develop a protocol template for the communities to use to develop their community protocols
3. Support the implementation of an integrated family violence response in NWT communities.

Why develop a protocol?



No single agency has the mandate or the resources to meet all the needs of victims of family violence.

What's a Protocol?

An interagency protocol is an agreement between agencies that describes how individuals or organizations will work together when they respond to a situation of family violence



Protocol Purpose

- Provides an opportunity for community agencies to clarify current roles and responsibilities and to work together to better coordinate responses.



Immediate Benefits of Developing a Protocol

1. Creation of a mechanism through which multiple agencies are meeting regularly with the goal of changing and improving services for victims
2. Increased awareness of the involved agencies on issues related to family violence
3. Agencies are aware of how others work with cases of family violence in terms of agency roles, responsibilities, and limitations
4. A better understanding of how we move toward developing an integrated response that focuses on meeting the needs of victims
5. Better working relationships between agencies

Challenges

- High levels of Staff turn-over
- Competing priorities of front line and community based work
- Lack of mechanisms by which to hold agencies accountable.
- Confidentiality

Yellowknife Interagency Family Violence Protocol Committee

The YKfV Protocol is an agreement between 8 Yellowknife Agencies designated as First Responders to families experiencing violence:

1. RCMP
2. Yellowknife Victim Services
3. Public Prosecution Service of Canada, NWT Regional Office
4. Stanton Territorial Health Authority
5. Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority
6. Alison McAteer House, YWCA
7. Centre for Northern Families
8. Income Security Programs, ECE

Shared Risk Assessment:

Implementation of a common risk assessment tool –
Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA)

What about the rest of the NWT?

- The following communities either have or are working on a Interagency Family Violence Protocol:
 - Fort Smith
 - Inuvik
 - Fort Simpson
 - Wrigley
 - The Sahtu
 - Yellowknife

Available documents:

- Improving Responses: A Tool Kit for Developing an Interagency Protocol on Family Violence
- The Yellowknife Interagency Family Violence Protocol





Thank you