Knowledge Mobilization of Methods and Findings of Intimate Partner Violence Research in Canada’s North

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Background
- Methodology
- Knowledge Mobilization Process
- Findings
- Action Plan
Context

- The Northwest Territories of Canada is rich in cultural resources; wildlife and land resources
- The total population is 44,000 with 51% indigenous peoples
- There are 11 official languages
- There are 34 communities with 27 of those communities <1000 residents
- Many of these communities are described as geographically remote
Overview of IPV in Canada’s North

• Territories, highest rates in Canada
• Most commonly reported violent crime against women
• Severe lethality (domestic homicide every year of study)
• Low reporting rates

(Statistics Canada, 2016)
Project Background

Shorter Term Objectives:
• Discover unique needs of women experiencing violence from intimate partner
• Document gaps that exist in meeting these needs
• Create narratives and theoretical model that describes the ways we create non-violent communities

Longer Term Objectives:
• Create model and action plan for sustaining non-violent communities
• Inform policy makers to maximize change and community action
Community-Based Participatory Action
NWT Coalition Against Family Violence

- Led by the NWT Status of Women Council
- Consists of NGOs and Government Representatives
- Meets approximately 10 times/year
- Provides strategic recommendations to the territorial government
Methodology

- RCMP national database
- Resources survey and scan
- GIS Maps
- NWT Services Report

- Interviews (n=31)
  - Grounded theory
  - Preliminary response model

- Focus groups (n=2)
  - Interviews (n=11)
  - Grounded theory
  - Media scan (2011-2015)
  - Media analysis report

- Community profiles (n=2)
  - Community narratives
  - Theoretical model

- Knowledge mobilization
  - Action plan
Findings

- Hands are tied
  - Depleted resources
  - Actuality of services
- Getting on with life
  - Alcohol use
  - Resilience
  - Culture of violence and silence
- Shutting up about violence
  - Social determinants
  - Remoteness
- Putting up with violence

Moffitt & Fikowski, 2017
Putting Up With Violence

• Social determinants
• Remoteness
• Depleted resources

…I think until the community recognizes that there’s a problem and that this is not acceptable, I can’t see it changing, and even the Elders, the grandparents…they won’t press charges…and the Elders will tell them “just never mind” (Nurse)
Putting Up With Violence

Depleted resources

- 33% & 79% & 85%
- Lack of (or choice of) available, accessible resources
- Lack of funding
- Lack of retention of workers
- Poor regional centre outreach
Shutting Up About Violence

Culture of Violence and Silence

• Historical trauma
• Normalized violence
• Gossip
• Community retribution
• Family and community values
• Self-preservation

I think that the impact of residential school is a major divider and a cause of a really prevalent lack of trust that permeates our culture.

(Shelter Worker)

I think that there is a prevalence of men and women in the north that feel that domestic violence is just a part of daily life, and they come to expect it and they come to deal with it and the victimization continues...

(RCMP)

...it’s going to get all over town that there’s a conflict in their relationship...

(Social Worker)
Getting on With Life

• Actuality of services
  • Crisis-oriented
  • Ineffective - poor retention and turnover
  • Non-collaborative

• Alcohol use

• Resilience

Some women are such strong fighters, they’re like *okay I’m going to figure this system out* [in regards to getting help]

(Victim Service Worker)
Knowledge Mobilization
- Present findings and action plan to the GNWT social envelop (Health and Social Services, Justice and Education, Culture and Employment)
- Incorporate findings and actions into NWT Coalition Against Family Violence strategic plan
- Deliver NWT Final Report workshops to community stakeholders across NWT
- Oral presentations (public and academic), publications, media events

Education and Awareness
- Build on existing partnership with the NWT Coalition Against Family Violence to continue developing awareness and prevention campaign materials regarding sexual violence and the negative impacts of community gossip as well as educational materials focusing on healthy relationships
- Support post-secondary Health Services Programs workshop on violence against women issues
- Develop and deliver IPV training workshops to RCMP, Crown counsel, health care professionals, social workers and victim services workers

Stable, Adequate Funding
- Secure permanent funding for all women’s family violence shelters across the NWT utilizing a funding formula for appropriate financial support for their operation
- Provide long-term funds for intervention strategies and programs

Coordinated Response Strategy
- Create and maintain a living archive of Territorial resources and services
- Enhance information-sharing between service providers
- Integrate frontline services within larger health care services authorities
- Pilot coordinated services team meetings regularly that targets high-risk cases of IPV

Assessment and Screening
- Conduct literature review on frontline screening tools for IPV
- Develop intervention pathway model
- Create and facilitate educational workshop to frontline workers
- Pilot frontline screening tool
- Establish Death Review Committee
- Investigate a more gender-free and culturally relevant RCMP risk assessment tool
- Research the utilization and effectiveness of EPOs across the NWT

Social Supports
- Direct programming towards children who witness and/or experience violence
- Increase available and accessible trauma-focused programs
- Utilize telehealth resources with Victims Services and other emotionally supportive programs to ensure all communities have access
- Advocate for in-house court support social work position for survivors of IPV throughout court process

Community Healing
- Encourage more land-based healing programs and fully utilize available funds
- Support local people to facilitate non-violence strategies and events
- Advocate for commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action
- Lobby for restrictions on the purchase of large quantities of alcohol
Knowledge Mobilization

- Context Specific
  - Culturally safe
  - Meaningful
  - Sharing locally

- Knowledge Mobilization Tools
  - Deliberative dialogue
  - Community uptake
  - Improved outcomes

- Knowledge Mobilization Methods
  - Participatory
  - Responsive to community needs
  - Inclusive
Community Fairs

• Interactive
• Engaging
• Community-based

What can you and your community do to end violence?

Talk about violence—take the shame out of being abused and place the shame on the abuser.

What can you and your community do to end violence?

Let's speak to end violence.
Community Meetings

• Deliberative dialogue (Boyko, Kothari& Wathen, 2016);
• Validation of the grounded theory;
• Elicitation of further narrative;
• Spirit of community based participatory engagement;
• Evidence in context (Wathen et al., 2013).
Safety School

A knowledge mobilization strategy that grew out of the need to integrate intimate partner violence into the curriculum. Safety school occurs annually with health and social service students and incorporates interactive sessions with community resource service providers, information sharing, and dissemination of current research findings.
Concluding Thoughts on Knowledge Mobilization

• Multiple strategies enables greater knowledge uptake (Larrivée, Hamelin-Brabant & Lessard, 2012);
• Deliberative dialogue assists with public health policy and practice (Boyko, Kothari & Wathen, 2016);
• Wathen et al. (2011) describe the importance of “talk, trust and time” and being prepared for unintended consequences of knowledge mobilization.


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