

**The Justice System's Response to Intimate Partner Abuse Across Canada:  
Moving towards a Canadian Observatory  
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Established in 1997, the *Alliance of Canadian Research Centres on Violence* is composed university-affiliated centres that strengthen community and academic partnerships, and carry out research and public education to eliminate family violence and violence against women and children. The *Alliance* wants

- To establish a national research network emphasizing continued bilingual dialogue and in-depth research on the justice system in all parts of the country and on the impact of its response to intimate partner abuse;
- To lay the ground work for standardized national data sets on the justice system's response to intimate partner abuse, with particular emphasis on civil legislation and specialized response units (e.g. police, court, prosecutions); and,
- To develop regional, national and international forums for dissemination of interjurisdictional analyses and program/policy outcomes.

**Mission Statement of the Canadian observatory**

The mission statement of a Canadian observatory on the justice system's response to intimate partner abuse is to work as a national research partnership to:

- Conduct research that will ensure the uptake of new knowledge by stakeholders and that will encourage a multi-sectoral coordinated effort to reduce and eliminate intimate partner abuse that will help the establishment of an effective system across Canada.

**Aims of the Canadian observatory**

The aims of the *Canadian observatory on the justice system's response to intimate partner abuse* are as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- ▶ Establish the Canadian observatory on the justice system's response to intimate partner abuse as the national research centre of excellence in the study of intersectoral and inter-jurisdictional interventions on intimate partner abuse;
- ▶ Create a conduit for continual dialogue in both official languages among academics, frontline workers, professionals, provincial/territorial/federal government representatives and interested individuals at the regional, national and international levels;
- ▶ Acknowledge expertise in the domain;
- ▶ Enhance the effectiveness of the system and provide accessibility of research findings to stakeholders involved on the issue;
- ▶ Integrate a training component to the studies by involving graduate and post-doctoral students;
- ▶ Invite experts from academia/communities to share their knowledge and practice skills;
- ▶ Develop a coordinated intersectoral approach to intimate partner abuse;
- ▶ Promote effective responses to intimate partner abuse with successful initiatives put in place in provinces;
- ▶ Lay the ground work for the national standardized data collection on the justice system's response while being respectful of the work already done in different jurisdictions.
- ▶ Compare policies/programs/services to intimate partner abuse among provinces/territories, what works, what does not work;
- ▶ Establish a biennial National Conference on the justice system's response and intimate partner abuse to be held every two years.
- ▶ Develop a national website on policies, strategies, and other responses to intimate partner abuse under provincial jurisdictions.

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<sup>1</sup> The following aims are not listed in order of execution.