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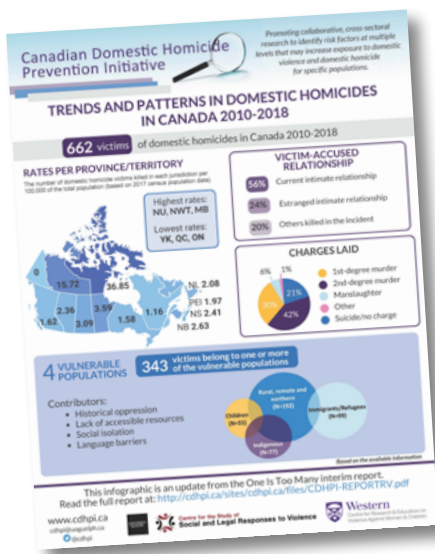
## RESEARCH UPDATE

### HOMICIDE DATABASES

The CDHPIVP team has been working with government bodies in the provinces and territories to secure research agreements to collect domestic homicide data. To date, we have signed research agreements with Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Data is being collected in these jurisdictions for one database. To support this work, Myrna Dawson presented a paper on behalf of herself, Peter Jaffe and Danielle Sutton at the National Forum of Chief Coroners and Chief Medical Examiners in Fredericton, NB on June 11, 2019: Challenges and opportunities in collecting consistent data across Canada.

A second database is comprised of information collected through court and media records. The [One is too many report](#) details findings from this dataset regarding domestic homicides that occurred in Canada between 2010 and 2015. Updates to this report were provided through a set of infographics focusing on highlights from 2010 to 2018, released in September 2019.

View *Trends and Patterns in Domestic Homicides in Canada 2010-2018* Infographics here: <http://cdhipi.ca/press-release-september-25-2019>



## INTERVIEWS WITH KEY INFORMANTS (SERVICE PROVIDERS)

More than 370 interviews have been transcribed and are being analyzed exploring a variety of themes guided by intersectional and socio-ecological frameworks, service providers' perceptions of risk assessment, risk management and safety planning, barriers for implementation and promising practices. The data was also used to support master and doctoral theses for a number of students who explored barriers and promising practices related to risk assessment, risk management and safety planning among various service sectors including police, VAW sector, child protection, and programs serving men.



## INTERVIEWS WITH SURVIVORS OF HIGH-RISK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF DOMESTIC HOMICIDE VICTIMS (PHASE 3)

Ethics approval has been received to conduct interviews with survivors of domestic violence and loved ones of homicide victims. If you know of someone whose loved one was killed by an intimate partner OR experienced severe domestic violence between 2006 and 2016, is over 18 years of age, is currently safe, and identifies as one of the following: Indigenous, immigrant, refugee, lived in a rural, remote or northern region, was exposed to the abuse as a child, or whose children were exposed to the abuse, please consider sharing our recruitment information (<http://cdhpi.ca/research-participants-needed>). People who are interested will have the chance to learn more about the study and will be asked to participate in a brief screening interview to determine whether the study criteria matches their experiences.

Research participants will be offered \$50 honorarium in appreciation for their time. Simultaneous interpretation is available upon request.

To bring attention to this national research, media events were held in various locations across Canada

including London, ON, Winnipeg, Fredericton, Montreal and at a wellness camp in Northwest Territories on September 25, 2019. A launch was hosted in Vancouver connected with December 6th activities. The events were well-attended and received much media attention. Thank you to all of the research coordinators, co-investigators, partners and collaborators who worked on these events.



*Pertice Moffitt launched the research at a wellness camp near Yellowknife*

[aptnnews.ca/2019/09/30/northern-study-looking-for-people-impacted-by-domestic-homicide/](http://aptnnews.ca/2019/09/30/northern-study-looking-for-people-impacted-by-domestic-homicide/)



*The Prairie region introduced the research with local Indigenous partners in Thompson, MB. From left to right Dana Riccio-Arabe (Wahbung Abinoonjiiag), Angie Hutchinson (Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre), Renée Hoffart, Hilda Anderson-Pyrz (Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak), and Kendra Nixon.*

The Manitoba team alongside their Indigenous community partners (Circling Buffalo, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, and Wahbung Abinoonjiiag) hosted a phase 3 Opening Ceremony in the north (Thompson, MB) on November 25, 2019. Elder Marie Ballantyne performed a pipe ceremony and offered prayers to start phase 3 off in good way. Afterward, everyone participated in a discussion of the research and a feast. Members of the Thompson community were in attendance including MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee, Thompson Deputy Mayor Les Ellsworth, and Member of Parliament for Churchill-Keewatinook Aski Niki Ashton. There are plans to host another Opening Ceremony in southern MB in early 2020.

[www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/nickel-belt/researchers-seeking-people-affected-by-domestic-violence-to-share-their-stories-1.24021098](http://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/nickel-belt/researchers-seeking-people-affected-by-domestic-violence-to-share-their-stories-1.24021098)

In Ontario, the call for research participants was made at Western University where Alison Irons spoke about her daughter Lindsay Wilson's murder by Lindsay's former intimate partner.

[news.westernu.ca/2019/09/domestic-homicide-project-eyes-unique-risk-factors](http://news.westernu.ca/2019/09/domestic-homicide-project-eyes-unique-risk-factors)



*Alison Irons speaks to media about her daughter Lindsay's domestic homicide in 2013 in Bracebridge, ON.*





The research is being conducted across Canada and coordinated regionally by the following people:

**British Columbia** – Kate Rossiter, Simon Fraser University – [rossiter@sfu.ca](mailto:rossiter@sfu.ca) (604) 633-2506 ext. 12

**Prairies** – Renee Hoffart, University of Manitoba – [hoffartr@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:hoffartr@myumanitoba.ca) or 204-474-7410

**Ontario** – Anna-Lee Straatman, Western University – [astraat2@uwo.ca](mailto:astraat2@uwo.ca) or 1-844-958-0522

**Quebec** – Cathy Richardson, Concordia University – [cathyresponds@gmail.com](mailto:cathyresponds@gmail.com)

Myriam Dubé, Université du Québec à Montréal – [dube.myriam@uqam.ca](mailto:dube.myriam@uqam.ca)

**Maritimes** – Cathy Holtmann, University of New Brunswick – [cathy.holtmann@unb.ca](mailto:cathy.holtmann@unb.ca) or 506-458-7442

**Northern Territories** – Pertice Moffitt, North Slave Research Centre - [pmoffitt@auroracollege.nt.ca](mailto:pmoffitt@auroracollege.nt.ca) or 867-920-3062



We are honoured to hear the stories from loved ones of homicide victims as well as survivors of severe domestic violence. If you know of anyone who might be interested in participating in an interview, please share the information posted on our website or connect them with their regional research coordinator listed above.

<http://cdhpi.ca/research-participants-needed>

## CDHPIVP STUDENT-CO-INVESTIGATOR MEETING

A meeting and training was conducted on June 20, 2019 in London, ON with co-investigators and research assistants in preparation for the launch of research conducting interviews with survivors of domestic violence and loved ones of domestic homicide victims. We heard a presentation from Dawn Novak whose daughter was killed by her intimate partner on what it is like to be interviewed about the death of a loved one – things to say and not say. Cathy Richardson, Anita Olsen Harper and Angie Hutchinson provided insights on how to connect in a respectful and meaningful way with Indigenous people when conducting research. Abir Al Jamal spoke about how to connect with immigrant and refugee people and Deborah Sinclair provided tools and strategies for addressing vicarious trauma. The research protocol and interview guide were presented and discussed.



*Ed and Dawn Novak, Deborah Sinclair, Peter Jaffe at Co-investigator/student meeting June 20, 2019, London, ON*

# KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

## DANIELLE BADER FINALIST IN SSHRC'S STORYTELLERS COMPETITION

Danielle was shortlisted in the SSHRC storytellers competition. Danielle's submission was a 3 minute video entitled "Not just another Saturday night: Strategizing safety with non-urban women experiencing intimate partner violence in Ontario."



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGZTaht8C90&list=PLww1dv-jSoO4NABmm2TW6vpfZ1004E5\\_pV&index=3&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGZTaht8C90&list=PLww1dv-jSoO4NABmm2TW6vpfZ1004E5_pV&index=3&t=0s)

## PRESENTATIONS

### European Conference on Domestic Violence, Oslo, September 1-4, 2019

Julie Poon, Laura Olszowy, Mike Saxton, Kay Reif, and Randal David attended the European Domestic Violence Conference in Oslo, Norway, in September 2019 where they presented research on behalf of the CDHPVP. Mike, Kay, Randal and Laura presented in a panel and focused on outcomes of their doctoral research which utilized data from the key informant interviews,



*Mike Saxton, Laura Olszowy, Julie Poon and Deborah Sinclair in Oslo, September 1-4, 2019*

specifically from key informants in Ontario. Julie presented research on behalf of herself, Myrna Dawson, Jordan Fairbairn and Danielle Bader using the social ecological model and drawing upon the key informant interviews. This research highlighted preliminary findings examining the level of awareness and recognition among service providers with respect to community and societal level risk factors present in the vulnerable populations examined by the CDHPVP.



*Myrna Dawson at the MMFC conference*

### **Addressing Filicide conference, Monash University, Australia – November 14-15, 2019**

Anna-Lee Straatman attended the 4th international Addressing Filicide conference at Monash University in Australia. Anna-Lee presented research on behalf of herself, Myrna Dawson, Peter Jaffe, Mike Saxton, Laura Olszowy, Kay Reif, Julie Poon, and Danielle Sutton titled Child domestic homicides in Canada: Understanding the context, and recommendations for effective risk assessment and management.

### **Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre (MMFC) for Family Violence Research conference – October 9-10, 2019**

Myrna Dawson was a keynote speaker at the conference and offered the following presentation: Preventing domestic violence: It's about more than changing individuals, it's about changing our communities and society. Julie Poon presented on behalf of herself, Myrna Dawson, Peter Jaffe, Anna-Lee Straatman, and Danielle Sutton using the CDHPVP court and media database to examine the role of perpetrator gender in intimate partner homicides using an intersectional approach. Olivia Peters presented her master's research using the key informant data to examine service providers' use of risk assessment for intimate partner violence with Indigenous populations. Her presentation was entitled: The Risk of Assessment: Understanding Service Provider's Use of Risk Assessment for Intimate Partner Violence with Indigenous Populations.

### **Canadian Domestic Violence Conference – March 5-6, 2020 in Halifax, NS.**

A number of papers have been accepted and will be presented at the Canadian Domestic Violence Conference in Halifax in March 2020 including:

Zecha, A., M. Dawson, D. Sutton, J. Poon, A.L. Straatman, and P. Jaffe. 2020. Firearms Use in Domestic Homicides: Exploring Risk Factors for Canadian Women. Paper, Canadian Domestic Violence Conference, Halifax, NS, March 2020.

Boyd, C., M. Dawson, D. Sutton, J. Poon, A.L. Straatman, and P. Jaffe. 2020. Familicide in the Canadian context: Exploring Risk Factors for Canadian families. Paper, Canadian Domestic Violence Conference, Halifax, NS, March 2020.

## **WEBINARS**



*James Rowlands, PhD candidate, Sociology, University of Sussex*

Peter Jaffe presented with Deidre Bainbridge a webinar "Life after death: Multidisciplinary Death Investigation Rounds" on October 29, 2019 for health professional, police and social workers.

The Learning Network hosted a webinar presented by James Rowlands entitled: "An Introduction to Domestic Homicide Reviews in England and Wales: Exploring challenges and opportunities through the lens of LGBT+ domestic homicide" on December 13, 2019. A recording of the webinar is available at [www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/webinars/recorded-webinars/2019/webinar-2019-9.html](http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/webinars/recorded-webinars/2019/webinar-2019-9.html)



## NEW PUBLICATIONS UTILIZING DATA FROM THE CDHPVP PROJECT

Fairbairn, J., D. Sutton, M. Dawson and P. Jaffe. 2019. Putting definitions to work: Reflections from the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations. *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth* 25: 67-82.

Reif, K., Jaffe, P.G., Dawson, M., Straatman, AL. (2020). Provision of specialized services for children exposed to domestic violence: Barriers encountered in Violence Against Women (VAW) services. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 109.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.104684>

Olszowy, L., Jaffe, P.G., Dawson, M., Straatman, AL, Saxton, M. (Submitted). Voices from the Frontline: Child Protection Workers' Perspectives on Barriers to Assessing Risk in Domestic Violence Cases

## THESES

A number of students working on the CDHPVP project have incorporated project data, research and learning into individual masters and doctoral level theses. Data from key informant interviews have contributed to a number of theses including:

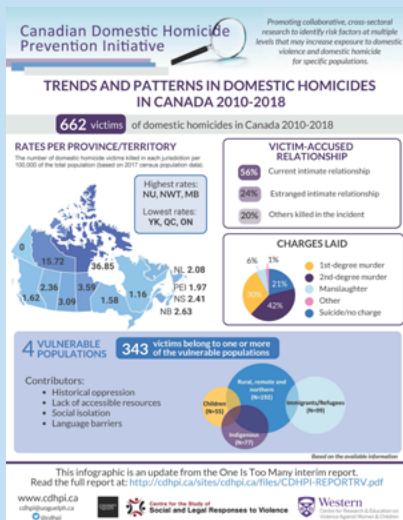
- Randal David's review of service provider's work with immigrant perpetrators;
- Laura Olszowy's examination of barriers and challenges to risk assessment and safety planning service providers face when working with children;
- Olivia Peter's focus on risk assessment among Indigenous populations;
- Kay Reif's identification of challenges and promising practices faced by violence against women service providers regarding risk assessment and safety planning;
- Mike Saxton's focus on police perspectives of risk assessment and risk management
- Melissa Wuerch's exploration of intimate partner violence in rural and northern communities.

### **Abstracts for the following theses are available online Journal articles are forthcoming**

David, R. (2019). Immigrant Perpetrators of Domestic Homicide: Unique Risks and Service Needs. Doctoral Thesis. <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/6739>

Reif, K. (2019). Missed opportunities for saving children from domestic homicide: Implications for prevention, intervention, & community collaboration. Doctoral Thesis. <https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/etd/6735>

Melissa Wuerch's research expanded on two projects: the "Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations" and "Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence," which were funded by SSHRC and SSHRC/CURA, respectively. Qualitative interviews were completed with 16 services providers from rural regions and 16 service providers from northern regions within Saskatchewan, Canada. Six overarching themes were identified for rural communities, including Root Causes of IPV, Barriers to Leaving IPV Relationships and Accessing Services, Areas in Need of Improvement and Change, Working with Indigenous Peoples, Promising Practices in Rural Communities, and Overall Perception of Work as a Service Provider. In addition, six overarching themes were identified for northern communities, including A Cycle of Disadvantage, Barriers to Leaving IPV Relationships and Accessing Services, Areas in Need of Improvement and Change, Concern about Court Structure and Police Services, Promising Practices in Northern Communities, and Overall Perception of Work as a Service Provider.



## NEW HOMICIDE BRIEF

Jeffrey, N., Johnson, A., Richardson, C., Dawson, M., Campbell, M., Bader, D., Fairbairn, J. Straatman, A.L., Poon, J., Jaffe P. (2019). Domestic Violence and Homicide in Rural, Remote, and Northern Communities: Understanding Risk and Keeping Women Safe. Domestic Homicide Brief 8. London, ON: Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative. ISBN: 978-1-988412-34-4.

[http://cdhpi.ca/  
domestic-violence-and-  
homicide-rural-remote-  
and-northern-communities-  
understanding-risk-and-keeping](http://cdhpi.ca/domestic-violence-and-homicide-rural-remote-and-northern-communities-understanding-risk-and-keeping)

## PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS UPDATE

The CDHPIVP is pleased to welcome the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General as a new partner. Lorinda Stoneman and Mike Aube will represent the organization.

To learn more about the organization: [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/public-safety-solicitor-general](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/public-safety-solicitor-general)

We wish Jane Ursel, Co-investigator, RESOLVE, University of Manitoba, well in her retirement.

## STUDENT PROFILE

### MARY ASPINALL

Mary is currently a 3rd year PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. She received a BA Hons in Psychology, Bachelor of Human Justice and MA in Justice Studies from the University of Regina. Previous work experience in Saskatchewan included six years as a Domestic Violence Victim Caseworker, and panel member for the Saskatchewan Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) in 2016. Currently, she serves as an ad hoc member of the New Brunswick DVDRC, and Research Assistant/Regional Coordinator for Atlantic Canada for the CDHPI. Her research interests include intimate partner violence and therapeutic jurisprudence, with her doctoral dissertation focusing on the implementation of spousal abuse treatment programming within specialized domestic violence courts across Canada. In her (not so) spare time, she enjoys listening to true crime podcasts and spending time with her dog. Mary has assisted with coding data from coroner and medical examiner files, and conducting interviews with domestic violence survivors, and loved ones of domestic homicide victims.





# COLLABORATOR PROFILE

## DEBORAH DOHERTY

Dr. Deborah Doherty is the executive director of Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick. With a Ph.D. in the social sciences from McGill University, her passion for identifying law information needs of vulnerable populations and developing resources to meet those needs has flourished. Over the past 30 years, Deborah has conducted extensive research on intimate partner violence, domestic homicide, and firearms victimization. Her work confronts predominantly urban-centric perspectives by addressing the unique barriers and clustering of risk factors that may impede the help-seeking behaviour of women living outside large urban areas.



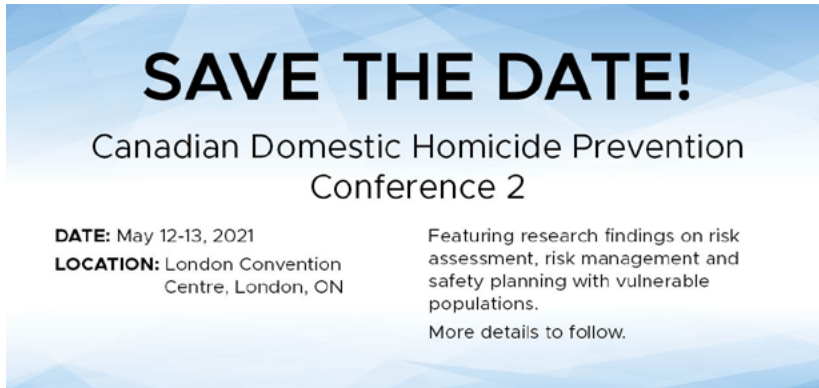
Deborah acted as co-principle researcher with Dr. Jennie Hornosty for 15 years conducting research on “family violence on the farm and rural communities”- which was one of the original four teams of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre. She currently sits on various research teams and committees and is a member of the [NB Silent Witness Committee](#) and a founding member of the [provincial safe-haven program to shelter pets](#). Deborah is pleased to be a partner on the CDHPIVC initiative where she can contribute to the on-going dialogue concerning risk factors and safety planning in rural communities. Her commitment to participatory action research also includes speaking out about lessons learned and sharing findings including, among other initiatives, the creation of a public awareness campaign ([Safer Families...Safer Communities](#)).



## EVO APP - SAFETY PLANNING APP FOR RURAL WOMEN

Developed in collaboration with the NB Department of Public Safety, Deborah Doherty has applied her extensive research on domestic violence in rural communities into an innovative, [safety planning tool](#) and an [App called “EVO”](#). The App is being used by Victim Services across the province to help IPV victims. The app is free and available on both [Android](#) and [iOS](#) in both French and English. Although getting help from a professional is a good idea, the [promotional card](#) markets the app to any woman living with intimate partner violence who is looking for helpful services. [It is particularly helpful for rural women](#) who can, from the privacy and security of their devices, look for services to strategically mitigate their risk of harm. Please feel free to share the free EVO APP with your clients and networks.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention  
Conference 2

**DATE:** May 12-13, 2021  
**LOCATION:** London Convention  
Centre, London, ON

Featuring research findings on risk  
assessment, risk management and  
safety planning with vulnerable  
populations.  
More details to follow.

Canadian Domestic Homicide  
Prevention Initiative  
with Vulnerable  
Populations  
[www.cdhp.ca](http://www.cdhp.ca)

### SAVE THE DATE

#### PARTNERSHIP MEETING

MAY 11, 2021

The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations is a 5- year Partnership grant (2015-2020). This research is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

**Co-Investigators:** Diane Crocker, Saint Mary's University  
Myriam Dubé, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Jordan Fairbairn, King's University College  
Sepali Guruge, Ryerson University  
Cathy Holtmann, University of New Brunswick  
Julie Kaye, University of Saskatchewan  
Nicole Letourneau, University of Calgary  
Pertice Moffitt, North Slave Research Centre/ Aurora Research Institute  
Kendra Nixon, University of Manitoba  
Cathy Richardson/Kinewesquao, Concordia University  
Kate Rossiter, Simon Fraser University, and EVABC  
Katreena Scott, OISE, University of Toronto

**Management Team:** Myrna Dawson, Co-Director  
Peter Jaffe, Co-Director  
Julie Poon, National Research Coordinator  
Anna-Lee Straatman, Project Manager



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