

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
CANNABIS, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND CORPORATE POLICY
AND
MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND
MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For **DECISION** of Doug Scott,
Deputy Solicitor General (DSG) *and*
Shannon Salter, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) *and*
Deputy Minister Responsible for Housing

ISSUE:

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

Pan-Canadian Strategic Framework on Rural Crime s.13;

DECISION REQUIRED/ RECOMMENDATION:

s.13; s.16

SUMMARY

s.13; s.16

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

s.13; s.16

BACKGROUND:

s.13; s.16

- At their February 2022 meeting, FPT Ministers concurred with the s.13; s.13; s.16 phased approach for prioritization and implementation of the Framework.

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

- Approximately 60% of Indigenous people within Canada live in predominantly rural regions, compared with roughly 33% for non-Indigenous peoples.

s.13; s.16

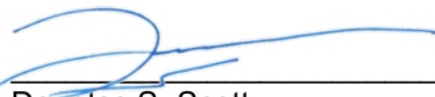
OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- None

DECISION:

s.13; s.16

DECISION IS APPROVED ☐ **NOT APPROVED** ☐



Douglas S. Scott
Deputy Solicitor General

October 5, 2022

Date

DECISION IS APPROVED ☒ **NOT APPROVED** ☐



Shannon Salter
Deputy Attorney General and
Deputy Minister Responsible for Housing

October 5, 2022

Date

PREPARED BY:

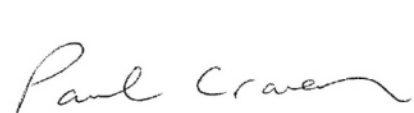
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ATTACHMENT(S):

s.13; s.16

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s.13

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s.13 ; s.16

**MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL AND
MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING
JUSTICE SERVICES BRANCH
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For **INFORMATION** for Shannon Salter,
Deputy Attorney General *and*
Deputy Minister Responsible for Housing

ISSUE:
Update on Exploring Safe Supports for Family Justice (Safe Supports) project.

SUMMARY:

- Program design is progressing on this federally funded project aiming to improve the experiences of families impacted by family violence – specifically intimate partner violence - as they navigate the family legal system.
- Family Policy, Legislation and Transformation Division (FPLTD) staff will be holding a series of update and validation meetings with participants from Round One Engagements as well as continuing to work closely with potential partners in program delivery. Some of the organizations that staff will connect with this fall include:
 - The Gender-Based Violence Action Plan External Advisory Committee (see membership list attached)
 - The First Nations Justice Council (FNJC)
 - The Provincial Court Judges group advising on the project (see membership list attached)
 - Ending Violence Association BC (EVA BC)
 - Legal Aid BC
 - Family Justice Services Division (FJSD)
 - Court Services Branch (CSB)
 - Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) staff
 - A variety of anti-violence organizations
- FPLTD staff have offered a briefing to Parliamentary Secretary Lore prior to meeting with the Gender-Based Violence Action Plan External Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND:

- In July of 2021 the Department of Justice issued a call for proposals to provinces and territories inviting applications for funding directed at improving the experience of families impacted by family violence as part of the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program. On December 9, 2021, FPLTD was informed that the proposal was successful in securing \$4,286,098 for the period of December 7, 2021, to March 31, 2026. After receiving Treasury Board approval to accept the funding and negotiating the details of the Contribution Agreement, the agreement was signed on January 26, 2022.

- The Model Framework for the Safe Supports program has taken shape between April and August 2022 through research, engagement, and conversations with potential operational partners.
- The project is working on developing prototypes for a series of interrelated program streams:
 - A family court support worker,
 - An information gatherer to assist survivors of violence in obtaining information relating to related and concurrent court involvement,
 - Ways in which to insulate survivors of violence from the potential use of the court process to further perpetrate violence and trauma, and
 - Potential for a Parenting After Separation (PAS)- style course that more directly supports families impacted by violence.
- The Family Court Support Worker role will focus on navigation, case management, and aftercare. This role will be flexible in order to adapt to the existing support services and gaps of a particular community as well as support individuals in their unique needs. Project staff are exploring implementing this role as a formal partnership between government and an anti-violence organization in the prototype location(s). It is being contemplated as a FJSD employee with close ties to the anti-violence organizations in the prototype location. The role will do the following:
 - Provide a consistent support for parties, with a priority given to those who have experienced intimate partner violence, to help connect with and navigate legal and non-legal supports,
 - Extend supports beyond crisis intervention or point in time involvement to instead provide before, during, and aftercare to meet the specific needs of a family,
 - Seek to promote greater use of process supports and testimonial aids and other accommodations,
 - Assist parties in gathering, understanding, and organizing information about their legal system involvement,
 - Empower parties to appropriately raise information, to legal and non-legal supports and even the court, about related and concurrent proceedings and involvement, and
 - Provide greater opportunity for family law specific expertise and participation in community collaborative groups.
- Eligibility to receive support from the Family Court Support Worker will be based on a low barrier and proportionate response approach. In practice, it is anticipated that those who self identify as having experienced intimate partner violence and wish to access the Family Court Support Worker will be able to receive service. In addition, it is contemplated that service providers (FJSD and possibly community organizations) would identify and refer individuals to this program.
- The program will also include an Information Gatherer role. It is contemplated that this role would reside in Court Services Branch, ideally in the Policy & Service Reform Unit (though this is not confirmed). This role will collect data and documents

relating to an individual working with the Family Court Support Worker in order to ensure that the party has the information necessary to understand their legal matters and that they and/or their legal counsel are able to answer questions from the court regarding related or concurrent matters. One of the many benefits to having this role as part of the Policy & Service Reform Unit is that they can use data and lessons learned from the manual role to inform a longer vision of use technology to better serve all court users. FPLTD is currently working to identify the specific data and documents that would appropriately be contemplated in order to continue conversations with CSB and the Court.

- FPLTD has received approval from JPIP to pivot away from what was originally described as limited representation for cross examination based on feedback received during Round One Engagement. Instead, the project will explore ways in which to make the court process more trauma informed including: promoting increased appropriate use of testimonial aids in family court, and a facilitative judge model. This program stream will need to navigate providing much needed support to survivors of violence while making efficient use of court time, providing clear expectations to parties seeking testimonial aids, and avoiding the perception of bias in a court of law. FPLTD continues to discuss with the court the best way to achieve this balance.
- FPLTD is in early stages of discussion with FJSD regarding what a PAS-style course more directly addressing families impacted by violence may look like.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- Indigenous women and girls are at a disproportionate risk and face among the highest rates of violent and non-violent victimization – including family violence - of all population groups in Canada.
- The Safe Supports project continues to include a variety of Indigenous organizations in engagement sessions.
- The Ministers Advisory Council on Indigenous Women provided feedback suggesting avoidance of the term “family justice” where possible and use of the term “family violence” where the legal context allows for more specific language. This feedback has been shared with the FLA Modernization team as they review the family violence provisions in the Act. Those terms are strongly embedded in federal and provincial legislation.
- The Safe Supports project is working with the Indigenous Justice Policy and Legislation Division to explore potential partnership with the FNJC to dedicate one prototype location as Indigenous led under their stewardship.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- No other ministries were consulted in preparing this note.

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ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: Gender Based Violence Plan External Advisory Committee Membership List

Attachment 2: Safe Supports Judges Committee Membership List

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Attachment 1: Gender Based Violence Action Plan External Advisory Committee Membership List

Organization	External Advisory Committee Member
B.C. Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH)	Amy FitzGerald Executive Director amy@bcsth.ca
Ending Violence Association B.C. (EVA B.C.)	Ninu Kang Executive Director kang@endingviolence.org Kate Rossiter Senior Manager of Provincial Services rossiter@endingviolence.org
Police Victim Services BC	Ian Batey Executive Director ian.batey@policevictimservices.bc.ca
BC First Nations Justice Council	Debbie Scarborough Provincial Manager debbie@bcfnjc.com
Metis Nation BC	Colette Trudeau Senior Director – Women and Gender Equality ctrudeau@mnbc.ca Mallory Blondeau A/Senior Director mblondeau@mnbc.ca
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres	Leslie Varley Executive Director LVarley@bcaafc.com
Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW)	Barb Ward-Burkitt Chair bwardburkitt@pgnfc.com Coreen Child MACIW Member coreenchild@gmail.com Patricia Barkaskas MACIW Member patricia@barkaskaslaw.ca
Northern Society of Domestic Peace	Carol Seychuk Executive Director c.seychuk@domesticpeace.ca
West Coast LEAF/RISE	Raji Mangat Executive Director rmangat@westcoastleaf.org

Attachment 1: Gender Based Violence Action Plan External Advisory Committee Membership List

Organization	External Advisory Committee Member
Battered Women's Support Services	Angela Marie MacDougall Executive Director director@bwss.org
Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW)	Dalya Israel Executive Director dalya@wavaw.ca
Qmunity	Anoop Gill Co-Executive Director anoop.gill@qmunity.ca
Living in Community	Halena Seiferling Executive Director halenaseiferling@gmail.com
Men's Therapy Centre	Nick Sandor Executive Director nick@menstherapycentre.ca
PACE Society	Acting ED - Nour Kachouh nour@pace-society.org
Sexual Violence and Prevention Program, BC Campus	Director – CJ Rowe cj_rowe@sfu.ca
Students for Consent Culture	Co-Chair – Chantelle Spicer chair@sfcccanada.org
411 Seniors Centre	Marion Pollack Board President marion.pollack@gmail.com
BC Federation of Labour	Sussanne Skidmore Secretary Treasurer - BCFED SecTreas@bcfed.ca sskidmore@bcfed.ca
Inclusion BC	Karla Verschoor Executive Director kverschoor@inclusionbc.org

Attachment 2: Safe Supports Provincial Court Judges Committee Membership List

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