

**MANITOBA  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018/2019**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Manitoba Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) was established on June 16, 2010. The DVDRC examines domestic violence homicides that are no longer before the courts in order to identify trends, risk factors and systemic concerns to prevent future tragedies and recommend changes for improvement. Manitoba's approach extends beyond a "paper-only review" by interviewing families, friends, co-workers and other relevant representatives of the victim and offender who are able to share important information about the patterns and trends associated with domestic violence homicides. To ensure that the reviews are relevant to current service delivery models, the committee generally focuses on select matters that have occurred since 2006.

Manitoba's DVDRC is not legislated. Therefore, to mitigate privacy risks, Manitoba Justice – Victim Services completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) and asked that participating committee members enter into memorandums of understanding and confidentiality agreements. In addition, to assure an appropriate balance of protection of privacy and effective case reviews, both a DVDRC working group and an advisory committee were established. In 2018/2019, advisory committee members included representatives from RESOLVE, Education, Indigenous and Northern Relations, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Status of Women, Probation Services, Prosecution Services, Victim Services, the Family Violence Prevention Program, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), the RCMP, Department of Emergency Medicine/Faculty of Medicine/University of Manitoba, and the Consortium of Family Violence Service Providers. Representatives of the smaller working group, who also sit on the advisory committee, included individuals from WPS, RCMP, Probation Services, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Prosecution Services and Victim Services.

The DVDRC completed one review in 2018/19. Since the creation of Manitoba's DVDRC, nine reviews have been completed. The recommendation below stems from the review that was finalized in 2018/19.

### **Recommendation 1:**

An in-depth review of protection orders should be conducted since the changes to *The Domestic Violence and Stalking Act* in 2016.

### **Recommendation 2:**

DVDRC advisory committee members should be provided with statistics on the number of protection order applications per year and the number granted or denied.

### **Recommendation 3:**

A private space should be developed at the law courts building for people to complete the Protection Order application form.

### **Recommendation 4:**

Funding options for transportation should be explored to assist individuals escaping DV situations to get to a safe place after a shelter stay, or in cases where a shelter is not being accessed.