

## Resources for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

### Police

- Approximately one third of incidents of intimate partner violence against women are reported to police<sup>1</sup>:
  - IPV is most often reported by the women themselves due to a desire to stop the violence and receive protection, as well as from a sense of duty<sup>2</sup>.
  - Those who do not report IPV often feel they have dealt with it another way or that it is a personal matter<sup>1</sup>.
    - Some women do not report due to fear of their partner or because they do not want anyone to find out.
- Charges are laid in incidents of intimate partner violence in many cases and more frequently than for other types of violence<sup>3</sup>.
- Fifteen per cent of female victims obtain a restraining or protection order<sup>1</sup>.
  - In Newfoundland and Labrador, peace bonds and emergency protection orders (EPOs) can be acquired.
  - However, these can be breached<sup>1</sup>. Breaches are criminal offences that can result in imprisonment<sup>4</sup>
- Most victims who contact police are satisfied with the actions of police<sup>2</sup>.
- Almost half of female victims report that violence decreases after police become involved<sup>2</sup>.

### Medical Care

- Injuries can require medical attention or hospitalization<sup>2</sup>. Options for care include:
  - Family doctor
  - Community health centre
  - Hospital
- About one quarter of victims use medication to cope with depression, anxiety or sleep problems resulting from intimate partner violence<sup>2</sup>.

## Social Services

- Approximately one third of women use formal social services<sup>2</sup>:
  - Counsellors/psychologists
  - Social workers
  - Crisis centres/lines
  - Women's shelters/transition houses
  - Community/family centres
  - Legal aid
  - Housing
  - Income support

## Community Groups

- Women's groups
- Immigrant groups
  - Landed immigrants will not be deported if they leave a partner because of abuse, even if that partner is their sponsor<sup>5</sup>.
- Aboriginal organizations
- Women's resource centres
- Anti-violence organizations

## Informal Support

- Most women who experience intimate partner violence confide in family, friends or neighbours<sup>2</sup>.

## Listing of Resources in Newfoundland and Labrador

- Please visit the "Where to get help" page of the Violence Prevention Initiative website: <http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/gethelp/index.html>

## Victim Services

- Victim Services can provide:
  - Information about the criminal justice system and how it works;
  - Updates on what is happening with your case;
  - Pre-court support and preparation to help reduce anxiety and allow meaningful participation in the court process;
  - Help with preparing a Victim Impact Statement;
  - Emotional support and short-term counselling as a person prepares to go through court; and
  - Referrals to community resources.
- Information about Victim Services is available at:  
<http://www.victimserviceshelp.ca/index.html>

## Child Protection Services

- The primary goal of Child Protection Services is to help ensure the safety and well-being of children. Social workers investigate allegations of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional) and provide necessary interventions, supports and services to families.
- Information for Child Protection is available at:  
<http://www.gov.nl.ca/cyfs/report.html>

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<sup>1</sup> Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers responsible for the Status of Women. (2013). *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends – Key findings. Intimate Partner and Spousal Violence*. Retrieved from Status of Women Canada website: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/rc-cr/pub/violence-partner-partenaire-eng.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Sinha, M. (Ed.). (2013). *Measuring violence against women: Statistical trends*. (Catalogue no. 85-002-X). Retrieved from Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11766-eng.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Sinha, M. (2013). *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2011. Section 3: Intimate partner violence*. (Catalogue no. 85-002-X). Retrieved from Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11805-eng.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Provincial Court of Newfoundland and Labrador. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.court.nl.ca/provincial/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (2012). *Intimate partner violence and abuse – It can be stopped*. Retrieved from Royal Canadian Mounted Police website: [http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cp-pc/pdfs/int\\_par-rel\\_int-eng.pdf](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cp-pc/pdfs/int_par-rel_int-eng.pdf)