



Andrea Silverstone and Kim Ruse, Co-Chairs
Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC)

Theme: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

The Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC) is a group of close to 60 community partners that provides a coordinated response to domestic and sexual violence prevention and intervention. CDVC is committed to ending domestic violence through collaborative, coordinated intervention and prevention strategies.

Critical Elements

- Increasing public awareness, providing education and working to improve legislation can assist in the fight against domestic violence;
- Ensuring that all the decision-makers are at the table; and that their values align and leverage with the collective;
- Importance of a backbone organization (Sagesse) serves as one of the five pre-existing conditions that are necessary for effective cross-collaboration (the other five include common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities and continuous communication)
- The backbone organization is not a direct service delivery agency and does not own any programs or services on behalf of CDVC. It is a support to and a “sum of the parts” of the collective.
- Building collaborative relationships, and ensuring that the pre-existing conditions are met takes time.
- Collective is responsible for identifying priority areas of focus, which include: coordination along the service spectrum, enhancing informal supports and engaging men and boys
- CWES supervises a staff person who is overseeing a project of CDVC which is looking at gaps in the system providing services to individuals impacted by domestic violence. A stakeholder group of women impacted by domestic violence was formed to gather their input about gaps in service. Initially this group was facilitated by the staff person from CWES. Currently this group continues to meet and is moving towards becoming an independent group without the support of the staff person. Committees involving a variety of sectors, including health, legal, police, shelters have been established to work on identifying ways of addressing the barriers for individuals trying to access services.