

**Enhancing Women-Centred Practice Using Assessment Tools with Survivors of Domestic
Violence (The Blueprint Project)
Indigenous Community of Practice Terms of Reference**

Community of Practice Background:

A Community of Practice (CoP) is defined as: “A group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.”

Community Purpose:

The objectives of the Indigenous CoP will vary over time, but will include:

- Bringing together people working to address violence: prevention, response, and support services with particular focus on domestic violence and gendered residential services.
- Highlighting and examining gaps experienced by Indigenous women and girls impacted by family violence for the purpose of supporting safe, and inclusive wrap-around services.
- Sharing resources and strategies to support inclusion of staff, clients, and community members who identify as Indigenous.
- Providing support to CoP colleagues who are working on Indigenous awareness, inclusion and violence prevention in their organizations.
- Supporting Indigenous Peoples working in shelters, violence prevention organizations, or gendered services.
- Supporting organizations at different stages of awareness, knowledge, skill, and policy development in furthering Indigenous inclusion.
- When requested by a CoP or Blueprint Leadership Team Member, individual, or organization, provide feedback on sector tools, processes, protocols, and research from an Indigenous lens.
- Supporting the enhancement of collaborative approaches underscored by gender and culturally appropriateness lenses.
- Reporting on progress and provide updates of the Community of Practice activities.
- Incorporating two-eyed seeing, Indigenous ways of being and knowing and working with curiosity and humility

Membership and Structure

- Membership of the Indigenous CoP is open to those who may identify as Indigenous and/ or those that share similar interests, goals, and objectives. Members may be affiliated with an organization or may be individuals with experience and perspectives important to represent.
- The CoP strives to be representative of the breadth of the communities it represents with particular focus on representation across Indigenous identities, experience and serving agencies.

- The CoP will be a 90-minute monthly meeting; ad-hoc Committees may be struck as needed throughout the life of the Project
- The CoP will join quarterly Provincial Working Group Meetings in coordination with the Community Working Groups and CoPs. This will be a 90-minute meeting

There is a standing agenda which outlines 4 main sections to each meeting:

1. Members introduction and land acknowledgement.
2. Focus Presentation: A presentation or resource sharing (as planned by the CoP chair) on a specific topic of interest. This presentation may be from CoP members, other staff, or external agencies.
3. Open discussion: moderated discussion on any important topics.
4. Reflection: upon the discussion and next steps.
5. Future Agenda and Next Meeting Timeframe.

All members are welcome to share their expertise, and any documents or other resources they have which they think will be useful to other members.

The CoP Chair responsibilities:

- Facilitating group discussion to ensure that communication is appropriate and respectful, ensuring all who wish to share have the opportunity;
- Developing agendas and objectives for the subsequent CoP meeting;
- Sending out regular messages to all CoP members about the next meeting or activity;
- Maintaining the contact list.
- Correspondences with committee members, responding to queries.
- Liaising with Blueprint Project coordinating team.

Community Membership:

- Unless otherwise agreed, costs arising from activities under the CoP will be borne by the CoP Member that incurs them, (or their organization) and will be subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and other resources.
- CoP Members can request honoraria for meeting attendance or other CoP duties where they are not otherwise compensated for their time and expertise. An honorarium is available in the amount of \$50 per meeting hour (\$75 per meeting).

At the time of its inception, the CoP is affiliated with the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) which received federal funding for this Blueprint Project, however it is hoped that the CoP will extend beyond the life of the project as long as the members find value in it. The ACWS may choose to be a member on equal footing with other CoP members. ACWS supports the CoP by disbursing project funds including funding the contract of the group facilitator, funding honoraria when requested and administering project funds.