



**RESOLVE** (Research and Education  
for Solutions to Violence and Abuse):  
An impact narrative

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I Introduction.....	1
1. Background.....	1
2. Approach/Methodology.....	2
3. Introduction .....	3
4. About Interpersonal Violence.....	4
5. About RESOLVE.....	7
Part II Findings .....	8
1. Inputs into the research .....	8
a) Research funding.....	8
b) Research team.....	9
2. Research outcomes and impacts.....	10
a) Institutional responses to interpersonal violence.....	10
b) Evidence informed policy development: the criminal justice system.....	11
c) Evidence informed program development: The Social Service System.....	17
d) Building the capacity of university students and community activists.....	19
3. Outputs: knowledge translation activities of RESOLVE.....	22
a) Book series .....	22
b) Research Day.....	24
c) Program manuals and government reports .....	24
d) Training.....	24
e) International knowledge transfer activities .....	25
f) Additional community engagement.....	26
Part III Discussion .....	27
1. Impacts and attribution.....	27
2. Knowledge translation and impacts.....	29
3. Time to impacts.....	32
4. Future of RESOLVE.....	33
Part IV Conclusion .....	34

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Victims of self-reported spousal violence by province (%), 2004, 2009, and 2014.....	4
Figure 2. Estimated economic impact of spousal violence on victims (in million \$) .....	5
Figure 3. Number of domestic homicides in Manitoba, 1997-2015.....	6
Figure 4. Breakdown of grants by source.....	9
Figure 5. Number of individuals charged before and after FVC .....	12
Figure 6. Calls to Winnipeg police identified as domestic.....	13
Figure 7. Number of prosecutors in the Domestic Violence Unit Winnipeg .....	14
Figure 8. Conviction rates Winnipeg Family Violence Court.....	15
Figure 9. Recidivism rates by court outcome 2000 & 2010.....	16
Figure 10. Distribution of students employed by RESOLVE by discipline. ....	20
Figure 11. Theory of change: RESOLVE's contribution in changing the perspectives and interventions on interpersonal violence.....	35

## List of Tables

Table 1. RESOLVE's milestones, 1992-2016 .....	7
Table 2. Grants received by RESOLVE by type.....	9
Table 3. Federal policy initiatives .....	11
Table 4. Manitoba policy initiatives.....	11
Table 5. Average time to case disposition for selected years: before and after FEP .....	14
Table 6. Knowledge translation provided by RESOLVE.....	17
Table 7. Documentation of programming for men .....	18

## Appendices

Appendix A .....	36
Appendix B.....	37
Appendix C .....	38

## List of Acronyms

IPV	Interpersonal violence
CJS	Criminal justice system
DV	Domestic violence
FASD	Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders
FEP	Front End Project

FVC	Family Violence Court
KT	Knowledge translation
NCYCCP	Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Certificate Program
NGOs	Non-government organizations
PAF	Prairie Action Foundation
RESOLVE	Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse
CAHRD	Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development
SSHRC	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
URGROUP	Urban, Rural, Good, Realistic, Opportunities, Understanding People

## Executive Summary

The purpose of Research Manitoba's impact narrative is to document the outcomes and impacts of research in the province. The goal of the impact narrative is two-fold: a) to communicate the impacts of research to a wide variety of audiences such as academics, industry, community groups, the public, and other users of research findings, and b) to link outcomes and impacts to the original research.

A questionnaire was developed to capture the impacts of the work of RESOLVE in promoting awareness on IPV and its prevention in Manitoba. Interviews were conducted with Dr. Jane Ursel, Director of RESOLVE and Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba. Additional information was collected from RESOLVE related documents, publications about Manitoba's Family Violence Court (FVC), government reports, and the internet.

The impact narrative focuses on RESOLVE's work with the FVC and local community based organizations, and the impacts that have arisen from these collaborations. It examines the outcomes and impacts of RESOLVE'S research and knowledge translation activities on interpersonal violence (IPV) in Canada. IPV encompasses all forms of violence and abuse directed towards people who are in a relationship with one another. The narrative examines how perspectives and interventions regarding IPV have evolved over time from a one dimensional to a multidimensional understanding of this complex issue. It presents the results of evidence informed systematic changes in the criminal justice and social service systems and the role RESOLVE played in the provision of relevant evidence.

RESOLVE is a Tri-provincial research network with offices at the Universities of Manitoba, Regina, and Calgary with two primary missions. The first is to foster collaboration among university-based researchers, policy makers, service workers, and representative groups affected by family violence and violence against women. The second is to conduct action-oriented research that facilitates innovation in research, service, and policy. RESOLVE has undertaken program design, program evaluation, literature reviews, and data collection from agencies and experiential individuals to promote awareness and social change, and provide research results to service providers and public policy makers. Provincial and federal government departments, agencies, and foundations have supported RESOLVE since its inception. From 1992 until 2018, RESOLVE will have received \$5.2 million, 80% of which are federal grants. For every dollar of provincial funding for RESOLVE, \$12 has been leveraged from federal sources.

Manitoba has served as the leader in IPV prevention in Canada after the establishment of the FVC in 1990, the first of its kind in the country. Since then, seven other jurisdictions have followed suit. Manitoba government departments and social service agencies have consistently followed a strategy of evidence informed programming to respond to the evolving knowledge and understanding of the complex issue of IPV. RESOLVE has played a key role in collecting the evidence from the Winnipeg FVC and in transferring knowledge from wide ranging research on IPV to pragmatic applications sensitive to the characteristics of our community.

RESOLVE's impacts on IPV are presented in several categories: advancing knowledge, capacity building, influence and effects, and broader impacts:

*Advancing knowledge:* RESOLVE helps to advance knowledge about IPV through its own research activities including the sharing of research findings, and compiling of information from a range of research from other sources and identifying promising practices to fit particular community needs and capacities. RESOLVE has published a series of books, program manuals, and government reports; engages in international knowledge transfer activities by hosting visiting scholars and being invited as speakers; holds an annual Research Day; and, engages with communities by serving on many boards and committees and acting as an expert witness on a number of domestic violence cases.

*Capacity building* in preventing and reducing IPV is carried out in several ways. Students and researchers at the three Manitoba universities are directly engaged in RESOLVE's activities. Students are employed as research assistants or have internships, gaining education, data for theses and dissertations, and training in a field in which they would like to work upon graduation. In the community, RESOLVE actively recruits people who may or may not have formal training in the field but have much experience to draw on. Based on the data provided annually by RESOLVE, the justice system expanded its personnel over the years to respond to the rising number of cases coming to the attention of the criminal justice system. The number of prosecutors increased from 3 to 22 between 1990 and 2016, and victim service workers increased from 3 to 55 in the same time frame.

RESOLVE has had an *influence and effect* on:

- the criminal justice system,
- the social services system,
- individuals,
- communities,
- and in the prevention of IPV.

RESOLVE's collaboration with the Manitoba government through the longitudinal study of the specialized justice system response to family violence has shown that programmatic and policy changes have had an impact on the criminal justice system. The FVC's establishment heralded a change: it raised awareness among the public that domestic violence was dangerous and the system was willing to address that danger; arrest rates increased dramatically; and, public calls to the police increased significantly. Although not all the accused were charged, the message to the public was that these cases were serious and would be taken seriously by the police. Because of the increases in calls to the police, arrests, and the volume of cases that come to the court, the number of prosecutors have increased over time. Conviction rates have also risen from 53% in 2003-2004 to 60.3% in 2012-2013 in Winnipeg. RESOLVE showed that the introduction by the Manitoba Provincial Court of a streamlined administrative procedure called the Front End Project reduced the number of days for all cases by 24% and for cases ending in a stay of proceedings, there was a reduction of 33%. It also reduced the number of court hearings substantially. RESOLVE studies documented the effectiveness of the rehabilitative remand program (diversion) that provided a treatment option to low risk accused. Studies of recidivism by court outcome indicated that individuals who received the treatment option had the lowest rate of recidivism and between 2000 and 2010, recidivism among this group declined by 11%.

Social services for victims and their families have increased in the province. Before 1980, there were only two shelters for the victims of family violence. But today, there are 10 provincially funded shelters

and three federally funded shelters on reserves. The need for more violence-specific programming was realized by the Manitoba government and as a result, province wide expenditures on family violence programs increased from \$0.50 per capita in 1980 to \$21 per capita in 2016. RESOLVE has undertaken many projects with community social service agencies that provide programming for women, men and children struggling with issues of domestic violence. It draws on extensive international research literature and adapts the findings to specific populations and service environments.

*Broad impacts:* the combined effect of changes in the criminal justice system and the social services system has brought about a greater willingness to reach out for assistance. Over the years, self-reports of family violence have gone down in Manitoba, from 7.3% in 2004 to 3.3% in 2014 as indicated by Statistics Canada. However, while the situation appears to have changed dramatically, there may still be significant under-reporting of cases of violence. Therefore, there continues to be a need to promote awareness within the larger society about the various organizations and services that are in place to assist victims and their family.

Research on violence, increased awareness, and a responsive justice and social service system helps to save substantial costs in the economy. The total economic impact of spousal violence on the Canadian economy was estimated to be \$7.4 billion in 2009. But, as a study in Alberta illustrated, the benefit of having interventions to address issues of violence outweighed the cost by six times.

The changes in the whole spectrum of violence, from a violent episode with the victim and offender to its resolution within the system, has shown that research and its dissemination has played and continue to play a pivotal role. However, to radically reduce or eliminate Interpersonal Violence, research should be sustained and its findings translated to intervention services provided by government and community based organizations.

## PART I INTRODUCTION

### I. BACKGROUND

Research Manitoba develops impact narratives to document the outcomes and impacts of research in the province. The goal of the impact narrative is two-fold: a) to communicate the impacts of research to a wide variety of audiences such as academics, industry, community groups, the public, and other users of research findings, and b) to link outcomes and impacts to the original research. The narrative also contributes to the following goals of Research Manitoba in measuring impacts:

- a. Determine the return on investment of Research Manitoba's funded programs and projects;
- b. Inform Research Manitoba's decision making, planning, and programming;
- c. Record accountability and transparency (a reporting tool to the Government of Manitoba);
- d. Encourage a proactive and prospective measurement and monitoring of research impacts among researchers, funders, and users of knowledge;
- e. Determine the factors that facilitate the creation of impacts of research; and,
- f. Contribute to the growing practice of research impact assessment in Canada and globally.

The impact narrative looks at research on interpersonal violence (IPV) in Canada, and how perspectives and interventions have evolved over time from a one dimensional to a multidimensional understanding of this complex issue. It presents the results of evidence informed systematic changes in the criminal justice and social service systems and the role RESOLVE played in the provision of relevant evidence. Manitoba has served as the leader in interpersonal violence prevention in Canada after the establishment of the Family Violence Court (FVC) in 1990, the first of its kind in the country. Since 1990 seven other jurisdictions have followed suit. Manitoba government departments and social service agencies have consistently followed a strategy of evidence informed programming to respond to the evolving knowledge and understanding of the complex issue of IPV. RESOLVE has played a key role in collecting the evidence from the Winnipeg FVC and in transferring knowledge from wide ranging research on IPV to pragmatic applications sensitive to the characteristics of our communities.

RESOLVE is a Tri-provincial research network with offices at the Universities of Manitoba, Regina and Calgary. The University of Manitoba is the administrative centre for all three university offices. RESOLVE has two primary missions. The first is to foster collaboration among university-based researchers, policy makers, service workers, and representative groups affected by family violence and violence against women. The second is to conduct action-oriented research that facilitates innovation in research, service and policy. In the context of RESOLVE's mission there are three broad objectives:

- a. To encourage, facilitate, and conduct applied practice-and-policy-relevant research on interpersonal violence;
- b. To enhance the research capacity of students and community agencies; and,
- c. To disseminate research findings to decision-makers and others with influence to increase the probability of their impact on policy and/or practice.



This narrative will establish the connections between RESOLVE’s work on IPV and the impact of their research on program and policy development in Manitoba.

## 2. APPROACH/METHODOLOGY

Outputs, outcomes, and impacts in this narrative are examined through the lens of the Research Manitoba impact framework, which is divided into five categories:

- a. **Advancing knowledge** involves creation/co-creation of knowledge, leading to new discoveries and breakthroughs, and contributing to the knowledge pool.
- b. **Building capacity** refers to the development and enhancement of the ability of individuals and teams to conduct and sustain research.
- c. **Influence and effects** on perceptions, thinking, awareness, and decision making because of research activities/findings can take numerous forms. This category largely refers to the influence and effects on government; industry; the research enterprise; not for profit organizations; individuals, groups and communities; educational institutions; and the public.
- d. **Applications and changes** are the outcomes and impacts that result from research in health, social sciences and humanities, and natural sciences and engineering disciplines.
- e. **Broad benefits** include economic, technological, environmental, social/societal, and cultural benefits impacts such as wellbeing and prosperity.

To collect data, a questionnaire was developed to capture the impacts of the work of RESOLVE in promoting awareness on IPV in the province of Manitoba, and helping to reduce IPV in the long run.

A part-time person (Ms. Sanchita Sarker) was recruited for the project and worked with Research Manitoba from September 2016 to January 2017. To complete the narrative, several interviews were conducted with Dr. Jane Ursel, Director of RESOLVE and Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba. Additional information was collected from the documents shared by Dr. Ursel on the work of RESOLVE, publications on FVC and government reports. Email communication with Dr. Ursel and internet searches became sources of data as well. As discussed with Dr. Ursel, the impact narrative focuses on the work of RESOLVE with Manitoba’s Family Violence Court (FVC), and local community based organizations, and the impacts that have arisen from these collaborations. Data on funding and some impacts were analyzed on MS Excel, complementing the results of the interview and the review of relevant documents and literature.

### Limitations

Identifying the magnitude of IPV is a challenge because a large number of victims choose not to report to the police. Yet the only “hard” data available to expand programs and adjust workloads is official data, i.e. police and court data. This can be supplemented with agency data (for example how many women and children stayed in shelters in one year), but we also know that many victims choose not to go to a shelter. Wherever possible we have supplemented institutional data with data from the Canadian General Social Survey, which publishes the results of anonymous self-reports of victimization in their reports every five years.

### 3. INTRODUCTION

Historically, family violence was perceived by many Canadians as a personal tragedy rather than a serious crime. The transformation in our understanding of domestic violence as a crime began in the early 1980s starting with a directive from the federal Solicitor General to the RCMP police forces across the country to lay a charge if there was “reasonable and probable grounds that a crime occurred” regardless of the relationship between the complainant and the accused. This was a first step in a series of policy changes designed to improve the response of the justice system to victims and those accused of domestic violence. Since that time, a succession of changes has taken place, which include:

- specialized court processes,
- use of risk assessment tools by police and courts,
- civil legislation,
- sentencing changes that recognize domestic violence as an aggravating factor,
- a new law on criminal harassment (stalking), and
- restricted access to firearms for applicant with a history of domestic violence.

Training for police and Crown prosecutors has also been put into place in many jurisdictions. Criminal justice agencies have also developed collaborative partnerships with community agencies servicing victims and perpetrators.

The initial impetus for these changes and others was the activism and lobbying by grassroots women’s organizations who were the first to establish emergency shelters for abused women in the 1970s. Thanks largely to these groups, there is now a better understanding about the realities of domestic violence for victims and their families. We now know that many victims face a complex reality: they typically have emotional and financial ties to the abuser, they share a home and often children. Custody and access issues are often intertwined with criminal justice issues. A victim may fear retaliation from the abuser if they go outside the family for help. There may be strong pressure from family or friends to stay together, or religious or cultural reasons for keeping the abuse private.

The gains made by Canadian courts over the past decade in institutionalizing specialized processes to better respond to the needs of victims and accused persons have been impressive. In addition, social services have expanded, risk assessment tools are increasingly used and treatment programs for violent partners are growing. It is essential that these innovations go hand-in-hand with research and evaluation of their effectiveness. Evaluations to date show promising results with respect to expediting court appearances, expanding sentencing options, connecting victims to support services, and reducing recidivism. An important research finding is that the justice system is more effective in responding to domestic violence if it is actively involved in strong interagency collaboration within the community.<sup>1</sup>

The development of RESOLVE reflects the evolution of programs and services for victims of IPV. Beginning as a province based research institute it grew over time to incorporate multi-disciplinary research teams across the Prairie Provinces. Its mission and mandate, stated above, responds to the ongoing needs of service providers and policy makers for evidence based program development and decision making.

## 4. ABOUT INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Interpersonal violence (IPV) encompasses all forms of violence and abuse directed towards people who are in a relationship with one another. Interpersonal violence is different from stranger violence because it sets up a dynamic that is particularly challenging to interrupt or intervene. People in an intimate partner relationship may be very reluctant to seek help or report to the police because of their love and/or dependence upon their abuser. This is also the case for victims of child abuse and elder abuse. Child abuse was an acknowledged problem back in 1898 when the first child welfare act was implemented in Manitoba, however, at that time apprehension was the primary intervention strategy. Today social services focus on counselling as well as safety and the criminal justice system has developed specializations to respond to the particular vulnerability of a child. Spousal abuse has only been identified as an actionable crime since the early 1980s and there is now a growing awareness of elder abuse.

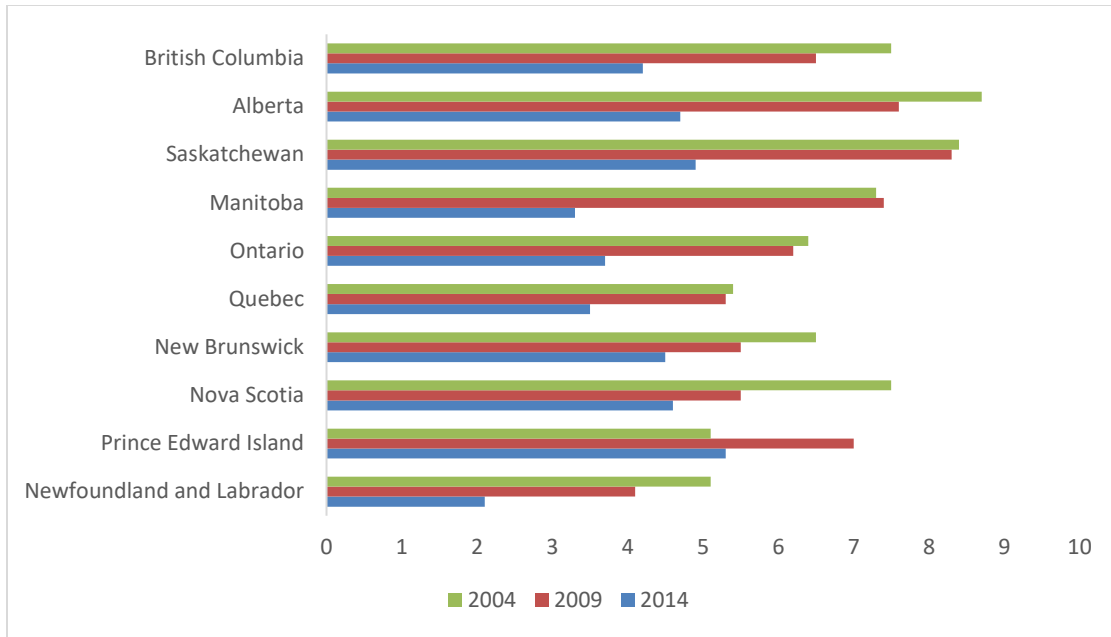
As the community becomes more aware of the damage done to individuals who are abused by persons who live with them or know them, other forms of abuse have been identified, such as bullying. More recently women are speaking out against sexual assault, how difficult the justice system is for victims and how frequently their assault is perpetrated by someone they knew. Sexual assault has been added to the range of violence and abuse issues that required specialized social service and criminal justice responses.

Over the past quarter century, social services and justice services have developed and evolved to provide more sensitive and effective interventions. Through this process of service evolution research has been a critical companion, identifying new and promising practices used in other jurisdictions and/or collecting data on the impact and effectiveness of various interventions. One of the challenges that face service providers and researchers is determining how large the problem is and how to reach all persons effected. Because of the ongoing nature of the relationship and victim ambivalence about reporting, official statistics (police and court data) are seen to be serious underestimates of the magnitude of the problem. Statistics Canada estimates that only 28% of spousal abuse victims report and service providers suggest that even fewer child and elder abuse victims are reporting. The most seriously underreported interpersonal violence is sexual assault, which Statistics Canada estimate less than 10% of victims report to the police.<sup>2</sup>

To address this problem of reporting, Statistics Canada introduced a violence against women survey in 1993 and subsequently conduct victimization surveys every five years. These surveys allow victims to report their experiences of violence and abuse anonymously. These anonymous self-reports indicate a much larger population of victims of IPV than institutional statistics indicate.

Figure I presents the data on self-reports of Canadians who were victims of spousal violence by province for the last three victimization surveys. It is interesting to note that Manitobans went from reporting a high of 7.4% indicating victimization in 2009 to a rate of 3.3% in 2014. While this reduction is encouraging it is important to point out that 3.3% of adult Manitobans in a current or former spousal relationship amounts to thousands of people. Data from Statistics Canada showed that about 1,207 women are victims of violence for every 100,000 women in Canada. In Manitoba, the rate is 2,191 per 100,000 women, which is more than double the national average rate of violence.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure I. Victims of self-reported spousal violence by province (%), 2004, 2009, and 2014**

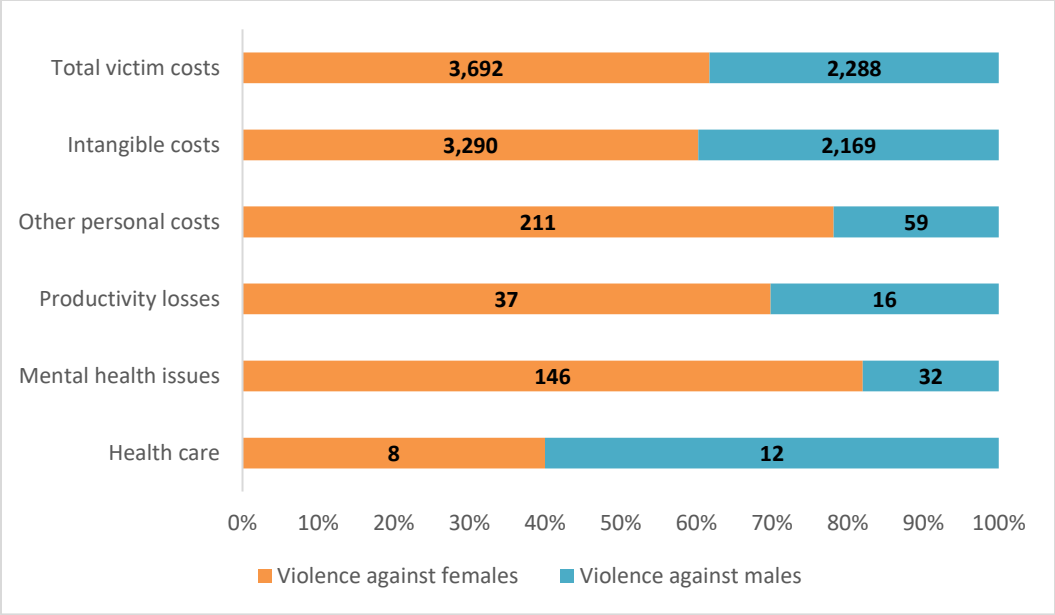


Similar statistics from the General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization indicate the gap between self-reports and official statistics for sexual assault, “Statistics Canada’s crime victimization survey finds that contrary to decreases in other violent crimes, the incidence of sexual assault increased from 33 to 37 per 1,000 women in the population between 1999 and 2014 while the rate at which these crimes were reported to police dropped to 5 per cent” (Johnson 2017). The GSS also identifies a much higher percent of the population who have been victims of child mal treatment than child welfare services across Canada deal with.<sup>4</sup>

Researchers, policy makers and service providers work together to attempt to address the known cases of abuse as well as identify strategies to encourage victims to seek help and report their abuse. The costs of abuse on individuals and society are staggering.

A study conducted by Zhang, et al. in 2012 found that the total economic impact of spousal violence, including the impact on the justice system, the primary victims, and the impacts borne by third parties was estimated to be \$7.4 billion in 2009 in Canada, which is roughly \$220 per capita.<sup>5</sup> The same study compared the costs involving violence against females and males and found that except in health care, the cost of violence against women is much higher (Figure 2). It must be noted that there are limitations to the numbers presented in the figure largely because the calculation was based on the number of victims who reported to the authorities. It does not truly represent the total number of violence that occur in Canada.

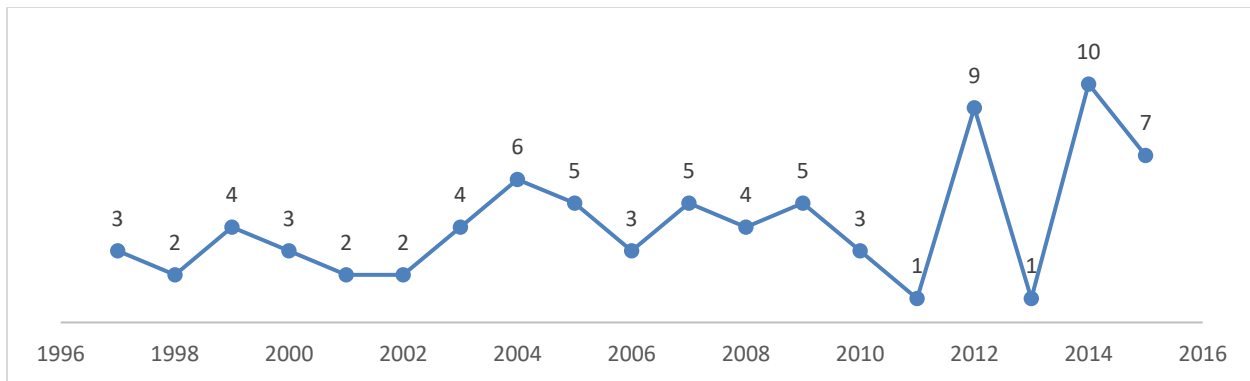
**Figure 2. Estimated economic impact of spousal violence on victims (in million \$)**



A study by Child Fund Alliance estimated that economic impacts and costs resulting from the consequences of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children globally is nearly \$7 trillion.<sup>6</sup>

The greatest cost of all is the loss of life that results when domestic violence is not interrupted and domestic homicide is the result. Figure 3 below identifies the pattern of domestic homicides in Manitoba over a twenty-year period.

**Figure 3. Number of domestic homicides in Manitoba, 1997-2015**



Source: Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Table 253-0007 Note: Some homicides that are included in a given year's total occurred in previous years, they are counted according to the year in which police submit the data.

Increasing information about IPV has resulted in an ongoing evolution of institutional responses to IPV. In the following sections, we will consider the interaction between RESOLVE research and program development, first within the criminal justice system, and then within the social service sector.

## 5. ABOUT RESOLVE

RESOLVE is a prairie based network that coordinates and supports research aimed at ending interpersonal violence. RESOLVE Manitoba is one of the five family violence research centres across Canada which were established in 1992 with the support of the federal government. The five centres formed an alliance to facilitate research on a national and international level when funding permitted. All the centres work in partnership with the community and the focus of their research is to provide evidence to inform policy and program development. In 1997, RESOLVE Manitoba expanded to include the prairie region and now have research centres at the universities of Manitoba, Regina, and Calgary.

Interpersonal violence is not a unidimensional problem. Its repercussions are extensive. It negatively impacts victims and their families by adversely affecting their health, and creating financial strain and social isolation. To address the complexity of the issue RESOLVE research involves interdisciplinary teams assembled to address specific research agendas. Broad research agendas have involved faculty from nursing, law, psychology, sociology, and social work who partner with key social service and public-sector agencies.

With the goal of reducing violence and abuse, RESOLVE undertakes research that identifies pragmatic and action-oriented solutions. In this capacity, RESOLVE has undertaken program design, program evaluation, literature reviews, and data collection from agencies and experiential individuals to promote awareness and social change, and provide research results to service providers and public policy makers. Table I enumerates milestones in RESOLVE development and activities to date.

**Table I. RESOLVE's milestones, 1992-2016**

Year	Achievements
------	--------------

1992	The University of Manitoba is selected as one of the five Research Centres of Excellence on Research on Family Violence and Violence Against Women.
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The University of Manitoba Centre develops regional capacity, establishing offices in Saskatchewan and Alberta, as well as Manitoba – and adopts the name RESOLVE (Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse).</li> <li>▪ Prairie Action Foundation is established to provide infrastructural support for RESOLVE.</li> </ul>
1998	RESOLVE establishes an annual Research Day tradition. Each year a major conference is organized by each Centre on a rotating basis. This conference features new initiatives in programming presented by our community partners and recent research results from our studies.
2000	RESOLVE Book Series Begins – Since its inception nine books have been published featuring the research done in collaboration with community partners.
2000-2004	A new Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) initiative is introduced – Community University Research Alliance (CURA) – recognizing the importance of working in partnership with the community. RESOLVE was a recipient of a \$700,000 grant to “Evaluate the Justice and Community Response to Family Violence in the Prairie Provinces”. RESOLVE Alberta had the lead.
2001	RESOLVE Manitoba hosts an 11-person delegation from China (Lawyers, Judges and Social Workers) to observe Manitoba Courts and social programs responding to Domestic Violence.
2003-2010	RESOLVE Manitoba is the recipient of a \$1M CURA Grant to conduct a longitudinal study of women who had experienced intimate partner violence entitled “The Healing Journey”. Across the three prairie provinces, 665 women participated in the study over seven waves of interviews in 4.5 years, providing valuable information of factors that facilitated achieving a safe life and factors that inhibited safety.
2011-2016	RESOLVE receives a \$1M CURA grant entitled “Rural and Northern Response to Intimate Partner Violence”, utilizing GPS mapping to identify incidents of abuse and location of services and interviews with service providers. RESOLVE Saskatchewan has the lead.
2015-2020	All three RESOLVE offices are participating in a National Homicide Study funded by SSHRC (\$2.7M), entitled “National Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative for Vulnerable Populations”.

## PART II FINDINGS

### I. INPUTS INTO THE RESEARCH

#### A) RESEARCH FUNDING

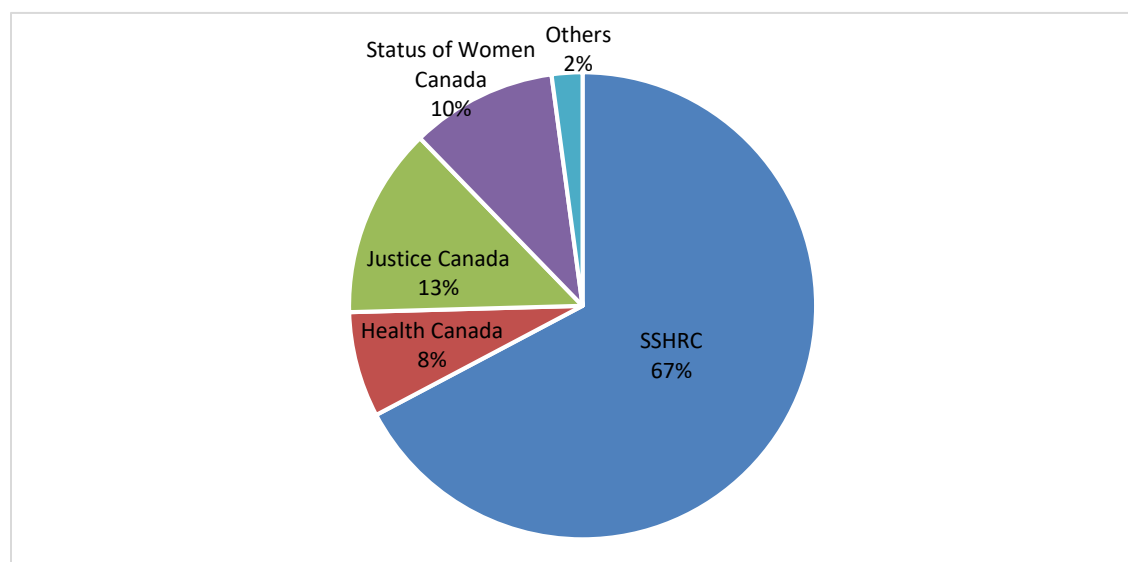
Provincial and federal government departments, agencies and foundations have supported RESOLVE since its inception. From 1992 until 2018, RESOLVE will have received \$5.2 million. Most of the funding (80%) are federal grants (Table 2). For every dollar of provincial funding for RESOLVE, \$12 has been leveraged from federal sources. As Dr. Ursel says, “investing in researchers in Manitoba multiplies the funds that come into the province.” Funding support from foundations, non-governmental organizations (NGO’s), and the university accounted for 14% of the total.

**Table 2. Grants received by RESOLVE by type**

Years	Source of grant	Amount \$	%
1992-2016	Federal	4,107,661	80
1994-2016	Provincial	331,437	6
1996-2018	Foundation, NGOs and university	730,579	14
Total		5,169,677	100

The largest share of RESOLVE's funding came from SSHRC, a federal funding agency, at 67% of the total (Figure 4). Further financial support to the network has come from Health Canada, Justice Canada, and Status of Women Canada. Additionally, RESOLVE received funds from other organizations like the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development (CAHRD), University of Manitoba, and the Healing Fund.

**Figure 4. Breakdown of grants by source**



## B) RESEARCH TEAM

RESOLVE's research is funded through research grants and contracts. These research projects can be local and short term or regional or national and longer term (typically five-seven years). Each research project entails putting together a specific team to address the research problem. Longer term projects with a broad scope may have as many as forty team members and as many research assistants. Local, shorter term projects may have as few as two or three team members. At any given time, a RESOLVE office may have five to 10 research projects running. Given the fluidity of the research process, continuity is ensured through consistent office staffing, the presence of a Provincial Steering Committee (Appendix A) and a Regional Council (Appendix B), and a Partnership Board (Appendix C) involving all eight participating universities across the three Prairie Provinces.



The consistent office staff for RESOLVE Manitoba are the Director, a research associate, an office manager, a newsletter editor, and an office assistant. An organizational chart is provided to explain the interaction of the three levels of operation (Provincial, Regional, and University partnership, Appendix C).

## 2. RESEARCH OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

### A) INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

As information about the various forms of interpersonal violence increased, institutions evolved to respond to the new service demands that were identified. This section will provide a brief overview of the shifting service environment in response to expanding needs identification. The following sections will identify the role RESOLVE played in providing the evidence for ‘evidence informed’ changes in the criminal justice system (section b) and the social service system (section c).

Today the Winnipeg Family Violence Court (FVC) have specialist prosecutors and specialist victim services staff for victims of spousal assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and sexual assault. For these cases to come to the attention of the Winnipeg FVC there has to be a violation of the Criminal Code of Canada.

The first points of intervention are typically the police and the Winnipeg Police Service, which developed specialized investigative units that coincide with the specialized court. The police service introduced a specialized child abuse unit in 1987, a domestic violence coordinator and several specialized investigative units in 1991, and a specialized sex crimes unit was created in 2000.

With specialist police and prosecutors at the front end of the justice system and designated courts to hear these cases, the process of justice began to change. Prior to the specialized court, the most frequent sentence for a convicted offender was a conditional discharge. This can be interpreted as: “Yes the accused did the crime, but there is no treatment ordered, no punishment and they are not left with a criminal record after the discharge period...” – in short, no consequences.<sup>7</sup> When specialization was introduced, the most frequent sentence became probation and the second most was incarceration: there are now serious consequences for domestic violence offenses. In response to changes in sentencing, institutional, and community corrections introduced new treatment programs for offenders.

While the criminal justice system is a critical component of a systemic response to interpersonal violence, it is only a piece of the puzzle. For the past 25 years, innovations in the criminal justice system were accompanied by a massive expansion of social services; shelters, second stage housing, counselling programs for victims, perpetrators, and programming for child witnesses of domestic violence. Nine years after the introduction of the FVC, Manitoba introduced the Domestic Violence and Stalking Act. This legislation was designed to offer victims of domestic violence and stalking relief in the form of protective orders under civil law. This act was amended in 2005 and again in 2016 to respond to the growing demand for protective orders and the need to facilitate access to these orders.

As public awareness and concern about IPV increased, the policy and service environment in Canada changed with the introduction of key federal (Table 3) and Manitoba (Table 4) policy initiatives.

**Table 3. Federal policy initiatives**

Year	Policy and Program Developments
1981	First National Report on Domestic Violence tabled in the House of Parliament
1982	Canadian Solicitor General Issued a Directive to Charge in Domestic Violence Cases
1983	\$40M Four Year Family Violence Initiative to prioritize Wife Assault programs
1991	\$136M Second Four Year Initiative: The Safe Haven Program – (shelter expansion) \$2.5M to establish five Centres of Excellence for Domestic Violence Research
1993	\$13M Statistics Canada conduct the first National Survey on Violence Against Women Report of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women
1996	\$7M Third Family Violence Initiative
1977	\$350M National Healing Fund (Legacy of Residential Schools)

Source: RESOLVE Manitoba (2010)

**Table 4. Manitoba policy initiatives**

Year	Policy and Program Developments
1983	Directive to Police to Charge in Domestic Violence Cases
1985	Domestic Violence Prevention Branch established in Department of Family Services
1986	Women’s Advocacy Program
1987	Specialized Child Abuse Unit, Winnipeg Police
1990	Specialized Family Violence Court
1992	Domestic Violence Coordinator Position, Winnipeg Police
1999	Domestic Violence and Stalking Act
2000	Sex Crimes Unit, Winnipeg Police
2003	Victim Services Program for Victims of Family Violence throughout Manitoba
2005	Domestic Violence and Stalking Act Amended
2016	Specialist Prosecutors for Sexual Assault Cases added to the Winnipeg D.V. Unit Domestic Violence and Stalking Act Amended

Source: RESOLVE Manitoba (2016)

## B) EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY DEVELOPMENT: THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Policy and program development are the product of complex social dynamics, which raise awareness of particular social issues, lead to demands for program and policy interventions, and may identify particular models of intervention. Research plays a role in these dynamics in translating and brokering knowledge.

Knowledge translation (KT) involves collecting information through primary or secondary research to identify details about a specific social problem and identify promising practices for intervention. KT involves both the

compiling of information from a range of research and identification (in collaboration with service providers) of adaptations of promising practices to fit particular community needs and capacities.

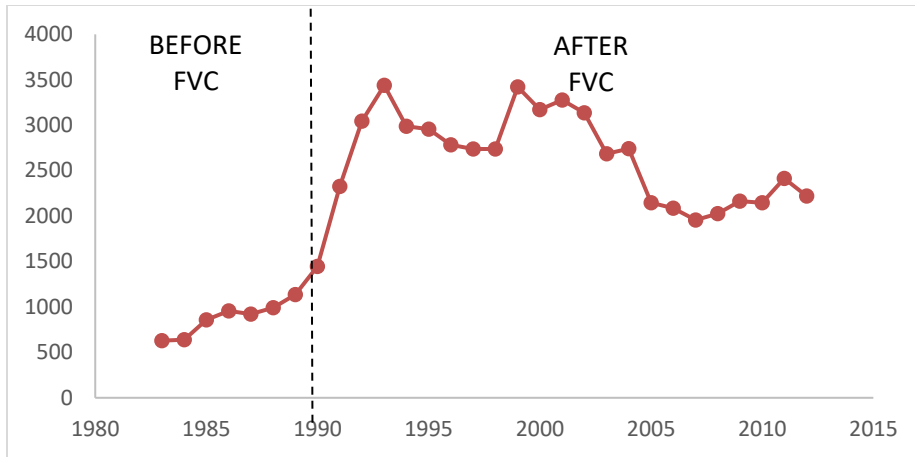
Knowledge brokering involves the setup of data collection procedures at the request of an agency or institution to collect data to address specific questions concerning service delivery, outputs and outcomes of intervention. The knowledge broker component often implies a closer working relationship between the institution or agency and the research institute. Two examples of such ongoing working relationships are the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and RESOLVE's Family Violence Court project.

The Manitoba Government has a unique relationship with RESOLVE as it is the only jurisdiction in Canada that has a longitudinal study of the specialized justice system response to family violence. This study has been collecting data on all cases heard before the FVC since its inception in 1990. The importance of this relationship lies in the fact that a single point in time (one shot) study could not capture the complex evolution of the criminal justice system from policing to corrections as attitudes, reporting practices, and policies change over time. Knowledge derived from "one shot studies" of institutional change while helpful, are also very limited. Information from such studies are partial and results can be ambiguous because social relations and social systems are complex, dynamic, and ever evolving.

Justice is a very complex system that evolves in response to changes in legislation, case volume, administrative practices and social pressure. The longitudinal study of the Winnipeg FVC is the product of a collaborative relationship between Manitoba Justice and RESOLVE. As a knowledge broker RESOLVE designed a data collection procedure to provide the Manitoba government with information on reporting patterns, arrest rates, conviction rates, sentencing patterns, and recidivism as they have changed in response to new policies and programs introduced over the past quarter century.

A longitudinal study allows the measurement of the impact of particular policies and also to map out the interaction effect that these policies have upon different components of the justice system. For instance, in 1983 Manitoba's Attorney General issued the directive to police to lay a charge in domestic violence cases when there were reasonable and probable grounds that a crime did occur. This directive was issued to undo the historical pattern of police responding to domestic violence cases with a warning rather than an arrest due to the dominant perception at the time that domestic violence was a private matter rather than a crime of assault. The directive to charge did have an impact on arrest rates, and the rates increased dramatically when the FVC was implemented in 1990 (Figure 5).

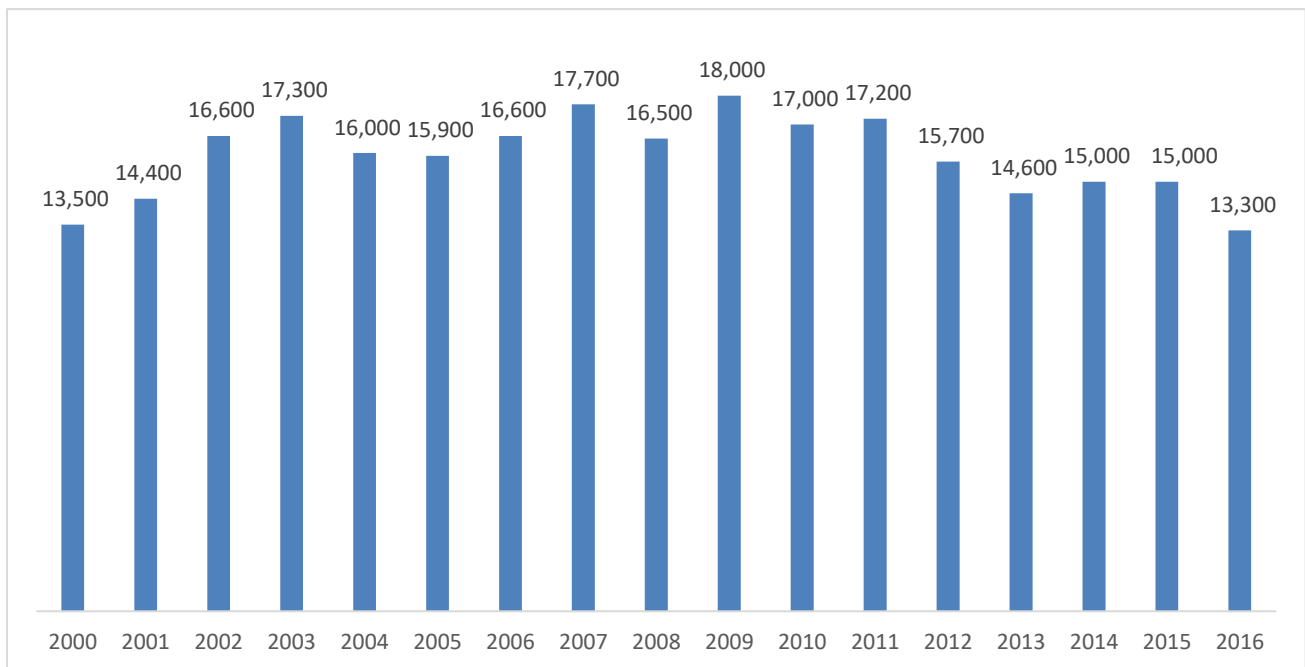
## **Figure 5. Number of individuals charged before and after FVC**



Source: RESOLVE Manitoba (2016)

The introduction of the FVC received a lot of media attention and in doing so raised awareness among the public that domestic violence was dangerous and that systems were changing to address that danger. Thus, the introduction of the FVC had a profound impact on public calls for assistance to the police over the past 16 years (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Calls to Winnipeg police identified as domestic**



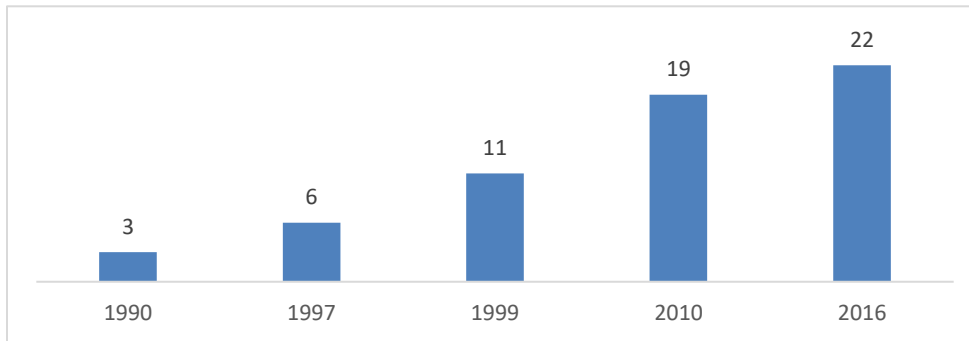
Source: Winnipeg Police Service (2016)

While not all calls resulted in an accused being charged, the message to the public was that these cases were serious and would be taken seriously by the police. When there is insufficient evidence that a crime occurred, the Winnipeg Police collaborates with victim services to offer the Early Intervention Program. This program offers

follow up assistance and referrals to support services. While an arrest may not be made, several intervention options are offered to a family in distress.

Every jurisdiction in Canada that has introduced a specialized justice response to domestic violence (DV) has found that calls to police increase, arrests increase, and the volume of cases that come to the court increase. To keep up with this pace, the number of prosecutors grew dramatically over time. Figure 7 identifies periods of growth of the specialized DV Unit in prosecutions.

**Figure 7. Number of prosecutors in the Domestic Violence Unit Winnipeg**



Source: Domestic Violence Unit, Winnipeg Prosecutions (2016)

In addition to increasing personnel in 2004, the Manitoba Provincial Court introduced a streamlined administrative procedure referred to as the “Front End Project” (FEP). The goal of this project was to reduce the time cases took to be processed by the criminal justice system. This project involved having all members of the front end of the justice system (police, crown attorneys, and defense attorneys) sign on to strict timelines to share information and prepare for court. The goal was twofold: first, to reduce the length of time a DV case was in the criminal justice system as measured by days between arrest and disposition. And second, to use court time more efficiently by reducing the number of remands and the reduction in court hearings per case due to defense or prosecutors being unready to proceed.<sup>8</sup> RESOLVE was able to document the changes and the accomplishment of these goals because of its longitudinal study of the court. RESOLVE’s evaluation of the FEP revealed that the number of days for all cases was reduced by 24% and for cases ending in a stay of proceedings, it was 33% (Table 5).

**Table 5. Average time to case disposition for selected years: before and after FEP**

	2001-2002 (n=3,913)	2007-2008 (n=2,702)	Change	% change
All cases	304 days	230 days	-74 days	24
Stay*	309 days	208 days	-101 days	33

\*Stay – cases that were stayed for counseling were excluded because they extend time to allow for completion of counseling.

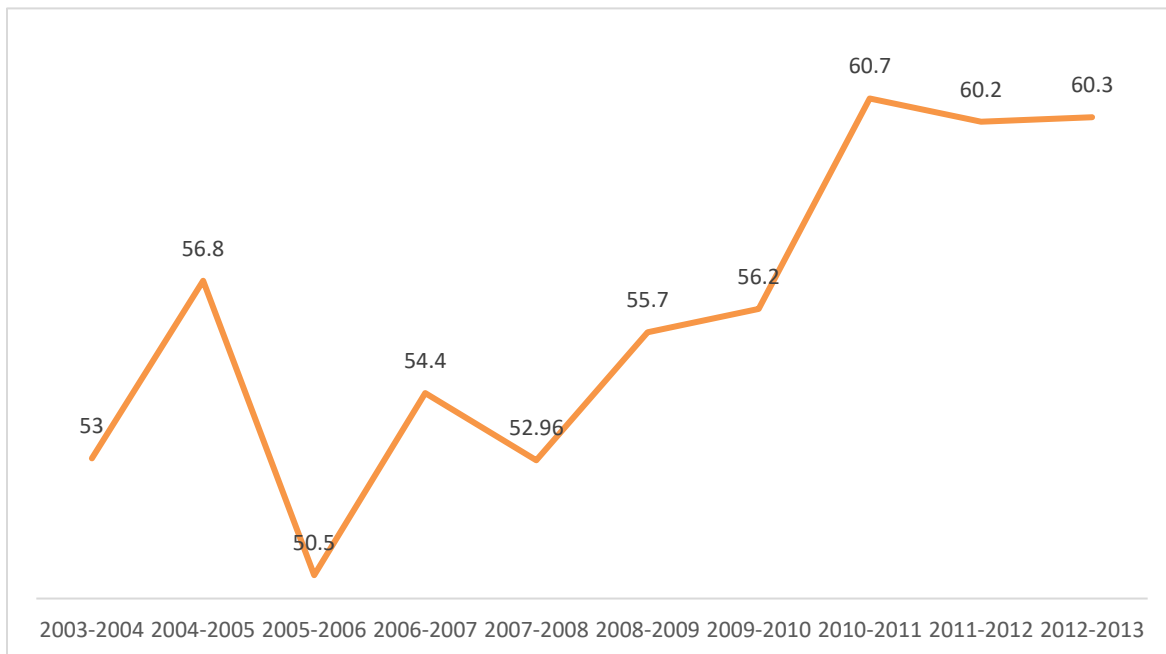
Source: RESOLVE Manitoba (2015)

With regard to the second goal, more efficient use of court time, the RESOLVE study indicated a significant reduction of days in court to reach a disposition for guilty plea cases both for individuals out on bail and for those

held in custody. This reduction was sustained in cases that were disposed quickly (three months or less), with the number of court hearings being reduced from an average of 2.7 to 1. Those that were disposed in three to six months had the number of hearings reduced from 4.3 to 1.3 and those that took longer than six months to dispose had the court hearings reduced from 5.5 to 1.9. In all cases, the number of court hearings declined substantially.

While efficient use of court time and court personnel are very important, RESOLVE demonstrated that this reduction was not at the expense of the quality of justice. During and subsequent to the administrative change the conviction rates were not negatively affected (Figure 8).

**Figure 8. Conviction rates Winnipeg Family Violence Court**



Source: RESOLVE Manitoba (2016)

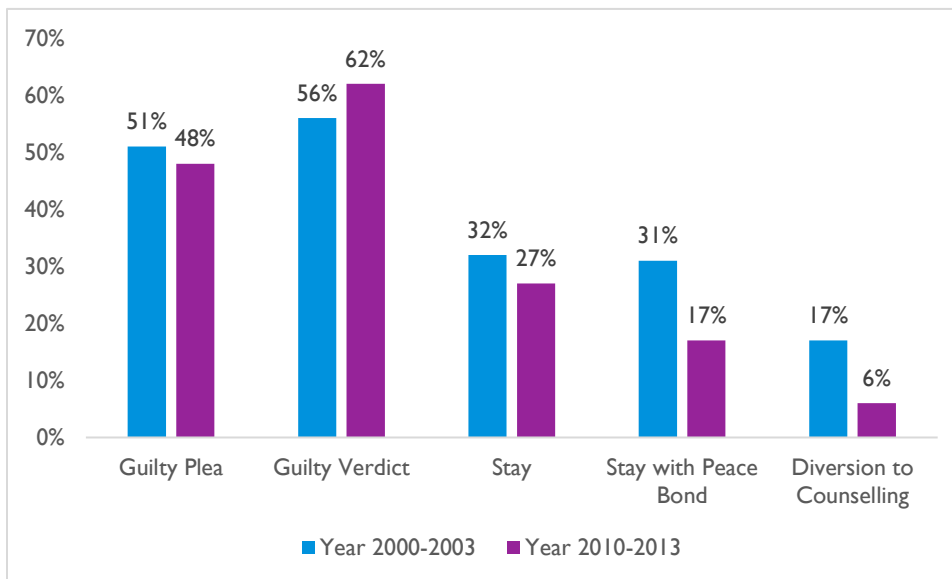
Madam Justice Janice leMaistre, Court of Appeal of Manitoba, identifies how valuable timely data analysis can be for program planning and evaluation.

*“My knowledge of the impact of RESOLVE research on the community comes from my prior work as a prosecutor and supervisor in the Domestic Violence Unit at Manitoba Justice and as an Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba. RESOLVE has a long history of collecting and interpreting data on domestic violence courts in Manitoba. Social science research on domestic violence provides social context which helps judges to evaluate the evidence in a case in a manner that is knowledgeable, objective, and that avoids bias and myths. Studies such as the Evaluation of the Front End Project assist with the administration of courts by informing decisions regarding the allocation of limited judicial resources.”*

One of the ongoing concerns within the justice and social service system is the issue of recidivism. Because the accused is frequently in an ongoing relationship with the victim as partner and/or co-parent, the opportunities for re-offense are substantial. For the victim, recidivism is a measure of their risk, for the criminal justice system, it is a measure of its efficacy. In 1999, the DV Unit in prosecutions began to select low risk accused for diversion into a counselling program which had both incentives and consequences. The incentive was if the accused attended, participated, and completed a treatment program their case would be stayed and they would not have a criminal record. However, if the accused did not comply the prosecutor had the opportunity to bring the case back to court and proceed with a prosecution; noncompliance had serious consequences. The prosecutors were interested in how this initiative would impact recidivism. To answer this question, RESOLVE conducted recidivism studies in 2000 and in 2010. In both studies, all charged individuals were followed for two years to see if they were charged again for a similar offense.

The process for selecting low risk accused for diversion is very effective in reducing recidivism (Figure 9). Prosecutors are selecting individuals least likely to reoffend and indeed in both studies, the recidivism rate for persons diverted to counselling was substantially lower than the recidivism rate for individuals with other court outcomes. The dramatic decline in recidivism for diversion cases from the 2000 study to the 2010 study suggests that the selection process and the treatment process have significantly improved over the decade studied.

**Figure 8. Recidivism rates by court outcome 2000 & 2010**



Source: RESOLVE Manitoba (2016)

The usefulness of such information is identified by Michele Jules, Director of Prosecutions Information Management.

*“The data provided by RESOLVE research has assisted prosecutions by informing us about the reduced recidivism for those offenders who receive counselling. It helps prosecutors to be confident that programming outside of the formal justice system for domestic violence matters can be very effective in the right circumstances.”*

---

## C) EVIDENCE INFORMED PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: THE SOCIAL SERVICE SYSTEM

---

### Knowledge translation

RESOLVE has undertaken a number of projects with community social service agencies that provide programming for women, men and children struggling with issues of domestic violence. RESOLVE draws on extensive international research literature. However, findings from the international research need to be adapted to specific populations and service environments (i.e. knowledge translation).

Community agency experience provides the local knowledge which can translate information from the research literature into program designs specific to our community. Working with a number of agencies RESOLVE produced program manuals and e-training materials to assist agencies throughout the province (Table 6).

**Table 6. Knowledge translation provided by RESOLVE**

Year	Agency/agency	RESOLVE's work
2005-2007	Manitoba Association of Family Violence Workers (MAFVW)	Helped develop a manual of guidelines and recommended practices for programming for children who have witnessed or experienced family violence and abuse.
2009	Klinik Community Health Centre, Wolseley Family Place, Fisher River First Nations Healing Centre, and the Laurel Centre	Helped develop an information paper and annotated bibliography for family violence services on trauma informed treatment. The project reviewed the literature of the effects of trauma on the brain and consequent psychological and behavioral manifestations. This laid the ground work for the next step, Trauma Informed Training workshops.
2012	Klinik Community Health Centre	Developed an online Trauma Informed Training workshop produced by Klinik Community Health Centre and conducted a formative evaluation.
2014	Klinik Community Health Centre	Klinik hosted a Trauma Forum and RESOLVE analyzed and summarized the proceedings for future training programs.

May-Jo Bolton, Clinical Director, Klinik states:

*“For over 10 years RESOLVE has been a valuable partner of Klinik’s in our endeavors to access and apply international research on best practices related to domestic violence, trauma informed care and men’s experience of childhood sexual abuse. RESOLVE has also been an invaluable resource in providing Klinik with several program planning and evaluation projects. In 2014, Klinik hosted it’s second Trauma Forum involving over 250 people from across the province. RESOLVE’s participation was crucial in the planning as well as the summary and analysis of the proceeding, which has greatly informed the activities of the Manitoba Trauma Information Centre. RESOLVE is a community partner with whom we have enjoyed collaborating and look forward to more opportunities to work with in the future.”*

---

### Documenting local innovative programming for men



Manitoba agencies have been leaders in developing innovative programming for men (Table 7). Programming that is culturally specific, explores the impact of diversion, and responds to men’s experience with childhood sexual abuse and their service needs as adults.

**Table 7. Documentation of programming for men**

Year	Organization/agency	RESOLVE'S work
2002-2005	Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre	Assisted to document and evaluate their men’s healing program. Over a three-year period RESOLVE staff assisted in the organization and analysis of intake information, and conducted interviews with program participants to provide the agency with feedback on the most promising and effective components in their program. As such it was both a formative and summative evaluation.
2005	Klinik Community Health Centre	Determined the impact of programs for men charged with domestic violence who were diverted into counselling on the men’s abusive behavior. The impact was measured by an analysis of pre- and post-treatment assessments and interviews with program participants, providers, and collaborative agencies.
2008	Klinik Community Health Centre, Probation Services, MaMawi Wi Chi Itata and the Men’s Resource Centre	Combined consultations with service providers with the current research literature to produce the Men’s Family Violence Programming Guide.
2011	Laurel Centre, Men’s Resource Centre	Developed a model for programming for men who experienced childhood sexual abuse.
2013	Laurel Centre	Developed a framework for evaluating the program for men who were childhood sexual abuse survivors offered at the Men’s Resource Centre. Together they developed an assessment package for evaluating changes in men who attend the program.
2016	Salvation Army	Determined the impact of programs for men charged with domestic violence who were diverted into counselling on the men’s abusive behavior. The impact was measured by an analysis of pre- and post-treatment assessments and interviews with program participants and providers as well as collaborative agencies. In addition, this was augmented by program observation and measures of recidivism.

Suhad Bisharat, Executive Director of the Laurel Centre, identified the benefits of working with RESOLVE for her agency and their clients.

*“Research and services in the area of child sexual abuse have been limited across our country. The Laurel Centre is specialized in providing trauma therapy to individuals who were sexually abused as children. It is important for our agency to be inclusive of both genders. Accordingly, we partnered with RESOLVE on researching the need, developing a clinical model, and preparing an outline of a program that would address the needs of men who are survivors of child sexual abuse. The final research document allowed us to negotiate with our Provincial Government and establish a*

*permanent program for male survivors of child sexual abuse and deliver a service that was long overdue. The major beneficiaries of this project are the clients who are able to receive long-term trauma therapy and re-build their lives by addressing the long-term effects of child sexual abuse.”*

---

## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

RESOLVE collaborates with community agencies for the purposes of program development and evaluation. For example, Wahbung Abinoonjiag is a domestic violence prevention centre that offers a variety of programs and services to children and their families. In 2012, RESOLVE worked with Wahbung to develop a logic model describing the various programs and service that they offer and the intended outcomes of these programs and services. RESOLVE continued to work with Wahbung and developed a successful funding proposal for cultural advisor position within the agency.

Ikwe-Widdjitiwin Incorporated (Ikwe) is a shelter in Winnipeg with the mission of supporting Aboriginal women and their children in ending family violence, by offering shelter during crisis and nurturing hope, change, and empowerment. In 2011, RESOLVE completed an evaluation of the programs and services provided by Ikwe. To determine the participant, staff, and service community perceptions of these programs and services offered by the agency, interviews were conducted with staff from collateral agencies who work with/make referrals to Ikwe, staff members of Ikwe and, most importantly, with women who had previously or were currently utilizing the programs and services provided by the agency. The evaluation helped to identify positive aspects of service provision and included recommendations for areas that could be improved.

The mission of Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Incorporated (Ndinawe) is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for male and female youth who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation or at risk of experiencing serious physical, emotional, or spiritual harm. In 2014, RESOLVE completed an evaluation of the Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Certificate Program (NCYCCP), an accredited training program offered in a community setting with a variety of supports and services offered to students with previous involvement in the sex trade. The perspectives of stakeholders who have experience with the NCYCCP were solicited through interviews with staff of collateral agencies, NCYCCP staff, students sampled from each of the first six cohorts of the NCYCCP, and with 10 family members/significant others of these students. The project examined how the NCYCCP meets student's needs and impacts their overall well-being, employment, further education, and relationships with their children and families. In addition, areas of service and program delivery that contribute to student success and areas of service and program delivery that require development or improvement were identified.

Susan Berthiaume, Coordinator of the NCYCCP, states that *"The research and evaluation report prepared by RESOLVE has become a foundation document for the future growth of our program and has been shared nationally and internationally. The style of information gathering involved program participants and their families in addition to the community that supports our program. The experience was invaluable and inclusive of voices that rarely get heard. We thank RESOLVE for their work and their integrity."*

---

## D) BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

---

### BURSARY PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

The Carolynne Boivin Bursary program of RESOLVE was established by the board members of RESOLVE Manitoba to recognize Ms. Carolynne Boivin who was the past President and founding member of the Prairie Action

Foundation (PAF).<sup>9</sup> Its aim is to support research in IPV by honours and graduate students of the University of Manitoba. “Between the years 2000-2016 we have given a bursary to 23 students. The bursaries given out were between \$500 to \$1500.”<sup>10</sup> The recipients are enrolled in Sociology, Family Social Science, Social Work, Psychology, Graduate Studies, and Nursing at the University of Manitoba.

Ms. Sheri Bell, Crime Analyst at Winnipeg Police Service shared her experience as a research assistant and a bursary award recipient.

*“Being a university student can be quite difficult. Often there is a struggle between finances, education, volunteer commitments, and life. One of the best things that ever happened to me as a student was when I was hired as a Research Assistant at RESOLVE. The RESOLVE team and specifically Dr. Ursel mentored and guided my research and studies. The icing on the cake was when I was awarded the Carolynne Boivin Bursary. Financially, it gave me the breathing room I needed to focus on my studies. The support and guidance that I was provided all contributed tremendously to where I am today, a Crime Analyst at Winnipeg Police Service. I really have no words to express how truly grateful I am for the bursary I received and for being a part of the RESOLVE family.”*

Like Ms. Bell, other students from various disciplines were employed by RESOLVE from 2003-2017.

---

#### RESEARCH ASSISTANTS EMPLOYED BY RESOLVE

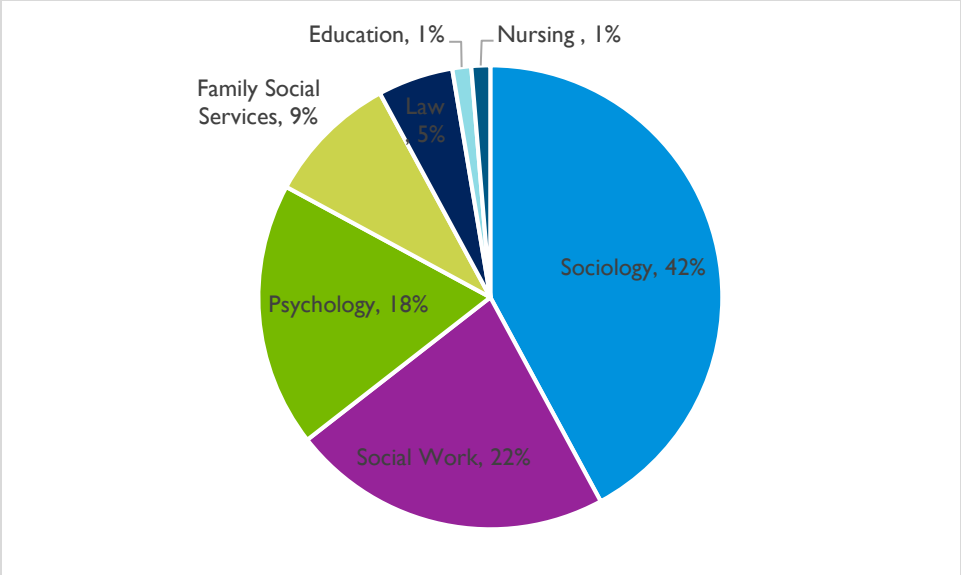
To assist with the research and enhance the skill set of students and community members, RESOLVE, provides employment options, including research assistant positions and internships.

---

#### STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Over the last decade 76 students have been employed as research assistants at RESOLVE Manitoba (Figure 10). Student employment provides funding for their education, data for theses and dissertations and training in a field in which they would like to work upon graduation.

### **Figure 9. Distribution of students employed by RESOLVE by discipline**



One research assistant who found employment in this field is Ginelle Giacomini, who is now an instructor at Red River College. She sums up her experience as follows:

*“My experience at RESOLVE has impacted every aspect of my present career. From learning the ins and outs of qualitative research, to improving my academic/research writing skills, to the art of the in-person interview - I owe so much to RESOLVE. The work that we did on some of the projects guided me into a field and world that I didn’t know existed and has now become so fulfilling. Having the opportunity to act as an ally to vulnerable and marginalized populations in our city is such an honour.”*

Ms. Salena Brickey, Senior Policy Analyst at the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Canada is also a beneficiary of RESOLVE’s student employment program. She identifies how her work at RESOLVE contributed to her career, Ms. Brickey states:

*“I had the privilege of working with RESOLVE for nearly a decade as an undergraduate and graduate student. My experience as a research assistant was instrumental in helping me to get a job with the provincial and then the federal government, and in supporting me to develop a broad range of practical policy and research skills. At RESOLVE, I had the opportunity to undertake both qualitative and quantitative research, to build relationships and work with community-based organizations, and to contribute to policy-based research that was designed to influence provincial policy. I also was able to work on preventing and addressing violence against women and children, which I continue to do today. I am a senior policy advisor with the federal government and have recently worked on designing the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and reforming child welfare services on reserve.”*

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

RESOLVE actively recruits community people who may or may not have formal training in the field, but have much experience to draw on. Among community employees and research assistants, six were part of an Indigenous Internship program funded in partnership with CAHRD. These internships provided research training for Indigenous people to work on projects specific to Indigenous communities. RESOLVE’s initiative of recruiting

experiential people from the community broadens its scope and enhances employees' skill set in research and community engagement. These internships have led to permanent employment for several staff upon completion of their research project. In addition to the six internships, 10 other community members were recruited for their specific knowledge and experience to work on research projects.

Mr. Ken Letander who worked with RESOLVE as part of the statement gathering team for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission said:

"WORKING FOR RESOLVE HAS HELPED SHAPE THE WAY THAT I WORK AND ENGAGE WITH ALL MY CLIENTS SO I CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR EXPERIENCE. AS AN INDIGENOUS PERSON, RESOLVE PROVIDED ME THE TOOLS FOR SUCCESS WHEN WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND GROUPS IN A MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIVE WAY. BECAUSE OF MY EMPLOYMENT AT RESOLVE, I WORK WITH PEOPLE TO GIVE THEM THE TOOLS TO TAKE PRIDE IN WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY DO, AND ULTIMATELY TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS FOR THEIR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME."

*MR. LETANDER IS NOW THE OWNER AND CEO OF URBAN, RURAL, GOOD, REALISTIC, OPPORTUNITIES, UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE (URGROUP). IT IS A FIRST NATION BUSINESS CONSULTING COMPANY, 100% INDIGENOUS OWNED AND OPERATED, THAT WORKS TO "INFLUENCE MEANINGFUL CHANGE AND BUILD CAPACITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACROSS CANADA."*

### 3. OUTPUTS: KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION ACTIVITIES OF RESOLVE

In addition to the close working relationship RESOLVE has with policy makers and service providers, it also engages in a variety of knowledge transfer activities. RESOLVE's work seeks to uncover the causes of violence and map out effective strategies to prevent and alleviate that violence. Through a book series and annual conferences (Research Day), RESOLVE communicates research results to the public and the policy makers.

---

#### A) BOOK SERIES

Launched in 2000, RESOLVE produced a book series based on their research with the community. To date eight books have been published; each addressing a specific manifestation of interpersonal violence. The books are co-edited by an academic and a service provider who are experts in the particular topic area. All books are available to readers worldwide and aim to inform a general audience, policy makers, and other stakeholders about the impact of violence in the community and possible ways to prevent it.

##### ***No Place for Violence: Canadian Aboriginal Alternative***

Edited by Jocelyn Proulx and Sharon Perrault, this book draws the attention of the reader to the complex issue of domestic violence in the Aboriginal community, its prevalence, and means to address the issue. This was the first of RESOLVE's book series that was published in 2000.

##### ***Pieces of a Puzzle: Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse***

Edited by Diane Hiebert-Murphy and Linda Burnside (2001), this book is about child abuse and its adverse impact on victims and their family members. The chapters inform readers about child abuse and a variety of intervention and treatment programs, the coping mechanisms of victims and their families, and an analysis of criminal justice processing of child abuse cases. In addition, various prevention strategies are discussed.

***Reclaiming Self: Issues and Resources for Women Abused by Intimate Partners***

Edited by Leslie Tutty and Carolyn Goard, (2002). This book informs readers about the challenges and threats that the victims of violence generally face. Including how these challenges stand in the way of victims seeking help and finding safe places for themselves and their children. It also lists a variety of services and discusses the effectiveness of the services.

***Being Heard: The Experiences of Young Women in Prostitution***

Edited by Kelly Gorkoff and Jane Runner, (2003). This book focuses on children and youth exploited through prostitution and their particular vulnerability to violence. It also addresses youth's experiences with community and government programs, issues of self-identity, health and safety concerns, and the effectiveness of Canadian legislation in coming to the aid of youth exploited through prostitution.

***Within Our Reach: Preventing Abuse Across the Lifespan***

Edited by Christine Ateah and Janet Mirwaldt, (2004). This book considers various challenges and programs designed to intervene and/or prevent violence and abuse of children, youth, adult new Canadians, and the elderly. It addresses the effectiveness of the school-based prevention programs such as the Canadian Red Cross prevention program. It closes with a discussion of violence and abuse towards older adults and the challenges of intervention and prevention with this demographic group.

***Intimate Partner Violence: Reflections on Experience, Theory and Policy***

Edited by Mary Hampton and Nikki Gerrard (2006). This book focuses on various aspects of intimate partner violence, including domestic homicides, criminal justice processing of domestic violence cases and its impact on Indigenous communities, and harm reduction programming for women attempting to leave an abusive relationship.

***What's Law Got To Do With It? The Law, Specialized Courts and Domestic Violence in Canada***

Edited by Jane Ursel, Leslie Tutty, and Janice LeMaistre (2008). This book examines all the components of the justice system that victims of domestic violence may encounter in their pursuit of safety. It examines the criminal justice system and several specialized courts in Canada. It presents a discussion of various models of civil law protection orders and their impact and looks at the interaction between family law and the criminal justice system. As well as some of the challenges women face negotiating the two systems.

***The Healing Journey: Intimate Partner Abuse and Its Implications in the Labour Market***

Linda DeRiviere (2014). This book examines the impact of domestic violence on women's ability to pursue education, vocational training, and employment. It identifies how the experiences of abuse result in mental and physical health conditions that further disadvantage victims in terms of education, employment, and income. It also examines the estimated costs of domestic violence to individuals and to society.

---

## B) RESEARCH DAY

In addition to the book series, RESOLVE's annual conference (Research Day), is another strategy for knowledge transfer. The Research Day is hosted by one of the provincial centers every year on a rotational basis and each year a new theme is explored. The conference is highly subsidized so that all community members can attend whether they can afford registration or not; students and agency clients have free registration. The primary objective of the conference is to share recent research results with the social service and academic community. "An important component of Research Day is to highlight recent programming and new intervention strategies our community agencies have developed," said Dr. Ursel.

---

## C) PROGRAM MANUALS AND GOVERNMENT REPORTS

A third strategy for knowledge transfer is the publication of program manuals and government reports. Some recent examples of over 40 such reports are listed below.

- 2013 Report on the Evaluation of the Manitoba Front End Project, for Manitoba Justice
- 2013 A Program Model for Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Report of Relevant Issues
- 2009 Neurology and Trauma: Impact and Implications
- 2008 Men's Family Violence Programming Guide
- 2007 Report on the Evaluation of the TERF Youth and Adult Programs, for Manitoba Justice
- 2007 Legislative Framework and Service Provision Regarding Abuse and/or Neglect of Older Adults in Manitoba, for the Manitoba Seniors Secretariat
- 2007 Children First: A Guide for Service Providers working with Children Exposed to Family Violence
- 2005 Report on the Evaluation of NDAAWIN Pilot Project, for National Crime Prevention Centre
- 2001 Report on Domestic Violence Policies and their Impact on Aboriginal People, for The Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission
- 2001 Research Network Project Final Report, for the National Crime Prevention Centre

---

## D) TRAINING

A fourth strategy for knowledge transfer is the development and delivery of specific training modules for different professional groups. The following are some examples of such training.

- 2008 "Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration in Court Processing of Domestic Violence Cases." For DV Court Personnel, Ontario Department of Attorney General
- 2008 "High Risk Domestic Violence Offenders" Ministries of Justice, Status of Women, Family Services and Housing, Manitoba Legislature, Winnipeg

- 2008 “Domestic Violence Court and Chronic Re-offenders” for a National Crime Prevention Consultation, Winnipeg
- 2010 Two-day training session for statement gatherers for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in preparation for the first TRC national event in May 2010
- 2011 Two-day training session on intimate partner violence for all staff of the Sagkeeng Mino Pimitziwin Treatment Centre Inc. A family addictions treatment facility located in Fort Alexander, Manitoba
- 2015 Presentations to staff of the Manitoba Family Violence Prevention Program and Victim Services on findings related to rural and northern victims of intimate partner violence
- 2017 Domestic Violence: A Victim’s Perspective for Justices of the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench in conjunction with the National Judicial Institute

## E) INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER ACTIVITIES

The Director of RESOLVE has had many opportunities to present research findings from the Winnipeg Family Violence Court internationally. As the first specialized domestic violence court in Canada and one of the first in the world there was significant international interest in research results from RESOLVE’s study of the court. International knowledge transfer occurred in several ways:

- Hosting international scholars and practitioners to observe the research process and results in Manitoba;
- As a visiting scholar in several Universities in Australia, and;
- As an invited speaker at several international conferences and symposia.

### Hosting international scholars

Over the years, RESOLVE has hosted a number of international visiting scholars: one from England, eleven from China, one from Portugal, and four from Australia. RESOLVE facilitated the guests’ meetings with practitioners in the specialized family violence court and a variety of social service providers. RESOLVE also shared their research processes and research findings to enhance their understanding of the impact of court specialization on the issue of domestic violence in our community. One colleague, Heather Douglas, Professor of Law at the University of Queensland states:

*“RESOLVE’S community driven and action oriented approach to research has been highly influential to the development of research around domestic and family violence in Australia. My own work, using a longitudinal methodology and working with local services to interview battered women about their experiences of the legal system over time, was inspired by the wonderful work of RESOLVE. Alongside other scholars I have also benefited from Jane Urself’s encouragement and mentoring over many years.”*

### International visiting scholar positions

Since 1996, the Director of RESOLVE has held several visiting scholar positions in Australia, as follows:

- 1996 Visiting Scholar, School of Law and Justice Administration, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia
- 1997 Visiting Scholar, School of Criminology, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- 2003 Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Law, Australia National University, Canberra, Australia
- 2003 Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia



- 2004 Visiting Scholar, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia
- 2010 Visiting Scholar, Key Centre for Ethics, Law Justice and Governance, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia

Professor Paul Mazerolle, Pro Vice Chancellor (Art, Education and Law), Griffith University in Brisbane States:

*“Jane Ursel’s work with RESOLVE has been formative and impactful locally in Canada and internationally in several countries. Dr. Ursel has had many research engagements in Australia, and has a series of formative engagements with various Courts and criminal justice authorities. She has been hosted at Griffith University for three separate periods of sabbatical research leave and has successfully engaged with a number of local researchers and industry experts whilst at Griffith. At the same time, she has participated in a number of conferences hosted by Griffith as well as numerous conferences and workshops throughout Australia. Dr. Ursel’s work with the RESOLVE Centre is amongst the best in the world and has materially shaped developments in a number of Australian jurisdictions.”*

#### Presentations to international conferences and symposia

Since the beginning of RESOLVE and the data collection project for the Family Violence Court the Director of RESOLVE has been an invited speaker in five countries around the world. In the United Kingdom, one paper was presented in Glasgow in 1996 and another in Leeds in 2002. In the United States, there was one presentation at the University of New Hampshire in 1997. In Beijing, China there was one presentation in 2002 and two in 2000. In Africa, one paper was presented in Botswana in 2008. Many papers were presented in Australia: eight papers were presented in Sydney including a presentation at Parliament House in 1996; nine presentations in Canberra including a prosecutor training workshop in 2003; seven papers presented in Brisbane, including a presentation for the Crimes and Misconduct Commission in 2004; six presentations in Melbourne including a paper for the Law Reform Commission in 2004; a presentation in Adelaide for the Institute of Judicial Administration in 2006; one in Darwin in 2011; and, one at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales in 2003.

These international speaking engagements provided an opportunity to learn about intervention strategies in the countries visited as well as build relationships for ongoing knowledge exchanges. Dr. Heather Nancarrow, CEO, Australia’s National Research Organization on Women’s Safety observes:

*“Professor Jane Ursel visited Australia on several occasions between 1996 and 2011, where her numerous presentations on the work of RESOLVE were enthusiastically received. The value of Professor Ursel’s work, and that of RESOLVE, to Australian audiences is evident in her having been invited by diverse groups of stakeholders in a number of Australian States and Territories. Professor Ursel presented on a variety of topics, but it was her evidence-based advocacy for specialized family violence courts that was most in demand across Australia, and most influential.”*

---

## F) ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To maintain a close connection to the community the Director of RESOLVE serves on a number of boards and committees and has acted as an expert witness on a number of domestic violence cases. The following are a selection of the boards and committees she has served on since 1990.

1990-2000	Member of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court Steering Committee
1994	Member of Consulting Committee Workshop on the re-codification of the Canadian Criminal Code from a woman's perspective led by Status of Women Canada
1996	Expert Witness - Judicial Inquiry into the deaths of Rhonda and Roy Lavoie, February
1997-1998	Chair of the Lavoie Inquiry Implementation committee responsible for the implementation of all 73 recommendations from this inquiry
1998	Expert Witness - Iles-May Coroner's Inquest, Toronto, Ontario, April 25 & 26 Consultation with the Chair of the Iles-May Inquest Implementation Committee on the Structure and Process for the Development of Implementation Committees, December
1999-2000	Ministerial Appointment to the Board of the Winnipeg Child and Family Services Agency
2000	Member of the Winnipeg Working Group on Domestic Violence – appointed by the Mayor and City Council of Winnipeg
2000-2001	Member of the Province of Manitoba Working Group on the Review of the Implementation of the Domestic Violence and Stalking Prevention, Protection and Compensation Act
2001-2003	Member of the Winnipeg Foundation's Post-Secondary Grants Program Advisory Committee
2001-2004	Member of the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) Family Violence Intervention Team's Resource Committee
2003-2008	Member of the Manitoba Multi-Jurisdictional Implementation Team (M.I.T.)
2007-2009	Member of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council
2003-2010	Lay Bencher of the Law Society of Manitoba
2008-2010	Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Judicial Appointments for the Province of Manitoba
2009-2017	Winnipeg Foundation Grants Committee Member

## PART III DISCUSSION

### I. IMPACTS AND ATTRIBUTION

One of the purposes of the impact narrative is to disseminate the outcomes that can now be observed, and how these can be attributed to the previously supported research. Establishing the linkages between the impacts and research helps to highlight the value of the research to the public, funders, stakeholders, and the researchers themselves. It also helps to understand the uptake of research findings and its influence and effects.

Contribution Analysis (CA), an approach to exploring cause and effect, is used to frame the discussion around attribution. It is based on generative frameworks; a process view of causation that identifies the causal links and 'mechanisms' that explain effects. This approach involves identifying the attribution problem, developing a theory of change, collecting evidence, and assembling a strong contribution story. Utilizing a results chain, it assembles the different pieces of evidence that illustrate the process by which outcomes have been achieved. It addresses the difference i.e. impact, that the research has made, and how much of that impact has been contributed by the

research. In this paper, CA is used to answer the following question on the work of RESOLVE in combatting violence:

- What was the role of RESOLVE Manitoba in changing the perspective and interventions on violence?

The theory of change (Figure 10. *Theory of change: RESOLVE's contribution in changing the perspectives and interventions on interpersonal violence*) diagrammatically addresses this question and shows the connections between the work of RESOLVE and the outcomes and impacts in Manitoba and Canada. RESOLVE's work with practitioners in the criminal justice system and the social service system has increased awareness of domestic violence and broadened people's understanding of the complexity of the issue. The change has led to greater awareness about interpersonal violence, an increased number of services for the victims and their families, increased public expenditure for programs for victims of violence, greater criminal justice intervention in domestic violence cases, and the roll out of programs for offenders.

Since 1992, RESOLVE worked with the mission of "reducing the incidence and impact of violence and abuse" by promoting education and change through their publications, translation of research results to policy makers, and by working with community organizations to spread awareness and to increase services for the victims.

To act as a driver of change, RESOLVE has

- a. collated large data sets to carry out longitudinal studies on family violence
- b. published eight books and other policy documents and reports to inform the policy makers
- c. worked directly with community based organizations to promote awareness on violence and assist them in developing programs
- d. worked with the government and policy makers by providing data on violence as needed, evaluating the Front End Project of the FVC, and generally acts as a resource that the government can tap when necessary.

The work of RESOLVE has translated into outcomes that are widespread and impactful. RESOLVE has built the capacity of the university students by assisting those who conduct research on violence with the Carolynne Boivin Bursary. Additionally, it also employed students from various backgrounds, who have now become professionals holding significant positions in various public and private organizations. They identify how their work experience at RESOLVE contributed to their career growth. Outside the academy, RESOLVE's work with government, particularly the justice system, has built its capacity to deal with cases related to violence. RESOLVE's work has influenced changes within the criminal justice system providing essential evidence of program operation and effectiveness at times of program development or expansion. From 1990 to 2016, the number of prosecutors increased from 3 to 22 and victim service staff from 3 to 55.

Social services for victims and their families have also increased in the province. Before 1980, there were only two shelters for the victims of family violence. But today, there are 10 provincially funded shelters and three federally funded shelters on reserves. The need for more violence-specific programming was realized by the Manitoba government and province wide expenditures on family violence programs increased from \$0.50 per capita in 1980 to \$21 per capita in 2016.

As services for the victims and their families grew, there was greater willingness to reach out for assistance. One measure of this is the growing number of calls to the police service and the increasing arrest rate in Winnipeg from 683 in 1983 to well over 2,000 annually since the implementation of the family violence court. Conviction rates have also risen from 53% in 2003-2004 to 60.3% in 2012-2013 in Winnipeg. Data collected by RESOLVE indicate a decline over time in recidivism rates. These changes have likely had an impact on interpersonal violence itself. Over the years, self-reports of family violence have gone down in Manitoba, from 7.3% in 2004 to 3.3% in 2014 as indicated by Statistics Canada. However, while the situation appears to have changed dramatically, there may still be significant under-reporting of cases of violence. Therefore, there continues to be a need to promote awareness within the larger society about the various organizations and services that are in place to assist victims and their families.

On a broader scale, research on violence, increased awareness, and a responsive justice and social service system helps to save substantial costs in the economy. The total economic impact of spousal violence on the Canadian economy was estimated to be \$7.4 billion in 2009. But, as a study in Alberta illustrated, the benefit of having interventions to address issues of violence outweighed the cost by six times.

The many changes at different levels that have taken place as a result of the research on violence by RESOLVE in collaboration with government, institutions, and community-based organizations have led to a fundamental change in how violence is perceived: violence is now seen as a multidimensional and complex issue. While the work of other researchers in other places has contributed, in Manitoba, RESOLVE has played a key role in translating promising practices from around the world to the specific needs and capacities of local communities

## 2. KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AND IMPACTS

Knowledge translation (KT) is defined by CIHR as a “dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and ethically-sound application of knowledge to improve the quality of life of Canadians, and provide more effective services and products and strengthen the health care system”. CIHR makes a distinction between integrated knowledge translation (iKT) and end of grant knowledge translation. In iKT, key stakeholders/intended knowledge users are included during some portion or all of the research process. End of grant KT on the other hand, are activities “aimed at diffusing, disseminating or applying the results of a research project”.<sup>11</sup> For the purposes of this document, KT is the umbrella term for all activities involved in moving research from the research space (e.g. laboratory) into the hands of people, groups, and organizations who can put it to practical use, eventually leading to impacts. KT is not an action, but a spectrum of activities that change according to the type of research (i.e. pure or applied), the funds/time allotted for disseminating research findings, and the audience being targeted.

Understanding and optimizing how research is translated is critical to identifying and improving the outcomes that arise from research – including commercialization activities and broad social, environmental, and economic benefits to Manitoba and those that are non-commercial in nature such as behavior change interventions, policy changes and the like. Grimshaw et al. (2012) note that one of the most consistent findings in research is its failure to translate into meaningful changes in practice and policy.<sup>12</sup> Billions of dollars are invested every year into research that is meant to address problems and issues facing all facets of modern society. The aim of this section is to determine and analyze the activities that led to the impacts that RESOLVE has had and contemporaneously contribute to understanding how knowledge translation leads to impacts.

Since its inception, RESOLVE has worked to transform the understanding of domestic violence among the public, non-government organizations, and public-sector institutions. To accomplish this goal, RESOLVE has focused on translating research on IPV into action/uptake through partnerships and collaborations with policy decision makers, service providers, community based organizations (CBOs), and non-government organizations (NGOs). Partnerships and collaborations, which have facilitated innovation in service and policy by means of action-oriented research, were carried out as follows:

a. Engaging end users

The steering committee of RESOLVE understood that policy decision makers, service workers, CBOs and NGOs needed to be meaningfully involved since they will directly or indirectly implement or influence the implementation of innovative services and policies based upon the research results of RESOLVE. Consequently, RESOLVE implemented an integrated knowledge approach whenever feasible while collaborating with external organizations/institutions. iKT is particularly effective when seeking to change services, interventions, and policies for two reasons:

- researchers are able to adjust their research activities to the needs of knowledge users and establish trust through action-based partnerships; and,
- involving knowledge users throughout the research process helps with their own understanding of an innovative practice that they may subsequently champion after the research has concluded.

Two examples of engaging end-users include RESOLVE's ongoing formal agreement with Manitoba Justice and bringing Manitoba's experience with specialized family violence courts to other jurisdictions in Canada and in Australia. As a result of the formal agreement between RESOLVE and the Manitoba Justice, a longitudinal study was started to provide best practice evidence for Manitoba Justice decision makers to guide the development of the family violence court. Additionally, RESOLVE has evaluated the Front-End Project that was a Manitoba Justice initiative to reduce DV processing times by means of streamlining administrative tasks from initial police intake to court proceedings. The results of the ongoing collaboration with Manitoba Justice have been money saved for Manitoba Justice in expedited court proceedings, lower recidivism rates, and increased convictions. Utilizing these findings, Dr. Ursel has worked with national and international academics and justice representatives to help implement domestic violence courts across Canada and in Australia.

b. Dissemination of research findings and discoveries

RESOLVE members have produced over 40 program manuals and government reports, an 8-book series based on their research with the community, 50 peer reviewed publications, hosted 17 international scholars and conducted 40 presentations in 5 countries, as well as served on 13 municipal, provincial, and federal community boards. These dissemination activities helped to establish new policies and practices by the criminal justice departments, increase investment and availability of services for victims of domestic violence at a community level, as well as increase public awareness of domestic violence and reporting behavior. The prosecution of IPV cases, highlighted in some cases by the media, brought the message to the public that the justice system was taking the IPV issue seriously.

c. Training and mentoring

RESOLVE has trained more than 75 students, some of whom now serve in prominent positions in all levels of government and non-government organizations within and outside of Manitoba. They are now able to introduce changes within their respective organizations with the knowledge gained from their time with RESOLVE as research assistants and coordinators. A few examples include a Senior Policy Analyst at the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, an Instructor at Red River College, and a crime analyst with the Winnipeg Police Service. By providing training to budding researchers, decision makers and current practitioners, RESOLVE has been able to translate their research into tangible impacts and to expand the reach of these impacts.

Additionally, the RESOLVE team has helped numerous CBOs/NGOs adopt evidence-based practices by writing program and training manuals as well as aiding in their strategic development and funding applications for services that they provide to community members. Working with CBOs and NGOs in this capacity has led to more accessible and comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence in Manitoba.

d. Acting as champion of the research

One of the primary reasons for the translation of RESOLVE's research activities to impacts is the championing of the research program by Dr. Ursel, the Director of RESOLVE and her colleagues. Dr. Ursel leveraged her knowledge of key stakeholders in Winnipeg, prior experience with government departments as an evaluator, and her expertise as an IPV researcher to establish partnerships with key stakeholders and to advocate for the practical application of research on IPV. The established relationships with key stakeholders including Manitoba Justice, the Winnipeg Police Service, Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre, Klinik and other CBOs/NGOs in Manitoba were effective since each organization's strengths were identified and aligned for a holistic approach to address IPV in Manitoba. Furthermore, each effective partnership helped RESOLVE to secure further funding since they were able to utilize the data collected and analyzed to develop their expertise in the field as well as contribute to the advancement of knowledge within academia. Since RESOLVE's inception in 1997 the research team has been committed to working with key external stakeholders in mutually beneficial projects that have built trust and understanding between the respected organizations. As a result, only three years after the inception of RESOLVE they have acted as a knowledge broker<sup>1</sup> working with the Manitoba Centre for Health and Policy and on the Family Violence Court project.

As can be seen in the experience of RESOLVE, the uptake of research findings and their subsequent applications have been found to be driven primarily by effective leadership that advocated and continue to advocate for the practical application of their research findings and discoveries. The Director of RESOLVE and her colleagues became a champion in the efforts to reduce IPV because of their willingness to step outside academia, forge links with individuals and multiple groups and organizations from communities to the provincial, regional and federal levels to assist in developing interventions and crafting policies, and lead the mobilization and brokering of knowledge. As a broker and mobilizer of knowledge, RESOLVE facilitates the creation of impacts by sharing their knowledge of best practices and through the evaluation of past and present initiatives for their effectiveness and efficiency. Over time, RESOLVE's collaborations and partnerships have led to increased trust and increased

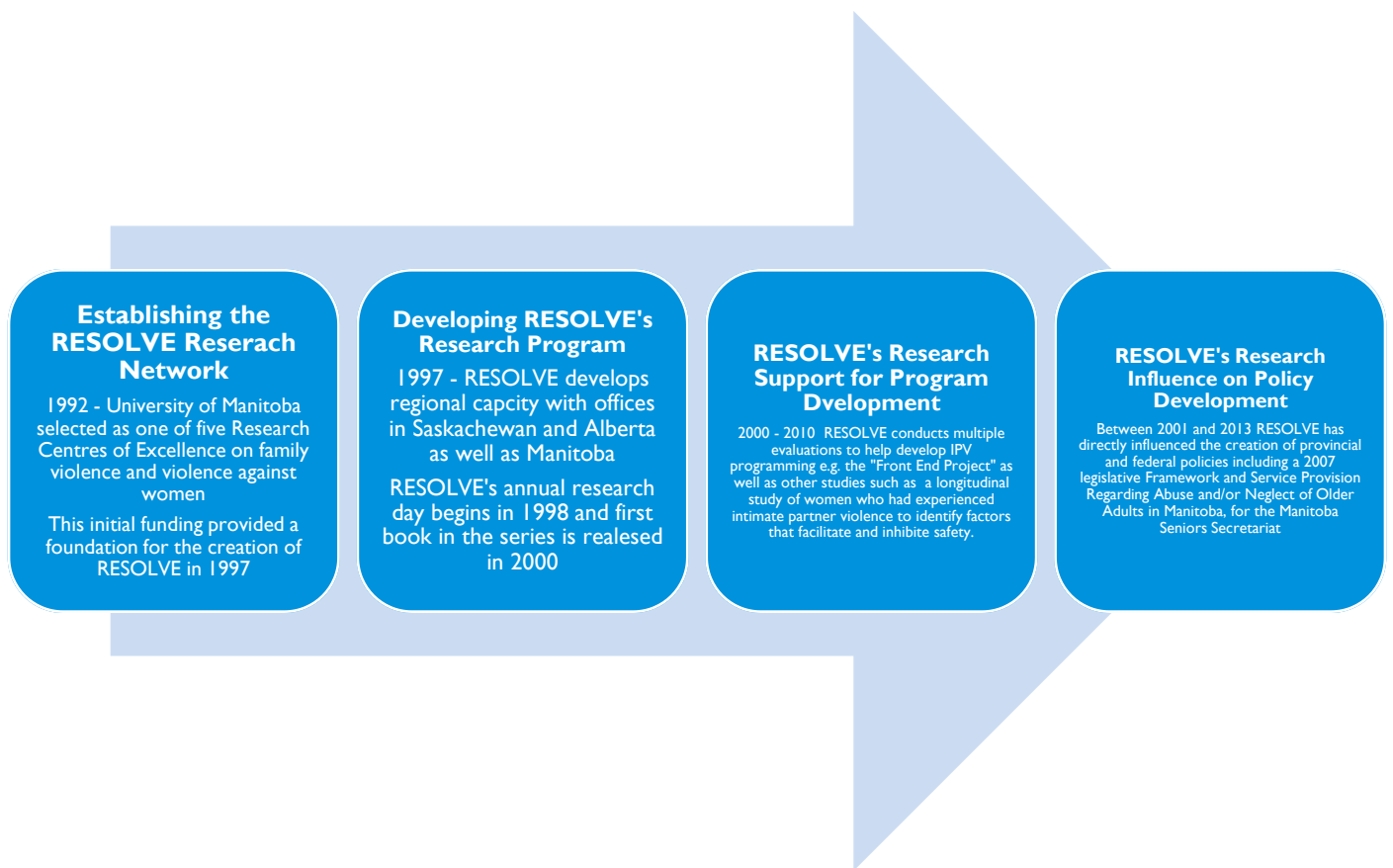
---

<sup>1</sup> An activity that links researchers and decision makers and facilitates their interactions. Brokering knowledge supports evidence based decision making in the organization, management, and delivery of [health] services. Source: The Hospital for Sick Children, 2010

opportunities to apply research findings and develop academic and non-academic efforts to address IPV. Lastly, ensuring the uptake and sustainability of innovative practices and policies require training and capacity building. To this end, RESOLVE has conducted multiple workshops as well as written seven training manuals for different professional groups. As a result, these activities have helped CBOs/NGOs and employees of public-sector institutions to develop their skill set and incorporate the teachings of RESOLVE into their practice and policies that in turn impact citizens utilizing services. Furthermore, students that have graduated and are now employed in the public sector and/or NGOs/CBOs help to ensure that the efforts to eliminate IPV continue as they pursue their careers and utilize what they have gained from RESOLVE.

### 3. TIME TO IMPACTS

In 1992 the University of Manitoba was established as one of five Research Centres of Excellence on family violence and violence against women. The purpose of this initial funding by the federal government was to begin to coordinate research efforts to end interpersonal violence. Five years later RESOLVE was started to end interpersonal violence by coordinating action-oriented research between three regional offices in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba. By treating subclinical rejection starting in 1998, outcomes for graft recipients became better. Subsequently, from 1998 RESOLVE has and continues to partner with key community organizations, academics, and government departments to research, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of various programs implemented to help end domestic violence. During this time RESOLVE has produced 40 program manuals and government reports, hosted 17 international scholars, conducted 40 presentations in 5 countries, helped establish and develop a family violence court in seven other jurisdictions including Australia. Due to the action-oriented research strategy of RESOLVE, the results of their research have helped to inform government and community decision makers about best practices to end domestic violence in Canada and Australia. The timeline below shows that since being selected as one of five Research Centres of Excellence in 1992, it took approximately 10 years to have significant impact on domestic violence policy and services in Canada.



#### 4. FUTURE OF RESOLVE

RESOLVE continues to be engaged in research at the local, regional, and national level. Currently, RESOLVE, in cooperation with Health Sciences Centre, Faculty of Social Work, and many community agencies, has submitted a proposal to SSHRC to examine ways to decrease the stigma associated with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). Should this proposal be successful it will support a wide range of research on this important issue from 2017 to 2022. In addition, current projects that are listed below, will continue for several years.

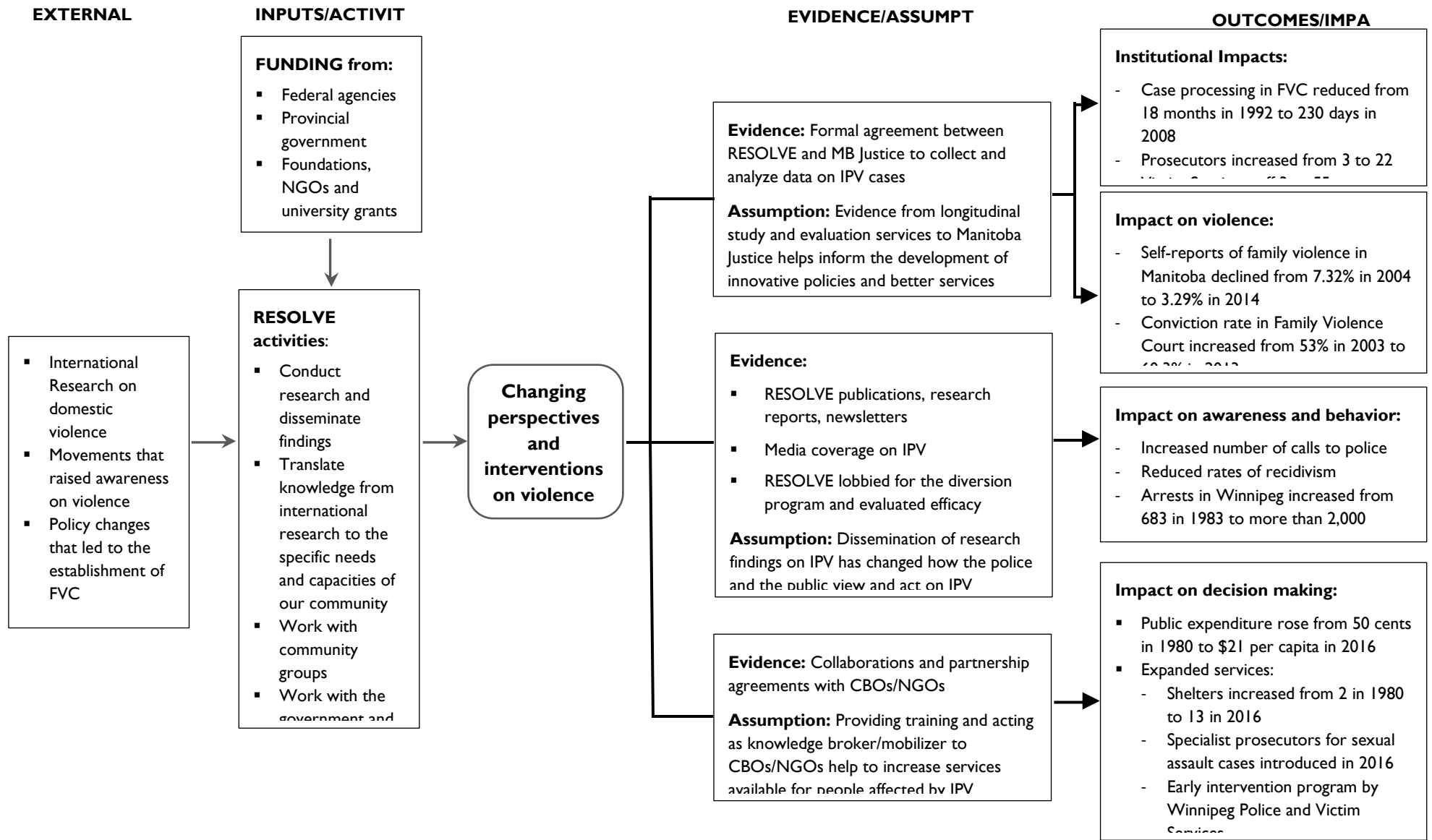
2015-2020	Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative for Vulnerable Populations	This national project will create a partnership that will foster collaborative, cross-sectoral research to identify unique individual and community-level risk factors, which may increase exposure to violence for particular populations.
2016-2018	Sexual Assault Tracking Project	Working in partnership with Klinik Community Health Centre, Manitoba Justice, and the Winnipeg Police service RESOLVE will record all sexual assault incidents reported to the police and follow these cases through to final court disposition. The intent is to identify factors that lead to successful prosecutions and factors that contribute to case attrition.
2016-2020	In Search of Promising Practices: Canadian Child Protection	In partnership with Ikwe Widdjiitwin, a Winnipeg Indigenous Shelter, RESOLVE seeks to develop a better understanding of new policies and practices that have been



## PART IV CONCLUSION

The greater awareness about violence, the growing responsiveness of the justice system, and the expansion of support services for victims and perpetrators have encouraged many people who have experienced violence to report their experience. The changes in the whole spectrum of violence (from a violent episode with the victim and offender to its resolution within the system) has shown that research and its dissemination has played and continue to play a pivotal role. At present, efforts to reduce violence seem to have gained some success, but violence, especially more extreme forms, has not been eliminated from communities. Many incidents of violence remain unreported to police and the criminal justice system. To radically reduce or eliminate Interpersonal Violence, research should be sustained, and its findings translated to intervention services provided by government and community based organizations.

**Figure 10. Theory of change: RESOLVE's contribution in changing the perspectives and interventions on interpersonal violence**



## Appendix A

### RESOLVE Manitoba Steering Committee

	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Institutional/Community affiliation</b>
University members	Dr. Jane Ursel	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Cheryl Fraehlich	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Kendra Nixon	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Elaine Mordoch	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Kerstin Roger	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Joan Durrant	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Lori Wilkinson	University of Manitoba
	Ms. Donalda Wotton	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Fiona Green	University of Winnipeg
	Dr. Michelle Owen	University of Winnipeg
	Dr. Roberta Graham	Brandon University
	Ms. Karen Doty-Sweetnam	Brandon University
	Community members	Suhad Bisharat
Lori Rudniski		Bravestone Centre
Karen Wood		Community and Youth Correctional Services
Rebecca Ulrich		Canadian Red Cross
Susan Desjardine		Winnipeg Police
Erin Kowal		Fort Gary Women's Resource Centre
Sharon Mason		Circling Buffalo
Sharon Taylor		Wolseley Family Centre
Terri Cressman		KLINIC
Paula Migliardi		Sexuality Education Resource Centre MB
Joyce Schrader	Portage Family Abuse Prevention Centre	

## Appendix B

### RESOLVE REGIONAL COUNCIL

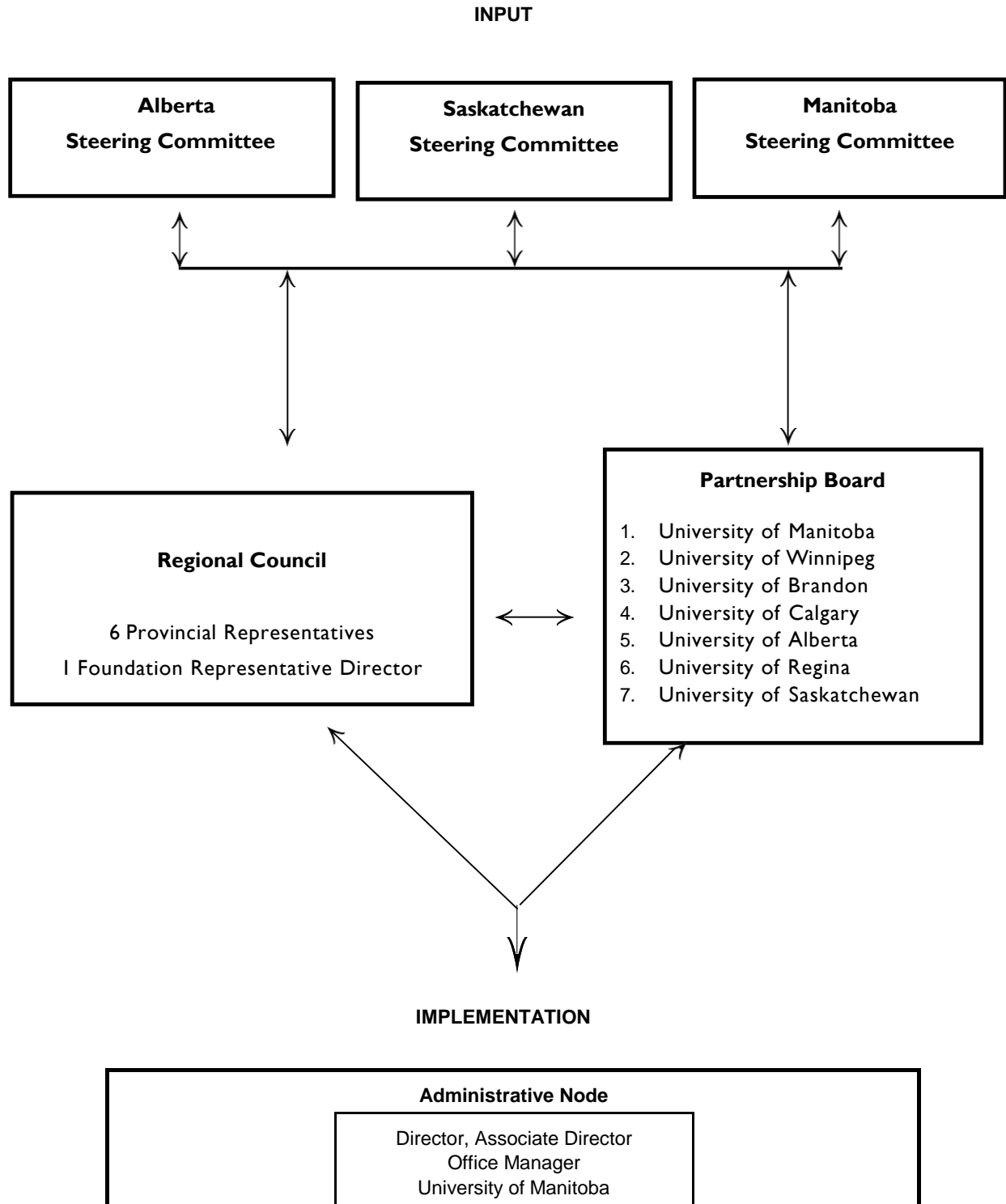
	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Institutional/Community affiliation</b>
RESOLVE Manitoba	Dr. Jane Ursel	University of Manitoba
	Dr. Kendra Nixon	University of Manitoba
	Suhad Bisharat	The Laurel Centre Inc.
RESOLVE Saskatchewan	Dr. Mary Hampton	University of Regina
	Karen Wood	Family Service Saskatoon
Resolve Alberta	Dr. Nicole Letourneau	University of Calgary
	Debra Tomlinson	Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services

### RESOLVE Partnership Board

<b>Representative</b>	<b>Institutional/Community affiliation</b>
Dr. Jane Ursel	University of Manitoba
Suhad Bisharat	The Laurel Centre Inc.
Dr. Fiona Green	University of Winnipeg
Dr. Jino Distasio	University of Winnipeg
Dr. Roberta Graham	University of Brandon
Dr. Mary Hampton	University of Regina
Dr. Darlene Juschka	University of Regina
Karen Wood	Family Service Saskatoon
Dr. Karen Chad	University of Saskatchewan
Dr. Kevin Schneider	University of Saskatchewan
Dr. Nicole Letourneau	University of Calgary
Dr. Ann Katzenberg	University of Calgary
Debra Tomlinson	Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services

Appendix C

RESOLVE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Alberta Research Office	Manitoba Research Office	Saskatchewan Research Office
----------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------------

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Johnson, H. (2008) Forward. In J. Ursel, L. Tutty & J. LeMaistre (eds) *What's Law Got to Do With It: The Law, Specialized Courts and Domestic Violence in Canada* (ppx-xii). Toronto, Cormorant Books.
- <sup>2</sup> Johnson, H. (2012) Limits of a Criminal Justice Response: Trends in Police and Court Processing of Sexual Assault. In Elizabeth Sheehy (ed) *Sexual Assault in Canada* (pp 613-634). Ottawa, University of Ottawa Press.
- <sup>3</sup> Accessed from CBS news's website. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-rate-of-violence-against-women-double-national-rate-1.1316577>. Accessed on December 28, 2016.
- <sup>4</sup> <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2014001/article/14114/section01-eng.htm#a1> (Accessed on Dec. 5, 2016).
- <sup>5</sup> Zhang, T. Hoddenbagh, J., Mcdonald, S. & Scrim, K. (2012). *An Estimation of the Economic Impact of Spousal Violence in Canada, 2009*. Department of Justice, Canada. p41.
- <sup>6</sup> <http://childfundalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/ODI-Policy-Brief.-The-cost-and-economic-impact-of-violence-against-children.pdf>
- <sup>7</sup> Ursel, J & Hagyard, C. (2008) the Winnipeg Family Violence Court. In J. Ursel, L. tutty & J. LeMaistre (eds) *What's Law Go to Do With It: The Law, Specialized Courts and Domestic Violence in Canada* (pp95-119). Toronto, Cormorant Books.
- <sup>8</sup> Ursel, J., "Is Justice Delayed Justice Denied? Changing the Administration of the Winnipeg Family Violence Court" *Manitoba Law Journal*, Vol. 37(2).
- <sup>9</sup> Accessed from RESOLVE's website. Retrieved from <http://umanitoba.ca/centres/resolve/whoweare.html>. Accessed on January 30, 2017.
- <sup>10</sup> Personal communication with Dr. Jane Ursel (December 2016).
- <sup>11</sup> <http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/45321.html#a7> retrieved 19Sep17.
- <sup>12</sup> Grimshaw, et al: Knowledge translation of research findings. *Implementation Science*. 2012 7:50