

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF
Innovation & Collaboration



LCCEWA

LONDON COORDINATING COMMITTEE
TO END WOMAN ABUSE



OUR VISION

Through a coordinated response, we will strive to end violence against women and children, including sexual violence.



CELEBRATING

40 YEARS

1980-2020

The London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse (LCCEWA) was born as an advisory committee from a major federal government grant on victims/survivors' perspectives on the police response to domestic violence. A funding requirement for the grant was creating a community committee to ensure implementation of the research findings. The founding LCCEWA mothers and fathers began by respecting the voices of victims/survivors who had a lengthy wish list of what they needed from the community. They wanted services for their children who were traumatized by exposure to the violence, intervention programs for their partners to change their attitudes and behaviour, and residential as well as nonresidential counselling programs for victims/survivors. They wanted more public awareness and professional training so that victims did not feel they were blamed for the violence. They wanted front-line services in health, social services and education to be more understanding and sensitive to the needs of adult victims and children. The victims/survivors' wish list became the community wish list. Over the past 40 years, the wish list was implemented with multiple new services, enhanced training, improved coordination, innovative policy development, prevention programs and public education campaigns. Forty years later, the LCCEWA is still going strong and identifying new mountains to climb such as better services for Indigenous families and specialized services for immigrant and refugee communities. Meaningful information sharing and collaboration among community services and the courts are still elusive. There remains an ongoing need to reduce the level of suffering and deaths through risk assessment, safety planning and risk management. The next 40 years will have many exciting challenges on the road ahead.

Dr. Peter Jaffe

Director, Centre for Research &
Education on Violence Against Women & Children
Founding member of the LCCEWA

1980

The London Coordinating Committee on Family Violence was founded in part as an advisory committee to address the concerns raised by a research study on abused women who had called the police and decried the lack of support from the police for themselves, their abuser and their children.

Founding organizations included London Family Court Clinic, London Police Service, Probation and Parole, Crown Attorney, Women's Community House, University of Western Ontario, as well as family lawyers.

The first meeting was held on September 23rd with 10 people in attendance. There were four meetings that year with a focus on improving the legal response to woman abuse, then called "wife battery" as well as overseeing a research project conducted by the London Family Court Clinic.

1981

Inspired by the advocacy of Inspector John Robinson, London Police became the first police service in Canada to lay charges in cases of woman abuse. The Committee began to build new relationships including with the London Status of Woman Action Group (LSWAG), who endorsed the Committee's continuing efforts in the field of family violence. Family Counselling Centre (now Family Service Thames Valley) joined the Committee. A survey was distributed to 511 community health and mental health professionals about their perceptions of and experience with woman abuse. The results were published in 1984 as *Wife Battering: A Well-Kept Secret* in the Canadian Journal of Criminology. A proposal was completed for the development of an Assailant Therapy Program. As well, the Committee approved in principle a proposal to create a Battered Women's Clinic, although concerns were expressed about duplication of services.

A gap was identified for a treatment program for men who used violence in their intimate relationships. Trevor Jones and Roger Newell submitted a proposal for a program to enhance victim safety and increase men's accountability.

1982

Changing Ways was established as a group counselling program to support an integrated community response to violence against women. Complementing this work, the Assailant Therapy Program started through probation services. With a growing understanding of the impact of violence against women, a conference on family violence was held at the University of Western Ontario in April. Victim/Witness Assistance Program joined the Committee, along with the Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic (now London Abused Women's Centre), that opened with funding from Health and Welfare Canada. The mandatory charging policy implemented in London was first mentioned in the House of Commons resulting in increased media attention for the Clinic.

1983

Mandatory charging was implemented across Canada. This required police to lay charges in domestic violence cases where the officer involved believed an assault had taken place regardless of whether the victim wanted a charge laid. Pushing against the belief that violence against women was largely considered a private matter, mandatory charging took the onus off women to report.

The Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic started to accept referrals in February, and fundraising began for the fledging program at Changing Ways. Mission Services and Ministry of Community and Social Services were invited to join the Committee. There were ongoing conversations about the impact of mandatory charging, and a petition was circulated requesting reforms to the Family Law Reform Act, particularly around the enforcement of restraining orders.

1984

The Family Counselling Centre started a woman abuse program that included gender-specific programming along with an education group for couples. Intake into the Changing Ways program was suspended in March while the Ministry sought a private operator, with services resuming in the fall. Peter Jaffe received funding to continue the research into the effects of the mandatory charging policy. Children's Aid Society

joined the committee. A survey was given to women inquiring about their experiences with restraining orders. The Committee began to take a leadership role in public education and awareness about domestic violence and its wide-ranging impacts. As such, community workshops were held on "wife battery", to educate individuals, schools, local agencies and criminal justice personnel.

1985

Launched by Salvation Army, the Victim/Witness Assistance Program was started to support individuals going through the judicial process. Craigwood Youth Services joined the Committee. As it began to evolve, five sub-committees were created including programs for children; curriculum development; research; public education/media and professional development. Funding was received for an intervention for children who had witnessed domestic violence. The work of the Committee was presented at a United Nations conference on family violence in Italy. In ongoing public education and awareness promotion, the Committee helped develop curriculum on family violence for the Boards of Education.

1986

The Committee helped establish both the Cultural Interpreters Program and Second Stage Housing, and Neighbourhood Legal Services opened. A needs analysis was conducted for London services, and family violence training was undertaken for local general practitioners and obstetricians.

As well, Atlohsa was founded in 1986 as an outgrowth of a Needs Assessment Survey, which indicated a critical need for family violence services catered specifically to First Nations communities to promote the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of Indigenous women, men and children.

1987

Victim/Witness Assistance transitioned from Salvation Army to an independent program. The Committee participated in their first study on the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children. A local

shelter, Women's Community House, was one of five shelters in Western Ontario to study the issue and developed a group counselling program with multiple agencies including Madame Vanier Children's Services and Children's Aid Society. Vanier joined the children's sub-committee and the Sexual Assault Centre joined the main committee, an important addition to build a shared understanding of intimate partner sexual violence. The first booklet on the history of the London Coordinating Committee on Family Violence was produced.

1988

The inaugural John Robinson Award was given to the late Inspector John Robinson of London Police Service. John was a strong anti-violence advocate who worked tirelessly to establish policy and training for the London Police Service to end violence against women. A skilled collaborator, John was the driving force behind establishing the London Police Service mandatory charging policy, which later became a national directive. This award, which continues to be given, recognizes individuals and agencies that capture John's tenacious spirit, showing leadership, creativity and dedication to ending violence against women.

The Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Sub-Committee was established. A collaborative discussion paper - Mandatory Reporting of Wife Abuse - was produced.

1989

Across Languages Translation & Interpretation Service opened evolving from a multi-sectoral response to challenges faced by service providers in communicating with limited or non-English speaking service users.

On December 6th, a mass shooting occurred at the École Polytechnique with fourteen women murdered and another fourteen men and women injured. This was a pivotal event in Canadian history that led to wide ranging discussion and advocacy on violence against women. The anniversary of the massacre has been commemorated on December 6th of each year as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The incident also led to more stringent gun control laws in Canada. It also introduced changes in

the tactical response of police to shootings, changes that were later credited with minimizing casualties in the US.

A report was produced - The Impact of Provincial Initiatives on Family Violence Service Provision in London and Middlesex – and a brief was presented in parliament on Bill 124, to amend the Children’s Family Law Reform Act. The Committee participated in a planning group for the first conference for Coordinating Committees Against Wife Assault, which were growing in numbers throughout the province. Coordinating Committees were developed to strengthen local community service coordination and collaboration across multi-sector agencies to address violence against women. A Wife Assault Services Directory was created and distributed to increase awareness of community services.

1990

Funding was received for a feasibility study on services for adult survivors of child sexual abuse. A medical protocol ad hoc committee developed Emergency Protocol for the Care and Management of Victims of Woman Abuse. The Committee participated in the Board of Education’s staff development initiative on violence prevention, and had members chair the planning committee for the 1990 provincial conference for coordinating committees on wife assault. For the first time, a small operating grant was given by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which enabled the Committee to expand its reach and work. And in response to a growing understanding of the importance of language to encompass unmarried partners, abuse other than physical, female perpetrators and same sex relationships, the name was changed to the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse (LCCEWA).

1991

Funding was successfully obtained for the first groups offered at Children’s Aid Society and Vanier for children who had witnessed domestic violence as service providers grew in their understanding of its damaging impact. Over 800 surveys were sent to community agencies by the Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

sub-committee to increase awareness of the impact. London Family Court Clinic released the final report of Wife Assault as a Crime: The Perspectives of Victims and Police Officers on a Charging Policy in London Ontario from 1980 -1990 . Following from community research , the children's sub-committee produced a report suggesting that there were over 7,000 local children exposed to woman abuse.

As a critical means of engaging men, the White Ribbon Campaign was launched. Since its inception in Toronto, it's become the largest global movement of men and boys working to end violence against women and girls, promoting gender equity, healthy relationships and a healthy vision of masculinity. The White Ribbon asks men to wear white ribbons as a sign of their pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent on violence against women and girls.

1992

Responding to the emerging need for crisis management and intervention and suicide risk assessment and prevention, the 24-hour crisis line was launched at Women's Community House. The LCCEWA adopted a feminist philosophy to recognize intersecting forms of oppression for women and girls. As well as striking a multicultural sub-committee, the LCCEWA revised their history booklet, and developed base principles for service delivery, including 11 community accountability principles.

Responding to growing needs for emergency shelter for women fleeing abuse, Women's Rural Resource Centre of Strathroy and Area and Zhaawanong Native Shelter opened.

The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children (CREVAWC) was founded as a collaborative venture between The University of Western Ontario, Fanshawe College and the London Coordinating Committee to End Women Abuse. The Centre was established in response to a federal study on the issue of violence against women, triggered by the murders at École Polytechnique in Montreal.

In June 1991, the House of Commons Sub-Committee on the Status of Women released its report *The War Against Women*. This report was the culmination of a six-month study during which the Sub-Committee heard evidence from many cross-sector individuals and organizations. In response to one of the 25 recommendations, the federal government established the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women in August 1991. A 23-member Advisory Committee was established to strengthen the link between community women's groups and the Panel. The LCCEWA participated in the consultation process providing valuable feedback. The Canadian Panel issued its final report, *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence – Achieving Equality*, in June 1993.

1993

The LCCEWA launched their first Media Violence Awareness Week. The Adult Survivor Committee released a report on the needs of adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

1994

The Committee started phase one of an analysis of an integrated model to tackle domestic violence. A facilitator for a strategic planning process was hired and began to develop an accountability protocol. The Women's Monument Foundation raised money for a December 6th monument in Victoria Park.

1995

The draft of the strategic planning document was prepared for discussion. A member of the LCCEWA joined the City of London's Safety and Prevention Committee. The newly elected Mike Harris government effected sweeping change drastically reducing social assistance and other funding. Many LCCEWA member agencies faced severe cuts in provincial funding.

1996

The first National Aboriginal Solidarity Day was held to celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of Canada's Indigenous peoples. The goal was to provide an opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal people and their contributions

towards the country's development and progress.

Ontario Trillium funding was received by the LCCEWA to develop a community-based accountability evaluation for male batterers programs. London Multicultural Youth Association and Merrymount Children's Centre joined the Committee. Further implementation of the strategic plan continued, and a case record disclosure action plan was developed.

The Ontario Domestic Violence Court (DVC) began in Ontario including London. This was intended to be a special program for handling domestic violence cases in the criminal justice system. The purpose was to simplify the prosecution of domestic assault cases, provide more support to victims, increase offender responsibility, and to provide early intervention. The Regional Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre at St. Joseph's Hospital was given a contract to do forensic work for the new court.

Theresa Vince, a 25-year employee for Sears Canada was murdered in Chatham two weeks before her retirement by her boss, the store manager, who also shot and killed himself. The Sexual Assault Centre London, family members and Chatham-Kent advocates, labour activists and politicians worked tirelessly to support a private members bill to declare Sexual Harassment Awareness Week, which was finally passed, unanimously in 2007.

1997

The first Men's Walk Against Violence was held in May with funds raised going to five member agencies. The Committee voted to adopt the Walk as one of its official activities. The International Conference on Children Exposed to Family Violence was held in June. Big Sisters, United Way and City of London joined the LCCEWA. A report was given to the Ontario Legal Aid Review committee entitled Ontario Legal Aid Review - Response to Public Consultation from the Working Group on Family Matters on Legal Aid of the LCCEWA. During this time the Mike Harris government's stated goals were to create a more accountable and cost-efficient public sector. The ramifications were

widespread, particularly the devastating cuts to social assistance and the collapse of social housing, which created a new generation of homeless people. The government commissioned a controversial paper - The McGuire Report, named after its author Martha McGuire – on women’s emergency shelters in a bid to find efficiencies, common to the Harris governance. There was strong resistance to this report, including from the LCCEWA, that advocated for a more responsive and coordinated approach to violence against women services. The Committee released an alternative framework response to the McGuire Report to reduce violence against women and their children.

The framework was based on six beliefs including:

- Safety of women and children is paramount;
- All community members must be involved in ending woman abuse;
- Action is based on a feminist analysis;
- There must be multiple entry points for service;
- A range of services and strategies are needed to meet diverse needs; and
- A focus on prevention and education is integral to any violence against women strategy.

1998

The first component of the domestic violence court started operation in February and the Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee was created. The LCCEWA became an incorporated non-profit entity. A presentation was made to the Special Joint Committee on Child Custody and Access, and a sub-committee on the sex trade was created to lobby the City of London to create the Sex Trade Task Force.

Following from the murder of Arlene May by her husband Randy Isles in 1996, an inquest was held with input from 76 witnesses over 51 days of evidence. Recommendations were released in 1998, with the verdict indicating that Isles’ behaviour could have been anticipated, and that the justice system failed to keep both he and Arlene May safe. The jury returned with

213 recommendations requesting a zero tolerance of domestic violence, recognition of the unique aspects of domestic violence as a crime, and a goal of a seamless program across Ontario for victims.

1999

The Woman Abuse Screening Protocol provincial initiative began in four regions in Ontario, growing to 14 regions including London. More than 160 agencies and programs in mental health, addiction, woman abuse, and sexual assault sectors, as well as women with lived experience, collaborated to provide trauma-informed services and to implement screening for woman abuse, sexual assault and trauma in mental health and addiction agencies.

An ad hoc committee was struck to review the Joint Committee Report on the May/Illes Inquest and identify priorities for local action. The committee supported the Task Force on the Health Effects of Woman Abuse in its search for funding. The strategic plan was reviewed, and the first annual general meeting was held. The Committee also began to explore an integrated model of services including reviewing the work of Dr. Roma Harris and the report *Assessing the Integrated Model of Services for Abused Women: A Consumer's Perspective*.

2000

The LCCEWA, along with other pilot sites in Toronto and Owen Sound endorsed a Community Report Card on the Coordinated Response to Woman Abuse. This was to provide a mechanism for obtaining a clear understanding and picture of how a community and all its key sectors were responding to the issue of woman abuse. Hoped for outcomes included highlighting issues and carrying out public education on woman abuse, as well as instigating systemic change and advocacy where needed.

The Committee also helped organize a public education campaign and activism around the Promise Keepers conference. They were a self-described Christian organization, that opposed same-sex marriage, and championed marital fidelity and the man as the head of the household.

2001 The Caring Dads program was launched at Changing Ways. The intervention program engages fathers who have abused their children or exposed them to the abuse of their mothers. The program supported local efforts to engage men and increase safety for women and children. The early intervention component of the domestic violence court began in April. The Committee was a co-host to the International Conference on Children Exposed to Family Violence in June, as well as compiling a written response to the custody, access and child support consultation of the federal government with delegates sent to the national consultation. The 20th anniversary of the LCCEWA was organized and celebrated.

2002 The LCCEWA supported efforts by police to better understand trends around individuals with serious mental illness and worked towards hosting a provincial forum on reporting protocol to build a consistent provincial response.

2003 The first Domestic Violence Death Review Committee was established in Ontario in response to recommendations made from two major inquests into the deaths of Arlene May and Gillian Hadley by their former male partners. The purpose was to assist the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario in investigating and reviewing deaths that occurred in the context of domestic violence and to form recommendations to help prevent similar tragedies in the future. Since its establishment, the Ontario DVDRC has published nine annual reports.

2004 Following from research by Dr. Mohammed Baobaid about the gaps and barriers to accessing support services by Muslim families impacted by domestic violence, a constructive conversation and dialogue began between leaders in the London Muslim community and mainstream anti-violence and social service providers for the first time. This dialogue was facilitated in collaboration with Changing Ways and the LCCEWA. The Muslim Family Safety Project (MFSP)

was launched at the London Muslim Mosque as a collaborative project between the London Muslim community and anti-violence agencies, coordinated through Changing Ways. The main goals of the MFSP were to raise awareness within the Muslim community on domestic violence, and at the same time, help service providers meet the needs of Muslim families impacted by domestic violence by promoting collaboration, dialogue, and understanding.

In this year as well, the government launched a Domestic Violence Action Plan for Ontario, a comprehensive approach to preventing domestic violence and improving supports for abused women and their children. By working in partnership with violence against women organizations and other professionals in the community, health, education and justice sectors, the Domestic Violence Action Plan set out a collaborative approach to:

- Provide better community supports for victims, including enhanced counselling services and transitional and housing supports;
- Support training of front-line workers and professionals across sectors;
- Promote public education and prevention to change attitudes and mobilize communities to stop violence before it happens;
- Improve Ontario's criminal and family justice systems to better protect women and their children and hold abusers accountable for their behaviour.

As well, the LCCEWA launched the Neighbour to Neighbour pilot. This project undertook to bring information about violence against women and children into neighbourhoods and communities across the City of London. The goal was to create safer neighbourhoods for women and children, to raise awareness of domestic violence, to develop partnerships, and to educate and train neighbours to identify and support abused women and their children who needed assistance.

Another important initiative was the Bridges with Middlesex County project, which was a joint initiative

with the LCCEWA and the Middlesex County Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse. The goal was to ensure that abused women, their children and men had access to appropriate services regardless of where they lived. Critical as well was to identify existing services, and access potential gaps in services and areas that were underserved both within each community and in various communities in Middlesex County and London.

My Sister's Place, a critical new organization for servicing vulnerable women, opened in London. Its goal was to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive centre that supported women through drop-in and wrap-around services. Many women accessing services had experienced multiple vulnerabilities including gender-based violence, trauma, chronic mental and physical health challenges, homelessness or housing instability, substance use, and extreme poverty. Women with lived experience were instrumental in providing input towards the development of My Sister's Place for the creation of meaningful supports and services. My Sister's Place continues to offer a comprehensive multi-disciplinary support system with the capacity to support practical needs, specialized services and education/skills development under one roof. The program continues with an ongoing commitment to promoting a welcoming and non-judgmental culture, a reprieve from the stigma women so often feel in other community settings.

2005

The Woman Abuse Screening Protocol for Abused Women (SPAW) was developed by the Women's Mental Health & Addictions Action & Research Coalition with input from the Middlesex-London Health Unit, a LCCEWA member. This was a universal screening tool to ensure that women in healthcare and community services are comprehensively and routinely screened for woman abuse. The goal was to ensure that positively identified women receive effective support from workers trained on woman abuse, as well as appropriate referrals and facilitated connections to woman abuse services.

Evolving from the Muslim Family Safety Project, having been fostered by Family Service Thames Valley, the new Muslim Family Support Services opened.

2006

Sponsored by the Ontario government, the Neighbours, Friends and Families program was launched as the provincial flagship program to raise awareness of the risk factors and warning signs of domestic violence and to build capacity to effectively respond. The death of Lori Dupont, a nurse at Hotel Dieu hospital, by her ex-partner was a critical event that led to an inquest and increased action and understanding about the importance of bystander intervention. Dr. Peter Jaffe from the Centre for Research at the University of Western Ontario testified at the inquest about the critical events and missed opportunities that demonstrated the pattern of escalation. Hospital staff close to Lori observed many incidents but may not have had the support they needed within the hospital, didn't appreciate the danger of what they were seeing, and may not have known what to do with the information.

The London Anti-Human Trafficking Committee was established to respond to the growing need for education and awareness about human trafficking which was becoming increasingly prevalent in London and along the 401-highway corridor.

Sponsored by the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, the LCCEWA, along with other community partners, hosted the first Father's Day Breakfast - Coaching Boys into Men: Promoting Healthy Relationships. High-school teachers and male student leaders in Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) and London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB) were invited to attend to address and facilitate discussion on violence against girls and women and the ways in which student leaders could make a difference in their lives as upstanders.

2007

The Mayor's Task Force launched the I Step Forward Campaign and committed to Respect-at-Work

workplace training including about woman abuse for all City of London staff.

2008 The LCCEWA took a leadership role in the promotion and engagement with Neighbours, Friends and Families, a public education campaign funded by the provincial government to raise awareness of the warning signs and risk factors of domestic violence and to know how to effectively respond. Neighbours, Friends and Families grew rapidly with campaigns in over 150 communities in Ontario. It was adapted to be culturally appropriate for immigrant and refugee, Indigenous, and Francophone communities. Campaign materials was translated into over 15 languages including French, Arabic, Korean, Chinese, Punjabi, Somali, Vietnamese, among others.

2009 The critical Bill 168, an amendment to the Occupational Health & Safety Act, which included domestic violence in the workplace was proposed in parliament.

2010 Bill 168 was passed and came into force on June 15, 2010. The Bill aimed to protect workers from violence and harassment and outlined stiff penalties for all employers in Ontario who failed to meet their new responsibilities and duties under the law. Employers were then required to assess risks of workplace violence and harassment, to develop corresponding policies and procedures for investigating and handling complaints and incidents, and to implement proper communication and educational programs for protecting workers. This laid the foundation for the development of the Make it our Business program that works to build capacity of employers to take action against domestic violence through risk assessment, effective policy development, workplace intervention, and training.

2011 The first Neighbours, Friends & Families Workplace Champion Recognition Celebration was held to honour local workplaces that had made a commitment to education and awareness of the warning signs

of domestic violence. Community champions took a leadership role within their company or agency in building capacity with senior management and providing the one-hour public education presentation to enable staff to effectively recognize, respond and refer in cases of domestic violence.

Make it Our Business Domestic Violence in the Workplace program was officially launched by the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children. Make It Our Business continues to provide information and education to help employers and other workplace stakeholders meet their obligations under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act. According to the Act, employers must prevent and respond to domestic violence in the workplace. Resources were developed to engage employers and other workplace stakeholders to prevent workplace domestic violence, to support employees at risk of or currently experiencing domestic violence, and to improve workplace health and safety. Resources outlined how employers, supervisors, managers, human resources professionals, security personnel, union representatives, and co-workers could recognize abusive relationships, respond to domestic violence, and refer victims and abusers to supports that offer help.

The first All My Sisters Conference was developed and launched. This included a collaboration of people from diverse backgrounds with an interest in the specific issue of women and homelessness in Canada. The goal of All My Sisters was to connect and network women with lived experience of homelessness and women who were at risk of being homeless, community service providers and government representatives, educators and researchers, and members of the public at large, living in Canada. The outcome organizers worked towards was to improve women's access to safe, secure and affordable housing. National forums were held in 2011 and 2014. The LCCEWA was involved with planning and supporting women with lived experience to attend and provide voice to their experiences of homelessness.

2012

The High-Risk Domestic Violence Offender Project was launched to engage men who had perpetrated abuse. This pilot project involved a partnership between Changing Ways, London Police Service, John Howard Society, Women's Community House, the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children, and OISE, at the University of Toronto. The project supported the LCCEWA's commitment to building their capacity at an organizational and collective level to effectively engage men who perpetrate violence against women.

The goal of the pilot was to support men facing charges of a domestic violence offence during their involvement with the criminal justice system. The premise was that women and children are safer when their partners are provided with services and support to target the dynamic risk factors that contribute to creating heightened risk, through interventions directed at risk management, accountability and support.

Results from men who participated in the pilot vs the control group were statistically significant and pointed to lasting change as results were measured at different intervals including one year later.

Outcomes included that:

- Men were significantly more stable, with less transience and were able to identify their dynamic risk factors, have strategies in place to mitigate them and were more connected to community resources.
- London Police Service saw a significant impact with the pilot program with men being 50% less likely to be charged and/or arrested resulting in less police involvement, and a 30% reduction in policing costs.

The inaugural Shine the Light on Woman Abuse campaign was launched by London Abused Women's Centre (LAWC) with business and organizations shining a purple light for the month. The goals were to raise awareness on men's violence against women, stand in solidarity and support with abused women, and to raise the profile of community agencies that can provide abused women with help. The campaign has now spread

internationally to many countries around the world.

The LCCEWA engaged in discussion about the need to highlight sexual violence in the committee's work, and to collaborate in Sexual Assault Awareness month in May. In response to this, the Committee embraced Draw the Line, an interactive provincial public education campaign aimed to engage Ontarians in a dialogue about sexual violence. The campaign challenged common myths about sexual violence and worked to equip bystanders with information on how to intervene safely and effectively.

The Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children launched the It's Not Right! Changing Social Norms of Bystanders on Abuse of Older Adults campaign to build capacity to effectively recognize and respond to violence.

2013

Building a Bigger Wave Ontario Network (BBWON) was launched with the LCCEWA as a founding member. This was developed as a feminist-based, volunteer network of professionals and advocates who believe it's vital to strengthen existing multi-sector Violence Against Women Coordinating Committees (VAWCCs). Committees across the province continue to provide experience and expertise and work collaboratively to effect change. VAWCCs are critical elements in a larger strategy to engage everyone in the province of Ontario to end violence against women and children.

2014

The LCCEWA participated in the Southwest Regional Coordinating Committee No Wrong Door project. The purpose was to identify strengths & gaps in the current system response to women and men seeking help with concurrent issues of substance abuse, mental health and trauma issues with the goal of improving community coordination. A Regional Forum was held with the seven pilot communities participating.

The Canadian Labour Congress partnered with the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children and conducted the first ever

Canadian survey on domestic violence in the workplace. Based on more than 8,400 responses, the survey found that one third of all workers had experienced domestic violence at some time in their lives (33.6%). The rate was higher for working women, since 37.6% had experienced domestic violence. In more than half of the cases, domestic violence followed its victims to work (53.5%). Most often, it took the form of abusive phone calls or text messages (40.6%). In 20.5% the victim was stalked or harassed by her spouse near the workplace, and in 18.2% of the cases, the abuser physically came to the workplace. The survey underscored that domestic violence negatively affects many aspects of a person's life including their work performance. Overall, 81.9% of those in abusive relationships said that it made them distracted, tired, and unwell. Over a third of the victims said that it affected their ability to get to work. 8.5% of victims of domestic violence lost their jobs, which was a dramatic outcome, since having a job is often the only way a woman can eventually leave her abusive partner.

Following through on their commitment to engage more fully in analysis and advocacy around sexual violence, the LCCEWA worked closely with Western University law students who conducted legal research on how Ontario courts respond to domestic violence and sexual violence. A paper - An Exploratory of Judicial Discourse in Ontario Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Cases – was released in May.

2015

The Ontario Sexual Violence Action Plan was launched. LCCEWA utilized resources and committed to ongoing action on sexual violence awareness and prevention. The Action Plan was developed to support survivors and help make homes, campuses, workplaces and communities safer. Proposed legislation was put forward to build on commitments in the Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan including removing the limitation period for civil proceedings and compensation applications. The goal was to make workplaces safer by amending the Occupational Health and Safety Act to include a definition of workplace sexual harassment, enhance requirements

regarding workplace harassment programs and create specific new employer duties to protect workers from workplace harassment, including a duty to ensure that incidents and complaints were appropriately investigated.

The It's Never Okay, an action plan to stop sexual violence and harassment was launched. The goal was to help change attitudes, improve supports for survivors who come forward about abuse, and make workplaces and campuses safer and more responsive to complaints about sexual violence and harassment. A Roundtable on Violence Against Women was started to provide advice to the government on ongoing and emerging gender-based violence issues.

2016

Launched through the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW), the LCCEWA participated in a collaborative research project along with other coordinating committees. Working with researchers, the project undertook a long overdue review of mandatory charging in Ontario, created tools that were used to hear from women, service providers and police about the impact and unintended consequences with the hope of improving outcomes for women and children. Coordinating Committees were surveyed to gather input on the research, identify priority areas, and further engage local committees in discussion that could lead to recommendations for positive change.

In response to a growing need, the London Police Service added a Human Trafficking Unit to build individual and organizational capacity to effectively support victims.

The Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support & Integration launched the Culturally Integrative Family Safety Response (CIFSR), in partnership with Children's Aid Society and other local organizations. This was a framework to address family violence focused on strengthening collaborative responses and interventions. It also provided customized and culturally meaningful responses for collectivist contexts/communities with or

without migration experiences.

The LCCEWA endorsed a plan to become a Community Champion of Make it our Business (MIOB) and a leader in domestic violence and sexual violence in the workplace. The foundation for this involved supporting all member organizations to build their own internal capacity to identify and effectively respond to violence.

Steps included:

- Engaging and building capacity for senior leadership to become a Champion of Change;
- Announcing commitment to all employees and posting links to MIOB on intranet and website;
- Developing a training plan and ensuring that all employees received the one-hour basic education presentation;
- Assessing readiness with MIOB tools including workplace readiness checklist and self-assessment quizzes;
- Reviewing policies and procedures about domestic violence & sexual harassment and ensuring that all employees understood this and where to go for help.

The London Connectivity Table was launched. This was developed as a strategic alliance of organizations and services, guided by common principles, that work together to mitigate high risk situations within 24-48 hours. By addressing situations of acute elevated risk, the Table continues to work in highly structured collaboration to rapidly help individuals and families to reduce risk and increase safety.

2017

Presented as a private members bill by London Member of Provincial Parliament Peggy Sattler, Bill 177 eventually passed in the Ontario legislature with an amendment to the Employment Standards Act. This provided survivors of sexual violence or domestic violence with paid leave, flexible work arrangements, and reasonable unpaid leave. It also required mandatory workplace training on domestic violence and sexual violence.

2018

The LCCEWA participated in the Snapshot project initiated from the Southwest Regional Coordinating Committee (SWRCC). This was developed as an 'action-in-a-box' regional strategy to engage and inform the new government about the state of our communities. The purpose was to build a bigger wave of public attention to the epidemic of femicide and violence against women and children and to spark informed discussion at all levels of government and within the broader community. The LCCEWA gathered local statistics and developed their own Snapshot, launching this to local media and politicians and using this to lead advocacy efforts.

2019

Discussions began for the 40th anniversary celebration of the LCCEWA including the development of a new logo, website, conference and gala.

The LCCEWA participated in the Make it our Business project through the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children, along with pilot sites in Ottawa and Toronto. Make it Our Business supports individuals and organizations to build capacity to effectively respond to domestic violence in the workplace including doing safety planning and connecting businesses to violence against women resources in the community. LCCEWA organizations participated in intensive training to build capacity to support local workplaces and participated in a Leadership Summit and B-Safer risk assessment training to build a shared understanding about dynamic risk.

Because of advocacy by the LCCEWA, Anova and the London Abused Women's Centre, the City of London included a 4th pillar of Safety for Women and Girls in their new Strategic Plan.

2020

LCCEWA marks 40 years of collaboration through their commitment to a coordinated and integrated response to woman abuse.

Here's to the next 40 years ...



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