

## Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence Update

June 2020

4th Edition

### Note from Lana, Lianne and Elena

Dear Colleagues,

We are seeing an increase in domestic and sexual violence during the pandemic. COVID-19 is also challenging our sector's ability to implement prevention approaches, yet they are more critical now, than ever. Implementing prevention modalities that have been proven to work in our current times will require thoughtful consideration and adaptation to avoid unintended harm. Women's safety must be placed at the centre of any undertaking.

*Shift* is working with key leaders and organizations in Alberta and Canada to ensure that short-term prevention interventions are both tailored to help women in immediate circumstances and linked to long-term goals focused on gendered power dynamics and discriminatory norms. If you are interested in learning more about our Research2Action partnership with [Helpseeker](#) and [IMPACT](#), please [contact](#) us.

In terms of data collection, Shift is closely monitoring the COVID-19 crisis and the impact it is having on Albertans, as well as gathering information on how other countries are responding. If you are interested in accessing this information, please [contact](#) our office.

We know that Black, Indigenous and People of Color are experiencing additional challenges of COVID-19 due to systemic racism and sexism. Shift believes that Black Lives Matter. We also believe that Shift needs to support the calls to action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We are committed to listening, learning, and using our power and privilege to dismantle social injustices. Efforts to prevent and stop domestic violence are intimately connected to ending racism because they are both rooted in the fight against exploitation, marginalization, cultural imperialism, and violence in our homes, communities, and systems. We are trying to build our own equity literacy and

encourage you to do the same. If you are interested in learning more, below are a few resources:

- [The Equity Literacy Institute](#)
- [The University of Alberta's Indigenous Canada course](#)
- [The CommunityWise Anti-Racist Organizational Change tool](#)
- [Teaching Tolerance](#)
- [Calgary Indigenous Sharing Network](#)

While we do not have all the answers, we will continue to learn, gather data, bring people together, and advance the prevention agenda in the spirit of radical love, humility, and justice.

Yours in solidarity,

Lana Wells, Lianne Lee, Elena Esina

## What has Shift been up to?



### Advancing the field: Engaging and mobilizing men

We are excited to release the Changing Contexts: A Framework for Engaging Male-Oriented Settings in Gender Equality and Violence Prevention — Practitioners' Guide. Thank you to all the partners and funders who participated in this three-year research initiative. The Changing Contexts framework describes how to effectively engage men in reducing gender-based violence and inequality in their own networks and settings. Shift has been awarded funding to implement a second phase. [Contact](#) us for more information.

[Learn more about how the Framework can help you!](#)



## Lana Wells delivers the Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 6 keynote

On March 5, Lana Wells delivered the opening keynote on engaging and mobilizing men in violence prevention for the annual [Canadian Domestic Violence Conference 6](#) in Halifax, Canada. The conference was prefaced by two days of strategic discussions for [Standing Together](#) — Nova Scotia's action plan to prevent domestic violence, which Lana joined as an expert international panel member.

[Read more details and download her full speech!](#)



## A partnership with Next Gen Men

Thanks to 2019 funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada, [Next Gen Men](#) and Shift partnered to begin building a national network of pro-feminist men and feminist leaders throughout Canada. Cross-county events were held from January-March 2020.

[Engage in Forging Ahead community consultations!](#)

## New Publications

### [Tomorrow's Men Today: Canadian Men's Insights on Engaging Men and Boys in Creating a More Gender Equal Future](#)

In 2019, Lana Wells and Dr. Sarah Fotheringham co-led a national qualitative study to better understand how we can attract, invite, encourage, and support more men and boys to mobilize for gender equality and violence prevention. We interviewed 33 pro-feminist, male-identified leaders from coast to coast to coast. Webinars socializing the research were offered across Canada. If you would like a presentation on the research findings, please [contact](#) us. Read more

in [UToday](#) published by the University of Calgary or access the full report in both [English](#) and [French](#).

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### **[Predictors of Healthy Youth Relationships Program Implementation in a Sample of Canadian Middle School Teachers](#)**

Led by Dr. Deiner Exner-Cortens, Lana Wells and colleagues published the results of a longitudinal study that explores implementation of the Fourth R, a healthy relationships program that is based on a social-emotional learning program. The aim of this mixed-methods study was to illuminate relationships among teachers' attitudes toward evidence-based programming, perceptions of organizational climate, and training experience with program implementation outcomes (dosage, quality, fidelity).

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### **[Strengthening the circle: An international review of government domestic violence prevention plans and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples](#)**

Dr. Sarah Fotheringham, Lana Wells and Sharon Goulet reviewed and analyzed 72 government-endorsed domestic violence prevention plans across 11 countries. Results describe the level of government commitment in preventing domestic violence towards Indigenous women in countries of the Global North, and showed that governments' main discourse reinforces a western paradigm, reproduces negative stereotypes, and ignores systemic factors that reinforce violence against Indigenous women and girls.

## **Shift in the News**

### **[COVIDcast — Episode 19: Domestic Violence](#)**

All over the world, domestic violence rates are rising during the coronavirus pandemic. Many victims are trapped at home with their abusers. Listen to a podcast with Kim Ruse and Lana Wells, two leaders in domestic violence prevention, about rising rates of domestic violence, what various agencies are doing about it, and how people can still access supports and services.

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## [The loneliest place: UCalgary expertise supports women in abusive relationships during COVID-19](#)

UToday — "Everything's changing so fast," says Wells. Learning what's happening for individuals in violent domestic situations around the world during this health crisis gives Lana Wells and her team insight into patterns of prevalence and access to help.

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## [Calgary faces domestic violence epidemic, experts say](#)

CBC News — Calgary police responded to approximately 25,000 calls related to domestic violence in 2019. "All of us, as Calgarians and Albertans and Canadians, need to be getting behind this issue — trying to understand it and trying to stop it," said Wells.

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