A review of primary prevention, gender equality, and resiliency government frameworks to inform the design of Alberta's Primary Prevention Framework

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

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Acknowledgements

Shift wants to acknowledge that our team members live across Turtle Island in what is today known as Canada. We acknowledge that the places we call home have deep ties to the Indigenous Peoples that have stewarded this land since time immemorial. We also acknowledge that colonial actors and institutions perpetually deny Indigenous people their rights to self-determination and sovereignty and these institutions must be challenged and changed. Shift is committed to the advancement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Methods

2012-2017

- Shift collected and reviewed 222 government endorsed violence prevention frameworks

2020

- Updated the repository, resulting in 88 new government plans and frameworks published between 2018-2020
- Scan of government endorsed gender equality plans across the global north, resulting in 52 plans.
- Scan of government endorsed resiliency plans across the global north, resulting in 16 plans.

Included in framework review

- 13 primary prevention frameworks across the global north
- 8 gender equality plans in Canada only
- 11 resiliency plans across the global north

378 prevention, gender equality, and resiliency plans

32 primary prevention, gender equality, and resiliency plans included in the review

Source: Ghidei, W. Lee, L. & Wells, L. (2021). Review of primary prevention, gender equality, and resiliency plans to inform the design of Alberta's Primary Prevention Framework. Calgary, AB: The University of Calgary, Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence

Research questions

Primary prevention frameworks/plans (n=13)

- What are the key elements of primary prevention plans?

- What are the priorities set out by governments in primary prevention plans?

- To what extent are marginalized populations included in primary prevention plans, and in what ways?

- To what extent are men and boys included in primary prevention plans, and in what ways?

Gender equality plans (n=8)

- How do gender equality plans describe the root causes of gender inequality?

- To what extent are domestic and sexual violence included in gender equality plans?

- What are the priorities set out by governments in gender equality plans?

- To what extent are men and boys included in gender equality plans, and in what ways?

- To what extent are marginalized populations included in gender equality plans, and in what ways?

Resiliency plans (n=11)

- To what extent are domestic and sexual violence included in resiliency plans?

- What are the priorities set out by government in resiliency plans?

- To what extent is an equity lens incorporated into resiliency plans?

Findings: Government endorsed primary prevention frameworks/ plans

N=13

1. Have similar core components, including:

- Definitions of domestic violence and sexual violence
- Theories guiding the framework
- Description of the problem (including research and data)
- Description of primary prevention
- Principles and values guiding the framework
- Risk factors/drivers of domestic and sexual violence
- Priorities, strategies/actions, and accountability measures/evaluation

Findings: Government endorsed primary prevention frameworks/ plans

N=13

2. Predominantly focus on the following priorities:

- Promoting social norms that protect against domestic and sexual violence
- Driving uptake of best practice primary prevention through capacity-building
- Coordinating and collaborating to strengthen primary prevention across sectors
- Promoting healthy relationships across the lifespan, but especially among youth and young adults

Findings: Government endorsed primary prevention frameworks/ plans

N=13

3. Described marginalized populations, however:

- Only 3 frameworks included strategies and action items for a wide range of diverse population groups
- Strategies focus on providing socially relevant and culturally specific programming

Findings: Government endorsed primary prevention frameworks/ plans

N=13

4. Identified the need to engage men and boys, however:

- Only 4 frameworks included specific strategies focused on men and boys
- Strategies focused on school-based and athletic programming, and encouraging families to educate and re-educate their sons and other young men

Findings: Government endorsed gender equality plans

N=8

1. Identified social and systemic issues as root causes of gender inequality, including:

   - Rigid gender roles, gendered norms, and sexual or gender double standards
   - Social, economic, and political inequality
   - Racism
   - Lack of housing/homelessness
   - Colonization and intergenerational trauma
   - Gaps in services and supports for sexual and reproductive rights
   - Others

Findings: Government endorsed gender equality plans

N=8

2. Discussed domestic and sexual violence, however:

- Only 2 plans identified violence against women as a priority and included specific strategies, which were focused on increasing supports for victims (i.e., crisis supports)

Findings: Government endorsed gender equality plans

N=8

3. Did not include a focus on engaging men and boys:

- Only 1 plan explicitly focused on engaging men and boys to speak out about violence against women

Findings: Government endorsed gender equality plans

N=8

4. Discussed the importance of intersectionality, however:

- Only 2 plans identified priorities for marginalized populations

Findings: Government endorsed resiliency plans

N=11

1. Many plans identified and discussed issues of domestic and/or sexual violence, focusing on:

   - Preventing violence against women and children
   - Improving responses to survivors of sexual violence
   - Protecting children from experiencing family violence

Findings: Government endorsed resiliency plans

N=11

2. Prioritized children/youth, all citizens and populations, and Indigenous populations:

- Children and youth
- All citizens and populations
- Indigenous populations

Findings: Government endorsed resiliency plans

N=11

3. Most plans were grounded in an equity lens and developed from principles of inclusion, reconciliation, equity, sustainability, recovery, and reciprocity.

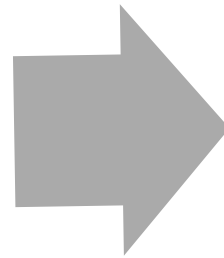# #1: Implications for Alberta's primary prevention framework

Several primary prevention frameworks describe a robust academic-community-government governance structure that guided the design and sustained implementation of the framework
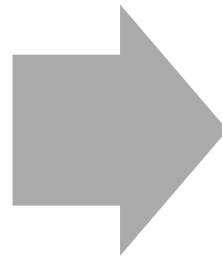
Currently a lack of a formal governance structure, which could compromise the sustainability of the project

#2: Implications for Alberta's primary prevention framework
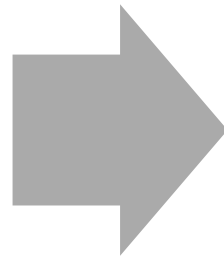
All frameworks are in a linear, report format

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Alberta's primary prevention framework will need to be customized for different stakeholders/end users

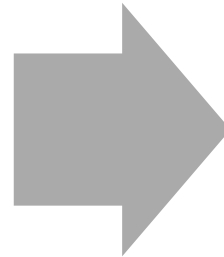# #3: Implications for Alberta's primary prevention framework

Marginalized populations are generally excluded from primary prevention, gender equality, and resiliency frameworks

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Without intentional focus on marginalized populations, Alberta's primary prevention framework could potentially perpetuate the structural and cultural conditions that produce and reinforce domestic and sexual violence for these populations

#4: Implications for Alberta's primary prevention framework

Men and boys are generally excluded from primary prevention, gender equality, and resiliency frameworks

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The mobilization of men and boys as allies in violence prevention and gender equality is a key primary prevention lever

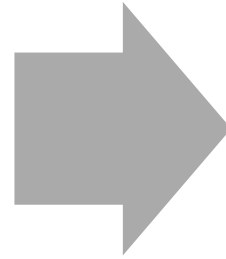# #5: Implications for Alberta's primary prevention framework

Existing government endorsed primary prevention plans include strategies that predominantly target individuals and families through programs

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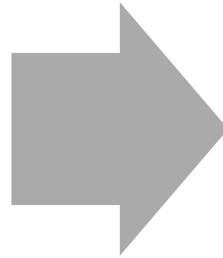
Primary prevention targets changes to community and societal level risk factors to address the root causes of violence

#6: Implications for Alberta's primary prevention framework

Governments separate gender equality from violence prevention

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Gender inequality is one of the drivers/root causes of domestic and sexual violence

#7: Implications for Alberta's primary prevention framework

Resiliency plans have a broader focus on well-being and wellness across the lifespan
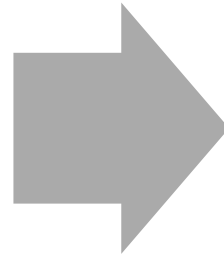
Our design of Alberta's primary prevention framework can draw on resiliency theories and models that tend to focus on community and societal strategies that promote social change

Recommendations for Alberta's Primary Prevention Framework

#1: Core components that belong in a primary prevention framework

✓ A description of family and sexual violence (i.e., theories, prevalence, cost, impact, and complexity)

✓ An overview of the framework development process

✓ A description of the Alberta context (i.e., high risk populations, political, economic and social context) including impacts of Covid 19

✓ A section that identifies community and other Government of Alberta priorities that intersect with family and sexual violence

✓ The articulation of the drivers of violence (root causes)

✓ Theory of Change (i.e., our assumptions, causes, and linkages to solutions)

Recommendations for Alberta's Primary Prevention Framework

#1: Core components that belong in a primary prevention framework

- ✓ Principles that guide our work together and moving forward
- ✓ Clear priorities, actions, commitments, and investments for change (policies, legislation, processes, funding)
- ✓ Outcomes, indicators, measures, along with an evaluation plan
- ✓ Implementation plan/support (including human resources, sector action, technology and funding)
- ✓ Goes through a formal government process for adoption and support
- ✓ Goes through a collaborative process at the community level (through IMPACT) for adoption and support

Discussion

- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What is missing?

Recommendations

#2: **To advance primary prevention, the framework must prioritize targeting changes to community and societal level risk factors**

Figure source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, n.d.

Targeting changes to societal-level risk factors

- Wage parity policy commitments and implementation.

- Advancing a care economy.

- Addressing poverty, strengthening income supports, and improving economic security for women.

- Removal of barriers to women's leadership.

- Supporting women's access to education and training free of gender stereotypes and sexism.

Targeting changes to societal-level risk factors

- Promoting healthy relationships skills and healthy sexuality across the lifespan.

- Applying a gender-based approach to health and wellness including sexual and reproductive health and local access to abortion.

- Leading campaigns that target changes in unhealthy, violent, and discriminatory social norms.

- Decolonizing our institutions and addressing racism and homophobia/transphobia in our systems and communities.

- Shaping a fair, equitable, and inclusive society.

Targeting changes to community-level risk factors

- Improving school and workplace climate.

- Creating safe, engaging, and healthy environments for children and youth.

- Improving housing security.

- Constructing safe and adaptive neighbourhoods and infrastructures.

- Mobilizing men and boys as allies in violence prevention and gender equality.

- Building the capacity of every Albertan to be an informal supporter to prevent violence.

Targeting changes to community-level risk factors

- Supporting communities to take action to improve neighborhood resilience.

- Support Indigenous community leadership in developing and implementing culturally appropriate approaches to prevent violence.

- Strengthen capacities of diverse sectors to address inequities and discrimination.

- Increasing the capacities of the human services sector to go beyond programming and impact the culture and norms of our institutions, systems, and organizations.

Discussion

- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What's missing?

Recommendations

#3: Use an intersectional approach and center the voices of marginalized populations and Indigenous Peoples
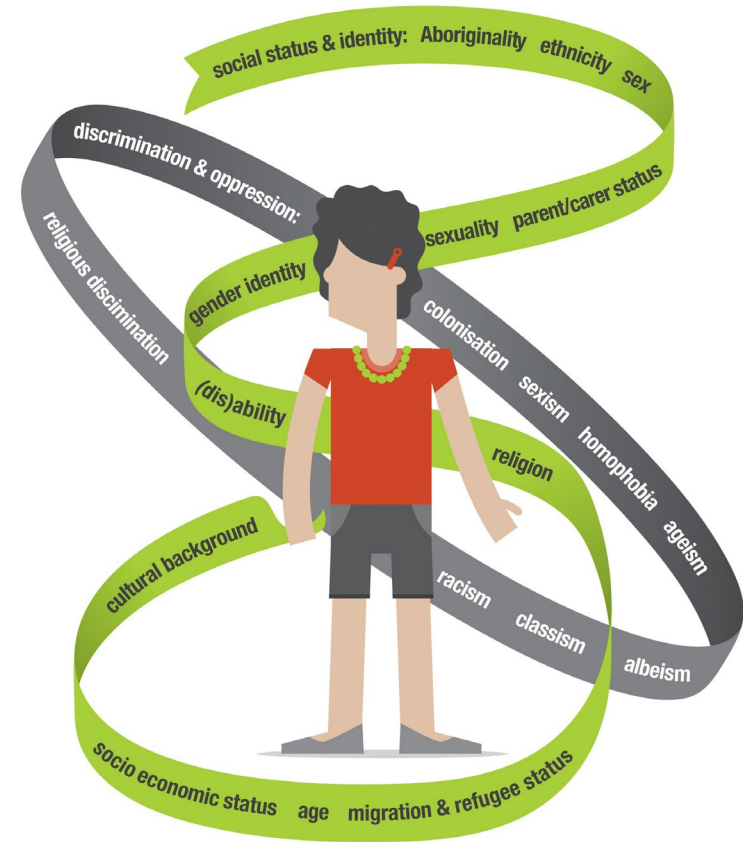
Center the voices of marginalized populations

- Focusing on strategies that dismantle patriarchy, racism, and colonization and that promote:
    - LGBTQ2S+ equality
    - Economic justice
    - Health and wellness
    - Reproductive rights
    - Immigrant justice
    - Transformational justice
    - Indigenous sovereignty

- Looking outside the domestic and sexual violence sector for solutions.

- Working with diverse fields and sectors to help ensure effective implementation of the framework.

- Providing a clear definition of marginalized populations and Indigenous Peoples.

Discussion

- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What's missing?

Recommendations

#4: Ensure that men and boys are a key target population for change within the framework

Ensure that men and boys are a key target population for change within the framework

- Support the establishment of a provincial network that supports pro-feminist, male-identified advocates, and feminists to advance this field together.

- Collaborate with the Alberta Men's Network and establish a working group to support the design and implementation of the framework.

- Invest in more programs across the province to support men and boys to experience gender-transformative intersectional programming.

- Support existing evidence-informed programs and trainings to move online.

Source: Wells, L., Flood, M., Boutilier, S., Goulet, S., & Dozois, E. (2020). Supporting best practices: Guidelines for funding programs that engage and mobilize men and boys in violence prevention. Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence, University of Calgary. Retrieved from: https://preventdomesticviolence.ca/supporting-best-practices-guidelines-for-funding-programs-that-engage-and-mobilize-men-boys-in-violence-prevention/

Ensure that men and boys are a key target population for change within the framework

- Provide specific dollars that support customizable programming for ethnocultural organizations/community groups.

- Fund and support Indigenous community leadership in developing and implementing culturally appropriate responses to violence against women.

- Support and promote a provincial men's help line, phone app and virtual interventions to support mental health and well-being.

Source: Wells, L., Flood, M., Boutilier, S., Goulet, S., & Dozois, E. (2020). Supporting best practices: Guidelines for funding programs that engage and mobilize men and boys in violence prevention. Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence, University of Calgary. Retrieved from: https://preventdomesticviolence.ca/supporting-best-practices-guidelines-for-funding-programs-that-engage-and-mobilize-men-boys-in-violence-prevention/

Discussion

- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What's missing?

Recommendations

#5: Draw on resiliency and well-being models to help reframe and advance the primary prevention of domestic and sexual violence
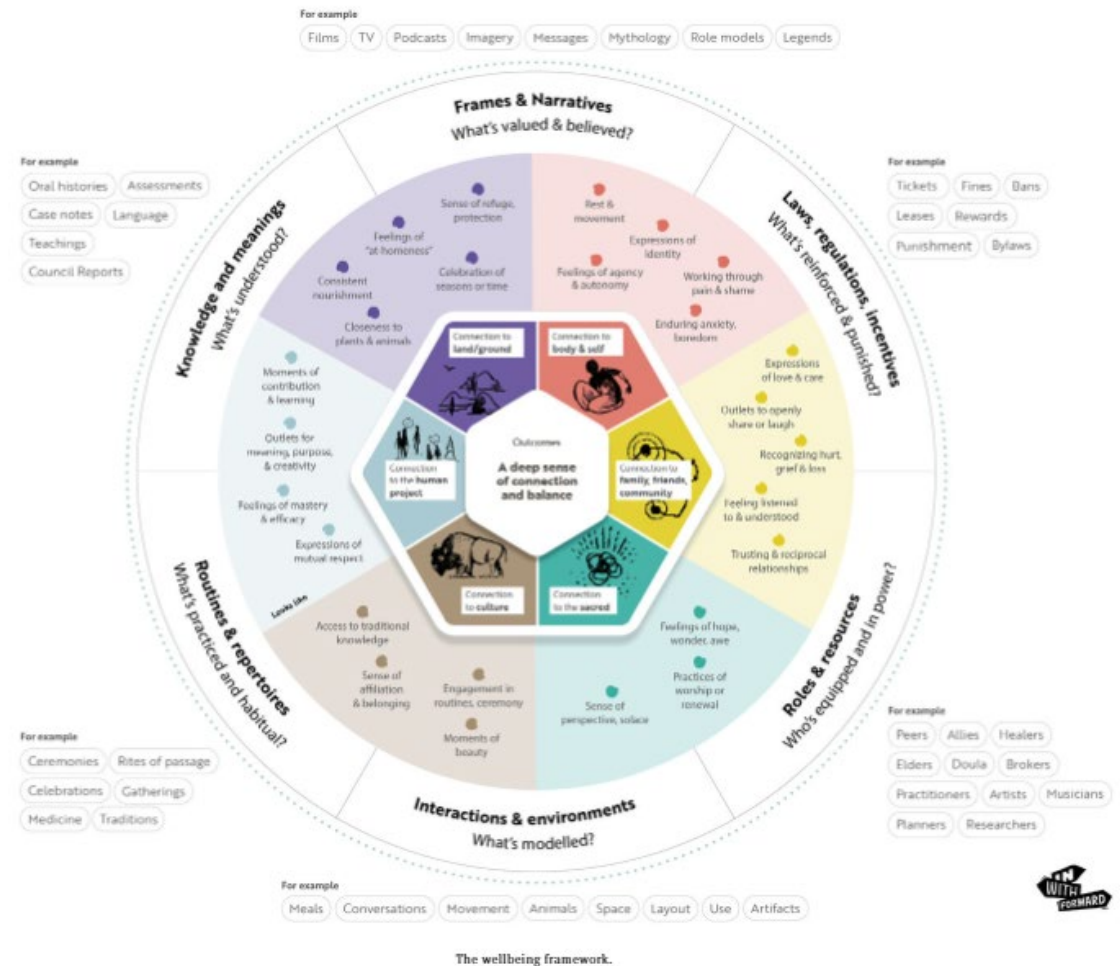

The wellbeing framework.

Figure source: Urban Wellness Edmonton. (n.d.). Wellbeing Framework. Retrieved from: https://www.urbanwellnessedmonton.com/soulful-city

Draw on resiliency and well-being models to help reframe and advance the primary prevention of domestic and sexual violence

- Scoping review of resiliency and well-being models from diverse fields.

- Project partners to develop a resiliency/well-being model that advances the project's goal of preventing domestic and sexual violence in Alberta.

Discussion

- Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What are resiliency, well-being, and wellness models that you use?

References

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