



FACT SHEET REGINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

- Domestic violence shatters victims, wreaks havoc in the lives of children, and destabilizes families and communities. Children who witness domestic violence may perpetuate the same brutality and suffering in their own relationships. We all want the cycle of violence to stop.
- In September 2005, at the invitation of the Provincial Court, representatives from the justice system and community organizations involved in responding to and preventing domestic violence took steps to begin developing a domestic violence court for Regina.
- The Regina Domestic Violence Court will supervise and provide treatment to offenders while responding to the needs of victims. Victims and families will receive a continuum of services, beginning as soon after the offence as possible. The Court and its partners will provide:
 - referrals to existing counseling services;
 - crisis intervention;
 - ongoing information about the case; and
 - an opportunity for victims to participate in decisions affecting offenders.
- Victims will only be required to testify in court if a matter is set for trial or preliminary hearing. The victim may participate in the sentencing process by providing a victim impact statement.
- Domestic Violence Court Caseworkers will play a critical role in the Regina Domestic Violence Court process by ensuring that each victim is supported by the same caseworker from the time of first contact with the legal system to the complete resolution of the case.
- All cases appearing before the Domestic Violence Court will be reviewed by a working group consisting of representatives from Public Prosecutions, defence bar, Probation Services and agencies providing victim services and treatment programs. The working group will then recommend a course of action for each case to the Court. The following options will be presented to the accused:
 - enter a not guilty plea and have the case set for trial in another court;
 - enter a guilty plea and receive a sentence; or
 - enter a guilty plea and, if further suitability criteria is met through assessment at Probation Services, participate in the domestic violence court treatment option; those deemed not suitable for the treatment option will be sentenced in the regular way.

- Partners in the Regina Domestic Violence Court include:
 - The Provincial Court;
 - Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General;
 - Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing;
 - Saskatchewan Ministry of Health;
 - Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission
 - Justice Canada;
 - Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region;
 - Regina Police Service;
 - RCMP;
 - Family Service Regina
 - Circle Project
 - File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council.
- The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has provided \$430,000 in funding in the 2008/09 fiscal year to support the implementation of the Regina Domestic Violence Court and the ongoing operations of the Saskatoon and Battlefords domestic violence courts. This includes funding for:
 - dedicated Crown counsel in Regina;
 - court staff in Regina;
 - dedicated legal aid staff in Regina;
 - a coordinator position to implement the Regina Domestic Violence Court and support domestic violence courts in Saskatoon and the Battlefords;
 - Aboriginal Courtworker support in Regina; and
 - additional Aboriginal Courtworker services in Saskatoon and North Battleford.
- The Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing provided funding in 2007/08 for additional probation officers to support the assessment and treatment components of the Court.
- The Ministry of Health has provided funding for an additional treatment provider in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region for 2008/09 and 2009/10.
- Partial federal funding for victim services delivered through Family Service Regina has been obtained through Justice Canada's Victims Fund for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10.
- Funding from the Regina United Way has also been obtained by Family Service Regina to deliver an offender treatment program. This program will be part of the treatment response continuum developed by the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing Probation Services, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Mental Health Services and the Circle Project Aboriginal Family Violence Program (funded by Justice and Attorney General).