

## BACKGROUNDER – INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE PROCESS

Saskatchewan will soon begin discussions with our community partners about the potential for interpersonal violence disclosures. These discussions will explore developing a process for police to disclose information about previous violent or abusive behavior by an individual to their current intimate partner, if this information may protect the partner from similar behavior.

- An interpersonal violence disclosure process, known as Clare’s Law, was implemented in all police forces across England and Wales in 2014, following a 14-month pilot project.
- A Saskatchewan interpersonal violence disclosure process can be developed under existing laws and police powers to prevent crime.
- The existing system in the United Kingdom has two different streams of information disclosure:
  - Right to Ask – an individual can apply to the police for information about previous violent or abusive behavior by their intimate partner, if this information may protect the individual from violent or abusive behavior.
  - Right to Know – if the police receive information about violent or abusive behavior by an individual, they may proactively disclose the information to that individual’s intimate partner, if this information may protect the partner from violent or abusive behavior.
- In either stream, police may determine that a matter is of ‘concern’ or ‘no concern.’
- If a matter is classified as ‘no concern,’ no disclosure is made.
- If a matter is classified as a ‘concern,’ police will conduct a further evaluation to determine if a disclosure should be made.
- If information is disclosed to an individual, police can use the opportunity to proactively engage the individual in safety planning and assist with connecting to community resources.
- Discussions about this issue will explore the parameters of such a process. This would include matters such as what constitutes a ‘concern,’ timelines to achieve certain steps, opportunity for input and evaluation from community partners, the rights of the individual who is the subject of disclosure, and confidentiality and use of the information.