




# Coercive Control, Risk Assessment and Evidence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): Police Response

 **We need your expertise on police responses to IPV** 

IPV is one of the most dangerous situations frontline police officers are addressing. Ongoing experience may assist in determining appropriate actions when responding to these calls, yet we are often only as effective and safe as the information and the tools provided. Improved information and more sufficient tools will help save lives of frontline officers, victims, and perpetrators when approaching IPV situations.

Coercive control includes repetitive tactics of all forms of abuse (emotional, financial, physical, sexual, spiritual) in order to isolate and cause fear to victims. We have formed a partnership inclusive of scholars and experts within law enforcement agencies which will build knowledge and understanding about the assessment of coercive controlling behaviours in IPV situations from a police agency perspective, supporting further development for improved responses across Canada. Numerous police agencies across Canada use risk assessment tools to identify and manage the risk of violence in intimate relationships; however, there is limited knowledge about how police perceive and understand what coercive control actually is. Our team aims to fill this gap by addressing the following questions:

-  Do police officers know what coercive control is?
-  Are coercive controlling behaviours assessed by frontline police officers responding to IPV?
-  Do police agencies have the ability to assess coercive controlling behaviours?

## Knowledge Mobilization

### Phase 1 - Workshop

Explore police forces decision-making in preventing and reducing IPV, how coercive control is understood, and what mechanisms are currently in place to determine the presence of coercive control.

## Knowledge Building

### Phase 2 - Survey

Explore perceptions of police officers across Canada with regards to coercive controlling behaviours in IPV dynamics and its assessment.

## Knowledge Transfer

### Phase 3 - Training

Training for police based on Phase 2 survey results, and raise awareness and understanding of IPV and coercive control and the importance of reviewing existing policies.

## Anticipated Outcomes

- Enhanced collaboration among academics, policy makers, CACP, law enforcement, CPKN and ENPQ
- Generate evidence-based research to support the development of a review of IPV policies and intervention strategies regarding coercive controlling behaviours
- Raise awareness among all police agencies about coercive controlling behaviours in IPV dynamics and the police response
- Strengthen information and support for service providers working with victims and perpetrators
- Support further changes to Canadian legislation regarding coercive control
- Establish a Canadian Centre for Policing Intimate Partner Violence which will emphasize a unified police response to IPV in Canada, a shared understanding of the issue of coercive control in IPV situations, and a common application of the law. It will be a place for the development of initiatives and training opportunities.

## Key Partnerships



**Canadian Police Knowledge Network (CPKN)**



**Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP)**



**École nationale de police du Québec (ENPQ)**

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