



Pooling Knowledge | Preventing Harm
Pathways to Prevention Through Integrated Service Delivery

Symposium Program

Friday, May 22nd, 2026
Room 208, Wu Centre, UNB Fredericton

Research Funders & Event Sponsors

This event is made possible through the support of organizations committed to advancing research and driving change in the prevention of gender-based violence.

We are proud to work alongside partners who share a vision for safer, more equitable communities.



Muriel McQueen
Fergusson Centre for
Family Violence Research



Institute of
Population Health

From insight to action

Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains a critical and growing public health challenge in New Brunswick. Recent data shows a rate of 449 victims per 100,000 residents, with police-reported cases increasing by 26.1% between 2018 and 2023—nearly double the national rise.

Despite the scale and complexity of the issue, New Brunswick currently lacks an integrated provincial data structure to support early identification, intervention, and prevention. Existing systems are often fragmented, siloed, and governed by inconsistent policies. As a result, opportunities to detect high-risk patterns early, coordinate cross-sector responses, and measure the impact of interventions remain limited.

This forum brings together decision-makers, researchers, service providers, Indigenous partners, and community organizations to address these challenges collectively. Grounded in the Institute of Population Health's recent gap analysis, the event will serve as a platform to share key findings, foster dialogue, and begin shaping a Provincial IPV Data Integration Framework.

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Symposium Agenda

8:30-9:00

Registration & Coffee

9:00-9:35

Introductions & Opening

9:35 - 10:00

Research Findings

10:00 - 10:15

Health Break

10:15 - 11:15

Panel Discussion: “Shared responsibility, Shared Data - What these findings mean for NB”

11:15 - 11:40

Panel Q&A

11:40 - 11:55

Closing Remarks from Minister Boudreau

11:55 - 12:00

Closing Remarks IPH

Behind the Research



Gen Desjardins

Gen is a graduate of the Honours Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science and Chemistry from Laurentian University (2024), where they developed a strong foundation in analytical thinking, laboratory practice, and scientific inquiry. Building on this foundation, Gen is preparing to take the next step in their scientific journey. In the coming year, they will be pursuing further education in the field of laboratory medicine, with plans to enroll in either the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science program at the University of New Brunswick or the Medical Laboratory Technology diploma program at Cambrian College.

Beyond their academic and professional pursuits, Gen values creativity in their day-to-day life. They enjoy immersing themselves in fictional worlds through both reading and writing, often exploring imaginative narratives as a way to unwind and express creativity. They can frequently be found knitting or crocheting while revisiting early 2000s sci-fi television, combining a love of storytelling with hands-on creative work. Gen also appreciates the simple joy of sharing coffee with friends, valuing connection and conversation as an important part of a well-rounded life.

Panel Moderator

Megan Melanson

Project Coordinator at
Domestic Violence
Association of New
Brunswick, Inc.

Megan Melanson is the project coordinator at the Domestic Violence Association of New Brunswick, working on a project to develop inclusive, promising practices for the GBV sector.

She holds strong values of equality, inclusion, justice, and mutual respect, which inform all aspects of her work. With a double major in psychology and sociology, she combines knowledge from both fields to understand people's unique perspectives and positions within broader social structures.

She is passionate about conducting research to understand the perspectives of those who are often unheard and amplifying those voices to create systemic change.



Panelists

Jan Hicks

Jan Hicks serves as the Executive Director of Women in Transition House (WiTH), where she leads a team committed to providing safety and support to survivors of intimate partner violence. She has 8 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and advocacy.

Since Jan joined the team in 2018, WiTH has expanded critical services that include counseling, legal advocacy and prevention education. All while, ensuring survivors and their children have improved access to refuge and support.

Before joining WiTH, Jan served as a police officer with the Fredericton Police Force for 25 years and continues to work towards a future where individuals can live with dignity, safety and transition from crisis to empowerment.



Sandra Magalhaes

Sandra Magalhaes, PhD, is an epidemiologist and Research Associate in the Department of Sociology in Fredericton.

She is a core member of the research leadership at DataNB where she specializes in analyzing population-level health determinants through administrative and epidemiological data.

She conducts integrated knowledge translation research in partnership with partners in government and community organizations.



Panelists

Lindsay Manuel



Lindsay Manuel is the Manager of GBV Policy, Legislative Support, and Interdepartmental Relations with the Office of Women and Gender Equity.

In this capacity, she plays a key role in advancing NB's implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Her work also includes supporting the Emergency Intervention Order Advisory Committee, contributing to the NB Silent Witness Project.

Lindsay holds a Bachelor of Laws from UNB and a Bachelor of Science from Saint Mary's University, and was called to the New Brunswick Bar in 2001.

As an individual who is blind/partially sighted, Lindsay is a dedicated advocate for universal design and accessibility.

Dianna Hatt

With nearly two decades of policing experience, Cpl. Diana Hatt brings extensive frontline and investigative expertise to her work in public safety and community engagement.

Over her 19-year career, she has served in a variety of roles, including patrol response, Sitansisk Community Officer, Drugs and Organized Crime, and Court Liaison.

Her broad experience across community policing, enforcement, and inter-agency collaboration has provided her with a strong understanding of the complex social and safety issues affecting communities across New Brunswick.



About IPH

At the Institute of Population Health (IPH), we aspire to establish ourselves as a centre for population health research, innovation and advocacy. Through collaboration and evidence-based approaches, we seek to catalyze positive change and enhance health outcomes for all residents of New Brunswick.

Our vision and Mission

The Institute strives to create positive and equitable IMPACTS on population health outcomes by focusing on evidence for promoting and optimizing the health & wellness of the population across all social determinants of health. In collaboration with academia, community, government, industry, NGOs, Wabanaki communities, and the health system, we work to:

- Investigate and innovate to achieve our population health goals
- **M**onitor and report on population health outcomes
- **P**romote NB research and leading or proven practice in population health
- **A**dvocate to relieve pressures on the healthcare system
- **C**onnect researchers and decision-makers
- **T**ranslate research into policy and action
- **S**upport excellence in population health research

Our objectives

- Maximize research impact
- Champion government action to promote healthier populations
- Increase return on investment for research funding
- Elevate NB's profile and reputation for population health research and outcomes
- Increase capacity to attract new funding opportunities

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