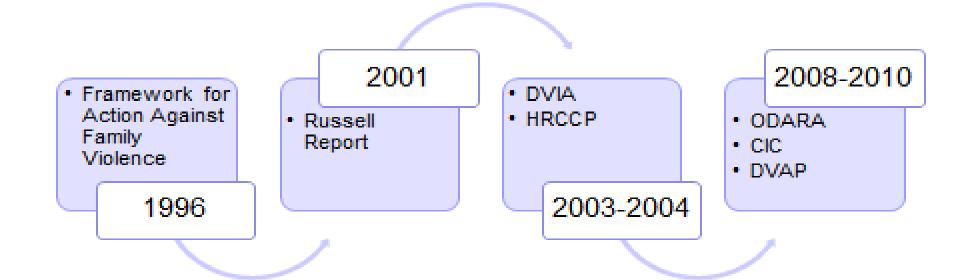
Department of Justice,
Department of Community
Services
Public Prosecution Service



- □ Internal Review
 - Internal review into the deaths of Lori Maxwell and Bruce George preceded the Russell Report
- Russell Report and Government Response
 - External Review into the <u>Framework For Action</u>
 Against Family Violence (May 2001)
 - Comprehensive case coordination was highlighted
 - Protocols requiring referral of high risk cases to primary service providers are necessary
 - Referral and ongoing information sharing is the key







Who are the Partners?

- Justice
 - □ Police
 - □ Victim Services
 - □ Corrections
 - Court Services
 - Public Prosecution
 Service

- Community Services
 - Child Welfare
 - □ Transition Houses
 - Men's Intervention Programs

 The Provincial High Risk Case Coordination Protocol Framework will be completed as collaborative actions are developed at the local level



Why Coordinate High Risk Cases?

- Goals
 - Increase victim safety
 - □ Reduce risk
 - Avoid duplication
- How?
 - Information sharing
 - Effective planning
 - Collaborative action
 - Improved case tracking



- The Protocol Document outlines the provincial component of the protocol framework or what is to be achieved
- The actual protocols at the local level complete the protocol framework or <u>how</u> the outcomes will be achieved



- What does "High Risk" mean?
 - Spousal/intimate partner cases where there is substantial concern of potential homicide of either partner
 - Based on but not limited to risk factors for lethality



Proactive Referral

- Referral to primary service providers as soon as practicable
- Goal of increasing victim safety & reducing risk of potential homicide



On-going Information Sharing

Takes place subsequent to an initial referral

 Involves sharing with other primary services providers throughout the duration of the criminal justice process



Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA)



□ The ODARA calculates:

- Whether a man who assaulted his female partner will assault her again in the future; and
- How the man's risk compares with that of other known wife assaulters.



It is based on 13 items including:

- Domestic and non-domestic criminal history
- Threats and confinement during index incident
- Children in the relationship
- Substance abuse
- Barriers to victim support

Each item is scored 0 or 1 and the total score is the sum of the 13 items.



When can the ODARA be used?

- Police investigations
- Bail hearings
- Court Process
- Safety planning with victims



The Process

- Domestic violence risk factor identified by justice agency at any point
- Risk Assessment tool is utilized
- If case determined to be high risk, justice agency notifies police agency, Victim Services and other primary agencies as appropriate



The Process

- In all subsequent instances where police are called, police will initiate proactive referral and ongoing information sharing
- Further information sharing and action planning may be made at critical developments where risk increases.
 - NOTE: Once identified as high risk, <u>proactive</u> <u>referral</u> may be made by any of the primary service agencies.



Critical Developments where risk increases

- Offender/accused is alleged to have committed another offence
- Accused released on Promise to Appear
- Justice agency becomes aware that contact is occurring with victim
- Accused is released on bail



Critical Developments where risk increases

- Justice agency becomes aware that the victim enters a new relationship
- Accused breaches an order
- DVV cell phone, DVERS system, peace bond, EPO
- Trial/sentencing dates are approaching



Critical Developments where risk increases

- Offender is released from custody
- Legal proceedings related to children are initiated



Release of Information

- Disclosure permitted if serious threat to health & safety exist
- Assessment for domestic violence in each case required
- Disclosure limited to necessary information



Legislative Authority

- Municipal Government Act municipal police
- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – provincial agencies – youth justice matters
- Federal Privacy Legislation RCMP
- Children and Family Services Act mandatory reporting if child at risk



- Again
 - Provincial component what is to be achieved
 - Regionally actual protocols complete the framework - <u>how</u> outcomes will be achieved



Domestic Violence Case Coordination Program

- Funding to police agencies to enhance case coordination in high risk domestic violence cases
- Domestic Violence Case Coordinators with these police agencies – RCMP, Cape Breton Regional Municipal Police, Truro Police Service and the Halifax Regional Police.
- Referrals of high risk cases can be made to the Domestic Violence Case Coordinator by other municipal police agencies.



Role of Domestic Violence Case Coordinators

- Assist police to:
 - Assess ongoing risk in domestic violence situations
 - In cases with a high risk for domestic violence, ensure that processes are in place for:
 - case coordination
 - proactive referral
 - ongoing information sharing



Questions

