



**Transcript of the Plain Language Podcast –
Action Research Change: Report on the Implementation of Domestic Violence Death
Review Committee Recommendations 2007-2011**

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Violence Against Women is defined by the United Nations as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women.

Violence against women is a major health and human rights issue facing communities everywhere.

Last year, Community First: Impact of Community Engagement's Violence Against Women hub collaborated with an activist group called Action Research Change, or ARC, committed to stopping violence against women. Together, they reviewed how often public organizations and government ministries implemented the recommendations of Ontario's Domestic Violence Death Review Committee. The committee reports on domestic violence deaths and makes policy and procedural recommendations to ministries and associations to prevent these types of deaths from happening in the future.

With the assistance of the Violence Against Women hub, ARC published a report of their findings as well as a report card that graded each organization on its efforts to implement the death review committee's recommendations.

According to the report, over 200 women and children were murdered in Ontario between 2007 and 2011 due to domestic violence. The report outlines the



circumstances of each victim's death, providing a brief but chilling history of the impacts of domestic violence in Ontario since 2007. As a result of such high rates of domestic violence deaths, the death review committee released several recommended actions to be taken by public organizations and government ministries to prevent future violence against women.

These recommendations included developing a campus outreach plan designed for students affected by Violence Against Women, and suggesting healthcare providers take a more proactive stance to address signs of violence with their clients. The entities that received these recommendations included the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, the Law Society of Upper Canada, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

In 2014, ARC reviewed and graded the actions these ministries and organizations had taken since 2011 to improve their processes and break the cycle of violence. Shockingly, most received a failing grade. The report provides a detailed review of each organization's responses to the death review committee's recommendations, and includes ARC's reactions to these responses or lack thereof.

ARC's findings demonstrated that the issue of violence against women needs to be taken more seriously by Canada's ministries and organizations. ARC says they will remain vigilant until more actions are done to address this very serious and important issue.

For more information on ARC's findings, or to read the report, click the link below.

This plain language podcast is brought to you by the Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement project, a 7 year action-research project that investigates how



to improve community-campus partnerships. For more information, please visit our website at carleton.ca/communityfirst/

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