



## **Mandatory Domestic Violence Training in BC**

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In November of 2009, the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General launched mandatory training on domestic violence for all frontline police and supervisors in the province of BC. The *Evidence-based, Risk-focused DV Investigations* course is about recommended practices in DV investigations, risk assessment and safety planning. Standardized training had not been approached in this manner in BC before. This course was part of an effort to provide effective, defensible, and accessible training opportunities for both the RCMP and independent municipal police departments (IMPDs) in BC. CPKN played an integral part in getting this project done.

We used the systematic course design process and employed a curriculum developer who had experience in the online environment. We used a team of 25 SMEs from various police (RCMP and IMPD), non-police (e.g., transition houses, etc.) and government agencies (e.g., Crown, Corrections, Victim Services, etc.) to write and validate content.

All police agencies in BC were given 2 years to have all target learners (frontline police and supervisors) complete the course. JIBC police recruits and RCMP cadets coming to BC, must also take the course as part of their training. **Nearing the end of the 2 year timeline, 98% of the learners in the target group have completed the course.** In total over 4,900 police officers in BC have taken the course either through CPKN or on RCMP AGORA. Since the launch, the course has also been adapted for use in four other provinces or territories in Canada.

The intent was for this course to assist in standardizing the language and practice around DV risk assessment and safety planning across multiple police agencies in BC. While no formal assessment of the training has been done we have received ample feedback to suggest that the course is improving practice in the field.