



**FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL**

Since 1971



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 24, 2017

## **Changing the Landscape of Services and Programs for Survivors of Violence in the Region of Peel**

**MISSISSAUGA**

*We make a referral, a woman goes to you, and then you have to go through all this data again...this woman has to disclose this entire thing to you..... I think that becomes a nightmare because if she goes to the lawyer, she has to repeat her story, at the emergency department, she has to repeat her history, to police, housing, social assistance, she needs to repeat her history....**Interview with Services Provider, 2015***

Family Services of Peel – Peel Institute on Violence Prevention (PIVP) is pleased to announce the release of a report entitled, [“Identifying Gaps in Data Collection Practice of Peel Agencies that Serve Survivors of Interpersonal Violence” \(SOIV\)](#). This report presents a systematic review of data on services and programs for survivors of interpersonal violence (domestic violence and sexual assault) in the Region of Peel.

In 2013, armed with a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, PIVP embarked on a Pilot Survey in 2013, to study the state of current data collection practices of agencies in Peel Region that are serving Survivors of Interpersonal Violence. This study is one of the first steps in developing research initiatives that will assist in understanding how services are organized and provided in the Region of Peel and to identify gaps in existing services.

From the survey and interview results, it is evident that agencies have bigger challenges in terms of human and financial resources, and time to provide all the essential services required by SOIV. As a result of funding regulations, agencies tend to address the immediate crisis in short-term approaches. Socio-demographic data is not systematically collected, impacting the understanding of the social location of SOIV. Formal systems of referral and contra referral seem to be weak. Despite the identified need for increased service coordination, agency collaboration is suffering due to lack of funding and financial support. There seems to be a great need to overcome professional prejudices and differing philosophies among agencies, unique histories of development across the various sectors can result in agency egocentrism, and above all, a lack of experience, knowledge, and training amongst service-providers needs to be dealt with, if collaborative interagency relationships and service coordination are to improve.

For more information on this study, please contact Chuck MacLean, Executive Director at Family Services of Peel via e-mail [cmaclean@fspeel.org](mailto:cmaclean@fspeel.org) or phone at 905-270-2250 Ext. 266.