

Peel Institute on Violence Prevention

Newsletter Issue 1



Accomplishments to Date

We are very pleased to provide you with a short list of the Institute's ¹ many accomplishments:

- **Partnered** with the newly-founded Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health, York University, Toronto
- **Developed** an anti-oppression and anti-racism equity framework
- **Produced** a literature review on the impact of sexual assault on men and **organized** a fathering conference
- **Developed** one study that focused on identifying gaps in data collection in agencies that serve survivors of violence in the Region of Peel
- **Developed** a Peel trauma training, focusing on determinants of health and a trauma screening tool for frontline workers

A Brief History of the Peel Institute for the Prevention of Violence.



In early 2013, the former Peel Committee on Sexual Assault (PCSA) hosted an event that served as a platform for a variety of voices to express their views on how better to support survivors of violence.

During that event, attendees stressed the need for increased services, better access, and improved coordination of services for survivors of sexual assault. There was an urgent desire to transform the culture of how services and programs for survivors of violence are viewed, offered and evaluated in Peel.

Immediately following the event, a proposal to establish the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention was drafted. The Institute was approved for funding by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and went into operation in June 2013, under the umbrella of Family Services of Peel.

The Institute was established as an interdisciplinary and collaborative initiative among agencies working in the area of violence in the Region of Peel. The main goal is to achieve equity in services for survivors of violence and to end all forms of violence in the Region of Peel. The research on violence prevention by the Institute focuses on all types of violence.

TWO IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE INSTITUTE:

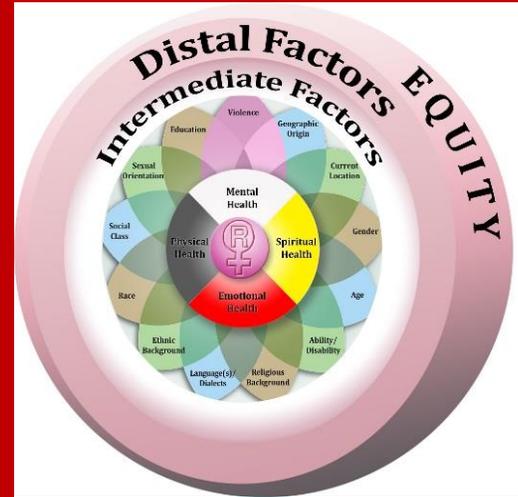
1) A qualitative study looking at the area of leadership where female survivors of interpersonal violence could be trained and transition from a stage of crisis and dependency to a stage of self-sufficiency and leadership.

2) A process of mapping existing services for survivors of interpersonal violence of services in the Region of Peel.

FRAMEWORK OF ANTI OPPRESSION AND ANTI RACISM AND EQUITY

Inequality is merely the difference between individuals or population groups, and may not necessarily be unjust. However, when these differences between individuals and population groups are impacting access to resources with some groups facing barriers, it makes those differences unfair and unjust. This unjust inequality is defined as inequity.

Diversity is a prominent characteristic of the Region of Peel. According to the most recent census of 2011 provided by Peel Data Centre, Peel has a population of 1.3 million, where 50% are immigrants and 56.8% are visible minorities. The Institute on Violence Prevention recognizes that inequities are present in the day to day lives of individuals in the Region of Peel. It also understands that health and social service agencies have not yet been able to eliminate the inequities seen across the diverse populations of this region. By adopting an Anti-Oppression and Anti-Racism approach to research, engagement and collaboration with direct service providers, the Institute is aiming to eliminate barriers and promote equity in access to services and resources that are available to survivors of interpersonal violence.



Monica Riutort, Peel Institute on Violence Prevention, 2015
Adapted from: Integrated Life Course and Social Determinants Model of Aboriginal Health, Charlotte Loppat, 2009

SYMBOLISM OF THE INSTITUTE LOGO



[SYMBOLISM]

Feminine symbolism and the understanding and view of the feminine role have been heavily distorted and, in some cases, entirely lost throughout the ages. And why female symbols you might ask, if the Institute is not only focusing on female survivors of violence but male survivors as well? These symbols were used in ancient times to represent more than just the female goddesses and femininity. The Triquetra (first from the left), is presently represented in the Wiccan and Pagan belief systems simply as a representation of the three stages of the feminine – the Maiden, the Mother and the Crone. The cauldron is often seen as a feminine symbol, representing the fire and water elements, as well as sustenance. The cauldron and the horseshoe visually look like the female reproductive system, which also used to represent the cycle of life, from birth to death and everything in between. They were also used as symbols of wisdom and the power of healing. By utilizing ancient female symbols for its logo, the Institute is making a statement about its feminist approach. Feminism disrupts patriarchal ideas prevalent in our society that condone violence and aggression as ways to attain and maintain power. Feminism works towards equality and leveling the power imbalances that are present in all forms of violence.



Building the Future

In the past three years, the Peel Institute for the Prevention of Violence has been working tirelessly to produce relevant research and data. It has also been working in engaging key stakeholders, developing community collaborations as well as community and academic partnerships. The engagement has seen the establishment of various committees such as the *Governance Committee*, *Scientific Advisory Committee*, *Seamless Committee* and *Community Partnerships Committee*.

Through our research in the area of interpersonal violence, the Institute has produced information that is now the established baseline for developing tools, training and statistics. This information not only helps service providers in service delivery but also in identifying gaps and improving efficiencies. Also, the data produced by the Institute support effective proposal writing and stronger program restructuring.

The Institute aims to be a central research and data producing body on the subject of interpersonal violence. It can be a local, national and international model of community working with different sectors, such as academia and health to produce positive outcomes for survivors of interpersonal violence. As with all programs and services, the future of the Institute will always depend on securing ongoing funding. Nothing is certain at this point, but the Institute is looking at options to secure its permanence and continue with its unique work.