

# Putting Action Plans to Action: Policy, procedure, and frameworks for Intimate Partner Violence services in Canada

Sepali Guruge, RN, PhD, Vathsala Jayasuriya-Illesinghe, MD, PhD

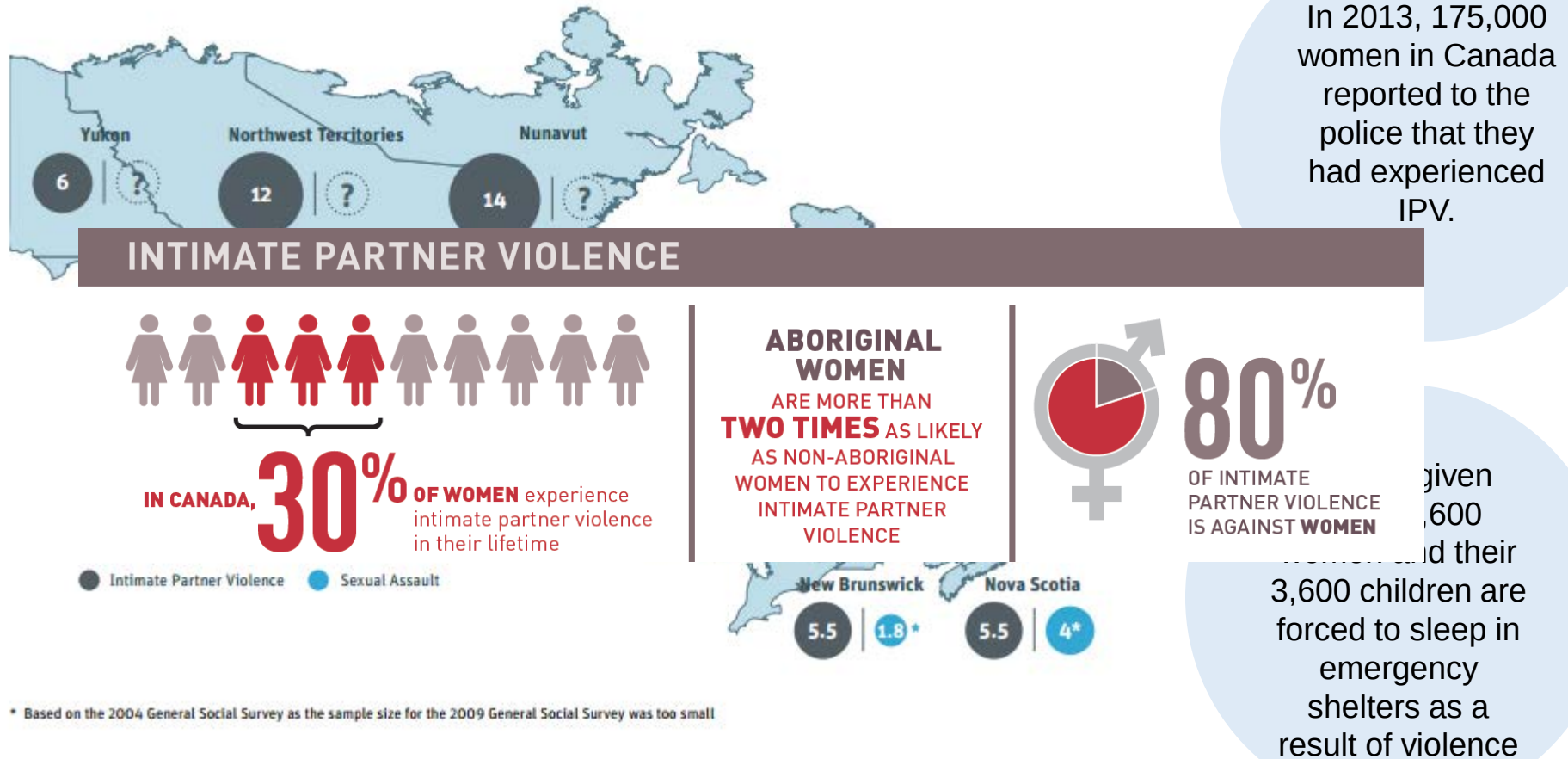
Laura Zahreddine, BSc

Ryerson University

A project funded by IDRC

## In Canada:

- \$7.4 billion: IPV related health, social, and economic costs annually
- No comprehensive national plan or strategy to deal with violence against women.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup><http://endvaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Blueprint-for-Canadas-NAP-on-VAW.pdf>

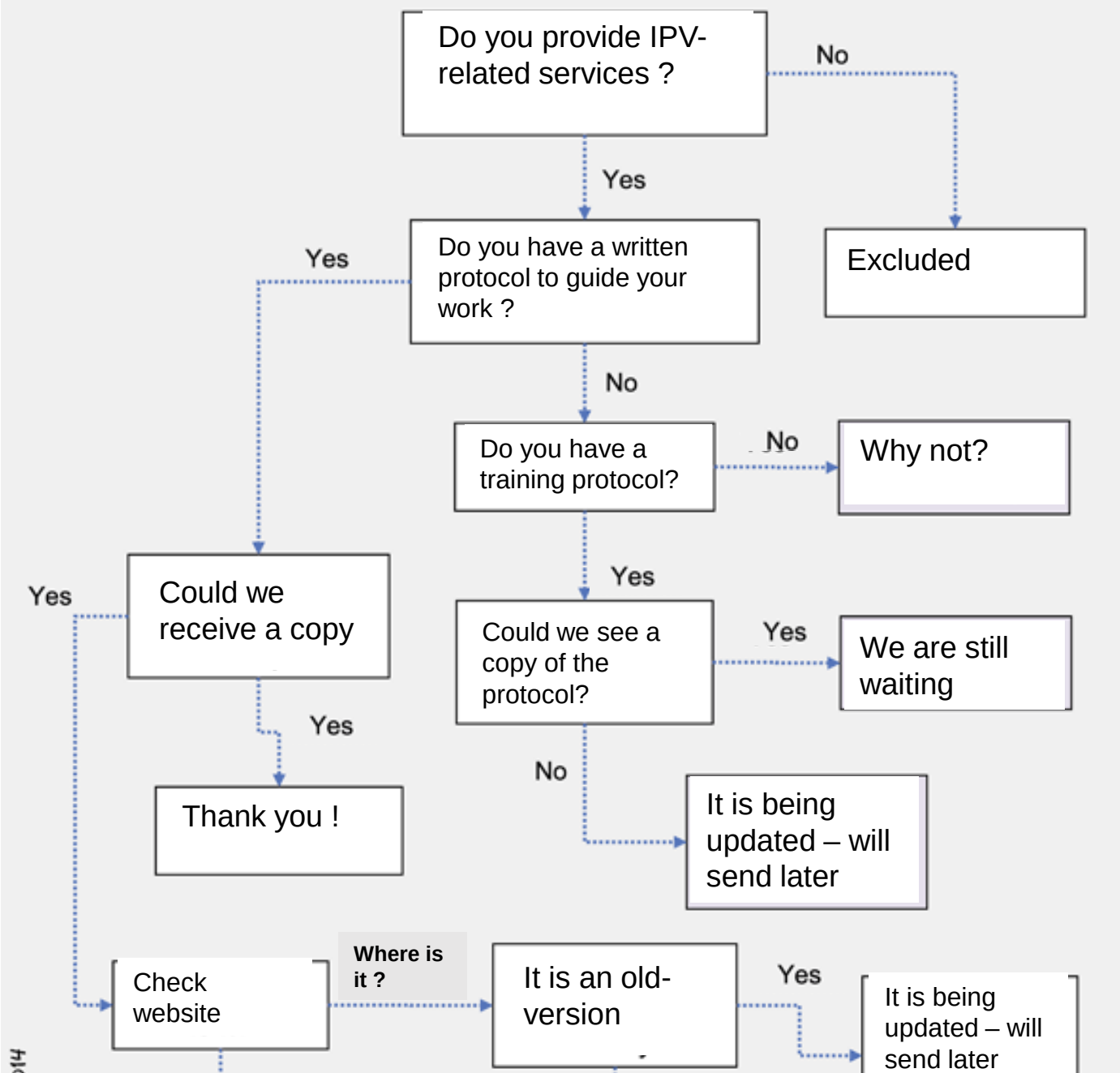
**Aim:** To discuss how existing action plans and policies translate into practices in addressing IPV in four provinces in Canada

## **Method:**

Review of policies and protocols

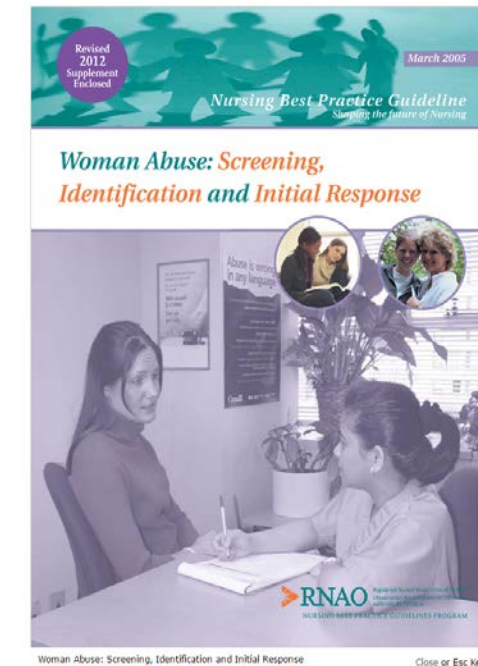
- Federal level
- Provincial (BC, AB, ON, NS) level

Contact with shelters, women's agencies, health care institutions providing IPV-related care



# Findings

- Domestic violence, IPV, and Family violence are used interchangeably to refer to violence instigated by current or former partner or spouse.

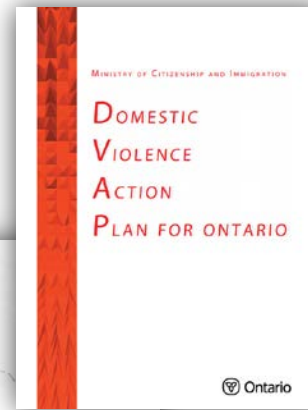
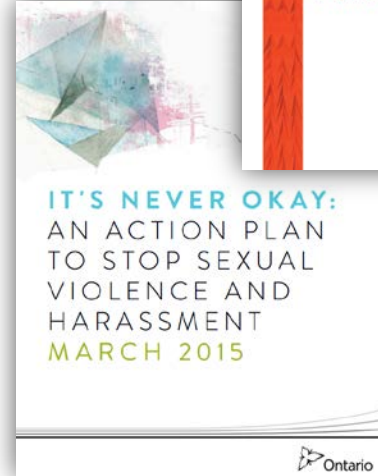


- Only 30% of the 80 shelters in 4 provinces were aware of and/or referred to policy and practice guidelines.



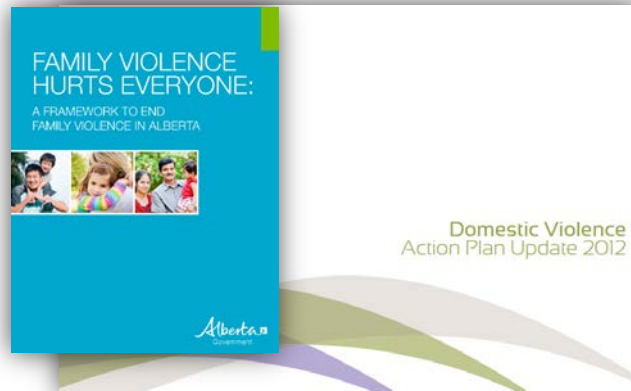
## Ontario (ON)

- The Domestic Violence Action Plan
- It's Never Okay



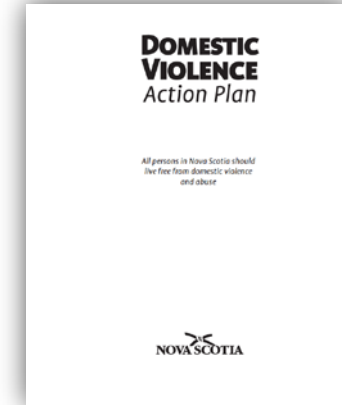
## Alberta (AB)

- A Framework to End Family Violence in Alberta
- Domestic Violence Action Plan



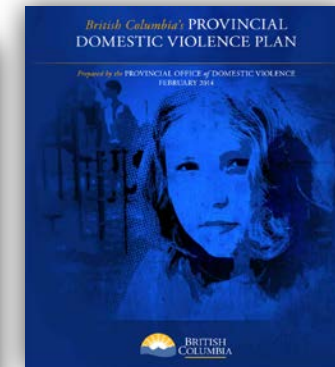
## Nova Scotia (NS)

- Domestic Violence Action Plan
- The Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women



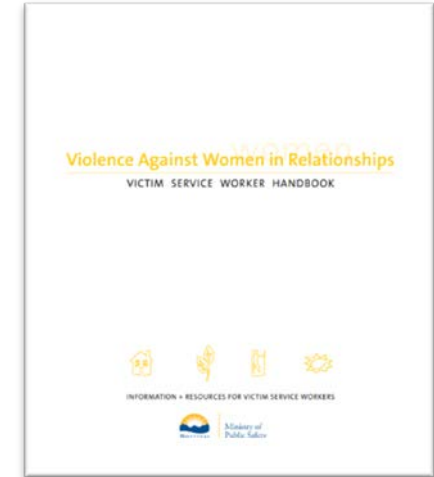
## British Columbia (BC)

- Violence Against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) policy
- Domestic Violence Action Plan



## Findings (contd.)

- No published guidelines; IPV-related services were limited (mostly made referral to other agencies)
- Current guidelines severely outdated
- Policies/guidelines being updated



## Implications

- Provincial Action Plans outline the need for uniform definitions and standard protocols for providing services to women experiencing IPV
- Lack of congruency between the community/ institutional level actions and the principles of practice outlined in the Action plans

Thank you

[www.addressingipvsrilanka.ca](http://www.addressingipvsrilanka.ca)