

Collective Impact:

Reflections from the Trauma- and Violence-Informed Community of Practice

Report of the Trauma- and Violence-Informed Community of Practice
Knowledge Exchange held September 30th, 2025, in Toronto, ON

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Translation:

Sylvie Rodrigue

Graphic Design:

Esther Li, Digital Communications Assistant,
Centre for Research & Education on Violence
Against Women & Children, Western University

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Knowledge Hub:

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Knowledge Hub Team:

- Anna-Lee Straatman, Project Manager
- Esther Li, Media Technician
- Jessica Webb, Implementation Coordinator
- Katreena Scott, Academic Director
- Linda Mavura, Implementation Coordinator
- Meaghan Furlano, Research Assistant
- Nicole Jeffrey, Postdoctoral Associate
- Sabry Adel Saadi, Implementation Coordinator, Francophone Liaison

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This report provides an overview of the fourth and final Knowledge Exchange of the Trauma- and Violence-Informed Community of Practice (CoP), held on September 30, 2025, at the Delta Hotels Toronto Airport & Conference Centre.

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In the morning, members representing most of the CoP projects shared brief presentations on lessons learned, project reach and impact, and what has been done to support sustainability after the funding ends.

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Introduction and Overview of the Day

This report provides an overview of the fourth and final Knowledge Exchange of the Trauma- and Violence-Informed Community of Practice (CoP), held on September 30, 2025, at the Delta Hotels Toronto Airport & Conference Centre. This in-person gathering brought together representatives from projects funded through the Public Health Agency of Canada's Preventing and Addressing Family Violence: The Health Perspective Investment (2022–2026).

The 2025 Knowledge Exchange marked a significant milestone for the CoP, highlighting four years of collective learning, innovation, and collaboration. Representatives from more than 20 funded projects, along with members of the Knowledge Hub (Western University) and the Public Health Agency of Canada, came together to share insights, celebrate progress, and explore pathways for sustainability and future impact within the gender-based violence (GBV) sector. The event's overarching goals were:

- to share promising practices and lessons learned across diverse projects addressing trauma and violence;
- to strengthen collaboration and relationships among CoP members through interactive and creative exchanges;
- to reflect collectively on the value of the CoP, collective impact, and sustainability.

Alice Echaquan and Thérèse Niquay opened the day with some reflections and a traditional Indigenous ceremony. In recognition of National Truth and Reconciliation Day, many CoP members wore orange. Throughout the day, information and knowledge were shared through project presentations, individual reflections, and group discussions. The day concluded with a banquet to celebrate the relationships, connections, and achievements of the past four years.

Descriptions of significant moments and thematic highlights are presented in the following sections. Video and visual highlights of the event are also available through the Knowledge Hub Portal on the [website](#).



Brittany Datchko from Fuselight Creative, Inc was present throughout the day and created two graphic recordings in real time to capture the discussions



Figure 1: Stories of Learning & Impact – Lessons from Trauma- and Violence-Informed Projects. This visual focuses on project-level stories of change, learning, and innovation. It portrays how trauma- and violence-informed approaches are being implemented across diverse communities, sectors, and populations.



Figure 2: Stronger Together – Collective Insights from a Trauma- and Violence-Informed Community of Practice. This visual emphasizes the relational, process-oriented, and adaptive nature of the CoP's work. It reflects how members, while working across diverse sectors and communities, share a deep commitment to building trust, solidarity, and long-term impact in the communities they work with.

Project Insights

In the morning, members representing most of the CoP projects shared brief presentations on lessons learned, project reach and impact, and what has been done to support sustainability after the funding ends. The diversity of projects reflected the richness of the CoP itself—spanning health and well-being, youth engagement, trauma- and violence-informed practice, arts-based and community-driven interventions, as well as prevention and system-level innovation. Members identified both challenges (e.g., recruitment, end of funding) and promising practices that have contributed to stronger, more responsive, and more sustainable initiatives.

Presentation slide decks are available in the Community of Practice portal - [KnowledgeExchangeMasterSlideDeck-.pdf](#). Videos are now also available on the [CoP Portal](#).

More information about common project impact themes from the presentations will be shared in the Knowledge Hub's upcoming final evaluation report.



Community of Practice Value and Collective Impact

In the afternoon, members engaged in individual reflections and small- and large-group discussions facilitated by the Knowledge Hub team and meant to explore the value of the CoP and its impact both within individual projects and across the broader GBV and health promotion fields. This and other activities (project presentations, testimonial board, and follow-up survey) were designed to facilitate shared reflection and support the Knowledge Hub's final evaluation, results of which will be made available in a separate report.

Key Highlights and Reflections

Across the discussions, there was a strong sense of collective pride and mutual support. CoP members celebrated the progress achieved within and across projects and reaffirmed the importance of collaboration over isolation, the importance of flexibility over rigidity, and a need for future collective action.

Building Relationships

CoP members emphasized that relationships are at the heart of trauma- and violence-informed work and are foundational to the sustainability of this work. They identified human connection, mutual recognition, and solidarity as key values of the CoP and as essential to advancing meaningful change. Many described the CoP as a unique space for resource exchange and shared learning, reflecting on how previous conversations about shared challenges benefited their projects. They also identified the importance of time and trust for relationship-building at every stage of program development, implementation, and evaluation.

Flexibility and Responsiveness

CoP members emphasized the importance of flexibility, contextual sensitivity, and responsiveness to the diverse realities of communities served, including Indigenous communities, newcomer communities, and others.

Future Collective Action

CoP members identified several opportunities for future collective action and political engagement. They stressed that sustainable change requires not only collaboration at the community level but also structural recognition and investment at the policy level. They also expressed a desire to collectively create a policy piece, action plan, or alliance, and noted the importance of long-term funding streams and institutional support to sustain the impact of trauma- and violence-informed initiatives across Canada.

Conclusion

This final Knowledge exchange offered an opportunity for CoP members to share the successes and outcomes of their projects. Participants also reflected on the value of a CoP for creating new relationships, partnerships, and learning from one another, in a field where few opportunities exist to do so.

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Centre for Research & Education on Violence
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khcdc@uwo.ca

kh-cdc.ca

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