

Three Models of Specialized Domestic Violence Courts in Canada

Jurisdiction	Goals	Features	Outcomes
Winnipeg (1990)	(1) expedite court processing (2) increase victim cooperation and reduce case attrition (3) provide appropriate sentencing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - handles elder and child abuse as well as spousal abuse - specialized prosecutors, a women's advocacy and child victim/witness program, specially designed courtrooms 5 full-time crowns, one full-time judge plus part-time judges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - success with expedited case processing and appropriate sentencing (2.8 months for spousal case to go to trial; 5 months for child abuse) - more serious sentences (increase in incarceration, decrease in rates of conditional discharge; most common sentence probation, 58% 2 years or longer. - increase in guilty pleas
Ontario (1997-98)	(1) intervene early in DV situations; (2) provide better support to victims (3) more effectively prosecute cases of DV (4) enhance offender accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - early intervention stream and specialized prosecution stream - elements: Victim/Witness Assistance Program; Partner Assault Response Program; specialized Crown; judges on rotation. - early intervention: can plead guilty early on and be referred to treatment as a condition of bail; successful completion a mitigating factor in 	Outcomes from specialized prosecution stream: 83% of cases proceeding to trial dealt with by guilty plea; offenders fast-tracked to treatment; more thorough police investigations; more positive attitude of Crown

		<p>sentencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specialized prosecution: very thorough police investigations lead to increase in guilty pleas; dedicated team of prosecutors. 	
Yukon (2000)	<p>(1) reduce the amount of DV in the community (2) reduce the negative impact on victims and children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -treatment court, similar to drug courts - it is not diversion - involved, dedicated Judges; designated Crown; Defense; probation; victim advocacy - substantial treatment and relapse prevention for offenders - offender given the opportunity to enter early guilty plea and be referred to treatment as condition of bail - offender monitored regularly by court and judge throughout bail and probation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - before DVTO 75% of cases collapsed, since DVTO 75% of offenders are entering a guilty plea and receiving treatment; 80% going through extensive court supervised treatment program. - almost 100% retention in the Spousal Abuse Treatment Program - First Nations individuals and communities support DVTO