

**The Peace Project:
Gender Based Analysis of Violence against Women and Girls in Fort St. John**



THE PEACEPROJECT

This project has been funded by the Status of Women Canada



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Prepared for: Fort St. John Women's Resource Society

Funded by: Status of Women Canada

The Peace Project is a three-year, community-driven initiative to reduce violence against women and girls in our community and improve the social health and well-being of FSJ for all residents, led by the Fort St. John Women's Resource Society and funded by Status of Women Canada. Visit www.thepeaceprojectfsj.com.

Title:

The Peace Project: Gender Based Analysis of Violence against Women and Girls in Fort St. John – revised February 2014

Prepared for:

The Fort St. John Women's Resource Society

The Peace Project is funded by:

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What is the Peace Project?

The Peace Project is a three-year, community driven initiative to reduce violence against women and girls in Fort St. John. The project is led by the Fort St. John Women's Resource Society and funded by Status of Women Canada. The project started in March 2012 and runs until March 2015.

In October 2011, Status of Women Canada put out a call for proposals for "Women Living in Rural and Remote Communities and Small Urban Centres – Theme 1: Community Planning to Reduce Violence against Women and Girls". The Fort St. John Women's Resource Society successfully applied for the funding and renamed the initiative, "The Peace Project".

According to the Status of Women Canada website, "The Women Living in Rural and Remote Communities and Small Urban Centres initiative was launched to solicit funding applications for projects that promote equality, and support the advancement of women and girls living in rural and remote communities and small urban centres in two priority areas: economic security and prosperity; and ending violence against women and girls."ⁱ

The project includes three phases:

1. **RESEARCH:** Conduct a gender-based analysis of violence against women and girls in Fort St. John
2. **PLANNING:** Draft a community plan to address results from the gender-based analysis
3. **IMPLEMENTATION:** Implement one or two key parts of the Community Plan as part of the Peace Project

This report was originally presented to Status of Women Canada as part of the first phase of the Peace Project. This research has informed all subsequent activities in planning and implementation.

How is the report organized?

The report is organized in the following way:

1. Community Profile of Fort St. John
 - This section showcases the community of Fort St. John. It shares its unique demographic characteristics, including population, employment, etc. The "Community Profile" also presents local statistics that impact violence against women and families, including: income, birth and crime rates, housing, migration, and alcohol/drug use.
2. Gender-Based Analysis Service Assessment
 - This section presents the research from phase one of the Peace Project, including results from interviews, focus groups and surveys
 - This section also analyzes the services and resources in Fort St. John that

address/prevent violence against women and girls. As well, it presents local service gaps and barriers, as well as other contributing factors that negatively impact efforts to address gender-based violence in Fort St. John and surrounding area.

3. Peace Project Surveys Analysis

- This section presents an in-depth analysis of results from the Peace Project Community Survey and Peace Project Youth Survey.

Community Profile

The Community of Fort St. John

Fort St. John is located in Northeastern British Columbia and is BC's largest city centre north of Prince George. Fort St. John and its surrounding communities have experienced steady growth in the last ten years, with a 2011 total population of 26,380ⁱⁱ. As of 2011, the city of Fort St. John has a population of 18,609 and has experienced a 21% population growth between 2001 and 2010ⁱⁱⁱ.

The area participates in a resource based economy that often fluctuates. In 2006, the area's unemployment rate was 4.4%, compared to the national rate of 6.6%^{iv}. Fort St. John is home to a diverse population, with an increase in immigration of 14% between 2001 and 2006. The area also attracts many newcomers from within Canada, giving the city a large transient population who come to the region for work. Fort St. John is home to a very young population as well as many young families.

Violence against Women and Girls in Fort St. John

Violence against women and girls in Fort St. John is a prevalent issue that affects many community members directly and/or indirectly. Women and girls in Fort St. John of various races, cultures, ages, incomes, abilities, and socioeconomic status have experienced or witnessed violence.

Of women who participated in the Peace Project Community Survey, 78% reported having experienced some form of abuse and/or violence in their past (including physical, sexual, verbal, mental, emotional, social, financial, spiritual and cultural abuse). Compared to male respondents, female respondents were more likely to have: grown up witnessing violence; experienced violence/abuse in their past; had a spouse/partner/boyfriend commit violence against them; experienced domestic, financial, sexual, mental, emotional, and social abuse/violence; and, experienced stalking.

As well, local service providers were asked, "Which women and girls are most at risk of experiencing violence?" The majority believed that all women in the community are at risk.

Fort St. John has a high rate of concluded domestic violence cases in their adult criminal court. Between 2011 and 2012 there were 498 concluded domestic violence cases, representing 21.4% of Fort St. John's entire case-load in court. This is comparable to the

number of concluded domestic violence cases in Prince George's adult criminal court – a city 2.7 times the size of Fort St. John. Not surprisingly, this means that out of eight provincial adult criminal courts in the northern court system, Fort St. John has the highest number of concluded domestic violence cases^v.

According to Fort St. John R.C.M.P., there was an average rate of domestic violence related R.C.M.P. calls in 2011 and 2012. At this time, it is unknown why there is an average number of domestic violence related calls to R.C.M.P., but a significantly high number of concluded domestic violence cases in the city's adult provincial court.

Also according to Fort St. John R.C.M.P., there were a total of 62 males and 0 females involved in sexual crimes in 2011 and 2012. These crimes included sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, sexual interference, and sexual exploitation. In 2011 and 2012, there were 384 males and 143 females involved in assaults, including (but not limited to) aggravated assault and assault with a weapon. There are reports of 50 males and 12 females uttering threats against a person^{vi}.

Community Highlights

These community highlights describe the characteristics of Fort St. John that stand out from provincial and national averages. All the following highlights can contribute to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John.

They include increased:

- Wages for male workers and couples with children;
- Birthrates and teen pregnancy;
- Housing prices;
- Transient population;
- Alcohol and drug use;
- Women with children not in the labour force;
- Income disparity between men and women;
- Drug-related offenses;
- Rates of violent crimes;
- Number of men; and,
- Younger population.

Economy and Wages

Fort St. John and area has been booming with oil and gas activity since the early 2000s, making the petroleum industry the main economic driver in the area. Between 2007 and 2008, the service industry grew by 2300 new jobs. Most of these jobs were in construction, oil and gas, transportation and communication, and mining^{vii}. This job activity increases the area's wages, and in 2006, the average income before taxes for males in Fort St. John was \$56,000 compared to the national average of \$44,000. Also in this year, the median household income in Fort St John was \$78,001 compared to the national average of \$62,948. Couples without children have the highest median household income in Fort St. John at \$88,517^{viii}.

Birthrate and Teen Pregnancy

Fort St. John has one of the highest birthrates in British Columbia. Between 2010 and 2011, 610 babies were born in Fort St. John and surrounding area^{ix}. This makes the area have a crude birth rate of 17.24 newborns per 1000 people. Compared to other cities in Northern BC, Dawson Creek's crude birthrate was 11.1 per 1000 people and Prince George 10.97 per 1000 people^x. The nation's crude birth rate during this time was 11.1%, meaning Fort St. John's birthrate was significantly higher than the national average between 2010 and 2011. Teen pregnancy is very high in Fort St. John and area, 5.39% of births between 2010 and 2011 were to women 19 years or younger, compared to the provincial average of 2.71%^{xi}.

Housing

Because of the booming economy in Fort St. John over the last ten years, housing prices are among the highest in the country. The average rent for a single family dwelling is \$949 compared to national average of \$785^{xii}. In 2011, the average house price was \$310,686, which was the second highest price in all of Northern BC, behind Fort Nelson with average housing prices at \$325,290^{xiii}. 66.2% of Fort St. John respondents in a housing survey indicated that they spend more than 30% of their income on housing^{xiv}. Of those who responded in the housing survey, renters and lone parents were hardest hit – over 30% of people in these groups spend over 30% of their income on housing each month.

Transient Population

The area offers many career opportunities, which leads to an increase in transient workers and families. In 2005, 30% of men in FSJ reported "No Fixed Workplace Address", which was double the national average of 15% (iv). Also In 2005, only 34.6% of residents in Fort St. John had been living at the same address for five years or more (ix). In comparison, that figure was 51.2% for all of British Columbia, meaning that people in Fort St. John do not reside as long as they do in other communities in the province.

Alcohol and Drug Use

Fort St. John and surrounding communities have some of the highest drug and alcohol use rates in BC. In 2008, among all health authorities in BC, Northern BC had the highest estimated rate of hospitalizations for conditions related to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs. Also during that year, Northern BC had the highest rates of alcohol and tobacco related deaths in all of BC. Males outnumbered the females in this category 2:1^{xv}.

Fort St John has the fourth highest percentage of hard liquor sales in all of BC, falling only behind liquor stores in Vancouver; and, Fort St John has the highest number of liquor sales in the Northern region^{xvi}.

In 2011 and 2012, the Fort St. John R.C.M.P. reported over 1170 incidences of individuals being intoxicated in a public place.

In 2011, Fort St. John had the fourth highest number of drinking and driving charges in BC^{xvii}. According to Fort St. John R.C.M.P. statistics for 2011 and 2012, there were a total of 108 incidents of impaired driving due to alcohol and 386 incidents of driving with a blood alcohol level of over 0.08 (v).

In 2011 and 2012, there were a total of 356 drug related incidences in Fort St. John. The most common being possession of cannabis 30g and under, as well as possession of cocaine and cocaine trafficking (v).

Women with Children Not in the Labour Force

Many women with children in Fort St. John stay home to child mind, with 40% of women with children reported to be “Not in the Labour Force”, meaning that they are not employed nor looking for employment (xi). 2% of men with children at home reported the same status. The national averages are 30% for women and 7% for men. This could mean that in other parts of the country, it is likely that more women are working and more men are staying home to child mind (xi). Women in Fort St. John are 7% more likely than those in the rest of the country to do 60 hours a week of unpaid childcare (xi).

Income Disparity

There is an obvious income disparity between men and women in Fort St. John. In 2005, the average income among males was \$56,000 annually which was \$12,000 more than the national average (xi). In contrast, females in Fort St John made on average \$27,000, which was \$1000 less than the national average (xi).

Crime

Out of 26 regional districts in BC, the Peace River district is ranked number one for highest number of non-cannabis drug offenses per capita. The district is ranked seventh for highest number of serious violent crimes per capita, and third for motor vehicle theft^{xviii}. According to Statistic Canada’s 2011 Crime Severity Index values for 238 police services policing communities with a population over 10,000, Fort St. John is ranked eleventh overall in crime severity, eleventh overall in violent crime severity, and thirteenth overall in non-violent crime severity^{xix}.

Young Town with More Males

Fort St. John is a very young town and has significantly more males than females living in the area. 37.9% of the town is between the ages of 20 and 39, and 29.1% of the town are younger than 19 years of age (i). The age group 25 to 29 is the most populated cohort; and, of community members aged 20 to 64, there are 27.6% more males than females (ii). The median age of the city of Fort St. John is 30.6 years, compared to 41.9 in the rest of BC (ii).

The numbers of families with children aged 0 to 17 are consistently higher than the national average, most significantly for families with children under the age of six. They represent 29% of the population compared to a national average of 21% (ii).

Gender Based Analysis Service Assessment

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General service gaps: Pages 12 to 17

- A. Counselling
- B. Childcare
- C. Affordable Housing
- D. Transportation
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- B. Access to a Lawyer
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- A. Fort St. John Women's Resource Society
- B. North Peace Community Resource Society
- C. Ministry of Children and Family Development
- D. Mental Health and Addiction Services
- E. Other Services Named by Local Service Providers

Service related information from advisory stakeholders: Pages 34 to 40

- A. What is the most effective way local service providers support women and girls who are experiencing violence?
- B. What barriers do service providers face when offering support to women and girls experiencing violence?
- C. What is the most effective way service providers support perpetrators who want to stop their violent behavior?
- D. What barriers do service providers face when offering support to perpetrators who want to stop their violent behavior?

Service related information from the Peace Project Community Survey: Pages 40 to 45

- A. Are there enough services in Fort St. John to help women and girls who experience violence?
- B. Have you experienced counselling for your own experiences of violence/abuse?
- C. Was counselling for your own experiences of violence/abuse helpful?

- D. Are there enough services in Fort St. John to help people who commit violence against women and girls?
- E. If you've committed acts of violence against women and girls, have you received counselling?
- F. Was the counselling for your own violent behavior against women and girls helpful?
- G. Can you access information about how women and girls who experience violence can get help?
- H. Are services in Fort St. John easy to access (medical, counselling, etc.)?
- I. What makes it difficult to access support services for perpetrators or women who have experienced violence/abuse?

Service related information from the Peace Project Youth Survey: Pages 45 to 49

- A. I know what my rights are if someone hurts me.
- B. If I have a serious problem, I know where to get information about the issue.
- C. If I have a serious problem, I know where to get help.
- D. If I have a serious problem, I feel comfortable talking to an adult I trust.

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Research Methods

Methods of Data Collection

During the first phase of the Peace Project, four methods of data collection were used to understand the influences, barriers, and gaps in the community that perpetuate violence against women and girls.

1. Advisory Stakeholder Interviews

Twenty local services providers, who work directly or indirectly with women and girls who experience violence, were given in-depth interviews that addressed the following three topics:

- Violence against women and girls and women and girls at risk;
- Perpetrators of violence; and,
- Social structural factors.

Service providers identified which local women and girls are most at risk for experiencing violence and who is most at risk for committing violence against women and girls in Fort St. John.

As well, the interviewees shared the most effective ways that they offer services to clients. They also explored the barriers and challenges that they face when offering services to women and girls who are experiencing violence, as well as to those who commit violence against local women and girls who wish to stop their violent behavior.

The service providers who were interviewed also identified the local cultural factors that can contribute to violence against women and girls, such as the acceptability of violence as a way to resolve conflict and gender stereotypes.

2. Focus Groups

Seven focus groups with a total of twenty-five participants were held in November and December 2012.

Through these seven open discussions about gender-based violence, participants explored local cultural factors that contribute to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John. Notable factors discussed during the focus groups included:

- Isolation;
- Materialism;
- “Camp culture”;
- Lack of services and resources; and,
- Gender stereotypes.

3. Community Survey

322 participants who live in Fort St. John and are 19 years of age or older completed the Peace Project Community Survey. Alongside extensive demographic questions, the

survey covered the following topics:

- Mental health;
- Emotional and financial stress;
- Housing;
- Transportation;
- Isolation;
- Drugs and alcohol;
- Income;
- Employment;
- Migration;
- Services;
- Gender roles;
- Personal experiences of violence; and,
- Perceptions about Fort St. John, including:
 - Rates of violence,
 - Local factors that contribute to violence, and
 - Behaviors and attitudes of community members related to gender-based violence.

4. Youth Survey

95 participants who live in Fort St. John and are under 19 years of age completed the Peace Project Youth Survey. The survey covered the following topics:

- Friends;
- School and local activities for youth;
- Mental health;
- Drugs and alcohol;
- Personal experiences of violence;
- Relationships;
- Parents; and,
- Community resources.

How we got our Research Participants

Local service providers who work directly or indirectly with women and girls who experience violence were contacted for an interview.

The Project Coordinator, as well as the Peace Project Steering Committee and Fort St. John Women's Resource Society Executive Director sent out an email inviting community members to take part in the community survey and focus groups. Research activities were also advertised through posters, flyers, project website, Facebook, Twitter, newspaper articles, and television interviews.

The Peace Project also hosted "Community Booths" where the Project Coordinator shared information with the public about the project goals and ways to get involved in Gender Based Analysis research. These booths were in the following locations: Pomeroy Sports Centre, Totem Mall, Home Hardware, and Whole Wheat n' Honey Café.

Paper copies of the Peace Project Community Survey, alongside survey drop boxes were in the following locations in Fort St. John: North Peace Leisure Pool, Fort St. John Women's Resource Centre, Fort St. John Friendship Centre, Fort St. John Public Library, Trobak Holistic Counselling, and North Peace Community Resource Society.

Members of the student government at North Peace Secondary School organized an information booth to advertise the Peace Project Youth Survey.

Definition of Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

The Peace Project used a Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) model, as presented by Status of Women Canada. According to Status of Women Canada, a GBA+, "is an analytical tool the federal government uses to advance gender equality in Canada. The 'plus' in the name highlights that gender-based analysis goes beyond gender, and includes the examination of a range of other intersecting identify factors (such as age, education, language, geography, culture and income). GBA+ helps recognize and respond to the different situations and needs of the Canadian population. Analysis that incorporates gender and these other diverse, intersecting factors is called GBA+."^{xx}

General Service Gaps

Many people in Fort St. John face overarching service gaps that affect the community as a whole. These gaps include long waitlists for counselling, few affordable childcare options, lack of affordable housing, limited access to transportation, and lack of legal aid and legal services.

Each service is outlined below with a brief description of its present state.

A. Counselling

For individuals who grew up witnessing violence/abuse, effective counselling is central in helping them resolve, heal and receive ongoing support. Of respondents from the Peace Project Community Survey who grew up witnessing violence, 87% have experienced violence in their past and 13% are currently experiencing violence.

For individuals who have experienced violence in their past or who are currently experiencing violence, long term and effective counselling helps them take back their power and rediscover their strength.

Many local residents find it difficult to seek counselling. Waitlists, affordability, lack of free counselling, and a misunderstanding of employee benefits are all barriers that affect access to counselling in Fort St. John.

Waitlists

There are a limited number of counsellors in Fort St. John and surrounding area. As a result, there are long waitlists. In 2012, one private counsellor had a caseload of over 50

clients and a waitlist time of 8 to 12 months. Waitlists of at least 2 months are very common for most local counsellors.

A local service provider who was interviewed said, “If there are no available appointments, sometimes clients will get turned away and won’t come back.”

Affordability

Finding affordable counselling is also difficult, as a typical session for an individual costs \$120, while couples can expect to pay \$80 per person for one session. There is free counselling available but it is limited and has specific guidelines, such as only accepting female clients or those with a diagnosis of a mental health issue and/or addiction.

Free Counselling

Free counselling for women who have experienced abuse is offered at North Peace Community Resource Society through a provincially funded program. This program also has a long waitlist and only one counsellor – over 130 women were referred to this program between April 2012 and March 2013^{xxi}. Clients with mental health and/or addiction problems can seek counselling with Mental Health and Addictions, also through a provincially funded program. This program is for clients with a diagnosed addiction or mental illness, or a provisional diagnosis of a mental health issue. This criterion leaves many people on the cusp of accessing services, who need help but who lack the diagnosis to receive it.

Youth have access to counselling through School District 60 and through provincially-funded programs such as the Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling Program and the Sexual Abuse Intervention Program at the North Peace Community Resource Society. These services offer individual and group counselling; and currently, each program has only one counsellor to service Fort St. John and surrounding area. There is currently no free counselling for men in the community who do not have a mental health diagnoses and/or an addiction.

Employee and Family Assistance Programs

Many local employers offer an Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP). The program locates a counsellor for the employee and/or his or her dependents and then bills his or her employer for the service. It has been highlighted that many people do not understand exactly how this program works; therefore, it may be underutilized. If EFAP does find counselling for a local employee, they may still be placed on a long waitlist to access a local counsellor.

B. Childcare

Fort St. John is a younger community with a significant number of young families. Many families need daycare; however, the local childcare industry faces a large number of clients with few available daycare centres and childcare workers. Accessing daycare can be difficult for families given age specific guidelines, affordability, and waitlists.

Lack of childcare at local agencies, affordable childcare, all-ages childcare, and emergency childcare are service gaps for community members who are experiencing violence.

Lack of Childcare at Agencies

Because most local service providers are unable to offer onsite childcare and there is a lack of available and affordable childcare in Fort St. John, many women must bring their children to counselling appointments to mind them while receiving counselling.

Age Specific

Finding daycare for all ages is difficult in Fort St. John. Currently, there are only two registered daycare centres that offer service to infants under the age of 36 months. In January 2012, there was only one spot available. Those with infants can seek in-home day care, where one service provider (who may or may not be appropriately trained to care for children) cares for up to 8 children, ages 0 to 12. As of January 2012, there were four of these homes with spots available, though certain restrictions existed such as having a location out of town or not accepting child care subsidy.

Affordability

The average price to access daycare is from \$40 to \$55 per day, which is slightly above the provincial average. Childcare subsidy through the Ministry of Children and Family Development is available, but it has been highlighted that many parents do not know how to fully take advantage of this program.

Many families in Fort St. John find it is less expensive to have one parent stay home with the children than to employ childcare while both parents work. Single parents with lower wages have difficulty finding affording childcare in Fort St. John.

Waitlists

There are eight registered pre-schools that offer part-time care (maximum four hours per day). As of January 2012, six out of the eight had waitlists, some until 2016. Out of eight in-home day cares, two were full and the rest had spots open, but many with specific restrictions including only accepting certain ages, accepting girls only, and having an out of town location. However, waitlists do constantly change and parents have free access to the local Childcare Resource and Referral Centre to help with finding appropriate childcare.

C. Affordable Housing

Fort St. John is in a unique position compared to many other BC communities of similar size and population because of the oil and gas industry. Many people come to Fort St. John to live, work, and start a family, all with different lengths of stay in mind. Accessing housing is a challenge for many because of an expensive housing market and limited

affordable housing and assistance options. Seniors, single people and single parents have greater difficulty accessing housing in the area.

Housing Market

Access to affordable housing is recognized as a barrier for many residents in Fort St. John. Oil and gas activity has raised prices of housing in the area; however, not all community members have the income to afford the booming market. In a local housing assessment survey, over 65% of respondents stated that they spend over 30% of their income on housing (xiii). The 2006 census reported that one in five households in Fort St. John need affordable housing (iii). It is expensive to buy a home in the area, with the average house priced at \$310,686 (xii) in 2011. Renting a unit is also very expensive, with prices comparable to larger cities. In 2005, the average rent in Fort St. John was \$200 more per month than the national average (iii).

Financial Assistance Options

Non-market housing options are available for those who cannot afford their rent. These housing units are funded by the government, non-profit, or co-operative societies. Community members need to meet specific guidelines to qualify for these units; and if they qualify, they pay only what they are able to pay for each month's rent. In 2010, all available units in Fort St. John were full, housing 258 people in total. The tenants were classified under the following categories of need: frail seniors, homeless housed, homeless sheltered, low income families and individuals, independent seniors, special needs, and Aboriginal households. In December 2010, forty-eight people were on the waitlist for BC Housing units, most of them families or seniors.

For individuals who do not qualify for subsidized housing, but who still need assistance, they can apply for the provincially funded Rental Assistant Program. This program supports working low income families by supplementing housing costs with cash assistance. Only twenty-six people in Fort St. John were using this program as of December 2010. The program is difficult for some people to access, as there are very specific guidelines. Notably, the applicant must have been living in BC twelve months prior to applying, been employed at least once in the last year, spend over 30% of their income on housing, have at least one or more dependent children, and they cannot receive other forms of income assistance.

Seniors

Fort St. John seniors also face housing barriers as it is difficult to find affordable single occupant dwellings. Many use the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program, which subsidizes rental costs for seniors with low or moderate incomes. The senior must apply for this program and meet the following eligibility requirements: be over 60 years of age, live in BC for twelve months before applying, and spend over 30% of their income on housing. If the senior's gross monthly income exceeds a certain limit (\$2,033 for single and \$2,217 for couples), they do not qualify for the program. Accessing this program can take up to three months, from the time the senior decides to use this program until the day he or she is in a house. The wait time has left some seniors stranded.

The criterion for the SAFER program can make it difficult for clients who make too much money to qualify for housing assistance, but do not make enough to pay the high cost of living in Fort St. John.

Singles and Single Parents

Single people and single parents face unique housing challenges in Fort St. John. Both groups have the lowest median income in the city, with singles mothers making the lowest amount at \$44, 933 compared to couples making \$88, 517 in 2005 (iii).

For singles without children, they often do not have access to affordable housing programs such as Rental Assistance because they do not have children and their incomes may be too high for subsidized housing. However, this group's income may also be too low to afford adequate housing in Fort St. John. Therefore, many individuals in Fort St. John are spending a high percentage of their income on housing each month.

According to the Peace Project Community Survey, of respondents who are single and female: 33% have difficulty finding affordable housing and 43% do not have enough money for rent or mortgage each month. Of respondents who are married and female, only 11% have difficulty finding affordable housing and 10% do not have enough money for rent or mortgage each month.

Single parents may also face challenges if their income is too high to qualify for the Rental Assistance Program. The Fort St. John housing needs assessment cited that single mothers have the hardest time seeking housing. Some single mothers in Fort St. John are also left spending a high percentage of their income on housing every month with very few options for affordable and safe housing.

D. Transportation

Especially for individuals and families living outside of Fort St. John and/or for those who do not have access to a vehicle, transportation options are very limited.

Access to Public Transit

Public transit in Fort St. John is extremely limited, with only 5 routes that service the city core. The buses run from Monday to Saturday only, from 6:45 am to 7:00 pm. Bus fare is \$2 per trip, though monthly passes are available for \$40. The bus is not easily accessible to individuals with disabilities or seniors, and there is not public transit for those living outside of Fort St. John's city limits.

Taxi Cabs

The taxi cab service in Fort St. John is limited and expensive. On a Friday or Saturday evening, requests for taxi cabs can sometimes take an hour or more. For individuals needing to exit a situation quickly or have limited funds, Fort St. John taxis are not the best option.

E. Legal Aid and Legal Services

The lack of a local Family Justice Counsellor, as well as lengthy court cases for domestic violence all contribute to a lack of local legal support for community members experiencing gender-based violence.

Lack of Local Family Justice Counsellor

A Family Justice Counsellor is specially trained to offer services and support in areas concerning parenting arrangements guardianship, and contact agreements for families who are experiencing divorce or separation. This is a free service that is offered throughout British Columbia, but is not available in Fort St. John. The closest Family Justice Centre is in Prince George, so if residents in Fort St. John want this service they must access a counsellor over the phone.

Long Court Lengths

After crown counsel presses charges on an abuser, it can take anywhere from six to eighteen months for the abuser to go to court. Local service providers who were interviewed noted that during this waiting time violence and/or abuse in a relationship may be prolonged, particularly financial, mental, and emotional abuse. This is especially relevant in Fort St. John where there is a shortage of provincial judges.

There may also be an issue of conflict of interest. Because of the size of the community, local judges may not be able to sit on specific cases if the judge knows either one or both of the parties involved. This further prolongs cases because an outside judge must be called in.

How Service Gaps Affect Women Experiencing Domestic Violence

Especially when a person flees a violent relationship, resources like affordable housing and childcare, as well as easy access to transportation and free legal services are critical. Always, there is a power imbalance where one spouse (in Fort St. John, it is often the male partner) has easier access to housing, childcare, transportation, legal services, and finances.

Also, due to lengthy domestic court cases, many women end up dropping charges, refusing to testify or experiencing prolonged harassment and abuse from her partner. Immediate accessibility of these resources is vital in preventing further abuse/violence, and sometimes, grievous harm. A local service provider who was interviewed explained, “If a victim of domestic violence cannot make it on her own, she will go back to an abusive relationship. Waitlists become death sentences.”

Local service providers who were interviewed were asked, “What have women and girls who are most at risk for experiencing violence identified as their top needs and priorities?”

The top five answers were:

1. Affordable housing
2. Safe place to go
3. Financial support
4. Childcare
5. Counselling

The following are specific barriers for women experiencing domestic violence. These gaps and services were identified by local women who have experienced domestic violence and the local service providers who work with them.

A. Childcare

Children are cited as the biggest barrier for local women who are experiencing violence in relationships and want to leave. When accessing services, they often bring their children with them to keep them safe.

As explained in “General Service Gaps”, a lack of childcare at local agencies, affordable childcare, and all-ages childcare can negatively affect local families that have limited funds and resources. For a woman fleeing domestic violence, these barriers are much more complicated. If she is financially dependent on her partner, as well as experiencing financial, social, mental and emotional abuse, finding appropriate childcare during her separation can be difficult.

Isolation

The situation is further complicated when a women who is experiencing domestic violence and has children also lives far away from family, friends and other support networks. Respondents of the Peace Project Community Survey who always feel isolated were more likely to provide most of the daily care to the children in their household. As well, they were much more likely to have experienced violence in their past, grown up witnessing violence, and be currently experiencing violence.

Lack of Emergency Childcare

Women who have experienced abuse cited the lack of emergency or crisis childcare as a major barrier in escaping violence. Not being able to access immediate childcare during a crisis can prolong abuse.

B. Access to a Lawyer

Many local women experiencing violence in a relationship are financially dependent on their partners. This is significant for women who may need a lawyer for family law issues and/or women experiencing domestic violence. And, this is especially an issue for women experiencing financial abuse.

With limited options for legal aid or free legal services in Fort St. John, women who are

experiencing domestic violence sometimes feel pressured to drop charges of domestic violence against the partner, especially if they're financially dependent upon them.

C. Affordable Medium and Long-Term Housing

Women experiencing abuse and/or violence most often name the lack of affordable housing as a major barrier in leaving abusive relationships. Though Fort St. John offers a transition house, there is very limited medium or long term housing options for women who have experienced violence.

Medium Term Housing

Currently, Skye's Place (Fort St. John Women's Resource Centre) is the only second stage housing program in the community that houses women who have experienced abuse. There are twelve units available for up to two years; and, the program requires that the woman have at least one child. This can leave many women without children seeking other limited options in the community for affordable housing.

Most women who apply for the program require a three-bedroom suite for themselves and their children. In July 2013, there was a waitlist of six women. Skye's Place is always full and there's almost always a waitlist.

Long Term Housing

With the lack of affordable housing in Fort St. John, many women feel they have no place to go if they leave an abusive relationship. If the woman has not worked in the last year, she cannot apply for the Rental Assistance Program.

D. Access to a Vehicle

Women may or may not have access to a vehicle if they do not have their own or if their vehicle is shared with their partner. Local service providers have explained that some women living out of town may not have their own vehicle and/or driver's license, and may not know how to drive. This is a significant barrier for women wishing to flee domestic violence or needing to access services in Fort St. John, as service providers do not offer transportation to their offices, public transit does not service surrounding areas, and taxi fees would be very high.

E. Counselling

Lack of counseling was cited as a major service gap for women experiencing violence. Currently, there is very limited free counseling and private counseling. Many women seeking couples' counselling or free counselling end up on wait lists. As well, there are very limited options for local Aboriginal women who wish to access culturally relevant or competent counselling.

Free Counselling

There are a limited number of free counseling programs offered to women in Fort St. John. Women who have experienced violence or are currently experiencing violence have access to free counseling through the Women's Counselling program at North Peace Community Resource Society. This program is very busy and has a waitlist – currently, there is one counsellor to serve all of Fort St. John and area. Mental Health and Addiction Services offer free counselling for women who have addiction issues.

Other Community Members Who Face Service Barriers

Identified below are community members in Fort St. John who may experience significant service gaps related to preventing or addressing violence against women and girls. These individuals and the barriers they face were discussed by local service provider interviewees, focus group participants, as well as participants of the Peace Project Community Survey.

They include the following groups:

- Aboriginal women;
- Men;
- Youth;
- Workers in industrial camps; and,
- Men who commit violence.

Examples of significant service gaps include the following:

- Isolation;
- Racism;
- Restricted hours to access services;
- Lack of services/resources that target specific groups; and,
- Shame and stigma.

A. Aboriginal Women

According to the Peace Project Community Survey, 93% of Aboriginal respondents have experienced violence and/or abuse in their past, 66% grew up witnessing violence, and 10% are currently experiencing violence. Among all respondents, 74% have experienced violence and/or abuse in their past, 41% grew up witnessing violence, and 5% are currently experiencing violence and/or abuse.

Aboriginal women were the seventh most likely group to be named by local service providers as at risk for experiencing violence. However, Aboriginal women on reserves and Aboriginal women were the top two answers for the question, "Who are you not seeing access your services who should be?"

According to interviewees, this is due to a host of reasons, including racism and isolation.

Racism

Of Aboriginal survey respondents for the Peace Project Community Survey, 18% have experienced spiritual abuse, 21% have experienced cultural abuse, and 50% have experienced racial abuse.

When accessing services, 36% of Aboriginal respondents believe that racial discrimination makes it difficult to access local support services for perpetrators or for women who are experiencing violence.

According to one local service provider interviewed, there is a lack of understanding when service providers work with Aboriginal clients. They often assume the same world view, not realizing that only certain counselling models are appropriate and/or effective.

B. Men

Services for men are lacking in Fort St. John. A survey from North Peace Community Resource Society recently asked men what community resources are needed. Fifteen services were listed, including anger management training, counselling for childhood abuse, work-place stress, and being abusive in relationships. 48% of men surveyed agreed that they need one of these services, while an alarming 95% said that other men in the community need at least one of these services. However, 37% of the men surveyed said that they would not pay a fee for services based on their income, even if they needed the help.

Counselling Services for Men

The only free counselling for local men is offered through Mental Health and Addiction and Northern Recovery – both offer counselling for addictions. To receive counselling from Mental Health and Addictions, the client must have a diagnosed addiction or a mental health issue.

Men also have access to community based victim services if they are the victim of a power-based crime, such as domestic violence, child abuse (historical), and sexual abuse (current and historical). This program offers information, advocacy and support, but does not offer professional counselling.

There are no other free local services for men. This can leave local men who do not have addiction or mental health issues or left with long waiting lists for private counselling.

Employee and Family Assistance Program

Local men who are employed may have an Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) through their employer. EFAPs are benefits programs that help connect an employee with a private counselor and then confidentially bill the client's employer. However, it has been found through interviews and focus groups that many men do not know how these programs work. For example, many men are unaware that when the bill is sent to the employer that employee's identity is not revealed. If men are unaware of

the confidentiality and anonymity of the program, they may not utilize it as often as they need. For men who do access these programs, they are still subject to long waitlists for one-on-one private counselling from a Fort St. John-based professional.

Parenting Programs

Men with children have access to free local parenting support groups. Specifically, they can access the Family Place, Nobody's Perfect Parenting, and the Daddy and Me support group at North Peace Community Resource Society.

Male Youth

Male youth have access to free counselling through their schools. Youth under the age of 19 also have access to the Sexual Assault Intervention Program and the Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling Program at the North Peace Community Resource Society. There is a gap for male youth who are over 19 years of age. They do not qualify for the above programs, leaving private counselling their only option.

Male youth also have access to the Opt Sexual Health clinic; however, between April and January 2012, this program did not serve any male clients. Male youth may not be aware of the service or feel uncomfortable accessing it.

C. Youth

The age group 0 to 19 makes up 28% of Fort St. John's population; and yet, services and activities for youth are limited.

In the Peace Project Youth Survey, respondents were asked, "Other than with your close friends, who can you talk to about yourself or your problems?" Only 5% of girls and 8% of boys said that they can talk to a counsellor outside of school. There is free counselling offered through school counsellors, but only 26% of girls and 8% of boys said that they talk to a counsellor or teacher at school when they have a serious problem.

Services offered outside of school include Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre, WJS Interchange (youth shelter), and Opt Sexual Health clinic.

Services Available Outside of School

Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre

There is one drop-in youth centre in Fort St. John called, "Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre" through the Northeast Native Advancing Society. All youth, ages 12 to 19, are welcome and the centre provides employment assistance, tutoring, job readiness assistance, and other youth activities. The drop-in centre is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm until 8pm.

Opt Sexual Health Clinic

Opt Sexual Health is a clinic open to everyone in Fort St. John, regardless of age. The clinic offers low cost contraceptives, prescriptions, pregnancy testing, and sexual health counselling. STI testing is available at the Fort St. John STI Clinic.

Youth are the most frequent visitors of the Opt Sexual Health Clinic. Between April 2012 and January 2013, youth aged 16 to 19 represented 44% of their client base. Youth aged 20 to 25 represented 40% of clients served between April and January 2012.

Though the rate of youth accessing the Opt Sexual Health clinic is promising, the amount of people seeking this service in Fort St. John is very low. Only 43 people in total visited the sexual health clinic between April 2012 and January 2013. All 43 of these clients were females. Most clients used this service to pick up a prescription and/or to access counselling. The hours are limited, open from 1:20pm to 4:00 pm on Mondays. The location of the clinic is a significant distance from the high school and both middle schools, making it difficult for youth to access the clinic. Contraceptive pill pick-ups are not available outside of Opt clinic hours; however, the ECP (Emergency Contraceptive Pill) is available daily from the Health Unit.

The rate of teen pregnancy in Fort St. John is 2.68% higher than the national average. There were approximately 33 babies born to teenage mothers between 2010 and 2011 (ix).

Activities Offered Outside of School

In the Peace Project Youth Survey, respondents were asked, "In Fort St. John, do you think there are enough activities for youth to do outside of school?" and, "Do you think there are enough places in Fort St. John for youth to spend time outside of school?"

58% of youth surveyed said that there were either not enough or that there could be more activities outside school. Notably, 11.1% of male youth and 19.3% of female youth agree that there are places for youth in Fort St. John, but that they do not hang out in them. There is an apparent disconnect between activities and places available for youth and youth wanting to go to those activities and hang out at those places, especially for young women.

The survey participants were asked, "What activities do you like to do?" Respondents who agreed there were enough activities to do outside of school named forty-nine activities that they like to do. 58% of these activities were sports related, the most popular being badminton, soccer, bowling, swimming, basketball, and ATV sports. 18% were creative activities, like dance. Respondents who believed there are not enough activities to do outside of school named thirty-one activities they like to do. 42% of these activities were sports related, the most popular being general, "sports". 35% were creative activities, like dance, singing, sewing, and jewellery making.

One respondent, who does not think there are enough activities for youth outside of school, commented, "It all costs too much." The town offers various clubs for youth, but

the majority are sports related and cost money to join. Low-income families with children who wish to take part in sports related activities can apply for financial assistance from North Peace KidsSport.

Of survey respondents who answered the question, “where do you like to hang out outside of school,” the most popular places were their own home, a friend’s house, Totem Mall, Pomeroy Sports Centre, outdoors (parks and trails), and generally around town. A respondent who didn’t think there were enough places commented, “There aren’t many options.”

D. Workers in Industrial Camps

As of March 2012, there were 1809 industrial camp sites in Northern BC. 87% of these camps are located near Fort St. John in the Northeast Health Service Delivery Area^{xxii}. Workers in these camps may or may not live permanently in Fort St. John, but they may access the city’s services.

As part of an in-depth investigation into industrial camps and health, Northern Health found that people working in industrial camps face many barriers when seeking health services (xxii). These barriers include the culture of industrial camps, shift work, and substance abuse problems. These findings coincide with what the authors of this report have found, as the community of Fort St. John has voiced many of the same concerns about working in camps and accessing services.

Culture of Industrial Camps

Industrial camps are home to a unique culture, often described as “rigger” culture. It has been found to include hyper-masculinity, sexism, and apathy towards self-care^{xxiii}.

Specific to Fort St. John, Northern Health found that the area is home to a thriving “party” atmosphere in camps, where new workers are introduced to the drug scene and older workers set the pace for heavy drug use and partying throughout the night. Given this environment of both heavy partying and lack of self-care, it can be very difficult for the workers in camps to recognize when they may need to seek health services.

Notably, drugs and alcohol were named as the biggest contributors to violence against women and girls in the Peace Project Community Survey. The majority of individuals who participated in the survey named drugs and alcohol top contributing factors to the perpetuation of gender-based violence.

Hyper-masculinity serves as another challenge for men in industrial camps. Male workers may recognize that they need to seek services, but may not feel comfortable doing so. Employers also may or may not be supportive of employees leaving to seek medical services.

Shift Work

Workers in industrial camps spend, on average, twenty-one to twenty-eight days in camp,

often with one week off before they return. They can spend up to forty-two days in camp, working twelve to eighteen hours per day. Seeking health services in Fort St. John, which are usually open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, can be very difficult for this population. Keeping appointments, securing a family physician, filling prescriptions, and seeking consistent services such as counselling is increasingly difficult for workers in industrial camps and industrial-based professions.

In a study that examined local oil and gas workers and their access to STI testing, limited hours were cited as a major barrier for the young men seeking services (xix). Lack of drop in hours at clinics is a barrier, as many transient workers in the oil and gas industry do not have family physicians.

Shift Work and Health

Northern Health believes that shift work can negatively impact the health of workers, citing obesity, depression, sleep disorders, emotional distress and substance abuse as problems workers may face (xxi). All of these conditions serve as more barriers, as workers with these symptoms may feel shame and embarrassment or do not recognize that they need professional help. Therefore, they avoid accessing services, which prolongs or worsens their condition.

Substance Abuse

A problematic use of drugs and alcohol are not only a part of industrial camp life, it can become an issue after the workers leave camp. Participants in the Peace Project focus group talked about men who work in industrial camps coming back to Fort St. John to “blow off steam”, sometimes going on drug and alcohol binges. This behaviour has been found to increase accidents, stress, anxiety and injury (xxi). If the worker has a family, the bingeing can lead to problems at home. The men are cited as being in a specific “state of mind” and wanting their time away from work to de-stress and relax. However, excessive partying often leads to the men disregarding their own health needs and the needs of their families. Therefore, while the workers from industrial camps may finally have some time to access services, they may not be in the state of mind to do so.

Peace Project Industrial Camp Worker Interviews

In November 2013, the Peace Project Coordinator conducted a series of interviews with eight camp attendees in an industrial camp close to Fort St. John.

Interviewees discussed their personal choice to take on dangerous/stressful employment and work longer shifts. They also considered a company’s responsibility for their mental wellness and the wellness of their families. Specifically, distinctions were made between safety and wellness. Interviewees explained that many policies related to worker wellness involve strict safety standards – for example, zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol, and driving infractions.

The meaning of mental wellness involves “the positive qualities that help people flourish”^{xxiv}. These include key characteristics, like:

- the ability to enjoy life;
- resilience (bouncing back from difficult experiences);
- balance (juggling the many aspects of life);
- self-actualization (reaching full potential); and,
- flexibility (creative problem solving).

On a more basic level, mental wellness can be defined as, “a state of emotional and psychological well-being in which an individual is able to use his or her cognitive and emotional capabilities, function in society, and meet the ordinary demands of everyday life.”^{xxv}

Some interviewees believed that worker wellness, wellness of workers’ families, and a positive workplace environment (beyond amenities) is not a priority for energy companies and their contractors/subcontractors:

- INTERVIEW #1:
 - “There’s a general attitude of ‘It’s not our problem.’ The bigger companies need to get the work done as quickly as possible and however the contractors and sub-contractors do it is up to them. Little attention is paid to how longer shifts at camp (away from family) might physically and mentally affect a worker. It’s considered a worker’s choice and responsibility.”
- INTERVIEW #2:
 - “Companies take little responsibility for family wellness and employee wellness. Wellness campaigns, programs and policies from bigger companies are just charm campaigns. It’s about how they appear to the public.”
 - “Safety rules are fine, but you feel like you’re under a thumb of safety – if you do not abide completely, you could lose your job. ‘Blowing off steam’ is about experiencing freedom from very restrictive safety regulations. Suddenly, you can do whatever you want without fear of losing your livelihood. For example, on your days off, you don’t really have the right to speed, but there is a sense of freedom, so you do it.”
- INTERVIEW #3:
 - “The extra-long shifts and keeping workers away from their families is a company responsibility. Also, companies do things that directly influence wind-down time. For example, workers are not allowed to go for walks around the camp without getting into trouble.”
- INTERVIEW #4:
 - “Everything is so safety-oriented and it feels claustrophobic, like a prison. It’s unnatural to be inside for so long – you’re not allowed to go for walks, especially off camp grounds.”
- INTERVIEW #6:
 - “Companies will hammer us with safety to the point where we’re made to

feel stupid and inadequate, even if we do everything we can. It feels like they only care about the bottom line and their policies – they don't know or care about us. Some of the safety policies are good, but some are ridiculous.”

- “Contractors need to support their own people. Money isn't everything.”
- INTERVIEW #7:
 - “It's better when health and safety comes from an open and understanding approach versus a hardline or overly critical approach.”
- INTERVIEW #8:
 - “It would help if there were better lines of communication with companies when a crew is under strain.”

Questions generated from the 2013 Energy Conference in Fort St. John, BC

The Peace Project Coordinator attended the 2013 Energy Conference in Fort St. John. The conference included national and international delegates from diverse sectors that work with the energy sector. Presenters shared valuable information on British Columbia's energy future. The annual conference travels to cities in Northeastern BC that are directly affected by industry: Fort St. John, Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson.

This year's energy conference was influenced by a report from the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources (ENEV) called, “Now or Never”. The paper focuses on priorities for responsible energy development in communities across Canada.

After attending several sessions, the Coordinator generated questions about energy development related to the impact on families and communities. These questions will inform the Peace Project Industry Forum in 2014:

For industry-based workers who work longer hours, longer shifts, and/or stay in industrial camps:

- How do they maintain a good work/life balance?
- How do they maintain healthy relationships and families? Do long work hours impact families?
- What are their barriers to mental wellness?
- How can their mental wellness and the wellness their families be improved while working and/or staying in camp? What is offered to lessen the negative impact of stressful work environments and longer stays in industrial camp beyond amenities and financial compensation?
- How can workers and their families prepare for their transitions to days off? Do strict safety regulations in camps sometimes lead to “blowing off steam” on days off?

E. Men who Commit Violence

Men who commit violence (and wish to stop their violent or abusive behavior) face barriers when they choose to seek help. However, community members are beginning to recognize that this population needs services.

In a local survey from the North Peace Community Resource Society, local men were asked what services men need in the community. 51.6% of men indicated needing services/counselling for “being abusive in a relationship”. For men who commit violence/abuse, lack of support groups, counselling, and pro-active programs, as well as the stigma surrounding men who commit acts of violence are all barriers this population faces.

Lack of Support Groups/Counselling

There are currently no free anger management or similar courses offered in Fort St. John, thus leaving men’s only option to seek private counselling, which is limited and costly.

Lack of Programs to Address Violence in Relationships

Respectful Relationships is a course funded by Justice BC that teaches men the cycles of abuse and the power dynamics in relationships. It has been found to be very effective in reducing family violence. However, this course is only offered to people who have been convicted of abuse and are court mandated to participate. The course is not offered to individuals who wish to participate, but do not have a domestic violence conviction or have not been court mandated to take it.

For local Respectful Relationships course participants, the local probation office has made significant steps in making the program as accessible as possible. For example, they offer the course in a condensed format that fits with the work schedules of employees in the local resource based industry. They also give the clients as much flexibility and notification of course dates as possible.

Stigma

There is a stigma held towards men who commit violence against women and girls, thus making it even harder for men to seek help. Often, many abusers fear repercussions of admitting that they’ve commit violence. Instead, they keep it a secret and do not seek help.

Local service providers who were interviewed also noted that men who commit violence may not have a peer group who will support them when they access services. Interviewees also cited “negative peer counselling” as a barrier – men with abusive tendencies may receive advice about relationships from other men who have abusive tendencies. This can perpetuate or normalize violence against women. One interviewee explained that this can especially happen in industrial camps where men tend to be away from their families for an extended period of time.

Lack of Culturally Competent Services

Services in Fort St. John that help men end their violent and abusive behavior do not always accommodate diverse cultures. This is especially an issue for newcomers to Canada who experience language and cultural barriers, as well as Aboriginal men who wish to access culturally relevant counselling and/or programming.

Service options for women and girls experiencing violence

Service options that local women and girls can access include the Fort St. John Women's Resource Society with an outreach store, a poverty law advocate, second stage housing, workshops, and emotional support and referrals. There is also the North Peace Community Resource Society which offers counselling, transition house, an outreach worker, Sexual Abuse Intervention Program, Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling Program, and Community-Based Victim Services. The Salvation Army has an emergency shelter and the Fort St. John Friendship Centre, Salvation Army, and Calvary Baptist Church give free meals to those who need it. The Ministry of Child and Family Development, Fort St. John R.C.M.P, Fort St. John Crown Counsel, and Mental Health and Addictions also offer crucial support in assisting women and girls who are experiencing violence.

A. Fort St. John Women's Resource Society

The Fort St. John Women's Resource Society (FSJWRS) is one of the most visible service providers for women in Fort St. John. The society offers an outreach store, second stage housing, legal advocacy and support, workshops, and general support and referrals.

Women's Outreach Store

The outreach store fills a very practical need for women in Fort St. John. The store offers free food, toiletries, clothing, and housewares to women who self-identify as in need. It is both a poverty relief service and a gateway for women to engage with other women's centre services, including advocacy, information, and referrals.

An average of 187 clients per month accessed the store in 2012. The most accessed item was food with 59% of clients taking one or more food items per visit. The second most accessed item is clothing, followed by hygiene products and household items. The outreach store also distributes free adult and youth bus passes for local women in need. It is a very popular program – from September 2012 to February 2013, over 140 bus passes were given to clients and their children.

57% of the clients who used the store in 2012 were Aboriginal.

Second Stage Housing

The FSJWRS offers second stage housing called Skye's Place. Funded by BC Housing, this program offers twelve housing units for women who have been in abusive

relationships and have children. The women pay a subsidized amount of rent based on their income. Tenants and their children can stay in the units for up to two years and are mandated to participate in weekly group counselling sessions. As of July 2013, Skye's Place had a waiting list of six women. Skye's Place is always full and almost always has a waiting list.

Poverty Law Advocacy Program

The Fort St. John Women's Resource Society is home to Fort St. John's only legal advocacy program. This service is free for low income men and women. The poverty law advocate offers assistance with legal issues related to disability, employment and unemployment, housing, and welfare. This program offers assistance with filling out forms, dealing with court processes, providing advocacy and representation, and accessing government services.

The program deals with twenty to thirty clients at any given time. On average, each file includes approximately ten different legal issues. The program sees approximately 100 clients with 130 legal issues per month.

Workshops

The FSJWRS offers a space for women to hold workshops and support groups. Workshops offered by the society include legal help workshops, safety workshops, and relational workshops.

Support and Referrals

Emotional support, information, referrals, and other hands-on assistance is offered on a drop in basis. The society is located in the centre of the city, which is a convenient and safe place for women to drop in and socialize or relax. This is a significant service for the community throughout the year, especially in the winter months.

B. North Peace Community Resource Society

The North Peace Community Resource Society (NPCRS) offers many services to women and girls experiencing violence.

Women's Transition House

The women's transition house in Fort St. John is called the Meaope House and it offers short term housing for women 19 years of age or older who are fleeing abuse. The house is open 24/7 with a staff member always on-site. Three single rooms are available to single occupants and two family rooms are available for women with children.

The women can flee any type of abuse from any abuser. Staff members at the house provide emotional support by listening to tenants and offering referrals to other community agencies. The women are given the opportunity to learn the cycle of abuse in relationships. As well, a transition plan encompassing short term goals is created with

individual clients.

Women's Outreach Worker

The women's outreach worker is a staff member who provides emotional and practical support from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm to women who have experienced or are experiencing violence in a relationship. The outreach worker is available to help clients book and get to appointments, find housing, and connect with employment. They also refer clients to other community agencies. This service has been cited as one of the most important programs for women experiencing violence because of the practical support and advocacy it provides.

Stopping the Violence Women's Counselling Program

Free counselling is available for women who have experienced any form of abuse, both recent and historical. The women do not need to prove that they have experienced abuse. From April 2012 to March 2013, 137 women were referred to the program (xx).

Community-Based Victim Services

Free support is available to anyone who has been a victim of a power-based crime. The community-based victim services worker offers emotional support, assistance with any court preparations and appearances, safety planning, and help with contact orders and crown counsel.

From April 2012 to March 2013, the program saw a total of 57 clients. 54 of them were women and domestic violence was the most common reason for accessing the program. 38 of the 57 clients were referred from the local Police-Based Victim Services. In total, 319 supports were provided through Fort St. John Community-Based Victim Services (xx).

Sexual Assault Intervention Program

The sexual abuse intervention program is offered to children and youth up to the age of 19 who have experienced sexual abuse, as well children and youth who are displaying problematic sexual behaviors. The program provides support for family members as well as individual youth. Group sessions are also available. Youth over the age of 19 who are displaying sexually problematic behaviors do not have access to this service. This is a service gap for youth in the community, especially young men.

Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling Program

Children Who Witness Abuse is a program which offers both group and individual counselling to clients aged 3 to 19 who have experienced and or witness violence and or abuse.

C. The Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) implements, funds, and employs various programs within British Columbia that can assist women in various ways who experience violence. The MCFD has a large role in assisting families with finding appropriate childcare and child services, as well as funding and overseeing child and youth programs. Recently, the MCFD has also created a Provincial Office of Domestic Violence.

The MCFD will automatically get involved if there is domestic violence is occurring in a home with children.

Care for Children

The MCFD offers a variety of tools to assist individuals in finding childcare.

The Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCRR) is an office funded by the MCFD that provides support, services, and referrals for people who need childcare in their community. The CCRR helps families locate childcare as well as assist in filling out any forms. As well, the CCRR helps child care providers become licensed.

The MCFD also funds the Child Care Subsidy program which subsidizes the cost of childcare by giving the family a monthly payment based on their income level. The MCFD website also displays a map which shows all available licensed childcare centres in British Columbia.

The MCFD also funds a variety of early development initiatives and programs, including Success by 6 and Strong Start.

The Ministry is responsible for adoption, foster care, Aboriginal child and family development, child and youth mental health services, and youth justice services.

If the MCFD is notified of potential child abuse, they are responsible to investigate the family's circumstances and provide referrals and support to other victims of abuse or violence in the home.

Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

The Provincial Office of Domestic Violence was established in March 2012. Its purpose is to oversee existing policies in regards to domestic violence in British Columbia, and to monitor various programs in place. The office is also responsible for evaluating and reporting the progress of these programs in order to create a coordinated and systemic approach to domestic violence among various stakeholders. The office collaborates with other ministries, community stakeholders, and law enforcement agencies.

D. Mental Health and Addictions Services

Northern Health runs Mental Health and Addictions Services (MHAS).

MHAS offers a variety of services and programs to assist individuals with addiction and or mental health issues. Women and girls who are experiencing violence or have experienced violence in the past can access these services. Initially, individuals are assessed and then referred to the appropriate program. The following programs are offered in Fort St. John: Community Crisis Unit, Community Acute Stabilization Team, Community Outreach and Assertive Services Team, Adult Addiction Day Treatment, and Methadone Treatment. Additional services are offered in Prince George.

Community Crisis Unit

The Community Crisis Unit (CCU) is the entry point for MHAS, providing clients who are twelve years of age and older with a brief assessment. The CCU then offers referrals to other programs as well as provides crisis intervention and short term counselling.

Community Acute Stabilization Team

The Community Acute Stabilization Team (CAST) offers services to clients who are nineteen years of age and older who present a variety of mental health symptoms which are sufficient enough to bring about significant impairment to their day-to-day functioning ability. These symptoms may become or be diagnosed as Mood Disorders, Bi-Polar Disorders, Concurrent Substance Related Disorders, Grief, Adjustment Disorders, Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, and Post-Partum Depression.

The CAST offers treatment in forms of counselling and rehabilitation along with referrals to other MHAS services that may be available outside of Fort St. John.

Community Outreach and Assertive Services Team

The Community Outreach and Assertive Services Team (COAST) provide treatment for clients nineteen years of age and older who have a diagnosed mental disorder or disability. COAST offers outreach, life skills support, and transition protocols for youth entering services.

Adult Addiction Day Treatment Program

The Adult Addiction Day Treatment Program serves clients nineteen years of age and older who have addiction issues. The program provides space for clients to access nurses and clinicians, recreational and leisure support, nutrition education, as well as doctors. The program works in conjunction with other agencies and offers group support. Harm reduction is the focus of the program, giving clients access to items such as clean needles and contraceptive devices.

Methadone Program

The Methadone Program provides methadone treatment to clients who have a drug dependency. The program also offers counselling, support, education, and case

management.

E. Other Services Named by Local Service Providers

Local service providers were asked, “What local supports are in place to help women and girls who are experiencing violence?”

The following were named, in order of popularity:

1. North Peace Community Resource Society
2. Fort St. John Women’s Resource Society
3. Meaope House (North Peace Community Resource Society)
4. Mental Health and Addictions Services
5. Ministry of Children and Family Development
6. Local Churches (no specific church was mentioned)
7. Salvation Army
8. Skye’s Place (Fort St. John Women’s Resource Society)
9. Fort St. John R.C.M.P.
10. Fort St. John Crown Counsel
11. Local private counselling
12. School District 60 counsellors
13. Fort St. John Friendship Centre
14. North Peace Pregnancy Care Centre
15. R.C.M.P Victim Services
16. S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
17. Fort St. John Child Development Centre
18. Fort St. John Hospital
19. Settlement Workers in Schools (School District 60)
20. Rising Spirit Aboriginal Youth Centre (Northeast Native Advancing Society)
21. Nenan Dane_Zaa Deh Zona Children & Family Services
22. Wonowon School
23. Blueberry River First Nations Healthy Relationships Program
24. Child and Youth Mental Health
25. Northern Health
26. Opt Sexual Health Clinic (Northern Health)
27. David Rattray (Aboriginal Education Centre – School District 60)
28. Trobak Holistic Counselling
29. Fort St. John Women Warriors
30. My Strength is Not for Hurting (North Peace Secondary School)
31. Northern Lights Recovery Counselling
32. Baldonnel Women’s Institute

Services Related Information from Advisory Stakeholders

During interviews with local service providers, questions related to effective service delivery were asked, as well as questions about the challenges and barriers they face as service providers. The questions were:

- A. What is the most effective way local service providers support women and girls who are experiencing violence?
- B. What barriers do service providers face when offering support to women and girls experiencing violence?
- C. What is the most effective way service providers support perpetrators who want to stop their violent behavior?
- D. What barriers do service providers face when offering support to perpetrators who want to stop their violent behavior?

A. What is the most effective way local service providers support women and girls who are experiencing violence?

Collaboration

Intra-agency collaboration, as well as collaboration between specific local service providers works well when helping women and girls who are experiencing violence in Fort St. John.

North Peace Community Resource Society has a number of services under one roof. For counsellors and service providers working within the organization, making referrals and sharing client information is fast, effective, and easy. This lowers the risk of re-traumatization because the client does not have to disclose everything more than once. It has been noted that collaboration and communication between Fort St. John R.C.M.P. and the Fort St. John Community Corrections office is very strong, which contributes to an ease in case management between the two agencies.

Immediate Support from Key Programs

Key programs in the community provide effective, immediate assistance. These include:

- Fort St. John R.C.M.P
- Meaope House
 - Short-term transition house
- Community-Based Victim Services
 - Assistance with court preparation and appearances
 - Safety planning
 - Help with No Contact Orders
- Women's Outreach Worker
 - Help finding housing and employment
 - Transportation to appointments
 - Community referrals
 - Advocacy
- Fort St. John Women's Resource Society Outreach Store
 - Food, clothing, hygiene products
 - Bus passes for women and their children
- Poverty Law Advocacy Program
 - Assistance with legal issues
 - Help with form filling

- Advocacy and support in court
- Salvation Army
 - Emergency shelter
 - Free meals
- Fort St John Friendship Centre
 - Free meals
 - General ongoing support, assistance and referrals
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Harm reduction services
- Crisis unit
- Methadone program

Empowering Clients

Local services providers shared the different ways that they empower their clients. This included:

- Look at what the person has survived and what their strengths are.
- Look at the survival skills they already have, not their deficits.
- Have women take back their power and rediscover strength.
- Take initiative and proactively call other service providers to make referrals.
- Educate women on what services are available.
- Get the message out to isolated individuals (especially seniors) that there are services available to them.
- Help clients resolve, heal, and understand what is happening to them.
- Help clients fill out forms – it can be overwhelming.
- Acknowledge all the factors that contribute to gender-based violence.

Ongoing Support

Although local service providers also talked about a lack of time with clients as a challenge, they discussed a client's need for ongoing support. Local service providers offer this support in the following ways:

- Help clients without getting too restricted by a funding mandate – help them through their journey as far as possible.
- Keep in contact with clients.
- Build trust and a relationship with the client over time.
- Give support every time they call.
- Give the client ongoing support no matter what.

B. What barriers do service providers face when offering support to women and girls experiencing violence?

Client-Related

Service providers talked about a local reluctance to seek assistance, particularly pro-

active services and groups. Service providers sometimes heard work-related excuses, like the client's inability to schedule around long hours. Conversely, during oil and gas inactivity and the summer months when a family's time is more flexible, service providers reported that some clients did not want to access services or send their children to counselling.

Local Cultural Factors

All research participants talked at-length about local cultural factors that contribute violence against women and girls in Fort St. John.

Local service providers explained that there is a willful blindness and social acceptance of violence against women in Fort St. John. They talked at-length about Fort St. John's "female-dismissive" culture where equality for women is not taken seriously and women are highly objectified. Talking about youth in high school, one service provider said, "Boys have no respect for girls and girls have no respect for themselves."

Victim-blaming and a misunderstanding of trauma experienced through gender-based violence are common occurrences in Fort St. John. Many locals are unsupportive to women experiencing violence, which perpetuates their shame and silence. Related to the partying/binging culture of the community, one service provider explained a common perception that many residents hold: "Women who drink and do drugs are open season." In other words, violence against this population is often accepted and excused.

Very traditional roles of men and women are also common. Men are seen as masculine, tough, and entitled. Whoever owns and earns the most in a family is the boss – an attitude that perpetuates financial abuse in relationships. Women are sometimes seen solely as caregivers. One local service provider heard her client say, "Men have fun and women take care of them."

Lack of Resources

Local service providers talked about a lack of time, practical services and support, as well as limited services for men and youth.

While service providers recognize the importance of ongoing support for clients, sometimes it is impossible to deliver. Proactive activities and interagency collaboration are particularly difficult, as local service providers do not even have enough time to build relationships with their own clients. As one service provider said, "Counsellors and social workers want to take part in other programs and initiatives, but they have no extra time."

Although practical services and support are offered in the community, like emergency housing, food, and clothing, service providers explained that there is "too much need and not enough services." The lack of affordable housing and childcare, as well as limited public transit and transportation are key resources that are needed in Fort St. John to help women and girls experiencing violence.

One local service provider explained that for youth who experience violence, it is difficult

to convince them to come to an office full of counsellors and social workers: “There’s no youth centre and there’s a limited ability to approach youth on their own turf.”

For local men who are committing violence against women, services are only available after they’ve been charged – there’s nothing proactive. For men who are experiencing gender-based violence and do not have the money to pay for services, there are limited and restricted local resources to help them.

Issues with Funding

Local service providers experience the following barriers related to funding: lack of funding and restrictive funding.

There is a lack of general funding or shifting funding that makes it difficult to be proactive with services, particularly for local men.

Many local service providers work with restrictive funding models that lock organizations into specific mandates that don’t always fit clients’ needs. For example, at S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Northern Immigrant Service Centre, which helps permanent residents settle into Fort St. John, Temporary Foreign Workers are not part of their mandate. Therefore, a settlement worker at S.U.C.C.E.S.S. cannot justify offering ongoing support to a client that is considered a “quick service” by their funder.

Issues with Staff/Staffing

Local service providers may experience staffing shortages, high staff turnover, and a lack of experience and/or training.

With a somewhat transient population in Fort St. John, it is difficult to keep some positions permanently filled. As well, there is a high birthrate in Fort St. John, which leads to frequent maternity leaves that require temporary staffing. As a result, there can be a higher turnover rate for service providers and staffing shortages. These staffing shortages can lead to higher burnout rates, longer waitlists, and an overall sense of frustration with the lack of support. With the higher turnover rate also comes a lack of experienced service providers.

Barriers to Interagency Collaboration

While there is a Violence against Women in Relationships (VAWIR) Committee in Fort St. John, maintaining a collaborative approach between different service providers can be difficult with staff turnovers, large caseloads, lack of interagency strategic planning, and limited resources.

Services providers made the following suggestions to improve interagency collaboration:

- Service providers need constantly updated information on programs and services that work with women and girls who experience violence. It should include hours of operation, staff positions and roles, programs, contact numbers, mandates, etc.

- Local service providers need to collaborate more and share more meetings like Integrated Case Assessment Team (ICAT) training.

In Fort St. John, there are effective community tables with clear strategies and goals to help “fragile families”. For example, the Success by 6 ECD Roundtable creates opportunities for local service providers to collaborate and build long-standing synergies between agencies.

Lack of Cultural Competency

Interviewees noted that racial discrimination of Aboriginal clients by community service providers is a big barrier to offering services.

A lack of understanding of the needs of Aboriginal clients and cultural competency can prevent local Aboriginal residents and women and men living on reserves from accessing services. As one service provider noted, “Only certain counselling models work with Aboriginal clients.”

C. What is the most effective way service providers support perpetrators who want to stop their violent behavior?

Teaching Healthy Communication Skills

Local service providers talked about the need for proactive services for men and boys, including education on healthy relationships and communication. They believe an effective way to help men and boys is to educate the general population about violence against women and girls, rather than wait until after a conviction.

Counselling

Many local service providers talked about the importance of support groups and counselling for men, particularly who grew up witnessing violence. One service provider explained, “Role models who have been through the same thing need to step up, talk, heal, and feel.”

Traditional Healing

Bringing traditional healing into a colonized system was talked about by a few local service providers. According to one interviewee, offering culturally relevant programming to give local Aboriginal men the ability to culturally reconnect is an effective way to reduce violence against Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women and girls in Fort St. John and on surrounding reserves.

D. What barriers do service providers face when offering support to perpetrators who want to stop their violent behavior?

Not Enough Services

The general lack of services for men, particularly proactive services and counselling, was a common theme throughout the interviews with local service providers.

Other barriers for perpetrators of violence who wish to stop their behavior include a lack of out-of-town services and transportation, as well as confusion surrounding the confidentiality of EFAP counselling services.

Reluctance to Seek Services

Local service providers also explained that it's difficult to get abusers to seek out services in the first place. They may not see their behavior as problematic or they may experience a fear of feeling judged and decide not to seek services.

When perpetrators of violence do seek services, service providers are often met with much resistance from their clients or an unwillingness to actively participate in services.

Scheduling Barriers

Due to demanding work schedules in Fort St. John, many men find it difficult to access services during regular office hours.

Services Related Information from the Peace Project Community Survey

A series of questions in the Peace Project Community Survey were asked about local services that assist women and girls who experience violence, as well as those that help individuals who commit violence against women and girls stop their violent behavior. The following questions were asked:

- A. Are there enough services in Fort St. John to help women and girls who experience violence?
- B. Have you experienced counselling for your own experiences of violence/abuse?
- C. Was counselling for your own experiences of violence/abuse helpful?
- D. Are there enough services in Fort St. John to help people who commit violence against women and girls?
- E. If you've committed acts of violence against women and girls, have you received counselling?
- F. Was the counselling for your own violent behavior against women and girls helpful?
- G. Can you access information about how women and girls who experience violence can get help?
- H. Are services in Fort St. John easy to access (medical, counselling, etc.)?
- I. What makes it difficult to access support services for perpetrators or women who have experienced violence/abuse?

Response percentages increased and decreased depending on specific identifying factors from the survey participants. Specifically, responses from survey participants who were more likely to have experienced violence in their past, grown up witnessing violence or be currently experiencing violence were notably different than the percentages that came from analyzing results from all respondents. Appearing in order, starting with most at risk, respondents of the Peace Project Community Survey most susceptible to violence include the following respondents:

Percentage of participants who reported experiencing violence in their past	Participant Identity/Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 74% reported experiencing violence in their past.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>always feel isolated</u> , 94% reported having had experienced violence.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated they are <u>Aboriginal</u> , 93% reported having had experienced violence.	Aboriginal
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>grew up witnessing violence</u> , 88% reported having had experienced violence.	Grew up witnessing violence
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999</u> , 88% reported having had experienced violence.	Lower socio-economic status / Experiencing financial difficulty or poverty
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>have difficulty finding affordable housing</u> , 86% reported having had experienced violence.	Lower socio-economic status / Experiencing financial difficulty or poverty
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>never confident to express what they think or feel to others</u> , 86% reported having had experienced violence.	Lower self-esteem and/or confidence
Of respondents who indicated that they were <u>born in Fort St. John</u> , 80% reported having had experienced violence.	Born in Fort St. John
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 78% reported having had experienced violence.	Female

Percentage of participants who reported that they grew up witnessing violence	Participant Identity/Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 41% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated they <u>have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999</u> , 71% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	Lower socio-economic status / Experiencing financial difficulty or poverty

Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>never confident to express what they think or feel to others</u> , 67% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	Lower self-esteem and/or confidence
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>Aboriginal</u> , 66% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	Aboriginal
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>have difficulty finding affordable housing</u> , 59% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	Lower socio-economic status / Experiencing financial difficulty or poverty
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>always feel isolated</u> , 50% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated that they were <u>born in Fort St. John</u> , 47% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	Born in Fort St. John
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 44% reported that they grew up witnessing violence.	Female

Percentage of participants who reported that they are currently experiencing violence	Participant Identity/Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 5% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>always feel isolated</u> , 17% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated they <u>have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999</u> , 13% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	Lower socio-economic status / Experiencing financial difficulty or poverty
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>have difficulty finding affordable housing</u> , 12% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	Lower socio-economic status / Experiencing financial difficulty or poverty
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>grew up witnessing violence</u> , 10% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	Grew up witnessing violence
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>Aboriginal</u> , 10% that they are currently experiencing violence.	Aboriginal
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>never confident to express what they think or feel to others</u> , 9% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	Lower self-esteem and/or confidence
Of respondents who indicated that they were <u>born in Fort St. John</u> , 8% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	Born in Fort St. John

Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 5% reported that they are currently experiencing violence.	Female
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A. Are there enough services in Fort St. John to help people who commit violence against women and girls?

Of all respondents, 35% believed that there are not enough services in Fort St. John to help those who commit violence. 22% think there could be more and 40% were unsure. Only 2% of respondents believe there are enough support services for those who commit violence against women and girls and wish to stop their violent behavior.

Of survey participants who indicated that they always feel isolated, 50% believe there are not enough services for those who commit violence against women and girls. As well, survey respondents who indicated that they are Aboriginal, grew up witnessing violence, and never feel confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to believe that there are not enough services.

B. If you've committed acts of violence against women and girls, have you received counselling?

Of all respondents, 2% have received counselling to address their own violent behavior towards women and girls. It is not surprising that there is a big difference between the number of people who reported accessing counselling for their own experiences of violence and those who received counselling for their own acts of violence against women and girls. Only 6% of all survey respondents reported that they have committed violence against women and girls. Conversely, 74% of all respondents indicated that they have experienced violence/abuse in their past.

Of survey participants who indicated that they have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999, 13% have accessed counselling for their own violent/abusive towards women and girls. Of Aboriginal respondents, 11% have received counselling.

C. Was the counselling for your own violent behavior against women and girls helpful?

Of all respondents, 2% believe that counselling for their own violent behavior towards women and girls was helpful.

Not surprisingly, of survey participants who indicated that they have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999, 13% believed that counselling for their own violent/abusive towards women and girls was helpful. Of Aboriginal respondents, 11% thought the counselling was helpful.

D. Can you access information about how women and girls who experience violence can get help?

Of all respondents, 64% indicated that they are able to access information about how

women and girls in Fort St. John who experience violence can get help. 34% were unsure whether or not they could access information. Only 3% indicated that they cannot access information about services.

Of survey participants who have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999, 74% indicated that they are able to access information about how women and girls in Fort St. John who experience violence can get help.

Generally, respondents that were more at risk for experiencing violence were more likely to agree that they could access information about services.

E. Are services in Fort St. John easy to access (medical, counselling, etc.)?

Of all respondents, 14% believed that services in Fort St. John are not easy to access. 34% think that services are somewhat easy to access; 17% are unsure whether or not services are easy to access; 25% have not tried to access services; and, only 10% believe that services in Fort St John are easy to access.

Of survey participants who indicated that they always feel isolated, 28% believe that services in Fort St. John are not easy to access. As well, survey respondents who indicated that they are Aboriginal, grew up witnessing violence and have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999 were more likely to believe that local services are not easy to access.

F. What makes it difficult to access support services for perpetrators or women who have experienced violence/abuse?

In the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents were asked, “What makes it difficult to access support services for perpetrators or women who have experienced violence/abuse?” The survey participants were given thirteen responses to choose from, including:

- Lack of information about what services are available;
- Lack of resources (housing, childcare, free activities, counselling, etc.);
- Cost of services;
- Restricted hours of operation;
- Lack of identification;
- Being judged for your family name;
- Racial discrimination;
- Limited number of counsellors/workers;
- Lack of confidentiality/anonymity;
- Limited access to transportation;
- Language barriers;
- Not fitting the program criteria for service; and,
- Fear of feeling judged.

For all respondents, the top five responses were:

1. Lack of information about what services are available (79%);

2. Fear of feeling judged (68%);
3. Limited number of counsellors/workers (51%);
4. Restricted hours of operation (47%); and,
5. Lack of resources (42%).

Responses changed among respondents who were more likely to have experienced violence in their past. Other responses chosen more often by respondents at risk for experiencing violence were (in order of popularity):

1. Limited access to transportation;
2. Lack of confidentiality/anonymity;
3. Being judged for your family name;
4. Racial discrimination; and,
5. Cost of services.

Services related information from the Peace Project Youth Survey

We asked the survey participants to evaluate the following statements with a Likert scale (strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, disagree, and strongly disagree):

- I know what my rights are if someone hurts me.
- If I have a serious problem, I know where to get information about the issue.
- If I have a serious problem, I know where to get help.
- If I have a serious problem, I feel comfortable talking to an adult I trust.

Similar to results from the Peace Project Community Survey, response percentages increased and decreased depending on specific identifying factors from the survey participants. Specifically, responses from survey participants who were female, somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends, currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend, and consume alcohol once a month or less were notably different. These respondents were also more likely to experience different types of violence – generally and in relationships.

General Violence and/or Abuse

Percentage of participants who reported being treated unfairly 5 or more times because of their sex/gender	Participant Identity / Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 9% reported being treated unfairly 5 or more times because of their sex/gender.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that <u>somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends</u> , 29% reported being treated unfairly 5 or more times because of their sex/gender.	Isolated

Of respondents who indicated that they <u>currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend</u> , 19% reported being treated unfairly 5 or more times because of their sex/gender.	In a relationship
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>consume alcohol once a month or less</u> , 18% reported being treated unfairly 5 or more times because of their sex/gender.	Experimenting with alcohol
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 14% reported being treated unfairly 5 or more times because of their sex/gender.	Female

Percentage of participants who reported that they were bullied five or more times	Participant Identity / Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 33% reported that they were bullied five or more times.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>consume alcohol once a month or less</u> , 54% reported that they were bullied five or more times.	Experimenting with alcohol
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend</u> , 52% reported that they were bullied five or more times.	In a relationship
Of respondents who indicated that <u>somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends</u> , 43% reported that they were bullied five or more times.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 14% reported that they were bullied five or more times.	Female

Percentage of participants who reported that they had been threatened five or more times	Participant Identity / Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 12% reported that they had been threatened five or more times.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>consume alcohol once a month or less</u> , 25% reported that they had been threatened five or more times.	Experimenting with alcohol
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend</u> , 24% reported that they had been threatened five or more times.	In a relationship
Of respondents who indicated that <u>somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends</u> , 21% reported that they had been threatened five or more times.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 12% reported that they had been threatened five or more times.	Female

Percentage of participants who reported being physically assaulted 5 or more times	Participant Identity / Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 6% reported being physically assaulted 5 or more times.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend</u> , 14% reported being physically assaulted 5 or more times.	In a relationship
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>consume alcohol once a month or less</u> , 11% reported being physically assaulted 5 or more times.	Experimenting with alcohol
Of respondents who indicated that <u>somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends</u> , 7% reported being physically assaulted 5 or more times.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 3% reported being physically assaulted 5 or more times.	Female

Percentage of participants who reported having had someone touch them in a sexual way knowing they didn't want them to 5 or more times	Participant Identity / Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 7% reported having had someone touch them in a sexual way knowing they didn't want them to 5 or more times.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that <u>somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends</u> , 14% reported having had someone touch them in a sexual way knowing they didn't want them to 5 or more times.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend</u> , 14% reported having had someone touch them in a sexual way knowing they didn't want them to 5 or more times.	In a relationship
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 10% reported having had someone touch them in a sexual way knowing they didn't want them to 5 or more times.	Female
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>consume alcohol once a month or less</u> , 7% reported having had someone touch them in a sexual way, knowing they didn't want them to, 5 or more times.	Experimenting with alcohol

Percentage of participants who reported having had someone give them alcohol and then touch them in a sexual way, knowing they didn't want them to, 5 or more times	Participant Identity / Category
Of <u>all respondents</u> , 1% reported having had someone give them alcohol and then touch them in a sexual way, knowing they didn't want them to, 5 or more times.	All respondents
Of respondents who indicated that they are <u>female</u> , 2% reported having had someone give them alcohol and then touch them in a sexual way, knowing they didn't want them to, 5 or more times.	Female
Of respondents who indicated that <u>somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends</u> , 0% reported having had someone give them alcohol and then touch them in a sexual way, knowing they didn't want them to, 5 or more times.	Isolated
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend</u> , 0% reported having had someone give them alcohol and then touch them in a sexual way, knowing they didn't want them to, 5 or more times.	In a relationship
Of respondents who indicated that they <u>consume alcohol once a month or less</u> , 0% reported having had someone give them alcohol and then touch them in a sexual way, knowing they didn't want them to, 5 or more times.	Experimenting with alcohol

Respondents who currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend, as well as respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to have difficulty understanding their rights, finding information and help, and talking to an adult they trust.

A. I know what my rights are if someone hurts me.

Of all survey participants, 39% strongly agreed, 34% agreed, 23% somewhat agreed, and 4% disagreed that they know their rights if someone hurts them.

Of respondents who currently have a boyfriend, 42% only somewhat agreed that they know their rights. Of those respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less, 33% only somewhat agree that they know their rights.

B. If I have a serious problem, I know where to get information about the issue.

Of all survey participants, 38% strongly agreed, 32% agreed, 20% somewhat agreed, 5% somewhat disagreed, 5% disagreed, and 1% strongly disagreed that they know where to get information if they have a serious problem.

Of respondents who currently have a boyfriend, 16% disagreed that they know where to get information. As well, of respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less, 11% somewhat disagreed that they know where to find information.

C. If I have a serious problem, I know where to get help.

Of all survey participants, 47% strongly agreed, 30% agreed, 14% somewhat agreed, 7% somewhat disagreed, 1% disagreed, and 1% strongly disagreed that they know where to get help if they have a serious problem.

Of respondents who currently have a boyfriend, 26% somewhat disagreed that they know where to find help. Of those who consume alcohol once a month or less, 19% somewhat disagree that they know where to find help.

D. If I have a serious problem, I feel comfortable talking to an adult I trust.

Of all survey participants, 36% strongly agreed, 26% agreed, 25% somewhat agreed, 7% somewhat disagreed, 5% disagreed, and 1% strongly disagreed that they feel comfortable talking to an adult they trust when they have a serious problem.

Of respondents who currently have a boyfriend, 11% disagreed that they feel comfortable talking to an adult they trust.

Peace Project Surveys: Analysis

During our interviews with local services providers, we asked, “In Fort St. John, which women and girls are most at risk of experiencing violence?” Their top answers were the following: all women and girls; marginalized (experiencing poverty); isolated (geographical, cultural, experiencing social abuse); drug and alcohol users; teenage girls; women with low self-esteem; Aboriginal women and girls; and, women and girls who grew up witnessing violence.

We analyzed the **community survey** by comparing respondents’ answers to verify the at-risk groups that were identified by the service provider interviews. Respondents from the community survey were 19 years of age and older, living in Fort St. John or the immediate surrounding area. There were 322 total respondents for the community survey.

COMMUNITY SURVEY ANALYSIS KEY				
	Group from Community Survey Respondents who are at low risk for experience violence	Group from Community Survey Respondents who are at high risk for experiencing violence	Corresponding At-Risk Group – women who are most at risk for experiencing violence as identified by local service providers	Did survey results correspond with at-risk groups identified by service providers? Y/N
C1	Male	Female	All Women	Y
C2	Have an annual household income of \$85,000 to \$149,999	Have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999	Marginalized (experiencing poverty, etc.)	Y
C3	Moved to FSJ	Born in FSJ	Transient and isolated (geographically)	N
C4	Never feel isolated	Always feel isolated	Isolated (geographically, culturally, experiencing social abuse, etc.)	Y
C5	Often consume alcohol	Never consume alcohol	Drug and alcohol users	N
C6	Caucasian	Aboriginal	Aboriginal women	Y
C7	Did not grow up witnessing violence	Grew up witnessing violence	Women who grew up witnessing violence	Y
C8	Do not have any housing issues	Have difficulty finding affordable housing	Marginalized (experiencing poverty, etc.)	Y
C9	Always confident to express what they think and feel	Rarely confident to express what they think and feel	Women with low self esteem	Y

To clarify areas where respondents were particularly at risk, answers from the **community survey** are grouped into the following categories:

- Demography
- Education/Income/Employment
- Health and Wellness
- Housing
- Perceptions about Fort St. John
- Personal Experiences
- Gender Roles
- Services

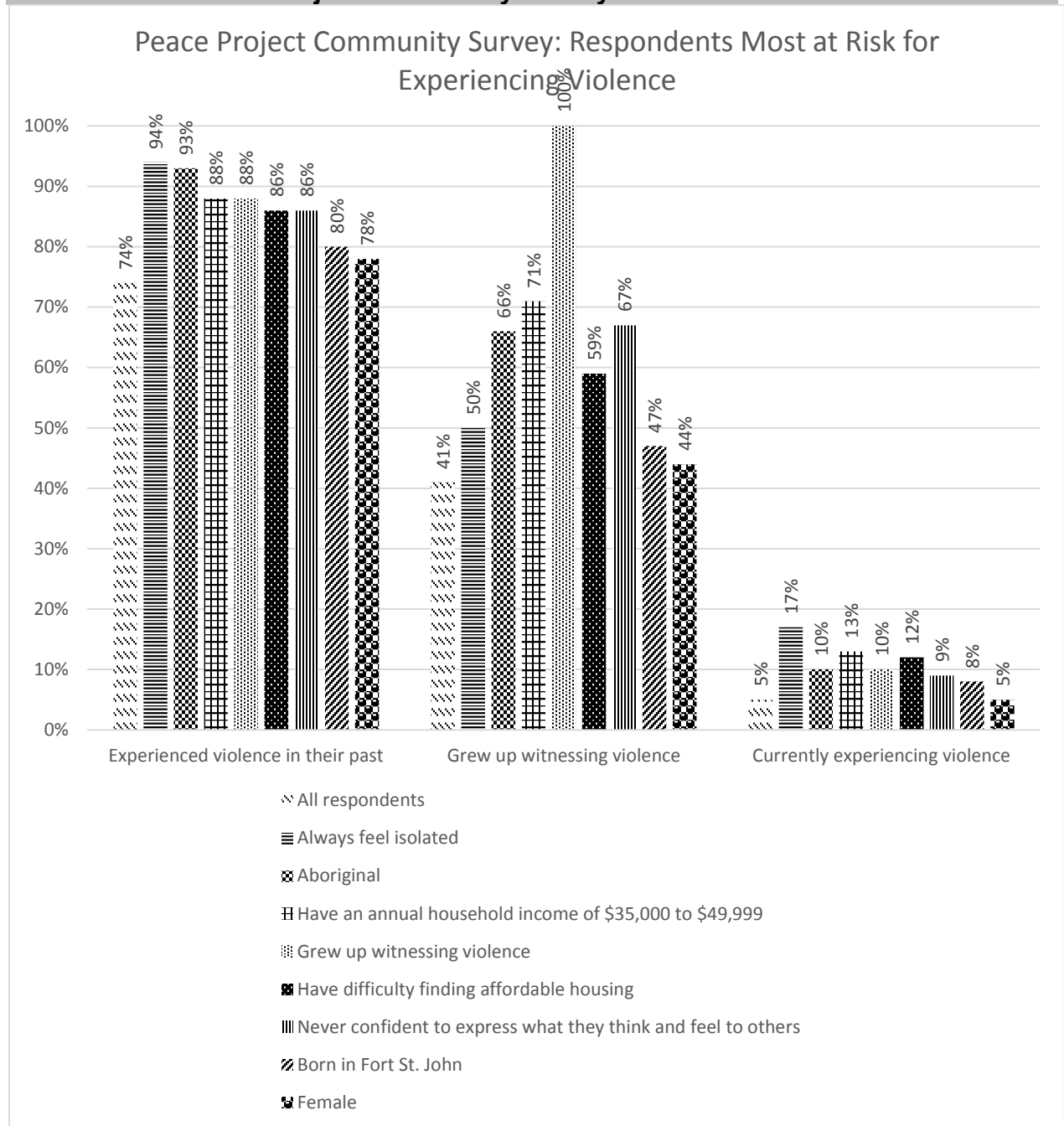
We analyzed the **youth survey** by comparing respondents' answers to verify the at-risk groups that were identified by the service provider interviews. Respondents from the youth survey were under 19 years of age, living in Fort St. John or the immediate surrounding area. The majority of survey participants were between age 15 and 18, attending North Peace Secondary School. There were 95 total respondents for the youth survey.

YOUTH SURVEY ANALYSIS KEY				
Group from Youth Survey Respondents who are at low risk for experience violence		Group from Youth Survey Respondents who are at high risk for experiencing violence	Corresponding At-Risk Group – women who are most at risk for experiencing violence as identified by local service providers	Did survey results correspond with at-risk groups identified by service providers? Y/N
Y1	Male	Female	Teenage girls	Y
Y2	Strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends	Somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends	Isolated	Y
Y3	Never had a boyfriend / girlfriend	Currently have a boyfriend / girlfriend	n/a	No corresponding group
Y4	Have never used alcohol	Consume alcohol once a month or less	Alcohol and drug users	Y

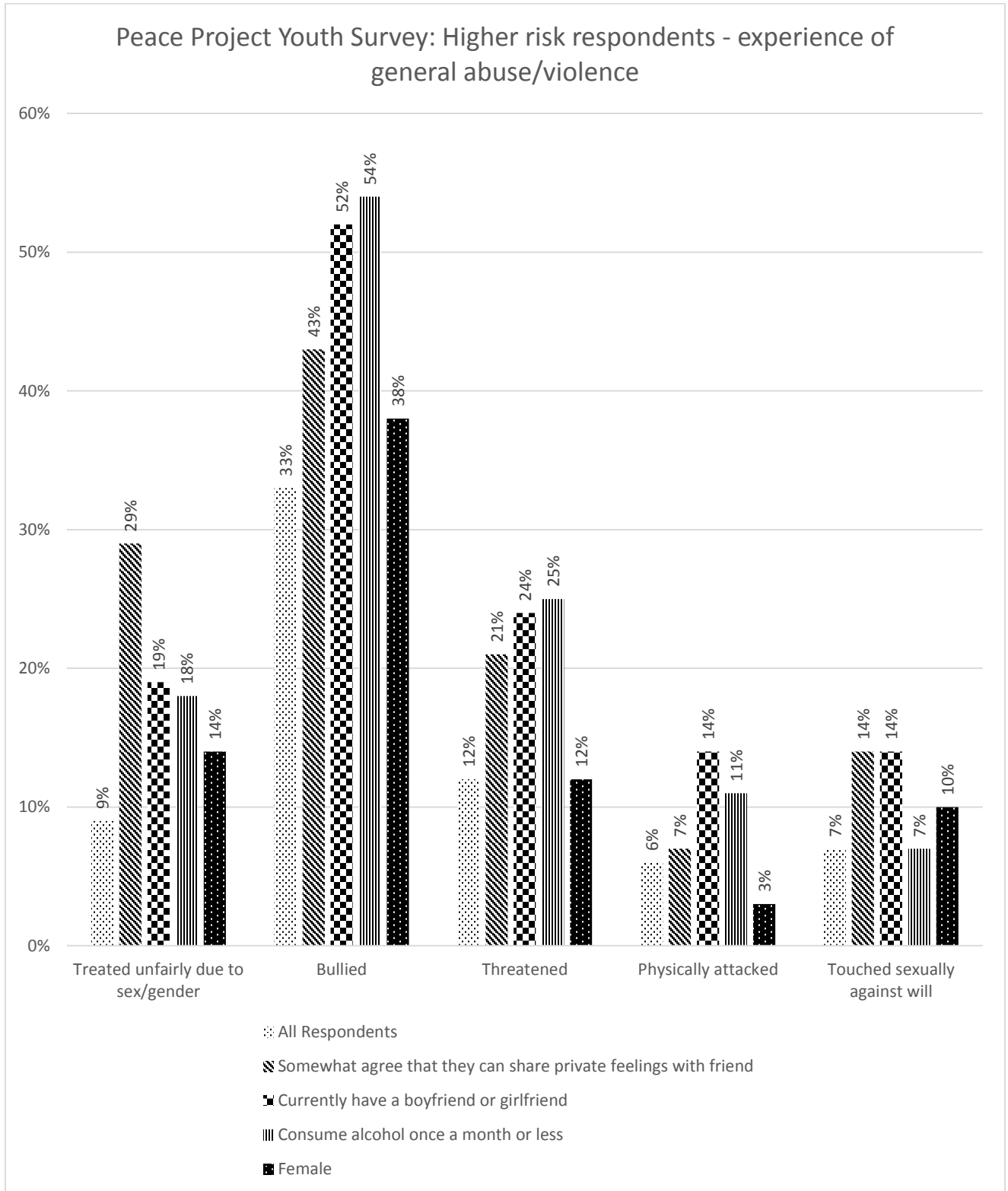
To clarify areas where respondents were particularly at risk, answers from the **youth survey** are grouped into the following categories:

- Demography
- Friends
- School and Other Activities
- Health and Wellness
- Personal Experiences
- Relationships
- Parents
- Community Resources

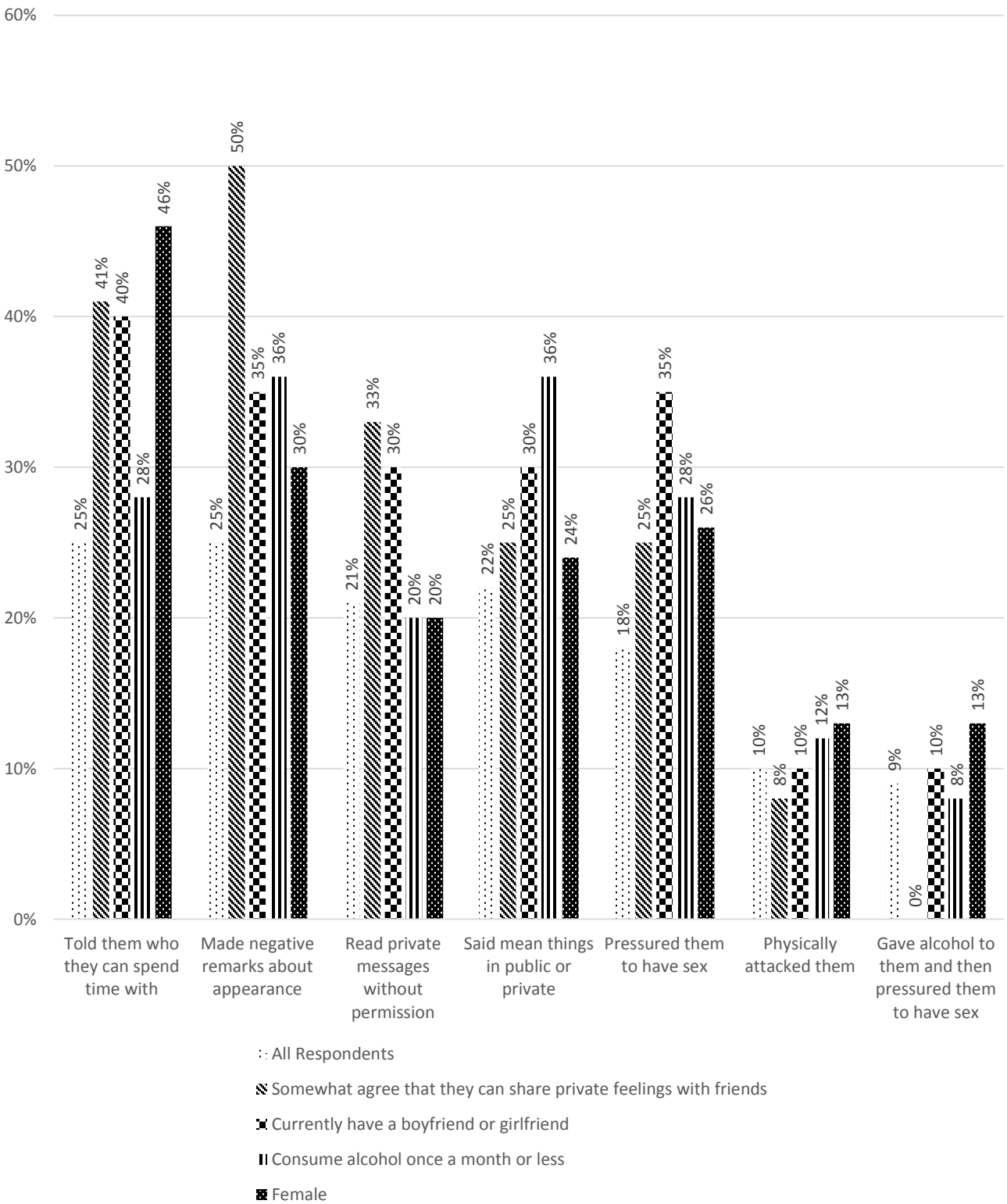
Most at Risk: Peace Project Community Survey



Most at Risk: Peace Project Youth Survey

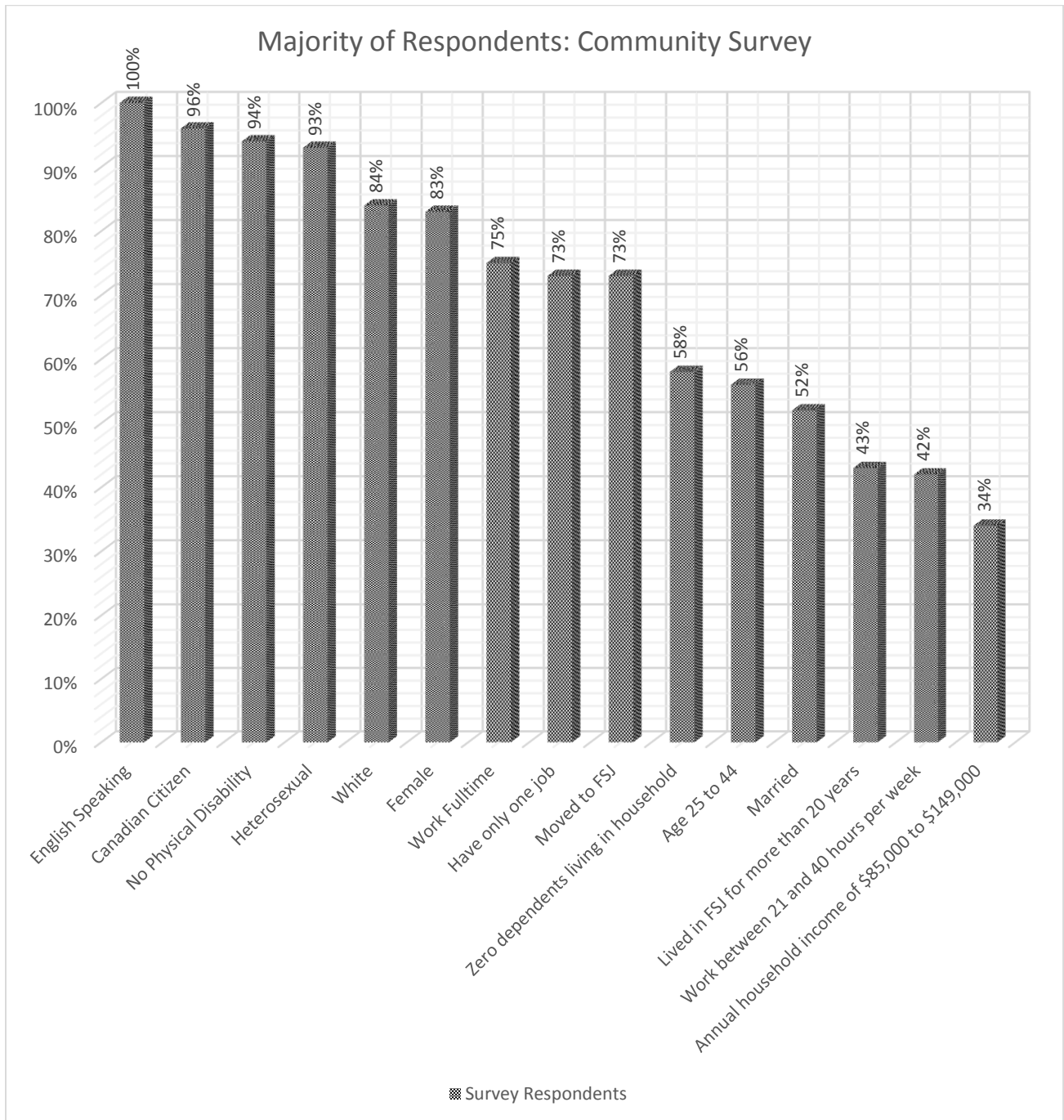


Peace Project Youth Survey: Higher risk respondents - experience of violence in relationships

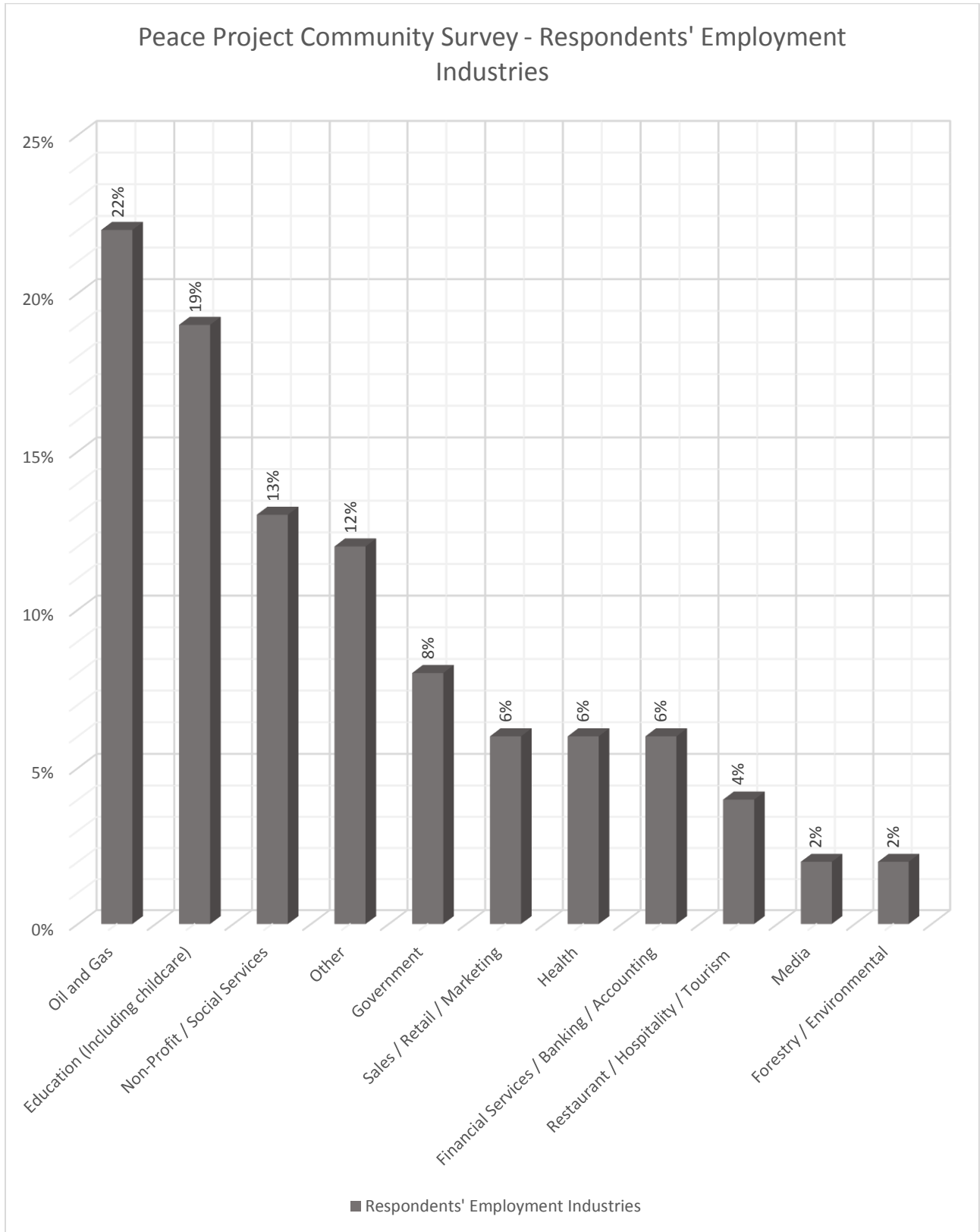


Demography of the Majority of Respondents

The majority of respondents were English speaking, Canadian, not identifying as having a physical disability, heterosexual, White, married, aged 25 to 44, and female. They also work full time, have only one job, work between 21 and 40 hours per week, have zero dependents living in their household, and have an annual household income of \$84,000 to \$149,999. They've also moved to Fort St. John and lived in the city for more than twenty years. The majority of respondents also work in the oil and gas industry.



Respondents' Employment Industries
(If you're employed, which industry do you work in?)



Survey – Analysis

To analyze trends among specific populations who completed the Peace Project Community Survey and Peace Project Youth Survey, responses were cross-tabulated to show differences between groups. Differences of 12% or higher are indicated in this analysis. Differences of 30% or higher are specifically highlighted.

In the analysis, we compared an “at risk group” (respondents more at risk for experiencing violence) with its corresponding “lower risk group”. For example, respondents from the Peace Project Community Survey who reported always feeling isolated (far away from friends, family and other support networks) were more at risk for experiencing violence; therefore, we compared their answers with answers from respondents who reported never feeling isolated. In the analysis, we present results from the following survey categories: Demography, Education/Income/Employment, Health & Wellness, Housing, Perceptions about Fort St. John, Personal Experiences, Gender Roles, and Services. For example, when asked questions about housing, respondents who reported never feeling isolated were far more likely to not experience any housing issues. On the other hand, respondents who reported always feeling isolated were far more likely to report not having enough money for rent/mortgage (42.5% more likely).

Understanding that the number of survey participants in each group is disproportionate, the analysis is only meant to make observations about the differences in responses between potentially “at-risk groups” and their corresponding “lower risk groups”. The results do not show concrete conclusions about the local populations they represent; instead, they highlight categories where “at-risk groups” are potentially more vulnerable.

NOTE: Comparisons made between male and female respondents for both the community survey and youth survey were the only times when gender was directly considered in the survey analysis. In all other comparisons, responses from male and female respondents were included in the analysis between two groups.

A. Community Survey

C1. MALE AND FEMALE

Out of 314 respondents who indicated whether they were male, female or transgender, 55 (18%) were male and 259 (82%) were female.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, female respondents appeared to be most at risk in the following categories: income and violence.

Male <i>When answering questions related to demography...</i>	Female <i>When answering questions related to demography...</i>
<u>Male respondents were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- be married;- not provide the majority of the	<u>Female respondents were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- describe their faith as “Spiritual”

<p>childcare to dependents living in their households;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - and, - share their childcare duties with their spouse (women were more likely to name various sources of support, especially other family members) 	
<p>Male <i>When asked questions about education/income/employment...</i></p>	<p>Female <i>When asked questions about education/income/employment...</i></p>
<p><u>Male respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an annual household income of \$65,000 and over; - have only one job; and, - work between 41 and 60 hours per week 	<p><u>Female respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an annual household income of under \$64,999; and, - work between 21 to 40 hours per week
<p>Male <i>When asked questions about health and wellness...</i></p>	<p>Female <i>When asked questions about health and wellness...</i></p>
<p><u>Male respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - never experience depression; and, - rarely experience anxiety 	<p><u>Female respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vent/express anger as a way to reduce stress
<p>Male <i>When asked questions about their perceptions of Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>Female <i>When asked questions about their perceptions of Fort St. John...</i></p>
<p><u>Male respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that people in FSJ only sometimes go to strip clubs 	<p><u>Female respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that people in FSJ think “boys will be boys and that’s just the way it is”; - have witnessed a man hang around a woman who is drunk/high so he could take advantage of her; - have witnessed a male co-worker harass his female colleague; and, - believe that the following factors contribute to violence against women and girls in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intergenerational violence, • male-dominated workplaces, • lack of resources, • objectification of women, • women’s economic dependence, • women’s “place in the home”, • women and girls’ lack of self-esteem, and • few women in positions of power

<p>Male <i>When asked about their personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Female <i>When asked about their personal experiences...</i></p>
<p><u>Male respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not grown up witnessing violence; - have had a co-worker commit violence against them; and, - have not experienced violence/abuse in their past 	<p><u>Female respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have grown up witnessing violence; - have experienced violence/abuse in their <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - past; - have had a spouse/partner/boyfriend commit violence against them; - have experienced the following types of abuse/violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • domestic, • financial, • stalking, • sexual, and • mental/emotional/social
<p>Male <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>	<p>Female <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>
<p><u>Male respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - somewhat agree that women sometimes push their partner so far that they snap and act out; and, - agree that women are better at caring for children than men 	<p><u>Female respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strongly disagree that women sometimes push their partner so far that he snaps and acts out
<p>Male <i>When asked about services...</i></p>	<p>Female <i>When asked about services...</i></p>
<p><u>Male respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not accessed counselling or support for past experiences of abuse; and, - be unsure whether or not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are enough services for women and girls who are experiencing violence, • there are enough services for those who commit violence against women and girls, and • they can access information about services 	<p><u>Female respondents were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe services in FSJ are only somewhat easy to access; - have accessed counselling for their own experiences of violence/abuse; - believe that lack of resources and limited number of counsellors make it difficult to access services; and, - want to take part in community planning activities

C2. ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$85,000 – \$149,999 AND ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$35,000 – \$49,999

Out of 304 respondents who reported their annual household income, 103 (34%) had an annual household income of \$85,000 to \$149,999 and 30 (10%) had an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents with an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999 appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: education, income, employment, health and wellness, housing, and violence.

<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about demography...</i></p> <p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be male, Caucasian, and Atheist; - be either married or in a common law relationship; - have a partner who is between 0 and 7 years older than them; - have one dependent living in their household; and, - share childcare duties with their spouse 	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about demography...</i></p> <p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be separated, female, Catholic, and single; - have no dependents living in their household; and, - have a partner who is between 7 and 15 years older than them
<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i></p> <p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a university degree as their highest level of education; - have only one job; and/or, - spend the majority of their income on recreation/hobbies, personal wellness, and shopping 	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i></p> <p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have high school as their highest level of education completed; - be in-between jobs; and, - have either no jobs or two jobs
<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p> <p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always have access to safe and sufficient food; 	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p> <p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always experience depression and/or anxiety;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rarely experience financial stress; sometimes feel isolated (far away from friends, family and other support networks); - always have support from friends and family; - consume alcohol once a month or less; and, - never drink to get drunk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experience high levels of daily stress; - use creative activities and/or a counsellor/support worker to reduce stress; - only sometimes have access to safe and sufficient food; - always experience financial stress; - sometimes drink to get drunk; - never use alcohol; and, - believe that their alcohol use has a negative impact on their health and wellness
<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not experience any housing issues (41% more likely) 	<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have difficulty: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having enough money to pay for utility bills; • having enough money to pay for rent/mortgage; and, • finding affordable housing (36.7% more likely)
<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about perceptions of Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about perceptions of Fort St. John...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that people in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only sometimes have degrading attitudes about women; • rarely see domestic violence as a private matter that should be dealt with by the family; • only sometimes have the opinion that women make up claims of domestic violence or rape; • rarely show pornography at a party or in other public places; and, • believe that “boys will be boys and that’s just the way it is” fairly often; and, - believe that the following contributes 	<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that the rates of violence against women and girls in Fort St. John are higher than average; - think that people in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • often have degrading attitudes about women; • believe that a women dressed in revealing clothing wants attention all of the time; • see domestic violence as a private matter that should be dealt with by the family all of the time; • often show pornography at a party or in other public places; and, • believe that “boys will be boys and

<p>to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial stress; • drugs and alcohol; • economic dependence of women; • acceptability of violence as a way to resolve conflict; and, • high stress levels related to the partner being away at an industrial camp 	<p>that’s just the way it is” all of the time; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have witnessed, in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a man grab a woman in public; • a male co-worker harass their female colleague; and, • a man physically assault a woman; and, - believe that the following contributes to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women’s “place in the home”; • migration; • lack of resources; and, • few women in positions of power
<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not experienced violence/abuse in their past; - have not grown up witnessing violence and/or abuse; and, - have no one commit violence and/or abuse against them 	<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be currently experiencing violence; - have experienced violence/abuse in the past; - have grown up witnessing violence (37% more likely); - have experienced violence/abuse from more than one person; - have had the following commit violence against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stranger; • parent; • friend; • family member; and, • spouse/partner/boyfriend; and, - have experienced the following types of violence/abuse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • domestic; • racial; • intergenerational; • stalking; • mental/emotional/social; • verbal; • physical; • financial (42.2% more likely) • workplace;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dating; and, • cultural
<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree that the legal system treats rape victims very badly; and, - disagree that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • violence and/or abuse can be excused if someone gets so angry they lose control; and, • women should always make sacrifices for her family's happiness 	<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strongly agree that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's hard to understand why women stay in abusive relationships; • violence and/or abuse can be excused if someone gets so angry they lose control; • sexual education should be a big part of school curriculum; • all workplaces should have strict penalties for sexual harassment; • parents should teach young boys about healthy relationships and communication; • they admire a man who is gentle and expressive; • most women in abusive relationships grew up in homes where there was violence and/or abuse; • most women and girls who experience violence don't want to go to the police; • it's not okay for a man to tell his girlfriend who she can and cannot see or talk to; • it's important to support women in abusive relationships, even if they stay; and • healthy communication skills and self-expression are not encouraged enough for boys in school
<p>\$85,000 - \$149,000 <i>When asked about services...</i></p>	<p>\$35,000 - \$49,000 <i>When asked about services...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$85,000 and \$149,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be unsure whether or not there are enough services for women and girls 	<p><u>Respondents with an annual household income between \$35,000 and \$49,999 were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe there are not enough services in Fort St. John to help women and

<p>who experience violence;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be unsure whether or not there are enough services for individuals who commit violence against women and girls; and, - believe that limited number of counsellors and lack of confidentiality/anonymity make it difficult to access services 	<p>girls who experience violence/abuse;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe there are not enough services for individuals who commit violence against women and girls; - be able to access information about how women and girls who experience violence/abuse can get help; - believe that lack of resources, limited access to transportation, and language barriers make it difficult to access services for perpetrators of violence or women who have experienced violence and/or abuse; - have experienced counselling for their own experiences of abuse/violence and believe it was helpful; and, - indicate they would be interested in taking part in community planning
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C3. MOVED TO FORT ST. JOHN AND BORN IN FORT ST. JOHN

Out of 299 respondents who indicated whether or not they were born in Fort St. John, 219 (73%) moved to Fort St. John, while 80 (27%) were born in Fort St. John.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who were born in Fort St. John appeared to be more at risk in the following category: violence.

<p>Moved to Fort St. John <i>When asked about demography...</i></p>	<p>Born in Fort St. John <i>When asked about demography...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who moved to Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be married; and, - have lived in Fort St. John between one and five years 	<p><u>Respondents who were born in Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be in a common law relationship; - share childcare duties with other family members; - have lived in Fort St. John for more than twenty years (50.8% more likely); and, - have moved away from Fort St. John and then moved back (43.1% more likely)
<p>Moved to Fort St. John <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i></p>	<p>Born in Fort St. John <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who moved to Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a university degree as their 	

<p>highest level of education; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not switched employers in the last two years 	
<p>Moved to Fort St. John <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>	<p>Born in Fort St. John <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who moved to Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - never use marijuana; - experience moderately high levels of daily stress; and, - sometimes feel far away from friends and family 	<p><u>Respondents who were born in Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use creative activities and time with friends and family as ways to reduce stress; - never experience financial stress; - always have support from friends and family; - sometimes consume alcohol (generally more likely to consume alcohol); - experience moderately low levels of daily stress; and, - never feel far away from friends and family
<p>Moved to Fort St. John <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>Born in Fort St. John <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who moved to Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that male-dominated workplaces and few women in positions of power contribute to violence against women; and, - think that people in Fort St. John behave badly towards women and girls fairly often 	<p><u>Respondents who were born in Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that intergenerational violence and acceptability of violence as a way to resolve conflict contribute to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John; and, - have witnessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a man inappropriately grab a woman in public (31.4% more likely), • a man hang around a woman who is drunk/high so that he could take advantage of her, • a man physically assault a woman, and • a male co-worker harass his female colleague

<p>Moved to Fort St. John <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Born in Fort St. John <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
	<p><u>Respondents who were born in Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have experienced violence in their past; - have grown up witnessing violence; - have experienced intergenerational violence; - have committed violence against women and/or girls; and, - have had the following commit violence against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a stranger, • family member, and • employer
<p>Moved to Fort St. John <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>	<p>Born in Fort St. John <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who moved to Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disagree that women are naturally better at caring for children than men 	<p><u>Respondents who were born in Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strongly agree that most women in violent/abusive relationships grew up in homes where there was violence/abuse; - somewhat agree that women are naturally better at taking care of children than men; and, - strongly disagree that rape happens because men have difficulty controlling their need for sex
<p>Moved to Fort St. John <i>When asked about services...</i></p>	<p>Born in Fort St. John <i>When asked about services...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who moved to Fort St. John were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that restricted hours of operation make it difficult to access services 	

C4. NEVER FEEL ISOLATED AND ALWAYS FEEL ISOLATED

Out of 283 respondents who indicated whether they always or never feel isolated (far away from friends, family and other support groups), 53 (19%) never feel isolated and 22 (8%) always feel isolated.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who

always feel isolated appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: income, employment, health and wellness, housing, violence, and services.

Never feel isolated <i>When asked about demography...</i>	Always feel isolated <i>When asked about demography...</i>
<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be 45 to 54 years old; - be married and Caucasian; - be married; - describe their faith as “Christian” (38.1% more likely) - indicate that they read, write and comprehend very well; - share childcare duties with their spouse; - live in FSJ for more than twenty years (43% more likely) - be born in Fort St. John; and, - have moved to Fort St. John and then moved back 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be 25 to 34 years old; - be female; - describe their marital status as “separated”; - describe their faith as “Native Spirituality” or “Spiritual”; - indicate that they read, write, and comprehend not well; - have one dependent living in their household; - provide most of the daily care to the children in their household; - identify as having a physical disability; - live in Fort St. John for less than five years; and, - have moved to Fort St. John
Never feel isolated When asked about education/income/employment...	Always feel isolated When asked about education/income/employment...
<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a college certificate as their highest level of education completed; - have an annual household income of over \$85,000; - have a full-time job; - have not switched employers in the last two years; - have one job; - work 41 to 60 hours a week; and, - spend the majority of income on shopping, dining out, and recreation/hobbies 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have “university degree” as their highest level of education completed; - have an annual household income of under \$24,999; - be not employed, work seasonally or be in-between jobs; - have switched employers once in the last two years; - have zero jobs (31.5% more likely); and, - work between 0 and 10 hours a week

<p>Never feel isolated <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>	<p>Always feel isolated <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experience moderately low or low levels of daily stress; - use physical activity as a way to reduce stress; - drink six or more alcoholic beverages in one night, two or three times a month; - believe that alcohol has a negative impact on their health and wellness; - indicate that it takes them seven to ten drinks to get them drunk; - sometimes drink to get drunk; - rarely or never experience depression; - rarely experience anxiety (33.2% more likely); - never experience anxiety; - never have suicidal thoughts (39.4% more likely); - use time with friends and family as a way to reduce stress (38.3% more likely); - always have access to transportation (37.1% more likely); - always have access to safe and sufficient food (45.5% more likely); - rarely or never experience financial stress; - always have support from friends and family (83.4% more likely); and, - always feel confident to express what they think and feel to others (31.7 % more likely) 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always have suicidal thoughts; - eat as a way to reduce stress; - rarely or never feel confident to express what they think and feel to others; - indicate that they rarely use marijuana (once a month or less); - indicate that their marijuana use has a negative impact on their health and wellness; - indicate that they sometimes use other street drugs, like cocaine, meth, heroin, etc. and it has a negative impact on their health and wellness; - always experience depression (30% more likely); - always experience anxiety (34.2% more likely); - experience high levels of daily stress (30% more likely); - use creative activities to reduce stress; - use a counsellor/support group to reduce stress; - only sometimes have easy access to transportation; - only sometimes have access to safe and sufficient food (45.5% more likely); - always experience financial stress (45.5% more likely); - rarely have support from friends and family (43.6% more likely); and, - never consume alcohol (30.1% more likely)
<p>Never feel isolated <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>	<p>Always feel isolated <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not experience any housing issues 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have the following housing issues:

<p>(49.3% more likely)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not enough money for rent/mortgage (42.5% more likely), • not enough money for utility bills (30.7% more likely), • difficulty paying rent/mortgage on time (30% more likely), • difficulty finding affordable housing (30% more likely), • difficulty paying bills on time, • difficulty finding stable housing, • staying in a shelter, and • couch surfing/staying with friends
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<p>Never feel isolated <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>Always feel isolated <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>
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<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that people in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only sometimes think “boys will be boys and that’s just the way it is”, • only sometimes have degrading attitudes about women and behave badly toward women, • go to strip clubs fairly often, and • rarely have the opinion that women make up claims of domestic violence or rape; - believe the following factors contribute to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drugs and alcohol, • financial stress, • the objectification of women and girls, and • women and girls’ lack of self-esteem; - have witnessed a man hang around a woman who is drunk/high so he could take advantage of her; and, - believe that more needs to be done to stop violence against women and girls, but a lot has been done already 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be unsure of the rates of violence against women and girls in FSJ; - think that people in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have degrading attitudes about women all of the time, • often behave badly towards women, • believe that “boys will be boys and that’s just the way it is” all of the time, and • often see domestic violence as a private matter that should be dealt with by the family; - believe that the following factors contribute to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high stress related to work, • lack of resources, and • few women in positions of power; - have witnessed a man physically assault a woman; and, - have witnessed a male co-worker harass his female colleague
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Never feel isolated <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i>	Always feel isolated <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i>
<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have committed violence against women and girls; - have not experienced violence/abuse in their past; - have not grown up witnessing violence/abuse; - not be currently experiencing violence/abuse; and, - have no one commit violence against them 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have more than one person commit violence and/or abuse against them; - have experienced violence/abuse in their past; - have grown up witnessing violence and/or abuse; - currently experiencing or unsure whether or not they are currently experiencing violence and/or abuse (20% more likely); - have experienced the following types of abuse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial (49.5% more likely), • verbal (40.1% more likely), • physical (35% more likely), • workplace (30% more likely), • racial (29.6% more likely), • mental/emotional/social (27.5% more likely), • sexual (26.2% more likely), • intergenerational, • spiritual, • cultural, • domestic, • stalking, and • dating; and, - have the following commit violence/abuse against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parent (32.8% more likely), • family member (32.8% more likely), • co-worker (25.8% more likely), • spouse/partner/boyfriend, • date, • employer, and • friend

<p>Never feel isolated <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>	<p>Always feel isolated <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strongly disagree that women are better at taking care of children than men; - strongly agree that it's not okay for a man to tell his girlfriend who she can or cannot see or talk to; and, - somewhat agree that a man deserves the respect of his family no matter what 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strongly disagree that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's not okay for a man to tell his girlfriend who she can or cannot see or talk to, • healthy communication skills and self-expression are not encouraged enough for boys in school, • men work harder than women, and • a man deserves the respect of his family no matter what; and, - strongly agree that it's important to support a woman in an abusive relationship, even if she stays
<p>Never feel isolated <i>When asked about services...</i></p>	<p>Always feel isolated <i>When asked about services...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who never feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that language barriers make it difficult to access services; and, - believe that lack of ID makes it difficult to access services (32.7% more likely) 	<p><u>Respondents who always feel isolated (far away from friends, family, and other support networks) were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe there are not enough services for women and girls who have experienced violence; - believe services in FSJ are not easy to access; - believe the following factors make it difficult to access services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restricted hours, • being judged for your family name, • limited access to transportation, • fear of felling judged, and • lack of anonymity/confidentiality; and, - have experienced counselling for their own experiences of violence/abuse

C5. OFTEN CONSUME ALCOHOL AND NEVER CONSUME ALCOHOL

Out of 278 respondents who indicated whether they often or never feel consume alcohol, 59 (21%) often consume alcohol and 40 (14%) never consume alcohol.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who never consume alcohol appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: income, employment, health and wellness, housing, and violence.

Often Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about demography...</i>	Never Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about demography...</i>
<u>Respondents who often consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be between 25 and 34 years of age; - be male and Caucasian; - be married; - describe their faith as Atheist; and, - have lived in Fort St. John for more than twenty years 	<u>Respondents who never consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be between 55 and 64 years of age; - be single; - describe their faith as Native Spirituality; and, - have lived in FSJ for 1 to 5 years
Often Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i>	Never Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i>
<u>Respondents who often consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an annual household income of \$150,000 to \$249,999; - spend the majority of their income on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreation/hobbies, • transportation, • dining out, and • alcohol, cigarettes and other vices (31.5% more likely); - have switched employers once in two years; - have one job; and, - work 21 to 40 hours a week 	<u>Respondents who never consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999; - spend the majority of their money on medication; - have not switched employers in the last two years; - have no job; and, - work 0 to 10 hours per week
Often Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i>	Never Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i>
<u>Respondents who often consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rarely experience depression; - never experience suicidal thoughts; - always have easy access to transportation; - always have access to safe and sufficient food; - always have support from family and friends; - always be confident to express how they think and feel to others; 	<u>Respondents who never consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always experience depression; - only sometimes have access to transportation; - only sometimes have access to safe and sufficient food; - always feel far away from family and friends; - always feel far away from family and friends; - always experience financial stress;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sometimes use marijuana; - believe that marijuana has a positive effect on their health and wellness; - believe that alcohol has a negative effect on their health and wellness (30% more likely); and, - party/socialize as a way to reduce stress 	<p>and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use a counsellor and/or support group as a way to reduce stress
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<p>Often Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>	<p>Never Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>
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<p><u>Respondents who often consume alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not experience any housing issues 	<p><u>Respondents who never consume alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experience the following housing issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have difficulty finding enough money for rent/mortgage and utility bills, • difficulty paying utility bills on time, and • difficulty finding affordable housing
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<p>Often Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Never Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
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<p><u>Respondents who often consume alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not experienced violence/abuse in their past; - have not grown up witnessing violence and/or abuse; and, - have no one commit violence against them 	<p><u>Respondents who never consume alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have experienced violence/abuse in their past; - have grown up witnessing violence/abuse; - have experienced violence/abuse from more than one person; - have experienced the following types of violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical, • financial, • cultural, • racial (37.8% more likely), • intergenerational, • workplace, • stalking, • sexual, • verbal, and • mental/emotional/social
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Often Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about services...</i>	Never Consume Alcohol <i>When asked about services...</i>
<u>Respondents who often consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be unsure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether or not there were enough services for women and girls experiencing violence, • whether or not there were enough services for those who commit violence, • where to get information on how to help women and girls who experience violence, and • whether or not services are easy to access in Fort St. John 	<u>Respondents who never consume alcohol were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe there are not enough services for women and girls experiencing violence, as well as for those who commit violence against women and girls; - know where to get information on how to help women and girls who experience violence; - think that it's not easy to access services in Fort St. John; - have counselling for their own experiences of violence/abuse and to find it helpful; and, - believe the following actors make it difficult to access services in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of resources, • cost of services, • being judged for your family name, • racial discrimination, • limited number of counsellors/workers, • limited access to transportation, and • not fitting the program's criteria for service

C6. CAUCASIAN AND ABORIGINAL

Out of 313 respondents who indicated whether they are Caucasian or Aboriginal, 262 (84%) are Caucasian and 37 (12%) are Aboriginal.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who are Aboriginal appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: education, income, employment, health and wellness, housing, violence, and services.

Caucasian <i>When asked about demography...</i>	Aboriginal <i>When asked about demography...</i>
<u>Respondents who are Caucasian were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe their faith as "Spiritual"; - be married (30.7% more likely); - have zero dependents living in their 	<u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be bisexual - share childcare duties with other family members;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - household; - have lived in Fort St. John between 11 and 20 years; and, - have moved to Fort St. John 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be born in Fort St. John; - have moved away from Fort St. John and then moved back; - describe their faith as “Native Spirituality” (34.7% more likely); - be in a common law relationship; and, - provide most of the care to dependents in their household
<p>Caucasian When asked about education/income/employment...</p>	<p>Aboriginal When asked about education/income/employment...</p>
<p><u>Respondents who are Caucasian were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a college diploma as their highest level of education completed; - work full time; - have not switched employers in the last two years; and, - work between 41 and 60 hours per week 	<p><u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have Junior High as their highest level of education completed; - have an annual household income of \$16,000 to \$24,999; - be in-between jobs; and, - spend the majority of their income on shopping
<p>Caucasian When asked about health and wellness...</p>	<p>Aboriginal When asked about health and wellness...</p>
<p><u>Respondents who are Caucasian were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rarely experience depression; - rarely experience anxiety; - always be confident to express what they think and feel to others; - rarely consume alcohol; - never consume six or more beverages at one time; - never drink to get drunk; - always have access to safe and sufficient food; - sometimes experience financial stress; and, - sometimes feel far away from friends and family 	<p><u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always experience anxiety; - sometimes have suicidal thoughts; - use a counsellor/support group and vent anger to reduce stress; - sometimes drink to get drunk; - sometimes use marijuana; - only sometimes have access to safe and sufficient food; - always experience financial stress; - never consume alcohol; and, - consume six or more alcoholic beverages in one night, two or three times per month
<p>Caucasian When asked about housing...</p>	<p>Aboriginal When asked about housing...</p>
	<p><u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have difficulty finding enough money for rent and/or mortgage; and,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have difficulty finding enough money for utility bills
<p>Caucasian <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who are Caucasian were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that the objectification of women contributes to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John; and, - believe that the acceptability of violence as a way to resolve conflict contributes to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John 	<p><u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that people in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have degrading attitudes about women all of the time, • believe that women wearing revealing clothing want attention all of the time, • often see domestic violence as a private issue that should be dealt with by the family, and • often believe that women make up claims of rape and/or domestic violence; - think that the following contributes to violence against women in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women’s economic dependence on men, • men and boys’ lack of self-esteem, • male-dominated workplaces, • women and girls’ lack of self-esteem, • lack of resources, • intergenerational violence, • women’s “place in the home”, • few women in positions of power, and • migration; and, - have witnessed in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a man hang around a woman who is drunk/high so he could take advantage of her, • a male co-worker harass his female colleague, • a man make sexually suggestive comments to/about a woman, • a man physically assault a woman, • a man inappropriately grab a woman in public, and • a man yell at a woman

Caucasian <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i>	Aboriginal <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i>
<p><u>Respondents who are Caucasian were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not experienced violence/abuse in their past; - have not grown up witnessing violence/abuse; and, - have no one commit violence/abuse against them 	<p><u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have experienced violence in their past; - have grown up witnessing violence; - have had the following commit violence against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • friend, • family member, • employer, • parent, and • spouse/partner; - have experienced the following types of violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mental/emotional/social, • domestic, • sexual, • racial (44% more likely), • financial, • workplace, • intergenerational, • dating, • cultural, • physical, and • spiritual; - have had more than one person commit violence against them; and, - have committed violence against women and girls
<p>Caucasian <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p> <p><u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strongly agree that the legal system treats rape victims very badly; and, - strongly agree that women in violent relationships grew up witnessing/experiencing violence

Caucasian <i>When asked about services...</i>	Aboriginal <i>When asked about services...</i>
<p><u>Respondents who are Caucasian were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that a limited number of counsellors/workers makes it difficult to access services 	<p><u>Respondents who are Aboriginal were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe there are not enough services for women and girls who are experiencing violence; - have accessed counselling for their own acts of violence against women and girls and thought it was helpful; - think that services are not easy to access in Fort St. John; - believe that the following factors make it difficult to access services in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • racial discrimination, • lack of anonymity/confidentiality, • limited access to transportation, and • fear of feeling judged; and, - want to take part in community planning activities (30.3% more likely)

C7. DID NOT GROW UP WITNESSING VIOLENCE AND GREW UP WITNESSING VIOLENCE

Out of 255 respondents who indicated whether they did or did not grow up witnessing violence, 143 (56%) did not grow up witnessing violence and 105 (41%) grew up witnessing violence.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who grew up witnessing violence appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: income, employment, health and wellness, housing, violence, and services.

Did not grow up witnessing violence <i>When asked about demography...</i>	Grew up witnessing violence <i>When asked about demography...</i>
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - share childcare duties with their spouse; and, - be married 	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be Aboriginal; - be separated; and, - be born in Fort St. John

<p>Did not grow up witnessing violence <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i></p>	<p>Grew up witnessing violence <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spend the majority of their income on recreation/hobbies; - work 21 to 40 hours per week; - work full time; and, - have one job 	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an annual household income of \$35,000 to \$49,999; and, - work 0 to 10 hours per week
<p>Did not grow up witnessing violence <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>	<p>Grew up witnessing violence <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rarely experience depression and/or anxiety; - always have easy access to transportation; - rarely feel far away from family and friends; - always feel confident to express how they think and feel to others; - never have suicidal thoughts; - always have support from family and friends; - sometimes consume alcohol (37.8% more likely); and, - never drink to get drunk 	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sometimes experience anxiety; - only sometimes have access to safe and sufficient food; - always experience financial stress; - sometimes feel far away from family and friends; - only sometimes have support from family and friends; - use a counsellor/support group as a way to reduce stress; and, - rarely consume alcohol (35.2% more likely)
<p>Did not grow up witnessing violence <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>	<p>Grew up witnessing violence <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not experienced any housing issues 	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have difficulty finding affordable housing
<p>Did not grow up witnessing violence <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>Grew up witnessing violence <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that high levels of stress contribute to violence against women in FSJ; and, - think that people in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only sometimes have degrading 	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that people in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • often have degrading attitudes about women, • often see domestic violence as a private matter that should be dealt

<p>attitudes about women, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rarely think it's okay to show pornography at a party or in other public places 	<p>with by the family,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • often behave badly towards women, and • often think “boys will be boys and that’s just the way it is” (36.2% more likely); <p>- believe the following factors contribute to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the acceptability of violence as a way to resolve conflict, • men and boys’ lack of confidence, • lack of resources, and • few women in positions of power; and, <p>- have witnessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a man hang around a woman who is drunk/high so he could take advantage of her, • a co-worker harass his female colleague, • a man make sexually suggestive comments to/about a woman, • a man inappropriately grab a woman in public, and • a man assault a woman
<p>Did not grow up witnessing violence <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Grew up witnessing violence <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not experienced violence/abuse in their past; and, - have had no one commit violence against them 	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be currently experiencing or unsure whether or not they are experiencing violence; - have experienced violence in their past; - have experienced the following types of violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual, • cultural, • racial, • domestic, • physical, • verbal, • mental/emotional/social (33.9% more likely),

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial, and • intergenerational; <p>- have the following commit violence against them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • friend, • family member, and • parent (38.1% more likely); and, <p>- have had more than one person commit violence against them</p>
Did not grow up witnessing violence When asked about gender roles...	Grew up witnessing violence When asked about gender roles...
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <p>- agree that it's hard to understand why women stay in abusive/violent relationships</p>	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <p>- disagree that it's hard to understand why women stay in violent/abusive relationships;</p> <p>- somewhat agree that women are better at caring for children than men; and,</p> <p>- strongly agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • men should be encouraged to express their emotions, • women in violent relationships grew up witnessing violence, • the legal system treats rape victims very badly, and • healthy communication skills and self-expression are not encouraged enough for boys in schools
Did not grow up witnessing violence When asked about services...	Grew up witnessing violence When asked about services...
<p><u>Respondents who did not grow up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <p>- have not tried to access support services in Fort St. John</p>	<p><u>Respondents who grew up witnessing violence were more likely to:</u></p> <p>- think that services are not easy to access in Fort St. John;</p> <p>- think there are not enough services for women and girls experiencing violence;</p> <p>- have accessed counselling for their own experiences of violence and thought it was helpful;</p> <p>- think the following factors make it difficult to access services in Fort St. John:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of resources, • being judged for your family name, • limited access to transportation, and • cost of services; and, <p>- want to get involved in community planning activities</p>
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C8. DO NOT HAVE ANY HOUSING ISSUES AND HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Out of 248 respondents who indicated whether they have no housing issues or difficulty finding affordable housing, 201 (81%) do not have any housing issues and 50 (20%) have difficulty finding affordable housing.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who have difficulty finding affordable housing appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: education, income, employment, health and wellness, housing, and violence.

Do not have any housing issues When asked about demography...	Have difficulty finding affordable housing When asked about demography...
<u>Respondents who do not have any housing issues were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be married; and, - have lived in Fort St. John for more than twenty years 	<u>Respondents who have difficulty finding affordable housing were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be single; and, - have lived in Fort St. John for five years or less
Do not have any housing issues When asked about education/income/employment...	Have difficulty finding affordable housing When asked about education/income/employment...
<u>Respondents who do not have any housing issues were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a university degree as their highest level of education; and, - have an annual household income of more than \$65,000 	<u>Respondents who have difficulty finding affordable housing were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a high school diploma as their highest level of education completed; - have an annual household income of less than \$65,000; and, - be in-between jobs
Do not have any housing issues When asked about health and wellness...	Have difficulty finding affordable housing When asked about health and wellness...
<u>Respondents who do not have any housing issues were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always have access to transportation; 	<u>Respondents who have difficulty finding affordable housing were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always experience depression;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always have access to safe and sufficient food; and, - rarely experience financial stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always experience anxiety; - only sometimes have access to safe and sufficient food; - rarely have access to transportation; - always feel far away from friends and family; - rarely or never feel confident to express what they think and feel to others; and, - always experience financial stress
<p>Do not have any housing issues <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>Have difficulty finding affordable housing <i>When asked about perceptions about Fort St. John...</i></p>
	<p><u>Respondents who have difficulty finding affordable housing were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have witnessed in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a man inappropriately grab a woman, • a male coworker harass his female colleague, • a man yell at a woman in public, and • a man physically assault a woman; and, - think that people in Fort St. John believe that “boys will be boys and that’s just the way it is” all of the time
<p>Do not have any housing issues <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Have difficulty finding affordable housing <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who do not have any housing issues were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not experienced violence/abuse in their past; - have not grown up witnessing violence and/or abuse; and, - have no one commit violence against them 	<p><u>Respondents who have difficulty finding affordable housing were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have grown up witnessing violence and/or abuse; - have experienced violence/abuse in their past; and, - be currently experiencing or unsure whether or not they are currently experiencing violence

Do not have any housing issues <i>When asked about services...</i>	Have difficulty finding affordable housing <i>When asked about services...</i>
	<u>Respondents who have difficulty finding affordable housing were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe there are not enough services for those who commit violence against women and girls in FSJ; and, - think the following factors make it difficult to access services in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fear of feeling judged, • restricted hours of operation, and • limited access to transportation

C9. ALWAYS CONFIDENT TO EXPRESS WHAT THEY THINK AND FEEL TO OTHERS AND RARELY CONFIDENT TO EXPRESS WHAT THEY THINK AND FEEL TO OTHERS

Out of 132 respondents who indicated whether they are always or rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others, 107 (81%) were always confident and 25 (19%) were rarely confident.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: income, health and wellness, housing, and violence.

Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about demography...</i>	Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about demography...</i>
<u>Respondents who were always confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - share childcare duties with their spouse; and, - have a partner who is between 0 and 7 years older than them 	<u>Respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be Aboriginal
Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i>	Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about education/income/employment...</i>
<u>Respondents who were always confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have a university degree as their highest level of education completed; - have an annual household income of 	<u>Respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have an annual household income of under \$65,000; - work 21 to 40 hours per week;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - over \$65,000; - spend the majority of their income on recreation/hobbies and shopping; - work 41 to 60 hours per week; - have one job; and, - have not switched employers in the last two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have switched employers once or twice in the last two years; and, - have two jobs
<p>Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>	<p>Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who were always confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rarely or never experience depression; - rarely experience anxiety; - never have suicidal thoughts (33% more likely); - always have easy access to transportation; - rarely feel far away from family and friends; - always have support from family and friends (49.8% more likely); - often consume alcohol; and, - party/socialize and/or spend time with friends and family and a way to reduce stress 	<p><u>Respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sometimes experience depression; - sometimes experience anxiety; - not have suicidal thoughts anymore; - always experience financial stress; - sometimes feel far away from family and friends; - only sometimes have support from family and friends (36.4% more likely); - sometimes consume alcohol; and, - consume six or more alcoholic beverages a night, two or three times a month
<p>Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>	<p>Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about housing...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who were always confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have not experienced any housing issues (38.2% more likely) 	<p><u>Respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have difficulty finding enough money for rent/mortgage; - have difficulty finding enough money for utility bills; and, - have difficulty finding affordable housing

<p>Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about perceptions of Fort St. John...</i></p>	<p>Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about perceptions of Fort St. John...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who were always confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - believe that the following factors contribute to violence against women in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high levels of stress related to work, • high levels of stress related to their partner being away at camp, • a transient workforce, and • the objectification of women and girls; and, - think that people in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • go to strip clubs all the time, and • rarely believe that women make up claims of domestic violence and/or rape 	<p><u>Respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that, all of the time, people in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have degrading attitudes about women, • behave badly about women, • see domestic violence as a private matter that should be dealt with by the family, • believe women make up claims of domestic violence and/or rape, and • believe that a woman dressed in revealing clothing always wants attention; - believe that the acceptability of violence as a way to resolve conflict contributes to violence against women and girls in FSJ; and, - have witnessed in FSJ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a man yell at a woman in public, • a man inappropriately grab a woman in public, and • a man physically assault a woman
<p>Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who were always confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have no one commit violence against them 	<p><u>Respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be currently experiencing or unsure whether or not they are currently experiencing violence; - have experienced violence in their past; - have grown up witnessing violence (35.1% more likely); - have experienced the following types of violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • domestic,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical, • verbal, • mental/emotional/social, • intergenerational, and • stalking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have the following commit violence against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • friend, • family member, and • employer; and, - have had more than one person commit violence against them
<p>Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>	<p>Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about gender roles...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who were always confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree that women are better at caring for children than men 	
<p>Always confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about services...</i></p>	<p>Never confident to express what they think and feel to others <i>When asked about services...</i></p>
	<p><u>Respondents who were rarely confident to express what they think and feel to others were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think there are not enough services for those who commit violence against women and girls; and, - think the following factors make it difficult to access services in Fort St. John: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • being judged for your family name, • lack of confidentiality/anonymity, and • the fear of feeling judged

B. Youth Survey

Y1. MALE YOUTH AND FEMALE YOUTH

Out of 93 respondents who indicated whether they are male or female, 28 (30%) were male and 65 (70%) were female.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who were female youth appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: school and activities, health and wellness, violence (general), violence (relationships), parents, and community resources.

Male Youth <i>When asked about friends...</i>	Female Youth <i>When asked about friends...</i>
<u>Respondents who are male youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree that their friends push them to do things they don't feel comfortable doing 	<u>Respondents who are female youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - share their secrets and feelings with close friends; and, - talk to a friend of the family and a teacher/school counsellor when they are having a serious problem
Male Youth When asked about school and other activities...	Female Youth When asked about school and other activities...
<u>Respondents who are male youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feel comfortable expressing their opinion in class; - believe that school is a friendly place all of the time; and, - believe there are not enough places to go for youth outside of school 	<u>Respondents who are female youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only somewhat agree that school activities and groups are important; - indicate that they learned about healthy relationships from a special workshop; - believe that learning about healthy relationships from their regular teacher is only somewhat helpful; and, - think that there are lots of activities for youth outside of school, but they don't participate in them
Male Youth <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i>	Female Youth <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i>
<u>Respondents who are male youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rarely experience anxiety; - never have suicidal thoughts; - never self-harm; - have never tried alcohol; and, - not experience depression (rarely, never, not anymore) 	<u>Respondents who are female youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sometimes experience depression (32% more likely); and, - always experience anxiety

<p>Male Youth <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Female Youth <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who are male youth were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have had a stranger commit violence against them; - never been treated unfairly because of their sex/gender; - never been bullied; - never had anyone touch them sexually against their will; - never had anyone give them drugs and/or alcohol and touch them sexually against their will; and, - have had no one commit violence against them <p>++</p>	<p><u>Respondents who are female youth were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have had someone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treat them unfairly because of their sex/gender five or more times, • bully them five or more times, • touch them sexually against their will five or more times, and • give them alcohol and touch them sexually against their will once or twice; and, - have had the following commit violence against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parent, • employer, • family member, and • boyfriend/girlfriend (0% of male respondents reported experiencing violence from a boyfriend and girlfriend)
<p>Male Youth <i>When asked about relationships...</i></p>	<p>Female Youth <i>When asked about relationships...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who are male youth were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have had a boyfriend or girlfriend, but are currently single; - believe that young women treat young men respectfully all of the time; and, - believe that young men and young women are treated equally all of the time 	<p><u>Respondents who are female youth were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend; - currently be in a relationship for one month or less; - have had a boyfriend or girlfriend: - feel that young men rarely treat young women respectfully; - feel that young women treat young men respectfully most of the time; and, - believe that young men and young women are never treated equally
<p>Male Youth <i>When asked about parents...</i></p>	<p>Female Youth <i>When asked about parents...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who are male youth were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - indicate that they have a very close relationship with their mother and father 	<p><u>Respondents who are female youth were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe their relationship with their mother as “not very close”

Male Youth <i>When asked about community resources...</i>	Female Youth <i>When asked about community resources...</i>
<u>Respondents who are male youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - know their rights when someone hurts them; - know where to get information; - know where to get help; and, - talk to an adult they trust when they have a serious problem 	<u>Respondents who are female youth were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicate that they would like to be part of community planning activities; - Somewhat agree that they know where to get information; - Somewhat disagree that they know where to get help; - Somewhat agree that they talk to an adult they trust when they have a serious problem

Y2. STRONGLY AGREE AND SOMEWHAT AGREE THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO SHARE THEIR SECRETS AND PRIVATE FEELINGS WITH THEIR CLOSE FRIENDS

Out of 51 respondents who indicated whether they strongly agree or only somewhat agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with close friends, 36 (71%) strongly agreed and 15 (29%) only somewhat agreed.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who somewhat agreed that they can share their secrets and private feelings with their close friends appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: friends, school and activities, health and wellness, violence (general), violence (relationships), and parents.

Strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about friends...</i>	Somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about friends...</i>
<u>Respondents who strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be able to talk to their brothers, teachers, mothers, and peer counsellors about themselves or their problems; - strongly agree that they have close friends they trust and confide in (37.7% more likely); and, - disagree that their close friends push them to do things they're not comfortable doing 	<u>Respondents who somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be able to talk to their counsellors outside of school and a friend of the family about themselves or their problems; - only somewhat agree that they have close friends they can trust and confide in (32.9% more likely); and, - agree that their close friends push them to do things they're not comfortable doing (30.1% more likely)

<p>Strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about school and other activities...</i></p>	<p>Somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about school and other activities...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - talk to teachers and/or school counsellors, if they have a serious problem, some of the time; - indicate that they learned about healthy relationships in school, particularly through a special workshop; - strongly agree that they feel comfortable expressing their opinions in class; - strongly agree that they think it's important to participate in school groups and/or school related activities; - think school is a friendly place all of the time; - think that learning about healthy relationships from both their regular teacher and a special workshop helpful was very (33% more likely); - believe there are enough activities for youth; and, - believe there could be more places to go for youth outside of school 	<p><u>Respondents who somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that school is a friendly place only some of the time; - somewhat disagree that they feel comfortable expressing their opinions in class; - somewhat disagree that they think it's important to participate in school groups and/or school related activities; - never talk to any teacher or counsellors if they have a serious problem; - be unsure whether or not they learned about healthy relationships in school; - unsure whether or not learning about healthy relationships in school was helpful (30% more likely); - believe there could be more activities for youth; and, - believe there are not enough places to go for youth outside of school
<p>Strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>	<p>Somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - indicate that they've never used glue, hallucinogens or other street drugs; - indicate that they never have suicidal thoughts or self-harm; - sometimes experience anxiety; and, - indicate that they've never used 	<p><u>Respondents who somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always experience depression; - indicate that they've used marijuana, but not in the past 12 months; and, - indicate that they use marijuana once a month or less

marijuana (35.9% more likely)	
Strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about personal experience...</i>	Somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about personal experience...</i>
<u>Respondents who strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have never had someone threaten to hurt them; - have never been physically assaulted; and, - have never been touched sexually against their will 	<u>Respondents who somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be touched sexually against their will five or more times; - be treated unfairly because of their sex/gender five or more times; - be physically assaulted once or twice (30.8% more likely); and, - have an employer commit violence against them
Strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about relationships...</i>	Somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about relationships...</i>
<u>Respondents who strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have never had a boyfriend or girlfriend; - believe that young men treat women with respect most of the time; - believe that young women treat men with respect most of the time; and, - believe that young men and young women are treated equally most of the time 	<u>Respondents who somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have had a boyfriend or girlfriend, but be currently single; - have had a boyfriend or girlfriend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • say mean things to them in private or in front of others, • pressure them to perform sexual acts they didn't want to do, • tell them who they can spend time with, • make negative remarks or pressure them about their appearance (39.3% more likely); and, • read their private messages without their permission; - believe that young men treat young women with respect only some of the time; - believe that young women treat young men with respect only some of the

	time; and, - believe that young men and women are treated equally only some of the time
Strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about parents...</i>	Somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends <i>When asked about parents...</i>
<u>Respondents who strongly agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> - think their parents get along fairly well; - describe their relationship with their mother as “somewhat close”; - describe the “father figure they spend the most time with” as their biological father (35.9% more likely); and, - describe their relationship with their father as “very close”	<u>Respondents who somewhat agree that they are able to share their secrets and private feelings with close friends were more likely to:</u> - describe the relationship between their parents as “very close”; - describe their relationship with their mother as “not very close”; - describe the “father figure they spend the most time with” as their step-father or adoptive father; and, - describe their relationship with their father as “somewhat close”

Y3. NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND AND CURRENTLY HAVE A BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND

Out of 53 respondents who indicated whether they currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend or have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend, 21 (40%) currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend and 32 (60%) have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: friends, school and activities, health and wellness, violence (general), violence (relationships), parents, and community resources.

Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about demography...</i>	Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about demography...</i>
<u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u> - be male and 15 years old	<u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u> - be female and 16 years old
Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about friends...</i>	Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about friends...</i>
<u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u> - strongly disagree that their friends push them to do things they’re not	<u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u> - somewhat agree that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they can share secrets and private

<p>comfortable doing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strongly agree that they have close friends; - agree that they can share secrets and private feelings with their close friends; - strongly agree that their friends encourage them to succeed and do their best (36.9% more likely); and, - be able to talk about themselves and their feelings to their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mother (31.7% more likely), • father, • sister, and • coach/leader 	<p>feelings with close friends,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their friends encourage them to succeed and do their best, • they have close friends, and • their friends push them to do things they're not comfortable doing
<p>Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend When asked about school and other activities...</p>	<p>Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend When asked about school and other activities...</p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - indicate that they learned about healthy relationships in school; - be unsure whether or not learning about healthy relationships from their regular teacher was helpful; - think there are lots of places for youth to hang out outside of school, but they don't hang out there; - think that school is a friendly place most of the time; - talk to their teachers and/or school counsellors when they have a serious problem; and, - think there could be more activities for youth outside of school 	<p><u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disagree that it's important to participate in school groups and/or school related activities; - believe that learning about healthy relationships from their regular teacher was somewhat helpful; - rarely think that school is a friendly place; - not talk to teachers and/or school counsellors when they have a serious problem; - be unsure whether or not they had learned about healthy relationships in schools; - believe there are activities for youth outside of school, but they don't participate in them; and, - think there could be more places for youth to hang out outside of school
<p>Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend When asked about health and wellness...</p>	<p>Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend When asked about health and wellness...</p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - never experience depression; - never have anxiety or suicidal 	<p><u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - always experience depression; - always experience anxiety;

<p>thoughts; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have never used alcohol (34.1% more likely), marijuana (45.3% more likely), street drugs, and hallucinogens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sometimes have suicidal thoughts; - have used marijuana daily; - have used hallucinogens once or month or less; and, - use alcohol once a month or less (47.3% more likely)
<p>Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>	<p>Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about personal experiences...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have had a parent commit violence against them; and, - have never had someone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bully them, • threaten to hurt them (57.7% more likely), • physically assault them (50.4% more likely), • touch them in a sexual way (42.7% more likely), • give them drugs and alcohol and touch them against their will, • treat them unfairly because of their sex/gender (32.9% more likely), and • commit violence against them (34.8% more likely) 	<p><u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have had someone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physically assault them once or twice, • touch them in a sexual way against their will five or more times, • treat them unfairly because of their gender/sex five or more times, • bully them five or more times, • threaten to hurt them five or more times, and • give them drugs and alcohol and touch them against their will once or twice; and, - indicate that the following have committed violence against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • friend (30 % more likely), and • boyfriend/girlfriend
<p>Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about relationships...</i></p>	<p>Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about relationships...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that young men in FSJ treat young women with respect most of the time; - think that young women in FSJ treat young men with respect most of the time; and, - think that young men and women in FSJ are treated equally most of the time 	<p><u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that young men and women in FSJ are never treated equally; - indicate that they've had a boyfriend/girlfriend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell them who they can spend time with (40% more likely), • make negative remarks or pressure them about their appearance (35% more likely), • read their private messages without their permission (30% more likely), • say mean things to them in

	<p>private or in front of others (30% more likely),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pressure them to perform sexual acts they didn't want to do (35% more likely), and • physically assault them <p>- think young men in FSJ rarely treat young women with respect (43.5% more likely); and,</p> <p>- think that young women in FSJ rarely treat young men with respect</p>
<p>Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about parents...</i></p>	<p>Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about parents...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe the “mother figure they spend the most time with” as their biological mother; - indicate that they “do not get along at all” with their father; - describe their relationship with their mother as very close; - describe the “father figure they spend the most time with” as their biological father; and, - think that their parents get along very well 	<p><u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - describe their relationship with their mother as “not very close”; - describe the “father figure they spend the most time with” as their step-father or adoptive father; and, - describe their relationship with their father as “not very close”
<p>Never had a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about community resources...</i></p>	<p>Currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend <i>When asked about community resources...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never had a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know their rights if someone hurts them, • can access information about local resources (30% more likely), • know where to get help (34.2% more likely), and • feel comfortable talking to an adult they trust when they have a serious problem (30% more likely) 	<p><u>Respondents who currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - somewhat agree that they know their rights if someone hurts them; - somewhat disagree that they know where to go if they have a serious problem; and, - somewhat agree that they feel comfortable talking to an adult they trust if they have a serious problem

Y4. HAVE NEVER USED ALCOHOL AND CONSUME ALCOHOL ONCE A MONTH OR LESS

Out of 57 respondents who indicated whether they never consume alcohol or consume alcohol once a month or less, 29 (30%) have never consumed alcohol and 28 (70%) consume alcohol once a month or less.

According to responses from the Peace Project Community Survey, respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less appeared to be more at risk in the following categories: health and wellness, violence (general), violence (relationships), and parents.

Have never used alcohol <i>When asked about friends...</i>	Consume alcohol once a month or less <i>When asked about friends...</i>
<p><u>Respondents who have never used alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their friends encourage them to succeed and do their best, • they feel comfortable sharing their secrets and private feelings with their close friends, and • their friends push them to do things they're not comfortable doing; and, - talk to a peer counsellor and coach/leader about themselves and their problems 	<p><u>Respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - somewhat disagree that their friends encourage them to succeed and do their best; - talk to their stepfather about themselves and their problems; and, - strongly agree that they can share their secrets and private feelings with their close friends
Have never used alcohol <i>When asked about school and other activities...</i>	Consume alcohol once a month or less <i>When asked about school and other activities...</i>
<p><u>Respondents who have never used alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - talk to their teachers and school counsellors when they have a serious problem; - think that school is a friendly place all the time; - indicate that they learned about healthy relationships from a special workshop; - think that learning about healthy relationships from a special workshop was somewhat helpful; - think there are enough activities for youth; and, 	<p><u>Respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that learning about healthy relationships from their regular teacher was very helpful; - think there are enough places for youth to hang out outside of school; - rarely talk to a teacher and/or school counsellor when they have a serious problem; - indicate that they learned about healthy relationships from their regular teacher (35.7% more likely); - be unsure whether or not learning about healthy relationships from their

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think there are enough places to go for youth, but they don't hang out in them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular teacher was helpful; and, - think there could be more activities for youth outside of school
<p>Have never used alcohol <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>	<p>Consume alcohol once a month or less <i>When asked about health and wellness...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never used alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - never used hallucinogens; - rarely experience depression; - never experience anxiety, have suicidal thoughts and/or self-harm; and, - never use marijuana (30% more likely) 	<p><u>Respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - indicate that they used to self-harm, but do not anymore; and, - sometimes experience depression
<p>Have never used alcohol <i>When asked about personal experience...</i></p>	<p>Consume alcohol once a month or less <i>When asked about personal experience...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never used alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have never had someone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treat them unfairly because of their sex/gender (36.5% more likely), • threaten to hurt them (44.5% more likely), • physically assault them (31% more likely), • give them drugs and/or alcohol and touch them sexually against their will, and • bully them 	<p><u>Respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have had someone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treat them unfairly because of their sex/gender five or more times, • bully them five or more times (30.5% more likely), • threaten to hurt them five or more times, • physically assault them once or twice, • give them drugs and/or alcohol and touch them sexually against their will; and, - have had the following commit violence against them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stranger (45% more likely), and • boyfriend/girlfriend
<p>Have never used alcohol <i>When asked about relationships...</i></p>	<p>Consume alcohol once a month or less <i>When asked about relationships...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never used alcohol were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - think that young men and women in FSJ are treated equally all of the time; 	<p><u>Respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently have a boyfriend/girlfriend (38% more

<p>and, - have never had a boyfriend and/or girlfriend (38.6% more likely)</p>	<p>likely); - have had a boyfriend/girlfriend: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make negative remarks or pressure them about their appearance, • physically assault them, • say mean things to them in private or in front of others, and • pressure them to perform sexual acts they didn't want to do; - think that young men rarely treat young women in FSJ with respect; and, - think that young men and women in FSJ are rarely treated equally</p>
<p>Have never used alcohol <i>When asked about parents...</i></p>	<p>Consume alcohol once a month or less <i>When asked about parents...</i></p>
	<p><u>Respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to:</u> - think their parents don't get along very well</p>
<p>Have never used alcohol <i>When asked about community resources...</i></p>	<p>Consume alcohol once a month or less <i>When asked about community resources...</i></p>
<p><u>Respondents who have never used alcohol were more likely to:</u> - somewhat agree that they know where to get help if they have a serious problem</p>	<p><u>Respondents who consume alcohol once a month or less were more likely to:</u> - strongly agree that they know where to get help if they have a serious problem</p>

Conclusion

At Risk

Local service providers and survey participants confirmed that women and girls who are most at risk for violence in Fort St. John include those in the following categories:

1. Isolated;
2. Aboriginal (especially Aboriginal women and girls on reserves);
3. Marginalized (experiencing poverty, difficulty finding affordable housing, etc.);
4. Grew up witnessing violence; and,
5. Low self-esteem.

Research also confirmed that local female youth who are isolated, currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend, experiment with alcohol, and have low self-esteem are also vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Key Themes

Some key themes explored by all research participants included: isolation, materialism, work-life balance, drugs and alcohol, dependency, lack of resources, “camp culture”, traditional gender roles, cultural competency, lack of education, and shame/stigma.

Isolation and dependence were prevalent themes discussed throughout the interviews, focus groups and surveys. Some women who experience violence and feel far away from familial supports are left dangerously dependent on their partners.

The city’s low unemployment rate and booming oil and gas industry attract many newcomers to Fort St. John. However, while local incomes are generally higher, some groups benefit more than others. A wide earning gap between those who work in oil and gas and those who do not leaves many residents with lower incomes struggling to find affordable housing.

As well, the wage disparity between men and women in Fort St. John is significantly higher than the national average. According to the Peace Project Community Survey, of respondents who were female and single, only 9% have an annual household income of over \$65,000. Conversely, of respondents who were female and married, 82% reported an annual household income of over \$65,000. Also according to the Peace Project Community Survey, of respondents who are single and female: 33% have difficulty finding affordable housing and 43% do not have enough money for rent or mortgage each month. Of respondents who are married and female, only 11% have difficulty finding affordable housing and 10% do not have enough money for rent or mortgage each month.

Needs and Barriers

A need for practical resources was mentioned numerous times by many of our research participants. We asked respondents from the Peace Project Community Survey the following question: “What can we do as a community to help prevent violence against

women and girls?” Twenty-one respondents believed that more services and resources would help women and girls who are in violent and/or abusive relationships. Their answers included the following:

- Counselling and support groups;
- Drugs/Alcohol counselling and other resources to help drug addiction;
- Free food, clothes, and necessities;
- 24 hour access to computers;
- 24 hour access to transportation;
- Local 24 hour crisis line;
- Better transit system;
- Affordable daycare services;
- More shelters, safe houses, and transition homes;
- More services for men;
- Immediate emergency financial assistance; and,
- Programs that support women’s financial independence.

Affordable housing and childcare, as well as easy access to transportation were key resources discussed by both service providers and women experiencing violence. Lack of free counselling and other services for men and youth were also explored.

Industrial Camp Workers

Challenges related to offering ongoing support to workers in industrial camps were recognized, especially by service providers who work directly with men in Fort St. John. A lack of self-care, particularly by men in industrial camps who work long hours and are away from their families for an extended period of time, was discussed by all research participants.

Drugs and alcohol was considered the main contributor to violence against local women and girls by respondents of the community survey, as well as local service providers. A tendency to dangerously “blow off steam” at the end of a difficult work shift or week was considered a common occurrence in Fort St. John. Hyper-masculinity in industrial camps was also named as a contributing factor to violence against women and girls in Fort St. John.

Education

Education was also a common topic for all research participants. We asked respondents from the Peace Project Community Survey the following question: “What can we do as a community to help prevent violence against women and girls?” One hundred and nine respondents believe that education, in many different forms, could prevent violence against women and girls in Fort St. John.

Their suggestions fell into the following categories, in order of popularity, starting with the most popular response:

- Educate youth about violence against women/girls;
- Increase community awareness about violence against women/girls and how it affects Fort St. John;
- Empower all community members by building their self-esteem;
- Increase community awareness about local services;
- Help families teach their children about healthy relationships;
- Educate everyone about signs/dangers of gender-based violence;
- Change attitudes in the community about violence against women and girls;
- Encourage the community to speak out against violence;
- Educate the community about financial literacy;
- Educate workplaces and employers about healthy communication and gender-based violence; and,
- Offer training to local services providers to help them better assist community members who are experiencing or perpetrating violence.

For More Information

For more information on The Peace Project and to see the Peace Project Community Plan, visit thepeaceprojectfsj.com or call the Fort St. John Women's Resource Society at 250-787-1121.

Moving Forward – Peace Project Implementation Plan

The Peace Project Implementation Plan includes a “multi-pronged” approach. This approach will simultaneously target multiple populations and use an array of tools that effectively address multiple needs. For example, reducing and preventing domestic violence is a main focus of The Peace Project. The Implementation Plan focuses on:

- creating opportunities for local community service providers to effectively collaborate and communicate with each other;
- educating the community-at-large and local service providers about resources available for families who experience violence;
- engaging youth in activities and discussions around reducing violence against women and girls; and,
- engaging local industry in discussions about the mental wellness of workers and their families vis-à-vis extended stay in industrial camps and other barriers to wellness for industrial workers.

The Peace Project Implementation Plan includes three main categories: Capacity Building – Lessen the Disconnect, Communication Plan to Promote Existing Services, and Cultural Shift Campaign for Men and Youth in Fort St. John.

The Implementation Plan runs from May 2013 to March 2015.

Capacity Building – Lessen the Disconnect

The goals of “Capacity Building – Lessen the Disconnect” are to:

- Integrate awareness and education about gender-based violence in already existing programming;
- Determine which ideas in the Community Plan are already in motion in FSJ and keep the momentum going;
- Collaborate with community partners to find homes for ideas in the Community Plan; and,
- Build awareness and buy-in from key stakeholders around the initiatives of the Peace Project.

Communication Plan to Promote Existing Services

The goals of “Communication Plan to Promote Existing Services” are to:

- Create a communication/marketing plan for Fort St. John and the immediate surrounding area to educate local service providers and the community-at-large about what resources are available to address gender-based violence;
- Share information about resources with hard to reach populations;
- Create opportunities for local service providers to inform key community stakeholders about their resources, hours of operation, programs, staff, mandates, etc.; and,
- Provide opportunities for local service providers to connect with each other.

Cultural Shift Campaign for Men and Youth in Fort St. John

The goals of the “Cultural Shift Campaign for Men and Youth in Fort St. John” are to:

- Create a local campaign that targets local men and youth to advocate for preventing violence against women and girls in Fort St. John;
- Give voice to male mentors and leaders in Fort St. John who stand against gender-based violence; and,
- Create safe spaces and appropriate activities for men and youth to strategize how to prevent and address gender-based violence in FSJ.

Activities in the Implementation Plan

Small Group Meetings

- By targeting specific local organizations from various sectors, the Peace Project Coordinator will discuss their challenges, barriers, and successes related to addressing violence against women, as well as solutions and local assets that could reduce and prevent gender-based violence

Community Roundtables

- By accessing existing community roundtables, the Peace Project Coordinator will collaborate with table members to promote the activities of the Peace Project and integrate awareness about the needs of local women, girls and families who experience violence.

“What are the Options?” – Service Provider Manual

- Through information gathered at the “Small Group Meetings” with local organizations that help women and girls who experience violence, a manual of critical resources will be drafted to inform local service providers of options for their clients. The areas of interest are: housing, transportation, childcare, financial aid, legal aid, and counselling. The manual will be made available in print, online and through a phone application that provides current information on local resources.

Resources for Women who Experience Violence: Deck of Cards

- The deck of cards will include information on:
 - The definitions of abuse (in its different forms), cycle of violence, profile of an abuser, etc.
 - Strategies to keep safe in an abusive relationship (safety planning, crisis lines, relieving stress, internet use, children’s safety, etc.)
 - Strategies to leave an abusive relationship (housing, transportation, financial aid, legal aid, childcare, employment, counselling, etc.)
 - Local resources that help women, girls and families who experience violence
 - The deck of cards will be strategically distributed to local service providers, educators, businesses, office managers, and healthcare professionals who may come in contact with women and girls who experience violence.

Peace Project Website

- The Peace Project website will disseminate the Peace Project Gender Based Analysis, as well as the Community Plan, and other key information on local efforts to end violence against women and girls in FSJ.
- The Peace Project will partner with a popular local website that shares family-based resources, like familyfriendlycommunity.ca. Through this website, the Peace Project will give information about local resources that help women and girls who experience violence.

Service Provider Forum

- A forum to discuss ways to reduce gender based violence in Fort St. John will be held. Attendees will include local service providers who work directly or indirectly with local women, girls and families who experience violence. Attendees will be given an opportunity to network, share information on resources, as well as strategize solutions to gaps and barriers related to services for women, girls and families who experience violence.

Industry Forum

- A forum to discuss the wellness of industrial workers and their families will be held. There will be a special focus on the effects of shift work and extended stays in industrial camps for workers. Attendees will include local experts from the following sectors: industry, health, social services, and municipal.

“NO VIOLENCE – Starring FSJ” Awareness Campaign: Poster, Resource List, and Multi-media Campaign

- Fashioned after a movie poster, “NO VIOLENCE – Starring FSJ” promotes ending gender-based violence in FSJ and gives information on local resources that help women and girls who experience violence.
- The poster will be distributed to as many local businesses, organizations, and public spaces as possible
- An online multi-media component will be included in the campaign

Multi-media Project with Youth: Parts 1 and 2

- Through a partnership with School District 60, the Peace Project will create opportunities for local middle school and high school students to take action against gender-based violence. This includes discussions and workshops with students, focusing on topics such as: gender-based violence, gender stereotypes, healthy relationships, victim-blaming, body image, and self-awareness.

Industry Engagement

- The Peace Project will engage industry in discussions about the wellness of industry-based workers and their families by:
 - Attending the 2014 Energy Conference in Fort St. John;
 - Facilitating a discussions with industry leaders and healthcare professionals; and,
 - Interviewing industry-based workers about their experiences staying in industrial camps.

Community Forum: Engaging Men in Preventing Violence – Trade Show Activity

- At the 2014 Fort St. John CKNL Trade Show, a video booth will be set up to celebrate healthy male role models in Fort St. John. Participants will be given thirty seconds to record an answer to the prompt: “Tell us about an awesome male mentor in your life.” We will engage participants in discussions about the importance of engaging men in community-driven efforts to reduce violence against women in Fort St. John.

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