

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and a young child with light brown, curly hair. Both are looking down and to the left with somber, thoughtful expressions. The woman is wearing a white t-shirt, and the child is wearing a light blue t-shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

homefront

**WORKING TOGETHER TO
END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Stronger Together | 3 |
| Board of Directors 2019-2020 | 4 |
| Mission & Vision | 5 |
| The Start of a Legacy | 6 |
| The Coordinated Community Response | 7 |
| Domestic Violence in Calgary | 10 |
| The Cost of Domestic Violence | 12 |
| The Investment in HomeFront | 14 |
| Tomorrow Starts Today | 15 |
| Beyond the Headlines | 16 |
| Our Legacy | 18 |

STRONGER TOGETHER

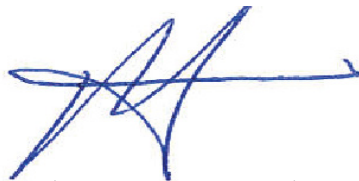
In partnership, HomeFront and the Alberta Government produce tangible and meaningful change by working together to end domestic violence in Calgary and beyond.

Reported rates of domestic violence are increasing. In 2018, Calgary Police Service reported a 48 per cent increase in charges over the five-year average.

HomeFront delivers pro-active solutions to this major social issue through integrated community collaboration and evidence based solutions. HomeFront is empowering communities to prevent and break the cycle of violence.

By bringing together community partners and service systems to provide a high-quality response for families experiencing domestic violence HomeFront has reduced domestic violence re-offense rates by 83%.

Everyone deserves the right to live a life free of violence. Together we can ensure this continues now and in the future.



Beth Reimer-Heck Q.C., ICD.D
Chair, HomeFront, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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Chief Crown Prosecutor,
Crown Prosecutor's Office

KEN SOUTH

Director
Community Corrections



MISSION:

Create a safe community by eliminating domestic violence through direct client services, justice coordination and facilitated community action.

VISION:

A society free of domestic violence where everyone has the opportunity to realize their full potential.

THE START OF A LEGACY

The genesis of HomeFront lies in the many years of collaborative work undertaken by Calgary's domestic violence community in the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s.

Two key events in 1998 built on that collaborative foundation and served as the catalyst for HomeFront.

In February 1998, Dr. Stephen Toope, Dean of Law at McGill University, was invited by the Cathedral Church of the Holy Redeemer to speak at The Friends of the Cathedral's Connection Series. Over 200 people attended.

Dr. Toope's speech was followed, the next day, by an invitation-only workshop, which involved the Judiciary, Crown Prosecutors, Probation Officers, Defence counsel, treatment agencies and the faith community.

The workshop focused on the need for improvement in the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, for special education for all members of the justice system and for increased coordination and integration of community resources in support of the justice system.

Immediately after that workshop, the Calgary Justice Working Committee (CJWC) was formed to capitalize on the momentum created by Dr. Toope's visit.

Members of that committee included the Action Committee Against Violence, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, The YWCA's Sheriff King Home, Calgary Police Service, Alberta Justice, Calgary Counselling Centre, The Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, United Way of Calgary and two prominent local attorneys.

CJWC organized a follow-up conference, held in April, 1998, which focused on developing a framework for a coordinated justice project.

Various coordinated justice projects in Canada and the United States were researched in advance of the event

and presenters from some of those initiatives spoke at the conference. Individuals and organizations who could play a role in developing a coordinated justice project were invited to the conference.

It was clear from the success of the follow-up conference that the potential existed to implement major changes in the way domestic violence was addressed in Calgary.

Within a week of the conference, the first framework implementation group convened and developed a Business Plan and Technical Working Paper, under the auspices of the Calgary Justice Working Committee and the Action Committee Against Violence.

This information was submitted to various funders in 1998 and garnered the funding support of all three levels of government, as well as community and private donors, with United Way of Calgary agreeing to act as the project's fiscal agent.

On May 29, 2000, HomeFront (originally called the Calgary Justice Working Project) was launched.

In mid-2000, 18 months after initial formation of The Calgary Justice Working Project and conversations about the necessity of such a domestic violence court began - Alberta's first specialized domestic court was initiated.

The Calgary Justice Working Project had proven itself to be effective. Nineteen years later, the program continues to provide a best-practice coordinated community response to family violence. Today, the program is known as HomeFront.

THE COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

HomeFront seeks to achieve its vision and mission by implementing a coordinated community response to domestic violence. It works to achieve these goals by coordinating major systems and driving systemic change through the specialized domestic violence court, early case resolution, specialized case management, mandated domestic violence treatment, evaluation, and programming for people experiencing domestic violence.

SPECIALIZED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

Every effort is made to ensure that all cases of domestic violence in Calgary appear first in this Court. The Court uses a team of experts (specialized Crown Prosecutors, Domestic Conflict Unit Police Officers, Probation Officers, Legal Aid Duty Counsel and Domestic Court Case Workers) in order to ensure appropriate and efficient responses to domestic violence incidents.

The pre-Court Conference, in which all team members review each case prior to its appearance before the Court, is an important part of the Court process. The pre-Court Conference focuses on inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration, open information exchange and early case resolution designed to assist all family members.

In appropriate cases, treatment-focused sentences or dispositions are strongly considered by the Court. The Specialized Domestic Violence Court has a full range of sentencing options available to it.

One fundamental intent of the Specialized Domestic Violence Court is to provide an opportunity for early case resolution. Early case resolution refers to the ability of the Court to avoid lengthy delays, set Court dates as quickly as possible and to facilitate rapid referral of eligible offenders to intensive domestic violence treatment programs.

HomeFront's Domestic Violence Court has been able to achieve both goals of early case resolution: avoiding lengthy delays and linking eligible offenders with treatment options.

HOMEFRONT CASE MANAGERS

Case managers provide support to the victims of domestic violence from the date of the incident until the cases move out of the Domestic Violence Court or the offenders conditions are completed.

The Case Managers assist victims through the criminal justice system by helping them to understand the Court process, ensuring that they have the opportunity to provide information to the Crown Prosecutor, identifying how information can be accessed regarding the status of the accused, assisting with assessing risk as it relates to planning for safety, communicating information on the outcome of an accused's Court appearance and providing referrals to community resources as required.

Case Managers are expected to attend Court and be prepared to respond to questions from the Judge.

When the victim chooses to attend Court, the case manager ensures that the victim is offered accompaniment. They provide a wide range of supports and assistance to victims, moving beyond a focus on Court-based issues to pure advocacy.

Wrap around support to victims is provided by: developing effective safety planning; helping victims navigate and understand the court process and provide court updates; ensuring victims' voice, interests and wishes are considered in court decisions; connecting victims to resources in the community; and following-up with victims until probation orders end and victims' safety is optimized.

HIGH RISK MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

HRMI is a very intensive and longer-term program with the capacity to work with up to 20-25 chronic high-risk domestic violence cases. Here, the HomeFront Case-management team works with both the victim and the offender.

HRMI Cases have an average intervention period of approximately 16.6 months and about 20% of clients requiring more than two years of intervention. Cases are closed only after the offender demonstrates one full year of compliance (i.e. no further domestic violence incidents or offenses).

HRMI cases present a high risk for homicide, as illustrated by a comparison of offender profile characteristics between offenders who have already committed a homicide (Ontario Death Review) and the HRMI offender group. Profile characteristics that point to high risk for homicide tend to be even higher among the HRMI cases than those identified among actual homicide cases.

HRMI is a collaborative community partnership program that works with extremely high risk domestic violence cases to provide in-depth assessment, enhanced monitoring, access to treatment and intensive support for victim safety.

HRMI partners believe that “if chronic high-risk domestic violence offenders receive collaborative, proactive, specialized and intensive case management, there will be a noticeable stabilization of the client, a more effective use of system resources, and ultimately a long-term reduction in chronic and severe incidents of domestic violence.”

EVALUATION & FRONTLINE

HomeFront is an internationally recognized coordinated community response to domestic violence, in large part due to the extensive and comprehensive evaluations it has been subjected to. The evaluations have directly lead to province-wide initiatives, such as the mandated offender treatment program and establishment of other specialized responses in Alberta.

HomeFront uses a variety of different evaluation tools and approaches to help describe HomeFront clients, services as well as outcomes. The evaluation efforts primarily focus on what services work (or not) for what sub-section of clients.

An evaluation framework and program logic model help determine to what extent the proposed outcomes of the service have been achieved, including any unintended impacts of the service. The evaluation framework is also used to determine the impact of this integrated and collaborative service model on achieving outcomes, including what factors assisted program development and service delivery, what issues/challenges were experienced and what improvement and further development are required.

Frontline is HomeFront’s innovative data collection and reporting database advancing domestic violence research and coordination of information across multiple systems.

Frontline represents one of the largest and most unique repositories of its type across North America as it combines court, police and community service data for several thousand clients each year. The database is used to gather the following types of information:

- Client’s demographic, background and stability data, including gender, date of birth, ethno-cultural background, immigration status and related information, as well as clients’ employment and education;
- Assessment information, as gathered through the assessment which combines elements from several well-known assessment tools such as the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA), Brief Spousal Assault for the Evaluation of Risk (B-Safer) and Family Violence Investigation Report (FVIR);
- Service provision information, including types of services provided, referrals made, as well as length, frequency and efficiency of intervention, also gathered in Frontline.



MANDATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREATMENT

HomeFront oversees the provision of community-based treatment services primarily in Calgary and in partnership with established Calgary treatment programs and where required in surrounding areas.

A primary goal of HomeFront is to ensure effective offender accountability, treatment and eventual incorporation into positive social roles and responsibilities. Included in this primary goal is the aim to eliminate violence and to assist the abuser in taking responsibility for his/her abusive behaviours, ultimately, ensuring the long-term safety of the abusers immediate victim and potential future partners.

These community based treatment services provide counselling to clients who are mandated for domestic violence counselling by family or criminal court order.

Every client being seen in Calgary and receiving Family Violence Treatment Program funding has a condition of their court order “to attend for and complete domestic violence counselling.”

Currently, there are three agencies in Calgary and one agency in Airdrie, with whom HomeFront contracts to provide domestic violence programming for mandated offenders. The YWCA Sheriff King Home provides counselling using primarily a group counselling format. The Calgary Counselling Centre (CCC), North Rockyview Community Links, and Immigrant Services Calgary (ISC) use a combination of individual and group counselling. Immigrant Services Calgary programs focus on immigrant and diverse clients who might have cultural concerns associated with their domestic violence issues.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CALGARY

We know that domestic violence can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity or socio-economic status... Those faced with domestic violence are your neighbours, co-workers, friends and family.

HomeFront created a heat map to visually represent where domestic violence occurs in Calgary. We can tell you that there are no boundaries to this issue; domestic violence impacts every single quadrant of our city.

“We know that domestic violence can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity or socio-economic status,” said Maggie MacKillop, Executive Director. “Now we have a visual to represent this fact. Those faced with domestic violence are your neighbours, co-workers, friends and family.”

While this map demonstrates domestic violence in all areas of Calgary, it also shows that HomeFront is in all areas of Calgary.

While this data is sobering, research shows that only a small percentage of victims (37% of women, and 17% of men) report domestic violence.

HomeFront addresses 100% of charged domestic violence incidents in Calgary. Results of HomeFront’s response produce an 83% reduction of re-offense rates 3-years post intervention.

HomeFront’s coordinated community response to domestic violence also supports the broader community education and awareness initiatives targeting broader public and service delivery sectors involved in early prevention initiatives.

As an organization based on a foundation of collaboration, HomeFront is in constant pursuit of new and innovative ways to work in partnership with other agencies in the community and justice systems to enhance our impact in our community. HomeFront engages partners that help ensure everyone has the opportunity to a life free of domestic violence regardless of age, culture, language, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status.

Victims of domestic violence can face additional barriers that prevent them from taking the steps necessary to seek help.

An individual may be hesitant to report the abuse because in order to access services, they may have to ‘out’ themselves, and this can create isolation as they may fear losing their safety network. Other individuals may be hesitant to come forward because of the misconception that the abuse is mutual, or they might feel there is a lack of specialized resources available for them.

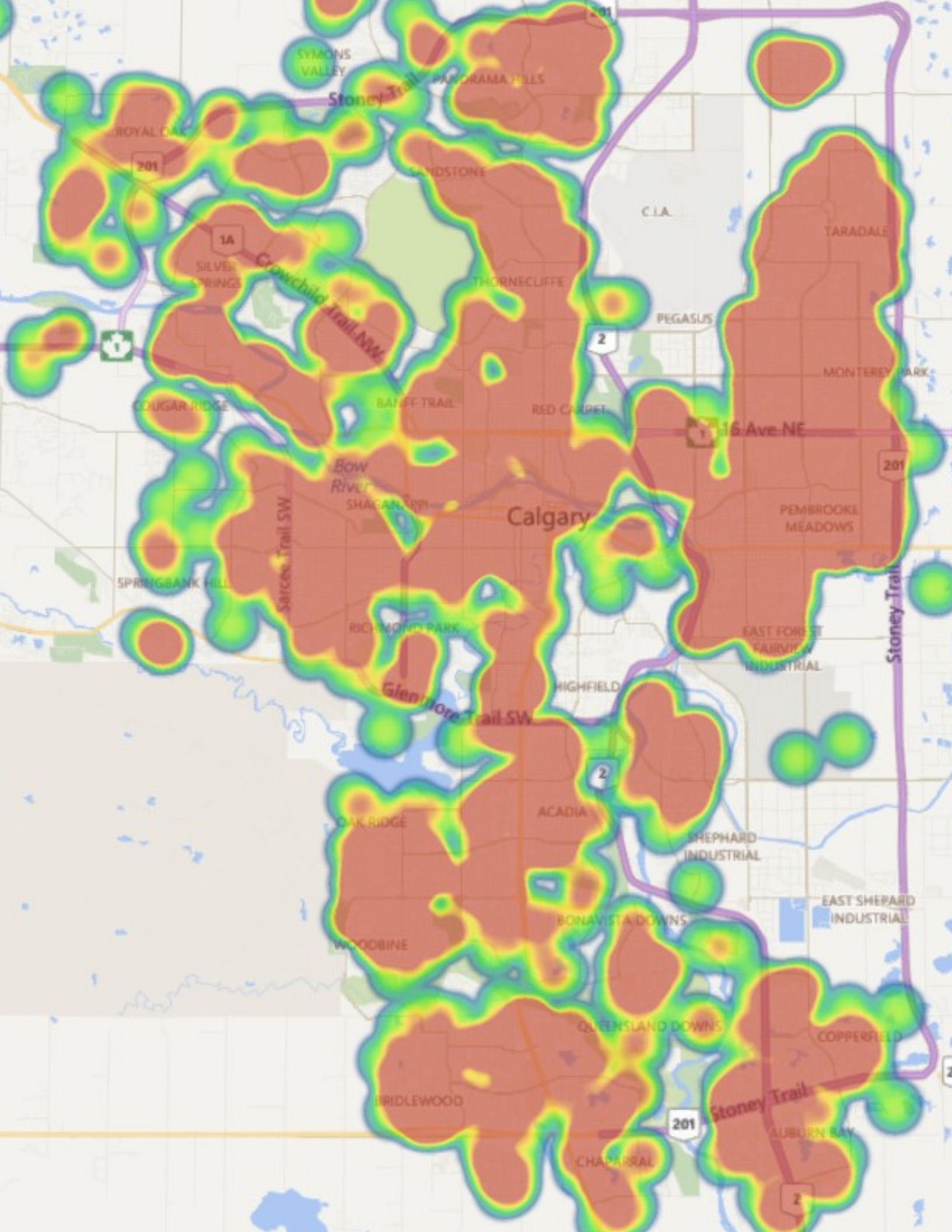
HomeFront works to leverage partnerships in the community, to reduce barriers and create equitable service delivery for diverse populations including, but not limited to Indigenous people, new immigrants, deaf and hard of hearing, people with disabilities, and people who identify as LGBTQ2S+.

We partner with community experts and culturally competent organizations to learn from and enhance the coordinated community response to domestic violence.

HomeFront does not exist to solve complex issues alone – it’s through our diverse and inclusive partnerships that we are better able to impact the community.

This heat map was created using client data to visually represent where domestic violence occurs in Calgary.

We can tell you that there are no boundaries to this issue; domestic violence impacts every single quadrant of our city.



THE COST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HomeFront is an integrated part of the justice system and since the inception of HomeFront in 2000, domestic violence re-offense rates in Calgary have been cut in half and victim engagement in the justice process has more than doubled. Victims are safer, offenders are being held accountable and families are being given their best chance at a future free from domestic violence.

The results of intervention in domestic violence situations are not felt by a single individual but are a part of a complete network of outcomes related to families, child success and the community overall.

This results in decreased feelings of victimization and pain and suffering from conflict. It increases feelings of empowerment and moves families from guilt and shame to resolution of core issues.

Children in these situations are positively impacted by improved family functioning, allowing them to stay with their families, succeed in school, interact with their peers in a healthy way as well by learning healthy relationship models within their family.

Children who witness violence or abuse or who are abused in domestic relationships are profoundly affected by their experience. Several studies have shown that children who have witnessed family violence may be more likely to approve of the use of violence for conflict resolution (Carlson, 1991; Jaffe et al, 1986; Hotton, 2003).

Research has demonstrated that exposure to domestic violence can negatively affect children's social, emotional, physiological and cognitive development, as well as and behaviour. Children who witness violence in the home display higher rates of depression, anxiety and other emotional problems as compared to other children (Dauvergne and Johnson, 2001; Holden and Richie, 1991; Hotton, 2003).

Moreover, data suggests that such exposure has long term consequences for the well-being of these children, ultimately affecting their adult functioning, including difficulty establishing and sustaining healthy intimate relationships and the intergenerational transmission of violence (McNeal & Amato, 1998).

At any point in the criminal justice process, victims or their children may be involved with a number of other community agencies, such as: first or second stage shelters, peer support organizations, community-based programs which target diverse client groups, and programs for children and youth.

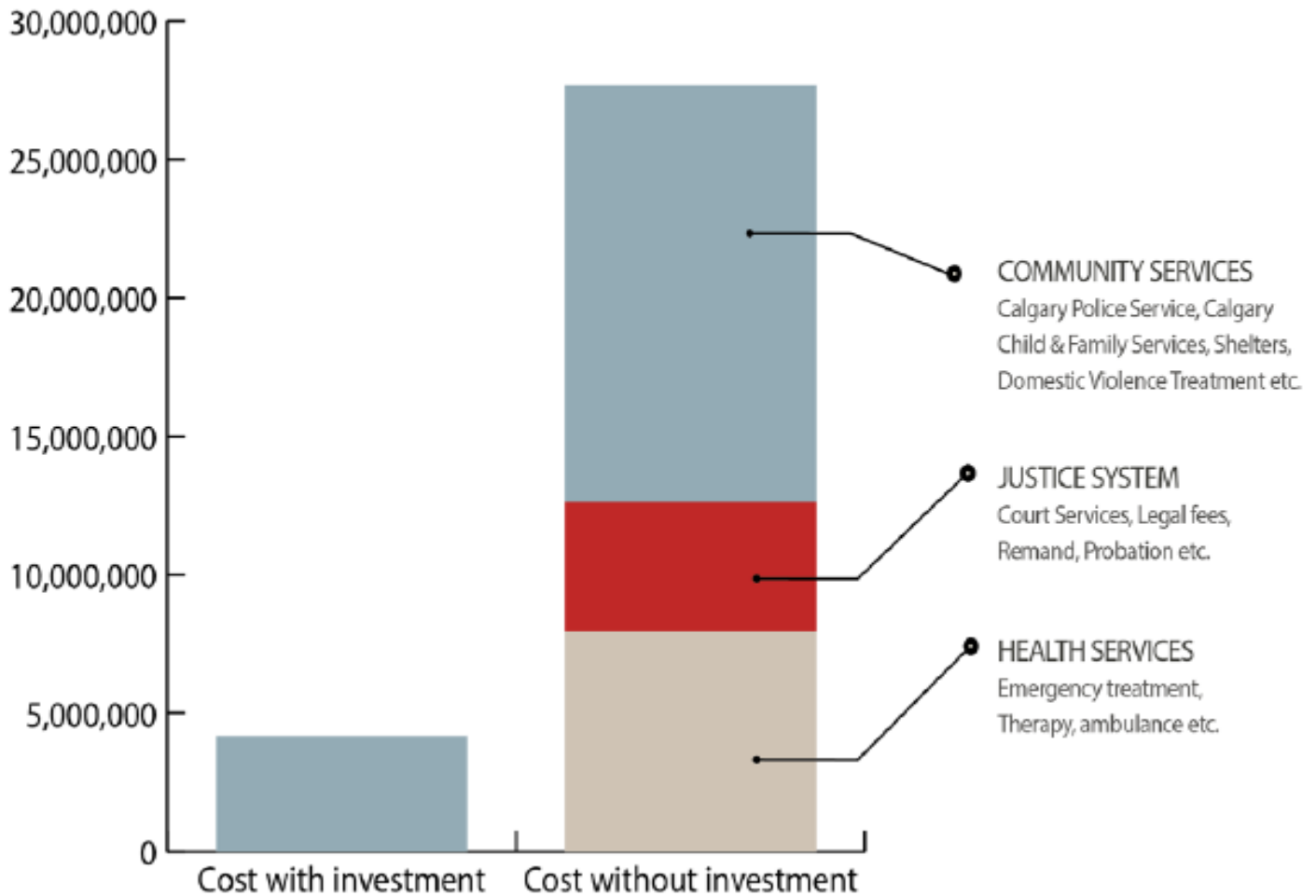
Research indicates that victims' services play an important role in connecting victims to practical, community-based supports. Thelen (1999, U.S.) says that coordinated community responses are built on a recognition that the period of intervention and separation can be a very dangerous time for the victim.

Protective services such as emergency housing, educational/support groups and advocacy in the legal, medical and welfare systems may increase victim safety.

Tutty and Rothery (2002, Can.) found that victims struggle with a number of practical concerns, related to safety, legal difficulties (especially regarding custody and access to children), employment, housing and finances.

Domestic violence researchers also point out that victims of domestic violence are often isolated from social supports and networks by their abusive partners and therefore may not have the means to connect with needed help and resources themselves.

HomeFront's long-term impact is producing tangible results by not only preventing families from re-entering the justice system, but by ending domestic violence in their life. The investment to maintain HomeFront service delivery is minimal compared to the alternative cost of chronic recidivism and higher-risk for domestic homicide.



The Calgary Police Service (CPS) reported over 21,000 domestic conflict calls for service in 2018. By the end of 2018, there were a little over 5,000 violent domestic incidents. This represents a 48% increase in reported domestic violence over the 5-year average. While this data is sobering, research shows that only a small percentage of victims (37% of women, and 17% of men) report domestic violence.

When domestic violence escalates to the point of needing intervention from major systems, the cost can be as high as \$15,000 per incident. However, through HomeFront intervention, 83% of people¹ report no further violence 3-years post HomeFront intervention.

HomeFront prevents families from returning to the justice system, creating a cost avoidance of \$27,000,000² each year for the justice system, community and health services. Most importantly, these families no longer experience domestic violence, creating long-term impact and positive outcomes for the community beyond what is measurable.

1. 2014-2015 first-time offenders, 3-year post HomeFront file closure analysis of recidivism.

2. HomeFront fiscal 2018-2019 first-time offenders n = 2100.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HOMEFRONT IN ACTION?

Join us for a tour of Calgary's Specialized Domestic Violence Court and learn how collaboration saves lives. To learn more and/or to book a tour, please contact, justin@homefrontcalgary.com

THE INVESTMENT IN HOMEFRONT

Together with our partners, HomeFront is working towards a common vision to significantly reduce the incidence and repeat nature of domestic violence in Calgary. Our ability to support families in Calgary is made possible by the investment from our funders.

OUR FUNDERS

2019-2020

Foundations

Dragon Heart Foundation
JC Anderson Family Foundation

Corporate Partners

Annapolis Capital Limited
ATB Financial
Checker Transportation Group
Graycon Group a Div. of Ricoh Canada Inc.
TransAlta Corporation

Government of Alberta

Alberta Health Services
- Provincial Family Violence Treatment Program

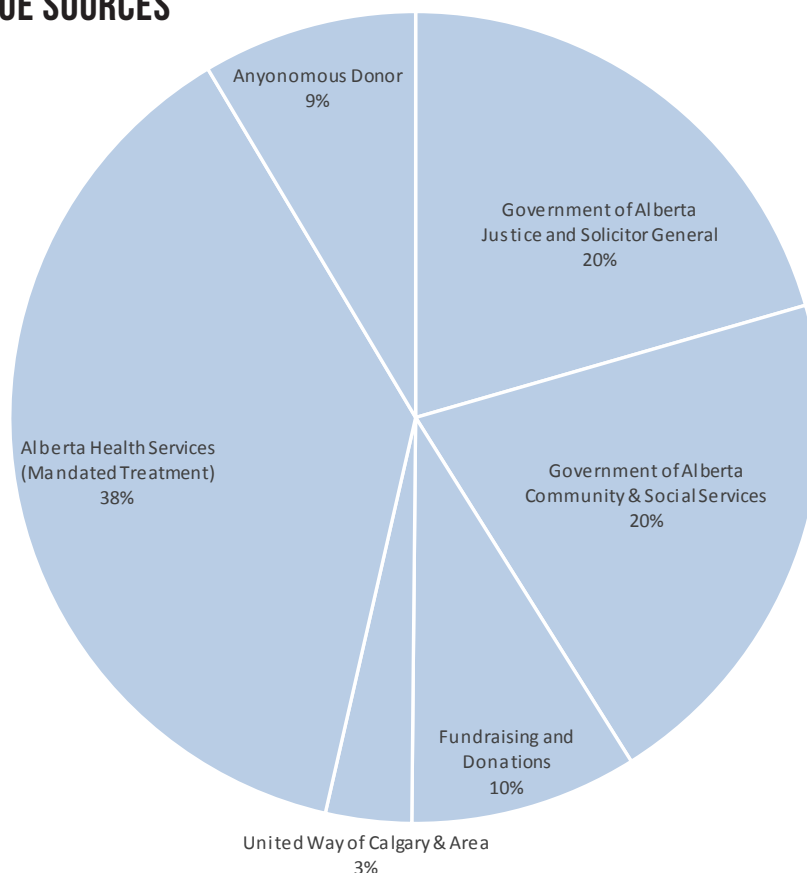
Community and Social Services
- Coordinated Community Response

Justice & Solicitor General
- Victims of Crime Fund

United Way of Calgary and Area

PROJECTED REVENUE SOURCES

2019-2020



TOMORROW STARTS TODAY

As HomeFront approaches our 20-year anniversary, we look back and celebrate our milestones, refine our diverse coordinated response to domestic violence, and look to the future with our strategic plan clearly directed by our mission and vision.



2018-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

HomeFront has embarked on a bold strategic plan entitled Legacy. Our legacy is founded on fearless innovation, deep collaboration, and an unwavering commitment to create a better tomorrow, today.

Over the next three years we plan to advance best-practice research and respond to the growing need of our services. We will continue advancing our mission and vision through bold and innovative solutions to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable.

CALGARY INDIGENOUS COURT

In early September, the Calgary Indigenous Court (CIC) officially opened. This specialized court takes a peacemaking and restorative justice approach and everyone is considered a participant, including the accused, victim, judge, prosecutor, defence lawyer, and all community agencies involved.

HomeFront is one of the agencies at the table and is there to support Indigenous victims. It was important for HomeFront to be part of this specialized courtroom to ensure that Indigenous families are receiving culturally appropriate services from HomeFront and the Justice system.



HOMEFRONT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

2020 marks HomeFront's 20th year anniversary. Work is underway to commemorate this important milestone with our community partners, international delegates, funders and founders during a special celebration that will be held in April 2020.

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

When headlines don't contain words like arson, shooting, or domestic homicide we take quiet pleasure in knowing that Calgary's coordinated community justice response is doing exactly what it's meant to do, changing and saving lives.

But when headlines read, "Inmate escapes from Bowden prison", we know there is more to the story, and increased risk for everyone either directly, or indirectly, connected to the offender.

This inmate was convicted of burning down his former spouse's home, and destroying her car by pouring acid on it and slashing the tires. The victim was the target of a "vengeful rampage" when the relationship ended.

What wasn't reported in the news was the quick, coordinated action that ensued following the offender's escape, and the web of supports that emerged almost instantly for everyone impacted by the incident.

Within hours of the escape, Calgary Police and a HomeFront Case Manager were conferencing to determine the location of the victim. Police knew that because HomeFront had a relationship with the victim they could help.

Any chance to surround and engage the victim with a circle of safety and support would be through this relationship.

As soon as the Case Manager determined the victim was safe, she and police met her at her place of employment, to discuss all of the options available, and to escort her to pick-up her son from daycare.

In the mean time, police acted swiftly to establish undercover presence in the neighborhoods they believed the offender would head toward.

The HomeFront case manager spent time with the victim, her son and new common-law spouse, answering questions and helping them develop a comprehensive safety plan should the accused contact her by phone or in person. Police remained with the family, including the placement of a marked police car remained outside their home, until the offender was apprehended.

During less than 48 hours of freedom, the offender victimized several Calgarians, including three children, as he knocked on doors, screaming and yelling.

When police found him, he was sitting quietly in the backyard of one such victim. Persons contacted by the offender were frightened and traumatized by the event, and again, police knew exactly who to call to support the victims of the offender's rampage.

Police, well trained in domestic violence and trauma, recognized their need for support and immediately contacted HomeFront. On Saturday evening, HomeFront's Director of Operations and High Risk Management Initiative Coordinator, took the call and went straight to police head quarters to listen, engage and support the offenders most recent victims.

Over the course of two days, HomeFront ensured the safety and well being of victims; consulted with police in keep victims and their families safe; and supported those affected by the offender during his escape from Bowden prison. In doing so, police were freed up to exercise their surveillance expertise and apprehended the offender before extreme violence occurred.

When asking the Former Staff Sergeant, Dan Walker, about the incident and HomeFront's engagement, Walker simply stated, "I called who I trusted to get the job done. I called HomeFront. If faced with similar circumstances, I would do it again."

Prior to HomeFront, this scenario might have played out much differently – but thanks to a long-term relationship between HomeFront and Calgary Police Service, through specialized information-sharing agreements – we are able to act swiftly, hold the offenders accountable, and keep victims safe.



**I CALLED WHO I TRUSTED TO GET THE JOB DONE.
I CALLED HOMEFRONT. IF FACED WITH SIMILAR
CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD DO IT AGAIN.**

- DAN WALKER, FORMER STAFF SERGEANT, CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

OUR LEGACY

As we plan for the future - we know every ounce of HomeFront's knowledge and experience will be called on to address the complex changes and challenges of domestic abuse in Calgary and beyond.

HomeFront recognizes that Domestic Violence is a multi-faceted and complicated issue, with those affected falling along a spectrum. As such, we acknowledge that a single service cannot address the needs of all those impacted.

Our strength is truly in our ability to work together to help people move along a continuum of solutions that empower them to live a life free of domestic violence.

Together, we look forward to working with you to continue making a difference and helping to ensure a healthy legacy for everyone who calls Alberta home.



Maggie MacKillop
Executive Director, HomeFront



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