

# Coalition Against Family Violence

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## Territorial Expansion Evaluation Report

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## Abbreviations

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Coalition	Coalition Against Family Violence
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
NWT	Northwest Territories

## Introduction

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In January 2008, the Status of Women Council of the NWT was provided funding under the Rural Secretariat's Networking Initiative to find a local solution to local challenges specific to addressing family violence in the NWT. Specifically, the Status of Women Council of the NWT proposed to expand the membership of the NWT Coalition Against Family Violence (the Coalition) to include regional partnerships in order to achieve the following four objectives:

1. inform communities about the work of the Coalition;
2. increase the involvement of communities outside of Yellowknife in the Coalition activities;
3. raise awareness of family violence issues and promote community based prevention activities; and
4. allow regional members an opportunity to provide feedback on Coalition initiatives.

Membership would be increased by bringing local concerns and innovative solutions to the territorial decision-making table. Ultimately it was hoped that strengthened partnerships with regional members would lead to appropriate regional initiatives outside of Yellowknife that would meet community needs related to addressing family violence issues specific to their area; thereby increasing the regional coordination of Coalition activities throughout the NWT.

As part of the Contribution Agreement with Rural Secretariat, an evaluation component is required as per the Performance Measurement Framework identified in Section IV in the Territorial Expansion Proposal Schedule A. This evaluation component requires that the Status of Women Council of the NWT evaluate the effectiveness and level of contribution that it had in contributing to its community capacity building efforts (specifically as it relates to developing and transferring knowledge or information about both the Coalition specifically as well as family violence in general). A set of both qualitative and quantitative data were provided in the Agreement in order for the Status of Women Council of the NWT to report on the extent to which it was able to achieve its immediate and intermediate outcomes, and compare this achievement to the extent of impact made on its overall objectives.

This report reflects the evaluation of the Coalition's Territorial Expansion, and is separated into five other sections:

- Rationale and Delivery Approach;
- Methodology and Data Limitations of the Evaluation;
- Territorial Expansion Findings;
- Analysis;
- Strategy for developing a Territorial Expansion; and
- Conclusions.

## Rationale and Delivery Approach of the Coalition's Territorial Expansion<sup>1</sup>

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### Rationale and Origin

At five times the national average, the number of reported spousal assaults in the NWT is one of the highest in the country next to Nunavut. Police statistics indicate that women in the three northern Territories

- experience higher levels of sexual assault and homicide,
- are more likely to report spousal violence to the police, but
- are less likely to use social services in response to a violent act.

In order to address these statistics, Victims' Services Programs, community counselling resources that specially address the issue of family violence, and healing resources for perpetrators of violence outside of the correctional system are very limited in the NWT. As a result, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is faced with important challenges in providing criminal justice and social services to the large, sparsely populated geographic areas of the NWT.

Centralized government and non-government agencies operating out of Yellowknife cannot effectively address family violence without networking and partnering with communities outside of Yellowknife. Currently, the Coalition is comprised largely of people that live in Yellowknife because most communities are fly-in and it is expensive to bring people in for meetings. Given language and cultural differences, it is also difficult to conduct meetings by conference call. Major decisions are being made around the prevention of family violence, the design of community responses to family violence, and treatment options particularly in relation to perpetrators of abuse without input from communities. It is therefore proposed that the Territorial Expansion of the Coalition will generate regional networks that feed into a territorial decision making body where regions will have more input on the development of programs that will directly impact their communities.

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<sup>1</sup> This information was adapted from the Background Section of Schedule A of the Networking Initiative DRAFT Schedule of Activities and Objectives.

## Delivery Approach

The Terms of Reference indicates that the Status of Women Council of the NWT and the NWT Native Women's Association are co-chairs of the Coalition<sup>2</sup>. The Coalition is a territorial interagency group that brings together non-government and government agencies to share information and undertake projects in keeping with its mandate to improve prevention of and response to family violence in the NWT. The Coalition began meeting in 1999 and has 22 active partners including the GNWT, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Heritage, Status of Women Canada, John Howard Society, and other community or government organizations as well as individuals. The Coalition operates solely on the volunteer work of these partners, which include up to 37 members, to develop and deliver projects.

Coalition Projects have been managed and administered by the Status of Women Council of the NWT. As a result the Coalition's previous projects, the NWT Action Plan on Family Violence was developed in 2003 and the GNWT responded with a plan called *A Framework for Action* in 2004. Most recently, the Coalition completed work on a second plan addressing family violence entitled *A Framework for Action Phase II*. This development of this Framework was undertaken with equal partnership between the GNWT and the non-government sectors, and has been submitted to GNWT for funding.

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<sup>2</sup> Due to turnover in the Executive Director position at the Native Women's Association, it has been difficult to for their co-Chair position to be filled.

## **Methodology and Data Limitations**

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As identified in the Introduction, the Performance Measurement Framework identified in Schedule A of the Territorial Expansion Proposal is what guided this evaluation effort. The Performance Measurement Framework includes the expected outcomes, their associated performance indicators, and the data source from which to collect the appropriate information. The data collected as per the anticipated outcomes and their associated performance indicators are included in the next section referencing the Evaluation Findings. In order to collect the performance information, the following methodology was undertaken:

- Developed an evaluation form, information packaged, and presentation material for regional information sessions in January 2008 as approved by the Coalition. This met the Activity 1 requirement of Schedule A, Section V of the Territorial Expansion Proposal.
- Hired a contractor as well as a local resident to provide the presentations in five communities: Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Good Hope, Dettah, and Fort Providence. As well, the presentation was provided to the Status of Women Council of the NWT Territorial Board of Directors meeting. In total, 61 participants attended these sessions and 52 evaluation surveys were returned. This represents an 85% response rate. This met Activity 2 requirements of the Schedule A, Section V of the Territorial Expansion Proposal.
- Gathered information specific to the Coalition and its activities, as well as family violence in general during each of the presentations (to the extent possible). As well, at least 24 new members were recruited to the Coalition. This also met Activity 2 requirements of Schedule A, Section V of the Territorial Expansion Proposal.
- Created and disseminated this report for feedback from the Coalition members in June 2008. This met Activity 3 requirements of the Schedule A, Section V of the Territorial Expansion Proposal.

### **Data Limitations**

There are three major limitations to the data collected for this evaluation effort, including insufficient time to conduct presentations, and second party data collection.

**Late funding**

Funding for the Territorial Expansion Project was not received until February 2008. This left only two months (up to March 31, 2008) to conduct the activities as anticipated in the Project proposal. For example, it was problematic to conduct some of the community presentations as originally anticipated due to conflicting schedules during the February-March timeframe. As a result, three different communities (Fort Good Hope, Dettah, and Fort Providence) replaced those communities (Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, and Deline) who did not have a local resident to help facilitate or were challenged by conflicting schedules.

**Insufficient time to conduct presentations**

For two of the five communities the contractor attended, there was insufficient time to conduct the full presentation and therefore, the discussion questions were either partially or not at all conducted. Accordingly, the results could not be reported per community, and instead are reported as per the total number of respondents who provided information during the presentations.

**Second party data collection**

The intent of the Territorial Expansion proposal was such that one facilitator would conduct all presentations for consistency purposes. However, due to unforeseen medical circumstances, the original facilitator was only able to conduct one community presentation and two other facilitators were hired to conduct the remaining five. Although the same set of discussion questions was provided to each of the three facilitators, their interpretation of how to present those results was different. Therefore, the analysis provided herein is completed to the extent that the information provided to the evaluator is assumed to be complete and valid.

## Territorial Expansion Findings

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As noted above, the Performance Measurement Strategy in the Territorial Expansion Proposal as well as the facilitated discussions set the direction for data collection and analysis related to this evaluation effort. In order to be able to identify how the Coalition can address its four objectives and conduct a Territorial Expansion, the data in the Performance Measurement Strategy as well as the facilitated discussions needed to first be collected and analysed. This analysis is presented in this section and is organized by the immediate outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and facilitated discussions. Reporting is focussed on each performance indicator associated to each immediate and intermediate outcome and each question associated with the facilitated discussions.

### Immediate Outcomes

**Outcome:** Enhanced capacity to increase awareness of family violence issues and the Coalition, and increase understanding of regional needs regarding family violence and the Coalition’s role

Indicator	Result
Extent to which regions engage with the information provided	<p><b>N=47</b> The majority of respondents (74%) agreed that they felt engaged with the information provided.</p>
Extent to which regions express satisfaction with the information and sessions and provide constructive feedback in the evaluations	<p><b>Information provided (N=48)</b> – the majority of respondents (90%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with the information provided in the discussion sessions.</p> <p><b>Sessions overall (N=46)</b> – the majority of respondents (87%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with the discussion sessions overall.</p> <p>Constructive feedback was provided in the evaluations in so far as 85% of participants completed an evaluation form and facilitated discussions were undertaken across five communities outside of Yellowknife as well as at the Status of Women Council of the NWT Territorial Board Meeting.</p>

**Outcome:** Enhanced understanding of what regions need and want regarding family violence issues, and enhanced regional understanding of family violence and the Coalition's role

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Result</b>
Number of regions that participated in the development/hosting of the sessions	<b>N=5</b> – South Slave; Beaufort Delta; Sahtu; and Dehcho; North Slave. This represented all NWT regions.
Number of sessions and participants at each of the regional sessions, and the extent to which the participants play a community capacity building role	<p><b>N=6 sessions; N=61 participants</b>                      The following number of participants attended each of the six sessions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inuvik – there were 10 participants. However, because this presentation was conducted during a regular Interagency Meeting, time constraints prevented the discussions from taking place in full.</li> <li>2. Dettah – there were 14 participants. However, because the presentation was added into a two-day Trauma Workshop, time constraints prevented the discussions from taking place in full.</li> <li>3. Fort Good Hope – 11 participants</li> <li>4. Status of Women Council of the NWT Territorial Board of Director workshop – 5 participants</li> <li>5. Hay River – there were 14 participants</li> <li>6. Fort Providence – there were 5 participants</li> </ol> <p>All summary session reports identify that, where time permitted, each participant played a community capacity building role by engaging in the discussions</p>
Extent to which the regions gained a better understanding of family violence issues and the Coalition's role	<p><b>Better understanding of family violence (N=50)</b> – the majority of respondents (88%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of family violence as a result of the information session</p> <p><b>Better understanding of family violence issues in the NWT (N=51)</b> – the majority of respondents (92%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of family violence issues in the NWT as a result of the information session</p> <p><b>Coalition's role (N=51)</b> – the majority of respondents (84%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of the Coalition's role as a result of the information session</p>
Extent to which the Coalition gained a better understanding of the region's needs wants and assets	Follow up with the Coalition identified that they learned a lot about the region's needs and wants, especially as it related to needing to change presentations to meet the specific needs of each community and find other additional, meaningful means to promote the work of the Coalition outside of Yellowknife.

**Outcome:** Strengthened regional partnerships and increased membership from the regions

Indicator	Result
Number of regional participants joining the Coalition or expressing an interest to join the Coalition	<p><b>N=24</b> – there were 24 applications submitted as expression of interest to join the Coalition. These applications were submitted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Providence = 4</li> <li>• Fort Good Hope = 6</li> <li>• Inuvik = 2</li> <li>• Hay River = 12</li> </ul>
Number, type, and depth of regional partnerships developed	Partnerships were not formalized at the time of writing this report. Rather, the Coalition members agreed to move forward with addressing the findings of this report to implement an appropriate strategy to expand the Coalition’s partnership/membership base.

**Outcome:** Strengthened direction for regional membership and networking

Indicator	Result
Extent to which the regional strategy report for the Coalition serves to strengthen direction for regional membership and networking	When follow up with the Coalition was undertaken specific to the draft of this report, the members identified that the report provided a good starting point for how to move forward in its expansion beyond Yellowknife. However, concern was raised as to how to implement that expansion considering the limited resources that existed; identifying that once a precedent was developed to include more members, then the commitment would need to continue in order to successfully build capacity at the community level.
Extent to which the report and evaluation results, to include the regional strategy for the Coalition are disseminated to the appropriate community and government stakeholders	When follow up with the Coalition was undertaken specific to the draft of this report, the members identified that the report should be available to anyone who asks for it. Specifically, a letter of invite for people to attain copies should be distributed and copies of the report should be provided directly to those who helped with the consultation as well as, MLAs, Band Chiefs, municipal governments, and community leaders. A suggestion was also made to post the report electronically on a website.

## Intermediate Outcomes

**Outcome:** Enhanced knowledge in the five regions about the work of the NWT Coalition Against Family Violence

Indicator	Result
Extent to which the regions gained a better understanding of the work of the NWT Coalition Against Family Violence	<p><b>N=52</b> The majority of respondents (83%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of the work of the Coalition as a result of the presentation</p>

**Outcome:** Increased active participation from regions in Coalition meetings and events

Indicator	Result
Number of sessions and participants at each of the regional sessions, and the extent to which the participants play a community capacity building role	<p><b>N=6 sessions; N=61 participants</b> The following number of participants attended each of the six sessions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inuvik – there were 10 participants. However, this session could not conduct formal consultation due to time limitation.</li> <li>2. Dettah – there were 14 participants. However, time constraints prevented the discussions from taking place in full.</li> <li>3. Fort Good Hope – 11 participants</li> <li>4. Status of Women Council of the NWT Territorial Board of Director workshop – 5 participants</li> <li>5. Hay River – there were 14 participants</li> <li>6. Fort Providence – there were 5 participants</li> </ol> <p>All summary session reports identify that, where time permitted, each participant played a community capacity building role by engaging in the discussions</p>
Extent to which regional participants indicate their intention to participate in future Coalition meetings and events	<p><b>Participate in future Coalition meetings (N=52)</b> – the majority of respondents (81%) felt that they would either very likely or most likely would participate in future Coalition meetings</p> <p><b>Participate in future Coalition events (N=51)</b> – the majority of respondents (80%) felt that they would either very likely or most likely would participate in future Coalition events</p>

**Outcome:** Increased awareness of family violence issues and knowledge of community based prevention activities

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Result</b>
<p>Extent to which the regional participants gained a better understanding of family violence issues and knowledge of community based prevention activities</p>	<p><b>Better understanding of family violence (N=50)</b> – the majority of respondents (88%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of family violence as a result of the information session</p> <p><b>Better understanding of family violence issues in the NWT (N=51)</b> – the majority of respondents (92%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of family violence issues in the NWT as a result of the information session</p> <p><b>Better understanding of family violence prevention activities that are happening in my community (N=35)</b> – the majority of respondents (71%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of family violence prevention activities that are happening in their community as a result of the information session</p> <p><b>Better understanding of family violence prevention activities that are happening in my region (N=52)</b> – the majority of respondents (62%) agreed that they gained a better understanding of family violence prevention activities that are happening in their region as a result of the information session</p>

**Outcome:** Increased engagement of communities outside of Yellowknife in the development of a regional strategy around family violence issues and community based prevention activities

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Result</b>
<p>Extent to which regional participants in direct community capacity building activities are applying their knowledge and skills to contribute to the regional strategy around family violence issues and community based prevention activities</p>	<p>When asked whether they agreed or disagreed with whether they could apply their recently gained skills and knowledge through the workshop, the following responses were elicited:</p> <p><b>Increasing awareness about family violence within your community (N=51)</b> – the majority of respondents (88%) agreed that they would be able to do so</p> <p><b>Increasing awareness about the NWT Coalition in your community (N=50)</b> – the majority of respondents (86%) agreed that they would be able to do so as a result of the Territorial Expansion</p> <p><b>Strengthening regional partnerships to prevent family violence (N=51)</b> – the majority of respondents (78%) agreed that they would be able to do so as a result of the Territorial Expansion.</p> <p>To determine whether the respondents are in fact applying their knowledge and skills would require further consultation beyond the scope of the Project proposal.</p>

**Outcome:** Increased regional membership, with active participation, which expands the territorial network of the Coalition Against Family Violence

Indicator	Result
Extent to which the Coalition is representative of the territorial community	When follow up with the Coalition was undertaken specific to the draft of this report, the members identified that further consultation would need to be undertaken with those who expressed interest to become an additional member of the Coalition in order to determine how best to implement the strategy for expansion. It was felt that this consultation could take multiple forms: teleconference, face-to-face meeting, surveys, etc. Resources would need to be identified in advance, and suggestions to look at the priorities in the Family Violence Action Plan as well other community events for supports were provided. In the interim however, it was agreed that letters welcoming those who expressed interest to join the Coalition would be mailed out.
Number of regional participants joining the Coalition or expressing an interest to join the Coalition	N=24 – there were at least 24 applications submitted as expression of interest to join the Coalition

## Facilitated Discussions

### **Question 1 If you were to define family violence, what would your response be?**

The definition of family violence provided in the *Framework for Action Phase II* document is

Family violence is an abuse of power within relationships of family, trust, or dependency. Family violence includes many different forms of abuse, mistreatment, or neglect that adults or children may experience in their intimate, kinship, or dependent relationships.<sup>3</sup>

When the participants defined family violence through this question, the responses were reflective of this definition. In addition, there was a key emphasis placed on Elder abuse, with many participants feeling as though this should be accurately defined in any definition of family violence (i.e. and not just specific reference to adults or children).

In defining family violence, the participants also identified various root causes of family violence. These included:

- School yard bullying;
- Lack of communication;
- Loneliness;
- Pain;
- Darkness, fear, and abandonment;
- Child apprehension;
- Drug abuse/drinking;
- Forcing kids to do things that they don't like to do; and
- Cycle of family violence.

### **Question 2 Knowing the definition, and keeping our discussions of how we have collectively defined family violence in mind, what would you say if I told you that family violence is five times the National average AND that reported assaults in the NWT is one of the highest in the country?**

The participants of the facilitated discussions had different opinions about this question. For some participants, they were not surprised by the data and in some cases felt that there might even be under-reporting due to the secrecy behind family violence and the tendency that only the serious offenses are being reported. For these stakeholders, it was understood that much more needed to be done to address family violence, to include a commitment from leadership/Government, watching over children more

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<sup>3</sup> *Framework for Action Phase II*, p. 5.

closely, and placing more efforts into prevention campaigns related to alcohol, drugs, and suicide.

Other participants however felt that statistics, especially in the area of family violence, should not always be believed, and lowering them should not be the sole focus of addressing family violence. For these participants, the main issue related to the fact that the numbers are likely to be highly underrepresented and representative of only the larger regional centres.

**Question 3 Are you aware of any prevention activities specific to family violence that are happening (or have happened) in your community and/or region?**

For the most part, participants were not aware of activities specifically geared toward family violence prevention that were taking place (or took place) in their community and/or region. Rather, these participants knew of programs that might address family violence issues (i.e. Wellness Programs, Family Life Programs, Safe Houses for Women and children), and instead knew more about who to contact to speak about or get information related to family violence issues, such as

- Victims Services;
- Social Services;
- Seniors Programs;
- Status of Women Council of the NWT;
- Native Women's Association;
- RCMP;
- Churches; and
- Counsellors.

Some concerns were also addressed by these participants in that the professionals are often hard to talk to in a small community where everyone knows everyone. For these participants, there is the perception that the professionals are already too busy and will not conduct confidentiality with the individual's concerns.

Only one of the 6 groups consulted could identify activities specific to family violence. These included,

- Take back the Night events;
- Family Violence Awareness Week;
- National Addictions Awareness Week;
- DARE Program;
- White Ribbon Campaign;
- Family Nights;

**Question 4 Before the presentation; were you aware of the NWT Coalition Against Family Violence and/or the activities it undertakes?**

Two of the six groups consulted could not answer this question due to lack of time to address it in the facilitated discussion. For the remaining groups consulted, people heard about the Coalition, and for the most part, were not aware of any of the activities that it undertook.

**Question 5: As part of the *Family Violence Action Plan*, the Coalition wants to expand its membership outside of Yellowknife to include regional and/or community-based partners. Would you see a benefit to expanding the Coalition's membership? It is hoped that this expansion would allow the Coalition to be better informed when bringing local concerns and innovative solutions to the territorial-decision making table.**

All participants that had time to answer this question agreed that the Coalition should expand its membership. For these participants it was felt that the more people knew about the Coalition, the better. It was anticipated that the expansion was a very positive plan to bring more resources to the community level where information is not often readily accessible or available.

**Question 6 What would be the best way for the Coalition to expand its membership at a territorial level?**

There were several themes that arose in the facilitated discussions pertaining to how best the Coalition could expand its membership at the Territorial level. These included:

- Develop a Coalition communications campaign with the intent to increase its advertising and promotion. Activities could include pamphlets, posters, radio advertisements, presentations/booths at Aboriginal Assemblies, school visits, etc.
- Visit communities more often to inform them of the Coalition and subsequently recruit a territorial-wide membership with those who are interested to be part of the work. Also visit schools and make home visits during consultation.
- Increase Chief and Council involvement in the Coalition activities and/or include them as part of the membership. Also include youth on the Coalition.

- Mass mail the Coalition kit.

**Question 7 How could the Coalition best interact with its expanded membership?**

There were several themes that arose in the facilitated discussions pertaining to how best the Coalition could expand its membership at the Territorial level. These included:

- Face-to-face meeting once per year, then meetings via teleconference or webcam other times as needed/scheduled
- Newsletter that identifies the roles and responsibilities of the Coalition members as well as the different activities undertaken
- Translating materials into all of the official languages of the NWT

**Question 8 What would entice you to join the Coalition?**

Where time permitted for this question to be answered, the following enticers were provided:

- Better promotion of the benefits of joining the Coalition so that individuals see it as a worthwhile endeavour (i.e. that it is about working together to break the cycle of abuse; making progress in bullying programs; education and awareness of family violence; opportunity provided to bridge the gaps; etc).
- Forming community-based coalitions and have one person report to Yellowknife
- Send out invitations to join, acknowledging the benefits as identified above
- Host more workshops geared towards the purpose of the Coalition, its activities, and benefits of becoming a member

## Analysis

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As part of the evaluation requirements of the Performance Measurement Framework in Schedule A of the Territorial Expansion Proposal, an analysis of the data in the Findings section should also determine:

- Where there were significant deviances from the original plan and why;
- What effect this has had on the success of the Territorial Expansion; and
- What lessons have been learned?

This information is reported by describing the overall successes and challenges presented by the Territorial Expansion Findings as well as the lessons learned. Based on this information, a strategy is identified in the next section of this report for developing a Coalition Territorial Expansion.

### Successes and Challenges

The Territorial Expansion Project was successful in providing six different presentations across five communities outside of Yellowknife as well as one directed to the Status of Women Council of the NWT Territorial Board Meeting. Participation was greatest in both Inuvik and Dettah, with 14 participants attending each. However, in both these sessions there was not enough time allotted to speak to all (or any) of the facilitated discussion questions presented.

Based on the 61 participants who did attend the facilitated discussions, the evaluation survey results confirmed that the majority of participants

- were engaged in the discussions;
- were satisfied with the information presented as well as the discussions overall;
- better understood family violence in general, family violence issues of the NWT specifically, as well as what the Coalition was and the activities it undertook;
- better understood what family violence prevention activities were taking place in their community and/or region;
- agreed to participate in future Coalition meetings and events; and
- were better equipped to strengthen regional partnerships to prevent family violence.

Another success of the facilitated discussions is the fact that at least 24 participants submitted membership forms to become part of the Coalition's Territorial Expansion.

Where the Territorial Expansion Project did not work so well is in targeting their anticipated communities. The challenge in doing so related to the need to alter the delivery of the workshops to accommodate those communities who could no longer adhere to the Project schedule and where the original facilitator was no longer able to conduct all of the presentations as planned. Recognizing these challenges, the Status of Women Council of the NWT quickly ensured that five communities outside of Yellowknife were still consulted.

The Project was also not successful in its expansion specific to formalizing memberships outside of Yellowknife based on the 24 membership forms that were submitted. This has much to do with the fact that the memberships could not be formalized until such a time that the Coalition agreed to a Strategy for expansion at the Territorial level. Based on follow up that was undertaken with the Coalition based on a draft version of this report, it was identified that further consultation would need to be undertaken with those that expressed interest to join in order to determine logistics of expanding the Coalition and what resources were available to do so. In the interim however, it was agreed that letters would be sent to welcome those members who expressed interest to join the Coalition.

### **Lessons Learned**

There was one learned by going through this Territorial Expansion process. These included:

- When a proposal is funded later than anticipated, ensure that the timing would still allow the proposal to be implemented as anticipated with the resources available. Otherwise, activities end up being implemented in a quicker pace than anticipated, resulting in instances where some activities could not be completed, and the Project not showing as much success as it could have if more time was dedicated to the Project. Ideally, a September – March timeframe would allow sufficient time to complete project activities.

## **Strategy for Developing a Coalition Territorial Expansion**

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Expanding the Coalition to include territory-wide membership will be critical for the Coalition to develop innovative solutions to address family violence at the community level, and across the NWT. The strategy that should be undertaken for this expansion includes one of increased promotion of the benefits of joining the Coalition; increased networking at the community level; and proactive mechanisms undertaken to communicate with the expanded membership.

Specifically, it is recommended that the Coalition should consider developing Regional Coalition Chapters where the Chair of each Regional Chapter sits on, and reports back to the Yellowknife-based Coalition (the NWT Coalition) as the Strategy for expanding its membership. Membership for each Regional Chapter should be collated from the membership forms collected during the facilitated discussions to determine how much of an interest exists in each Region to participate on the Coalition (as a start), and collect more as necessary.

The steps that should be undertaken to implement this Territorial Expansion Strategy include:

- Undertake face-to-face consultation with the regional membership to determine roles and responsibilities of the Chapter and its members. Also assign a Regional Chapter Chair that would sit on and report back to the NWT Coalition.
- In collaboration with the Regional Chapter Chairs and the NWT Coalition members, develop a Terms of Reference for the Territorial Expansion. This Terms of Reference should in the least, define roles and responsibilities, terms of the positions, meeting schedule and structure, and a clear communications path.
- Schedule at least one face-to-face meeting per year with the expanded Territorial Coalition (to include Yellowknife-based members and the Regional Chapter Chairs) to review activities to date, discuss successes and challenges, and present ideas for the following year. Interim meetings should be provided in the most cost-effective way, be it through teleconference, webcam, or otherwise. All meetings should be scheduled in advance to the extent possible.
- Develop a communications plan of the Coalition and its planned activities. This plan should in the least identify different mechanisms to promote the Coalition and its activities throughout the NWT as well as the logistics of doing so (i.e. relying on the Regional Chapter Chairs of the Coalition).
- Implement a monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the Coalition's expansion and the activities of the Coalition so as to ensure that it is progressing the way it intended, and can make any adjustments as necessary. The expertise of an evaluator should be consulted for this purpose and should be conducted prior to expanding the Coalition.

## Conclusions

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Results from this evaluation effort confirm that it is an appropriate time to consider expanding the membership of the Coalition at a territorial level. Specifically, the Strategy for expansion emphasizes the development of Regional Coalition Chapters that would consist of local regional Coalition members and one Chair that would sit on the NWT Coalition. Although this strategy was agreed in principle, it was identified that further consultation needs to be undertaken with those that expressed interest to join the Coalition to best determine how implementation of the strategy would occur and what resources could be available to do so.

In order to not lose the momentum that has been built to date, it is recommended that this consultation be undertaken before September 2008 in a consistent and economical manner. Assigning a key contact person to address the expansion of the Coalition will help with maintaining a consistent and economical manner.

## References

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