

2.0 Protocol Framework

The following beliefs and aims, which are consistent with those adopted by the Quinte Coordinating Committee Against Violence, have been endorsed by the signatory partners of this protocol.

2.1 We believe that:

2.1(a) All persons have the right to live free from the presence or threat of violence.

2.1(b) All persons have the right to be treated with equality in a sensitive and respectful manner, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation/preference, religion, ability/disability or age.

2.1(c) All persons found guilty of domestic and sexual violence must be held accountable for their actions through the criminal, civil and /or family court system and in accordance with the Criminal Code of Canada and/ or other relevant laws or legislation.

2.1(d) All interventions, programs and services shall hold perpetrators accountable for their violent and abusive behaviour.

2.1(e) Professional agencies, institutions, organizations and coordinating committees involved in the development, delivery, coordination and/or monitoring of services for victims of domestic/ sexual violence must be accountable to the victim and survivors of such violence.

2.1(f) Organizations, service-delivery sites and meeting locales must be fully accessible. Accessibility to language services will be provided.

2.1(g) All victims and survivors have the right to prompt, effective, responsible intervention and support to ensure that they are not re-victimized throughout the process of disclosure, investigation, prosecution and recovery.

2.1(h) Victims and survivors have the right and ability to make informed choices involving the specific type and duration of support, counseling and/or treatment they will receive throughout the disclosure, reporting, investigation and recovery process. These choices should be respected within the parameters of the law.

2.1(i) The prevalence, complexity and severity of violence demand a comprehensive, coordinated community response, which is inclusive of victims, survivors and perpetrators.