

Appendix A:

SASKATCHEWAN SURVEY OF SERVICE PROVIDERS TO EVALUATE THE AVAILABILITY OF AND NEED FOR "LESBIAN FRIENDLY" SERVICES FOR WOMEN ABUSED IN SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS

We need your help. Thank you for reading and responding to the following:

ABOUT THE STUDY

The Saskatchewan Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse in Lesbian Relationships received funding from Status of Women Canada to evaluate the availability of and need for "lesbian friendly" services for women abused in same-sex relationships. The Ad Hoc Committee is comprised of five members, being: [Gay & Lesbian Health Services of Saskatoon](#) (GLHS), the Lesbian Bisexual and Gay Health Initiative (LBGHI) (Regina), the [Provincial Association of Transition Houses of Saskatchewan](#) (PATHS), [Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan](#) (SASS), and the [University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Centre](#) (USSU LGB Centre). Virginia Fisher, Coordinator of PATHS, and Dawn McCarthy, Executive Director of SASS, are the staff members of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The attached questionnaire is being sent to some 135 abuse help agencies, such as yours, all over Saskatchewan. The more completed questionnaires we receive, the better picture we can develop of the availability of and need for "lesbian friendly" services for women abused in same-sex in specific areas of the province. Your feedback would therefore be extremely valuable. The completion of each questionnaire should take less than 20 minutes.

YOUR PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. All of the information collected as part of this survey is anonymous and will be kept confidential. You can discontinue completing the questionnaire at any time and you do not have to answer any question you do not want to. There will be no negative repercussions associated with a decision to decline participation. The majority of information resulting from this survey will be reported and presented publicly in aggregate form only. Reference to specific questionnaires will be made rarely and without any reference to identifying characteristics. The completed questionnaires will be stored in a secure manner such that no one other than the Ad Hoc Committee and its employees have access to the raw data.

If you have any questions about this questionnaire or the survey itself, please call Virginia Fisher at (306) 978-6654 or email her at paths@sk.sympatico.ca.

Having read the information presented above, do you wish to participate?

YES - Please return this form with the questionnaire in the attached envelope by November 30, 2001.

If you would like a copy of the resulting report, please send a separate request to the **Saskatchewan Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse in Lesbian Relationships** by FAX to (306) 978-6692 or by e-mail to paths@sk.sympatico.ca. Our preference will be to supply the report by Word attachment to an email, and by a link to a web site address where the report will be available in html, pdf and Word.

THANK YOU very much for your participation.

Abuse in Lesbian Relationships: Questionnaire for service providers

The purpose of this survey is to help determine the availability of and need for “lesbian friendly” services for women abused in same-sex relationships. This questionnaire can be completed by **any service provider in Saskatchewan that provides services for women who have experienced abuse in intimate relationships.**

Name of agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax/Email: _____

1. What services does your agency provide to abused women generally? (check all that apply)
shelter crisis line one-to-one counselling support groups referrals
other (please specify)_____

2. What does your agency know about abuse in lesbian relationships?
nothing very little some quite a bit

3. Does your agency consider sexual orientation to be a contributing factor to the challenges faced by women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships?
yes no

4. Does your agency consider issues in lesbian relationships to be something that requires specialized services? yes no **If no, please explain:**

If yes, what specialized services/supports do lesbians in abusive relationships need/want?

5. What general services has your agency knowingly provided to women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships? (check all that apply)
shelter crisis line one-to-one counselling support groups referrals
other (please specify)_____

6. What services has your agency provided specifically for women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships? (check all that apply)
shelter crisis line one-to-one counselling support groups referrals
other (please specify)_____

7. Please estimate the average number of self-identified lesbians who access your agency's programs/services per year: _____

8. Please estimate the average number of self-identified lesbians with same sex abuse issues who access your agency's programs/services per year: _____

9. Does/would your agency feel comfortable providing services to women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships?

yes no Please explain:

If no, what would help your agency feel more comfortable?

10. Does your agency have a specific response or protocol for dealing with a client who is or was in a abusive lesbian relationship? yes no Please explain:

11. Does your agency have counsellors who deal specifically with women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships?

yes no

12. Are you aware of barriers that might prevent lesbians from accessing the services of your agency? yes no Please explain:

13. What is your understanding of the term "homophobia"?

Does your agency have employees who could be described as homophobic? yes no

14. If your agency provides shelter services, does it have concerns about other residents being homophobic? yes no Please explain:

If your agency provides shelter services, does it have concerns about an abusive female partner getting into the shelter? yes no Please explain:

15. Have staff at your agency received training in providing ‘lesbian friendly’ services?
yes no

If yes, who provided this training:_____

16. Do you consider your agency’s services lesbian-friendly? yes no

If yes, what makes your agency’s services lesbian friendly?

If yes, what efforts does your agency make to inform the ‘lesbian community’ that your services are lesbian friendly?

no efforts

openly displays sexual minority material in its waiting room and offices (i.e. material depicting other than heterosexual relationships). If not, please explain:

openly advertises its services in sexual minority publications. If yes, where? If not, please explain:

other efforts (please specify)

If no (and even if yes), would your agency be interested in receiving training in providing lesbian friendly services? yes no **If no, please explain:**

17. Does your agency have an internal policy to protect lesbians from harassment or discrimination? yes no

18. Has your agency every received complaints or negative feedback related to sexual orientation issues from a lesbian client? yes no

19. How would your agency deal with a client who discloses discrimination or harassment within your agency because of her sexual orientation?

20. Does your agency refer women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships to other agencies? yes no
If yes, to whom do you refer?

21. Do you see gaps in the services your agency can provide to women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships? yes no Please explain:

23. What does your agency know about the services offered in Saskatchewan by abuse help agencies to women abused in lesbian relationships?
nothing very little some quite a bit

24. Do you see gaps in the services provided in Saskatchewan to women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships? yes no Please explain:

25. Have clients expressed to your agency that there are gaps in the services provided to women who have experienced abuse in lesbian relationships in Saskatchewan? yes no
Please explain:

Any other comments?

Thank you for contributing to our survey by completing this questionnaire.

This survey is being carried out by the Saskatchewan Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse in Lesbian Relationships.
Email paths@sk.sympatico.ca with questions/comments.