



## Tri-Provincial Research Call-out

PrairieAction Foundation (PAF) is committed to funding research on issues related to violence and abuse that leads positive change. PAF's goals are to specifically provides grant funds for research that engages in solution focused outcomes that lead to better programs that can keep our communities safer. At this time, PAF is calling for Tri-Provincial research to be conducted in the four specific areas outlined below.

This research must be conducted across the three prairie provinces, and the applicant (community organization or university) must be within Alberta, Saskatchewan, or Manitoba and **must have a charitable number** for a proposal to be considered.

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### 1. Understanding the Current Landscape of Abuse and Violence Against Persons with Disabilities Across the Prairie Provinces

The Canadian Survey on Disability (2017)<sup>1</sup> found that 22% of people in Canada 15 years or older have one or more disabilities. People with disabilities are at increased risk of abuse and violence compared to the general population due to their complex vulnerabilities. Understanding and monitoring their experiences is crucial in the development and implementation of policies that protect this population Various forms of abuse and violence such as intimate partner/family violence or workplace violence such as harassment or sexual assault against those with disabilities is significantly higher than those without and the systematic exclusion shows that people with disabilities struggle to access services and face barriers to services that can address abuse and violence and improve their well-being (Statistics Canada, 2022).<sup>2</sup>

PrairieAction Foundation would like to understand more about the current landscape of abuse and violence against people with disabilities and would like the following included as part of the research:

- What type of abuse or violence are people with disabilities experiencing (ie: financial, mental/emotional, physical, spiritual, or other)?
- Does the frequency of abuse or violence increase in the aging population?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.860384/publication.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240212/dq240212a-eng.htm>

- What is the health profession response to this issue? Does the health profession screen for abuse and violence in this vulnerable population?
- What barriers are experienced in reporting? Is there underreporting in this area?
- What are the responses to abuse and violence (ie: police, health, other system responses)?
- What barriers are experienced in service provisions for those who experience abuse or violence?
- Are there regional disparities (ie: rural vs urban and north/remote)?

This research must also include:

- A qualitative approach to understanding the lived experiences of people with disabilities who encounter abuse and violence;
- A review of the current literature;
- An environmental scan of stakeholders connected to topic area;
- Recommendations, if any, that may emerge from the findings of the research;
- Identification of the partnership between an academic and/or university (a faculty that can serve as a principal investigator for research) and community organizations that have experience/background on this issue for all three prairie provinces;
- A detailed budget that identifies any in-kind contribution and/or donations; and,
- Timelines for completion.

**NOTE:** Research must be conducted across all three prairie provinces (AB, SK, MB). As this research is to be conducted across all three prairie provinces, the applicant is considered the lead for the research and is responsible for the fund management and reporting requirements.

**NOTE:** Funding of up to \$150,000 is available for this research.

## **2. Employer Responses to Interpersonal Violence in the Workplace Across the Prairie Provinces**

Legislating protections for job leave due to experiences of interpersonal violence is a new response to an issue that has been plaguing our communities for decades. For instance, intimate violence as one form of interpersonal violence causes substantive harm in addition to impacting the overall wellbeing of the individual including their employment and employability.<sup>3</sup> The impact of this issue is evident in the workplace, and is only recently coming to the attention of employers who are responding.<sup>4</sup> Employers have a critical role in responding with viable solutions to support and assist those experiencing it. Some provinces such have made strides in changes to allow for paid leave in addition to other benefits for people who are experiencing interpersonal violence, whether in the family or from a partner. There is a little in the literature as to the corporate interventions on this issue which continues to be a prevalent matter across

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<sup>3</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10551-023-05461-6>

<sup>4</sup> <https://pathssk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PATHS-IPV-Workplace-Report-2018.pdf>

Canada, but especially across the prairie provinces which boasts the highest rates of both family and intimate partner violence in the country.<sup>5</sup>

PrairieAction Foundation would like to understand more about the following which is to be included as part of the research:

- What are the employer responses to interpersonal violence disclosed by employees in the workplace?
- What is the current legislation, regulations, or policies in the prairie provinces, if any, that inform the employer responsiveness to employees' experiences of interpersonal violence?
- What are the experiences of people who disclose to their employer their experience of interpersonal violence with respect to the response the employer takes?
  - How does it help/impact the person who is experiencing violence/abuse?

This research must also include:

- A qualitative approach to understand the lived experience of employees and the employer's response to disclosed experiences of interpersonal violence;
- The experience of people who were impacted by the employer response to their experiences of interpersonal violence;
- A review of the current literature;
- An environmental scan of stakeholders connected to topic area;
- Recommendations, if any, that may emerge from the findings of the research;
- Identification of the partnership between an academic and/or university (a faculty that can serve as a principal investigator for research) and community organizations that have experience/background on this issue for all three prairie provinces;
- A detailed budget that identifies any in-kind contribution and/or donations; and,
- Timelines for completion;

**NOTE:** Research must be conducted across all three prairie provinces (AB, SK, MB). As this research is to be conducted across all three prairie provinces, the applicant is considered the lead for the research and is responsible for the fund management and reporting requirements.

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### **3. Workplace Harassment: Understanding the Scope and Responses in Work Organizations Across the Prairie Provinces**

Despite well developed harassment and sexual harassment policies in many work organizations and within governments, Statistics Canada<sup>6</sup> reports that 1 in 3 women and 3 in 10 men report harassment or sexual harassment in work related environments. New data has emerged pertaining to harassment and sexual harassment of people with disabilities, Indigenous peoples,

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/241024/dq241024b-eng.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/240212/dq240212a-eng.htm>

racialized peoples, and newcomers at higher rates. This is also the experience of people in the LGBTQ2S+ community, where reported rates of harassment are cited as higher than their heterosexual counterparts.

PrairieAction Foundation would like to understand more about the following which is to be included as part of the research:

- What is the scope of issue in prairie provinces?
- What is the employee response to suspected or known harassment?
  - What prevents employees from reporting it?
  - Are there whistleblower protections?
- What are the current labour standards for workplace policies for each of the prairie provinces?
- What are the employer responses and prevention measures implemented to address harassment?

This research must also include:

- A qualitative/quantitative approach to understand the employer's response to disclosed experiences of interpersonal violence;
- The experience of people who were impacted by the employer response to their experiences of interpersonal violence;
- A review of the current literature;
- An environmental scan of stakeholders connected to topic area;
- Recommendations, if any, that may emerge from the findings of the research;
- Identification of the partnership between an academic and/or university (a faculty that can serve as a principal investigator for research) and community organizations that have experience/background on this issue for all three prairie provinces;
- A detailed budget that identifies any in-kind contribution and/or donations; and,
- Timelines for completion;

**NOTE:** Research must be conducted across all three prairie provinces (AB, SK, MB). As this research is to be conducted across all three prairie provinces, the applicant is considered the lead for the research and is responsible for the fund management and reporting requirements.

**NOTE:** Funding of up to \$150,000 is available for this research.

#### **4. Understanding the Current Scope and System Response to Abuse and Violence Against Seniors in the Prairie Provinces**

Family violence against seniors continues to increase and recent trend show it at a record high with a 4% increase over 2023. Statistics Canada (2025) highlights that the rate of family violence against seniors has increase substantively since 2018, increasing by 49%. In 2024, 6 in 10

victims (57%) were women, and the rate of family violence was slightly higher among women than men (104 victims per 100,000 population aged 65 and older for women versus 92 for men).<sup>7</sup>

Given the current social and economic conditions nationally, understanding abuse and violence by adult children against seniors is critical to ensure awareness, promote increased reporting, and understand service provisions and gaps to intervene and prevent.

Bridging from PrairieAction Foundation's last funded research and subsequent report completed in 2019 on this topic (see [prairieaction.ca](http://prairieaction.ca) under Tri-Provincial Research to access summary report), PAF would like to understand more about the following which is to be included as part of the research:

- What social and economic conditions are contributing to the increase in abuse and violence against seniors today as compared to 2018?
- Does underreporting continue to be an issue? What prevents seniors from reporting?
- What is the current system response to reported cases of abuse or violence?
- What is the context of service provision and continuity in services since 2018?

This research must also include:

- A qualitative approach to understanding the senior's lived experiences of abuse and the response to disclosed experiences of interpersonal violence;
- A current understanding of the system response and the resources to support seniors in this area;
- A review of the current literature;
- An environmental scan of stakeholders connected to topic area;
- Recommendations, if any, that may emerge from the findings of the research;
- Identification of the partnership between an academic and/or university (a faculty that can serve as a principal investigator for research) and community organizations that have experience/background on this issue for all three prairie provinces;
- A detailed budget that identifies any in-kind contribution and/or donations; and,
- Timelines for completion.

**NOTE:** Research must be conducted across all three prairie provinces (AB, SK, MB). As this research is to be conducted across all three prairie provinces, the applicant is considered the lead for the research and is responsible for the fund management and reporting requirements.

**NOTE:** Funding of up to \$150,000 is available for this research.

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<sup>7</sup> [www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/251028/dq251028a-eng.htm](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/251028/dq251028a-eng.htm)

## **Additional Details**

The successful applicants will be required to complete the following if approved for a grant:

- Provide ethics approval for the proposed project;
- Provide an interim report at the midpoint of completion of the work, and a final report that reflects the key components of the research (literature review, methodology for data gathering, analysis, findings and recommendations, if any) as per grant guidelines and criteria outlined in acceptance letter;
- Make presentation to the PAF Board of Directors upon completion of the research work, highlighting outcomes, knowledge gained and next steps;
- Upon completion, the dissemination of the findings must include community sharing; and,
- Provide acknowledgement of PAF as the primary funder in dissemination materials.

**NOTE:** PAF only funds organizations that are community based and are registered charities with Canada Revenue Agency. Organizations must work in partnership with academic researchers and other relevant partners.

**NOTE:** PAF does not fund any entity outside of the prairie provinces.

**Please use application form on website and ensure above requirements are met for the topic area selected for proposal.**

**Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2026.**

**Please submit your application to [info@prairieaction.ca](mailto:info@prairieaction.ca)**