



Red flags for risk

Ontario's Domestic Violence Death Review Committee has identified 41 risk factors for lethality, which have been accepted by many other jurisdictions in Canada. The top 20 are:

- A recent or pending separation
- A woman who is fearful for her safety and believes the abuser is capable of harming her and/or her children
- The partner has a history of physically, sexually and/or emotionally abusing the woman
- The partner has history of physically, sexually and/or emotionally abusing the children
- The partner makes threats of homicide or suicide
- The partner has breached court orders
- The partner has a criminal record
- The partner has access to firearms or weapons
- The partner threatens to use firearms or other weapons against the woman, children or any other person
- The partner uses/abuses drugs and/or alcohol
- The partner has harmed pets and/or personal property
- The partner is economically controlling her, depriving the woman and children
- The partner has mental health concerns, especially depression
- Isolation from family, friends and the community at large of the woman and/or the abuser
- Obsessive behaviours, jealousy and/or stalking on the part of the abuser
- Lack of remorse by the abuser about their behaviour
- The abuser feels entitled to expect compliance from the woman and/or the children
- The abuser has ready access to the woman and her children
- Recent changes in the behaviour of the abuser articulated by the woman
- The knowledge of abuse toward previous partners