



INFORMATION SHEET

ONLINE LIBRARY OF PROMISING SHELTER PRACTICES

What is the online library of promising shelter practices?

Women's Shelters Canada (WSC) is creating an online library that will host a range of promising VAW shelter practices from across Canada. WSC is working with an Advisory Committee comprised of VAW shelter professionals from across Canada to develop and launch this library. The library will promote the sharing and exchange of promising ideas within the shelter sector. The goal of the library is to strengthen practice, confidence, and innovation within the VAW shelter sector. The library will focus on promising practices that have been developed by the shelter sector to meet specific needs and improve everyday shelter work. Users of the library will be able to share their own practices and access other promising practices, download information to help them replicate the practices, endorse the practices on the site, and share feedback with each other.

What are the key features of this library?

Promising practices will be available in English and French in an easily accessible and reader-friendly fashion. The library will have a search engine to quickly offer related and relevant promising practices to users. Comments and feedback options will support direct engagement and there will be a submission form to contribute practices to the library.

Who has access to the library?

The library will NOT be publicly available; a log-in will be required to access the library. Women's Shelters Canada associate member shelters will have access to the library as part of their membership package.

What promising practices are included in the library?

The library will focus on promising practices developed by shelters that successfully meet a need and improve everyday work in shelter. They should be:

- Unique or innovative in nature (i.e. not something that is already widely done in the sector)
- Evidence-based, with a proven record of success (i.e. positive feedback from staff or clients)
- Relevant to other shelters across the country
- Aligned with the online library's shared principles (e.g. anti-oppression, anti-racism, client-centered, etc.)

WSC will identify potential promising practices for inclusion based on recommendations from associate members and provincial associations, the submission form available on the library, and other means. Once identified, these practices will be evaluated by the Advisory Committee based on the criteria listed above to determine inclusion.



WOMEN'S
SHELTERS
CANADA

How are the practices documented?

Promising practices are documented by the WSC team in collaboration with contributing shelters through online interviews, scheduled at a mutually convenient time. The contributing shelter will have a chance to review and edit the summary before it gets added to the library.