

Seeking Lifelong Learners and Enthusiastic Ambassadors!

Are you a women's shelter or transition house worker? Do you love learning new ways to support survivors of intimate partner violence? Are you comfortable and keen to share information and best practices with others? [Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through Research \(SOAR\)](#), in partnership with Women's Shelters Canada, and thanks to generous funding from the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, is pleased to offer a free, one-day, online, intensive training workshop on recognizing and responding to intimate partner violence-caused brain injury (IPV-BI).

Given as many as 92% of survivors may be living with ongoing challenges caused by brain injury through concussion or strangulation, ensuring frontline workers are educated and equipped is critical. This workshop, part of a program called **Getting Ahead: Prioritizing National Training on Brain Injury from Intimate Partner Violence**, is designed to create consistent knowledge and awareness of the hidden public health crisis of IPV-BI in frontline workers across Canada. Not only will **you** leave better prepared to support survivors living with IPV-BI, but thanks to the workshop's integrated, train-the-trainer elements, you'll also be ready to take what you learn home and share it with others in your workplace and region.

Date: Wednesday, October 30 from 8:00 am PST/11am EDT to 1:30 pm PST/4:30 EDT

Where: Online via Zoom

Language: The plenary/large group portions of this training will be delivered in English with simultaneous interpretation into French. The small group portions will be conducted in an English group and a French group separately. The training tool and all materials are available in English and in French.

Who Should Participate: Anyone who works directly with survivors in shelter or trains/supervises workers is an ideal participant. Ideally, those who participate (maximum two per organization) will take what they learn back to their workplace and share with their colleagues.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this training, participants will:

- Have a foundational understanding of intimate partner violence and abuse.
- Be able to explain the prevalence of brain injury in women survivors of intimate partner violence, including how it happens, and common signs and symptoms.
- Know how commonly strangulation occurs as part of intimate partner violence and be able to recognize specific signs and symptoms.
- Understand how brain injury from intimate partner violence affects neurocognitive function, mental health and emotional wellness, and how to support survivors.
- Have a basic understanding of how to take a brain injury and trauma-informed approach to interactions with women survivors of brain injury through intimate partner violence.
- Be comfortable having a conversation/conducting an assessment regarding possible brain injury using the adapted H.E.L.P.S. tool.
- Be familiar with supports for survivors, and be prepared to make referrals as needed.
- Be prepared to share information and training with others on recognizing and responding to IPV-BI.

- Have access to supplementary resources and materials on IPV-BI that they can share with others.
- Be capable of leading group learning activities and discussions on IPV-BI.
- Know how to help others link training and resources on IPV-BI to their work.
- Understand the importance of effective communication, including maintaining eye contact, listening effectively, conveying confidence, and speaking clearly and concisely.

Workshop Outline:

- Introduction to intimate partner violence.
- Introduction to SOAR (Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through Research).
- Concussion Awareness Training Tool for Women’s Support Workers course:
 - a. Overview of traumatic brain injury and the effects of concussion as experienced by survivors of intimate partner violence.
 - b. Warning signs of immediate life-threatening symptoms known as “Red Flags”, and typical concussion signs and symptoms experienced by survivors of intimate partner violence.
 - c. Information on screening for brain injury, including why screening can be important for survivors of intimate partner violence, and an introduction to an adapted version of the H.E.L.P.S. Screening Tool.
 - d. How to accommodate the unique needs of a survivor of intimate partner violence who has a concussion, and strategies to help manage symptoms.
 - e. Educating those who are at risk of a concussion due to intimate partner violence.
- Common myths and facts about concussion.
- Strangulation in intimate partner violence.
- Introduction to trauma-informed practice.
- The importance of language.
- Case study scenarios and small group work.
- Tips and tools for sharing the training with others
- Discussion/Q&A
- Feedback survey

All participants will receive a certificate of completion, a training manual, and access to a suite of educational resources after the workshop.

Registration: There are a limited number of spots available for this online training. To express your interest in participating, please [fill out this short form](#) by October 14 2024. Participants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis within each region; if the level of interest exceeds spots available, we will create a waiting list. To ensure as many organizations as possible can participate, we cannot take more than two participants per shelter/transition house.

Please note: For residents of British Columbia, Alberta, and Quebec who prefer to attend an in-person training, this workshop will also be offered in Richmond, BC on October 22, 2024, in Edmonton, Alberta on November 5, 2024, and in Montreal, Quebec on March 22, 2025. Contact info@soarproject.ca for more details.

Presenter: Karen Mason is co-founder and executive director of SOAR (Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through Research), and former executive director of Third Space Charity and Kelowna Women's Shelter in Kelowna, British Columbia. A seasoned and passionate non-profit leader, communicator, and community collaborator, Karen brings 30+ years of career experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors to her work advocating for survivors of intimate partner violence, conducting knowledge translation and mobilization activities, and supporting research, development, and dissemination of promising practices. Karen is a dynamic and compelling presenter who has training in trauma informed practice and advanced strangulation prevention, and is a member of the Pink Concussions Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury Task Force, the Women's Health Research Cluster at the University of British Columbia, and the ENIGMA International Consortium Working Group on Brain Injury in Intimate Partner Violence. SOAR is a registered charity, and the only organization in Canada with a singular focus on brain injury (BI) from intimate partner violence (IPV). SOAR works to **explore** the intersection of BI and IPV, **educate** members of the public and frontline workers to recognize and respond, and **empower** survivors to get the targeted supports and services they need to live healthy lives free of abuse.

