



News Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **London Community Supports Engaging Men in Service**

London, ON – When it comes to safety and the wellbeing of women in abusive relationships, getting their partners into supportive services is key.

That’s one of the findings of a 2019 joint report by Anova and Changing Ways.

After extensive consultation, including with families living with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), the report concludes that women need more choice when it comes to safe, affordable housing; that no matter how many supports are provided for women, it does not reduce the risk of re-victimization; and there is a need for expanding accessible therapeutic services for children and families.

“We wanted to explore some innovative new ways of providing service to those dealing with IPV in our community,” says Anova Executive Director Jessie Rodger. “We know that individualized intervention and service for men decreases the risk for women and their families, and that the system of intervention we are using now, does not.”

There were three goals that the recommendations aim to achieve.

1. Enhance Safety, housing and service choices for women living with IPV.
2. Reduction in Male Perpetrated IPV.
3. Provide children with more appropriate, trauma-informed services.

The report is making six recommendations to establish the safety of women and children in the London-Middlesex Community.

“Our findings from this project demonstrated an overwhelming willingness of our community to look at doing this work differently,” says Changing Ways Executive Director Tim Kelly. “As a community, we are prepared to work together to engage men at risk of causing harm in to their families in a range of prevention and supportive services, with the goal of keeping women and children safer.”

The recommendations include providing women with more safe housing choices, including further supports if a woman chooses to stay in their home; providing risk – focused intervention to men, and provide short-term service to stabilize men’s housing needs post separation; and finally, to expand accessible therapeutic services for children and families.



The report lays out the next steps in this process over three years, including the forming of a committee to investigate how best to implement these changes; finding a site for men to reduce short-term homelessness and engagement in service, (a risk factor of recidivism), and finally to pilot the changes.

**About Anova:** Formerly Women’s Community House and Sexual Assault Centre London, Anova is Ontario’s largest shelter and sexual assault centre. Anova provides safe places, shelter, support, counselling, and resources for abused women, their children, and all oppressed individuals to find a new start.

**About Changing Ways:** Changing Ways supports men in stopping their abusive behavior in their relationships. Through public education and community leadership, Changing Ways is engaging men to take responsibility in their relationships, and to work in partnership with other violence against women organizations to create safe homes and safe communities.

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