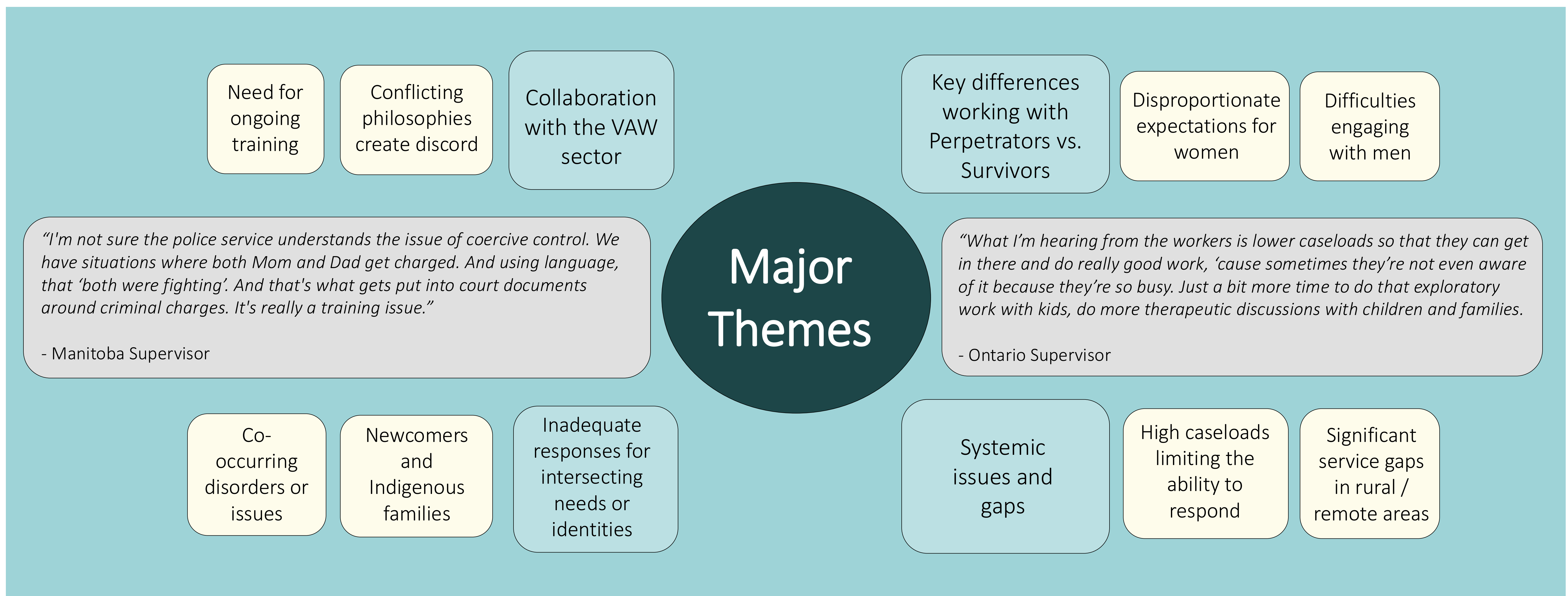


# Cross provincial comparisons of child protection policies for exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) in Canada: Lessons learned from Ontario and Manitoba

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## Introduction

Children’s exposure to IPV is a serious social issue in Canada. The responsibility to protect children from IPV falls on each province and territory. This has led to inconsistent policies and practices.

## Method

This qualitative study explored perspectives of senior CPS staff in Ontario and Manitoba to determine critical gaps in IPV exposure policy and practice. Data was collected and analysed from semi-structured interviews with CPS supervisors in Manitoba (n=12); and Ontario (n=11). A focus group was also conducted in Manitoba (n=7).

## Results

Several significant themes were identified in both Ontario and Manitoba data sets (see above visual). Although several themes overlapped, there were some findings unique to each province. This is indicative of the inconsistent policies and practices across each jurisdiction.

## Conclusions

CPS staff in both provinces face important limitations in their ability to provide effective and responsive services to families investigated for children’s exposure to IPV. These limitations derive from systemic gaps and barriers at the organization, community, and provincial levels.

## Acronyms Used

CPS – Child Protection Services  
 IPV – Intimate Partner Violence  
 VAW – Violence Against Women



## What are the differences in Manitoba and Ontario?



Manitoba	Issue	Ontario
⊗	Children’s exposure to IPV included in legal definition of child abuse	⊗
⊗	Official policy and/or practice initiatives have been implemented to address child exposure to IPV	⊙
⊙	Inconsistent responses to child’s exposure to IPV across CPS authorities	⊗
⊗	Constraining bureaucratic standards imposed by the provincial government	⊙

## Recommendations and Take Aways

- Specialized training is required to engage perpetrating parents and continue a transformational paradigm shift for equitable practices with survivors
- Efforts by CPS staff are severely impeded by the lack of accessible and culturally relevant community services to refer families to
- Enhanced cross-sector collaboration can strengthen communication and understanding, and therefore improve service provision



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