Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Family Violence and Violence against Women (CRI-VIFF)

CRI-VIFF brings together employees, researchers, students, and partners committed to conducting in-depth research into an issue that is important for everyone—family violence and violence against women.

The applied and partnership-based nature of the centre’s work generates important benefits for society (e.g., improved practices and policies, prevention of high-risk situations, etc.), which is very motivating for CRI-VIFF members.

CENTRE DESCRIPTION

CRI-VIFF brings together researchers, students, and frontline and other practitioners with the shared objective of contributing to the advancement of knowledge on family violence and violence against women.

CRI-VIFF researchers take a special interest in all aspects of family and domestic violence and examine social responses to the issue by communities of practice. The centre is unique in its conceptual approach, which uses a 360 degree multidimensional and interdisciplinary model that takes into account the realities experienced by men, women, and children.

Over the years, CRI-VIFF has developed solid partnerships with intervention and support groups and policymakers through collaborative research activities that foster the integration of knowledge.
CRI-VIFF is the only research centre in Québec to study domestic and family violence using a conceptual model that analyzes not only the associated social and structural factors, but the personal and interpersonal ones as well, taking into account the realities of everyone involved (women, men, and children). Over the years CRI-VIFF has also established and maintained solid partnerships with institutions, community intervention groups, and policymakers through collaborative research activities that foster the integration of knowledge. These longstanding partnerships are one of CRI-VIFF’s greatest strengths, allowing the centre to play a role in influencing social responses to violence and in evaluating and shaping provincial public policy. The 2012–2017 government action plan on domestic violence is a clear illustration of the benefits of the centre’s work, in that several measures stem directly from CRI-VIFF findings and recommendations. For example, a specific section aimed at aboriginal communities includes 35 measures established as a result of an FQRSC Concerted Action spearheaded by CRI-VIFF members.

Students at CRI-VIFF join a dynamic research team made up of researchers, students, and professionals. They can start working toward completing their master’s or Ph.D. research project in a supportive team environment. CRI-VIFF also provides financial support to student members. Available funding includes master’s and Ph.D. merit scholarships and travel grants for students presenting papers at national and international symposiums and conferences.

CRI-VIFF students have access to an office and computer workstation for the duration of their studies. This creates a stimulating environment in which they can meet and discuss their projects with people from various disciplines.

Students organize a student symposium every year, an excellent opportunity for them to present their research and discuss it with other CRI-VIFF students as well as researchers and practice community partners.

Students are not only encouraged to participate in other knowledge transfer activities organized by CRI-VIFF (symposia, seminars, and lunch-and-learn talks), they often help organize them. Their active participation allows them to further broaden their thinking as they discover new knowledge and cutting-edge practices in the domestic and family violence field. In addition, these activities provide an opportunity for students to build relationships with frontline workers and to discuss their research and its practical implications with them.

Students are also asked to speak during knowledge-sharing events organized by CRI-VIFF. This is an excellent opportunity for students to share their research while building their curriculum vitae.

CRI-VIFF researchers are highly productive, as evidenced by the 52 research projects currently underway with the financial support of multiple provincial and federal agencies. Over the past three years, CRI-VIFF has also made its mark by organizing various knowledge transfer activities, including three seminars on the theoretical, methodological, and practical dimensions of domestic and family violence research; domestic violence monitoring; two student symposiums; an international conference attended by 614 participants from 29 countries; an expert seminar on domestic homicide; six symposiums organized as part of ACFAS; and 33 knowledge appropriation activities involving researchers, intervention community partners, and policymakers.

CRI-VIFF is the only research centre in Québec to study domestic and family violence using a conceptual model that analyzes not only the associated social and structural factors, but the personal and interpersonal ones as well, taking into account the realities of everyone involved (women, men, and children). Over the years CRI-VIFF has also established and maintained solid partnerships with institutions, community intervention groups, and policymakers through collaborative research activities that foster the integration of knowledge. These longstanding partnerships are one of CRI-VIFF’s greatest strengths, allowing the centre to play a role in influencing social responses to violence and in evaluating and shaping provincial public policy. The 2012–2017 government action plan on domestic violence is a clear illustration of the benefits of the centre’s work, in that several measures stem directly from CRI-VIFF findings and recommendations. For example, a specific section aimed at aboriginal communities includes 35 measures established as a result of an FQRSC Concerted Action spearheaded by CRI-VIFF members.