Walking the Path Together Tools:
Danger Assessment

Developed as part of Phase I of Walking the Path Together In consultation with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell

ACWS
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters



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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS:

ACWS Alberta Council of Women's Shelters
AI Appreciative Inquiry
CCFJS Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System
DA Danger Assessment
DV Domestic Violence
EFW Eagle Feather Worker
PGC Project Guidance Circle
SROI Social Return on Investment
WTPT Walking the Path Together

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements 5
Overview of Walking the Path Together 6
The Danger Assessment 6
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and the Danger Assessment 7
Walking the Path Together and the Danger Assessment 9
The Circle 8
Implementing the WTPT Danger Assessment 13
    The WTPT Seasonal Calendar 13
    WTPT DA Circle and Questionnaire 15
    WTPT Danger Assessment Caregiver Questionnaire 16
Creating Safety 16
    POP TARTS Has 3 Steps 17
Conclusion 18
Appendix A WTPT DA Seasonal Calendars 19
Appendix B WTPT DA Questionnaire 23
Appendix C WTPT DA Circle 25
Appendix D WTPT DA Caregiver Questionnaire 26
Appendix E WTPT DA Instructions for Use 28

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The views and opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the National Crime Prevention Centre or the Department of Public Safety.

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Overview of Walking the Path Together

Walking the Path Together (WTPT) is a collaborative learning project initially comprised of eight organizations passionately dedicated to meeting the needs of children living on-reserve who have been exposed to domestic violence. The following organizations contributed to the development of the project by sharing their rich expertise: five on-reserve shelters (Bigstone Cree Nation Emergency Women's Shelter in Wabasca, Eagle's Nest Family Shelter in Morley, Ermineskin Women's Shelter Society in Hobbema, Paspew House in Fort Chipewyan, and Sucker Creek Emergency Women's Shelter in Enilda), the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System and Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell.

Using a holistic approach, Eagle Feather Workers (EFW) from the five participating on-reserve women's shelters provided one-on-one support to children who experienced domestic violence. The EFWs worked with the children's families, schools and community supports to create safer environments for the children and also to support healing within the families.

For greater detail about interventions developed by WTPT, please see the Walk Proud, Dance Proud: Footprints on a Healing Journey— A Draft Discussion Guide to Walking the Path Together to Reclaim the Teachings for our First Nations Children (2012).[1]

Walking the Path Together was made possible through funding from the Alberta Government Safe Communities Innovation Fund and the National Crime Prevention Centre with the Government of Canada.

The Danger Assessment

The Danger Assessment (DA) is a tool for predicting a woman's risk of being killed or almost killed by an intimate partner. The tool was developed by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell (1986) with consultation and content validity support from abused women, shelter workers, law enforcement officials and other clinical experts on abuse. There are two parts to the tool: a Calendar and a 20-item Questionnaire.

1 Written for WTPT by the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System

The Calendar helps to assess severity and frequency of abuse during the past year. The woman is asked to mark the approximate days when physically abusive incidents occurred, and to rank the severity of the incident using a 1 to 5 scale (1=slap, pushing, no injuries and/or lasting pain through 5=use of weapon, wounds from weapon). The Calendar acts as a tool to raise the consciousness of women and reduce the denial and minimization of the abuse in their lives (Campbell, 1995; Ferraro et al., 1983). Identifying incidents of abuse with the calendar also aids the safety planning process. Often women are able to identify patterns when the abuse is most likely to occur, and therefore make safety plans specific to their own situations. Results of research conducted by Dr. J. Campbell in the United States indicated that one third of women who participated in the study changed their response to the first question on the 20-item questionnaire— "Did the abuse increase in severity or frequency over the past year?"— to a positive response after completing the calendar portion of the tool. The 20 questions on the DA have yes or no responses to risk factors associated with intimate partner homicide and uses weighted scoring to determine a women's level of danger. Some of the risk factors include past death threats, partner's employment status and the partner's gun ownership.

Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and the Danger Assessment

Between 2007 and 2009, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) worked on a collaborative research project with Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell and nine member organizations to examine the utilization of the Danger Assessment tool (DA) in Alberta shelters in order to:

- Assist abused women in assessing the level of dangerousness (lethality or near lethality) in their relationship (Campbell, 2012);
- Inform women's shelter practice in keeping women and children safe;
- Provide accurate evidenced-based research for use by community stakeholders in keeping women and children safe; and
- Pilot a train-the-trainer model using Canadian and Alberta data.

In the research project the DA was tested with a sample of 235 women from nine shelters across Alberta (two on-reserve) of which more than half of the women (120) were Aboriginal.

Front-line staff in the nine participating member organizations asked women to identify incidents of non-physical abuse (emotional, sexual, spiritual and financial abuse) and to document these incidents on their calendars. Women's responses indicated that these types of abuse were often as hurtful to them as the physical abuse. There were also responses from women whose abuse history did not include physical abuse, who stated that including these questions validated their experience— they understood that they didn't have to be physically abused for the abuse they suffered to be 'real'.

"It was shocking to realize that you are in a terrible situation and you don't even realize it."

"It helped me to know how much danger I was in. It scared me."

"It made me more aware of different kinds of abuse."

"It was eye opening. I have spent a lot of time trying to minimize my experiences so I could be normal."

"It was painful when I was thinking [about] all the abuse but it helps me as well to loosen my breathing."

- *Keeping Women Alive – Assessing the Danger participants*

The data from the study also showed abused women in Alberta perceived their abuse as more frequent and severe and their situation as more dangerous after completing the Calendar and the DA Questionnaire. They were also significantly more ready to take action, and more likely to get help from the shelter and the police. The results of the Aboriginal women were not significantly different from other women tested. Even though women found the experience of completing the calendar painful, the qualitative data analysis indicated only a few women in the study found completing the calendar impossible, and, the experience was overall was reported as being helpful.

"It made me more aware of different kinds of abuse."

"It made me thankful that it brought back the memories.

"I will keep my kids out of danger. I will put myself first instead of him."

- Keeping Women Alive – Assessing the Danger Aboriginal participants

The findings of the research project were documented in a report titled *Keeping Women Alive— Assessing the Danger*[2] . Of note, recommendation 13 in this report stated that "There are important differences between Aboriginal women and others that also need further exploration and clarification, and may require a different approach to assessment. Consultation with the staff of shelters that have large Aboriginal populations should be undertaken to further clarify some of these issues (e.g. should the DA be the tool of choice, given that many women in this group do not wish to complete all questions? How can assessment reflect the fact that abusers may be more diverse— including family members and others as well as intimate partners?)"

A final outcome of the research project was the development of a full day training curriculum and certification process specifically for shelter workers on the administration of the DA tool, particularly encouraging women's completion of the DA Calendar and implementing the weighted scoring.

Walking the Path Together and the Danger Assessment

Thanks to funding from the Safe Communities Innovation Fund, ACWS was able to partner with five on-reserve shelters participating in the Walking the Path Together Project and with Dr. Campbell to address the use of the Danger Assessment for First Nations women living on-reserve.

Based on data from First Nations women in *Keeping Women Alive— Assessing the Danger*, we knew that there was potential for the DA to be useful for abused Aboriginal women living on-reserve in assessing the level of dangerousness (lethality or near lethality) in their relationships. We wanted the DA to be even more culturally specific and acceptable for use with mothers of children on-reserve. We also wanted to ensure the Eagle Feather Workers felt they could use the DA as a helpful tool in their work safety planning with women.

At the beginning of WTPT, EFWs were trained to administer the DA tool to mothers and other caregivers of children in the project. Over the course of WTPT, the Project Guidance Circle (PGC)[3] and the EFWs gave feedback on how to make the DA culturally appropriate.

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2 Keeping Women Alive—Assessing the Danger prepared for the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters by Dr. Kathleen Cairns and Irene Hoffart

3 PGC members included one representative from each of five participating on-reserve shelters; ACWS Executive Director, Director of Member Programs and Services and Project Manager; two representatives from Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System (CCFJS), Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of John Hopkins University and an Appreciative Inquiry facilitator.

The resulting tool is the Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment. Recognizing that the Circle represents the unending cycle of life and contains standard teachings for all Indigenous cultures, Lillian Bigstone and Theresa Snow (two of the WTPT Eagle Feather Workers) proposed and designed the DA questions within a circle (June, 2011). This helped to embed risk assessment, specifically the DA, within the conceptual framework of the overall project and aid visual cultural relevance. There may be different variations of the Circle depending on the cultural background of a participant and of a service provider; however the four quadrants within a circle are common to many Indigenous peoples. The Danger Assessment Circle comprises four parts:

1. **WTPT Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendars (See Appendix A)**
   The original DA Calendar was revised into two seasonal formats . Custom and traditional abuse was added to the list of abuse types that women are asked to mark on their calendars (e.g. women prevented from participating in traditional ceremonies).
2. **WTPT Danger Assessment Questionnaire (see Appendix B)**
   The DA questions were revised by Dr. Campbell with input from Eagle Feather Workers and Shelter Directors to reflect the unique situations of life on-reserve.
   - Question 5 was expanded from the original DA Questionnaire to read "Has he ever used a potentially lethal weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon? If yes, what was the weapon?" The purpose of this amendment was to track the type of weapons that are used on-reserve.
   - Question number 11 on the original DA Questionnaire was modified to better reflect the problem of prescription substance abuse, e.g., T3's and Oxycontins were identified by the EFWs as commonly misused on-reserve. Dr. Campbell reflects that research on this issue is sparse especially in terms of this kind of drug dependence being associated with violent behavior (toward spouses, partners and children) among Indigenous populations. Because of this, the answer to the question about use is not scored. To further understand the influence of the use of these drugs it was determined that it was important to document this information in order to understand the issue more clearly.
   - A second question was added to Question 11: 11a. .. "If the abuser uses prescription drugs, does he become more abusive when the drugs are not available?" This question is not scored but the information obtained will contribute to the understanding of drug use and its impact on reserves.
3. **WTPT Danger Assessment Circle (see Appendix C)** The revised DA questions were embedded within a circle format to serve as a "grounding" tool for women to hold as they consider the DA questions being asked.
4. **WTPT Danger Assessment Caregiver Questionnaire (see Appendix D)**

Abuse does not only occur between intimate partners and may also create risk for other family members. The Walking the Path Together Caregiver DA Questionnaire was designed to be used with caregivers of the children in the project that are not in an intimate relationship with the identified abusive individual. The questions on the WTPT Caregiver DA Questionnaire ask the caregiver to reflect on the abuse that either she or the abused individual (usually the mother of the children) experienced. This form of the DA Questionnaire was developed to get a sense of the danger an abusive individual presents to the caregiver and the child/ren that she is caring for as well the danger to the abused person. In this variation of the DA Questionnaire there is a comment section for most of the questions. Comments are encouraged as this will provide important information that will contribute to the understanding of the abuse that occurs within extended families on-reserve and assists in keeping those involved safe.

The Circle

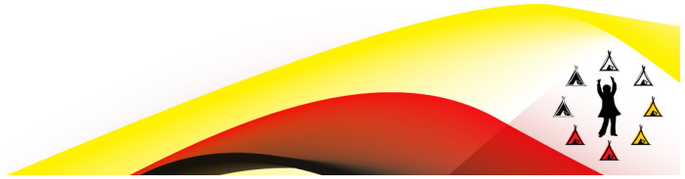
The circle is a sacred symbol for First Nations people, reflecting the circle of life and renewal. There are variations depending on the cultural background or tribe. Some nations reflect the circle through the four quadrants, others through the Medicine Wheel. However, the similarities that are commonly found in the circle are the four quadrants within the wheel.

In First Nations cultures, the number four is considered very sacred, for instance:

- The four elements: Air, Water, Fire and Earth
- The four directions: North, South, East and West
- The four seasons: Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring
- The four colors of humanity: White, Red, Black and Yellow.
- The four types of animal species: (the four legged, the swimmers, the winged ones and the crawlers)
- The four stages of the human life cycle: Baby, Youth, Adult and Elder.
- The four parts in a human being: Physical, Mental, Emotional and Spiritual

There are four colors used to shade each quadrant of the circle: the most commonly used colors are White, Yellow, and Red. The fourth color can be green, blue or black depending on the culture. Sometimes the colors coincide with the four races. In other instances the colors match the four directions; for example, White represents the North, Red represents the South, Yellow represents the East and Green, Blue or Black represents the West. Again, this depends on the First Nations' teaching preferences.

Teachers will always emphasize, "the way they teach is the way they were taught". This is like the unspoken indicator that each First Nations has their unique way of teaching about the circle. Therefore, the colors can be adjusted based on local use.



The Circle can be used as a framework to create a Healing Plan for a community, a group or an individual. When used on an individual basis, the Circle represents a person's journey. The Circle begins with "the Self" in the middle and the four quadrants representing the self's Emotional, Spiritual, Physical and Mental surround the centre.

"In teaching women about family violence and abuse by using the Circle, it is important that women fully understand the following three concepts:…

"We" in the following section refers to all of us: human beings.

One Aspect of Your Being affects the Other: We are holistic human beings and one part of our being affects the other parts. When using the holistic approach, EFWs can help women see how their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual parts of themselves need to be attended to and balanced in order to effectively deal with their issues. We are dealing with the "whole" self, as well as with parts of ourselves that comprise the whole.

For example, if we are assaulted, we may get a black eye and feel physical pain. We may also experience accompanying emotions such as hurt, anger and fear. Our thoughts and self-talk might include statements such as "I am such a loser. I am helpless. Nobody cares about me." Generally when we suffer a trauma such as an assault, we internalize these negative thoughts and beliefs about ourselves so that our sense of self is compromised. Spiritually, our belief in a just world, our faith in the Creator, our connection to Mother Earth and our hope for the future may all be impacted. There are many examples that can be used and sometimes EFWs telling their own personal stories can help women better understand and she may also feel more at ease and recognize that she is not alone.

Focus on the Interconnectedness: How we see and experience the world today is based on the beliefs we have developed over the course of our life. Our experience in the present moment is interpreted through our belief system. Our beliefs are changed or reinforced every day as the result of our experience in the present moment. Knowing this sets the stage for changing our beliefs, behavior and resulting experience.

An example of interconnectedness on a personal level is an abused woman who sees her husband walking up the driveway: he obviously looks intoxicated— her past experience tells her that he hits her when he's been drinking— and so she immediately starts thinking of what is going to happen, and her thoughts generate feelings of fear and anxiety; those feelings of fear and anxiety influence her behavior— she might take action by bracing herself for the abuse or by running to the bedroom, etc.

Once the same abused woman has begun to understand the patterns of abuse in her situation and links certain times (e.g. holidays, pay days) when her partner tends to get intoxicated, she can anticipate these times and have a safety strategy in place that she has developed with the support of her Eagle Feather Worker. For example, she has a plan where someone calls her ahead of time to warn her about her partner's drinking, and then she and her children know to leave the home prior to his arrival. Part of her plan may be to have someone with her in the home when her partner arrives home. A plan enables women to feel more in control of their situations. Women are more likely to feel less anxious and better able to act rather than react to situations.

Thoughts, feelings, emotions and actions all work in unison when you see or experience something.

…Helping women look at the four aspects of their being and work towards balance will result in their becoming more empowered. Women will be better able to recognize their strengths and resources and use these to nurture themselves and their children, resulting in stronger and more balanced individuals, families and communities."

-Lillian Bigstone and Theresa Snow
Presentation at ACWS AGM, June 2011

Implementing the WTPT Danger Assessment

Framing the Danger Assessment process within a circle allows Eagle Feather Workers to broaden their understanding of a woman's situation. The WTPT Danger Assessment Circle also provides women with a visual picture of the abuse they have experienced and, therefore, many women are better able to understand how the abuse has impacted their whole beings. This understanding aids in their decision making process.

The WTPT Seasonal Calendar

Prior to completing the WTPT Danger Assessment Questionnaire, women are strongly, gently and supportively encouraged to complete the Seasonal Calendar which includes three months for each of the four seasons. The Seasonal Calendar that is used as part of WTPT was revised from the standard calendars in the earlier ACWS DA Research Project. The Seasonal Calendar was designed to be more reflective of First Nation cultures. There are two versions of the Calendar. One has the months of the year grouped into the seasons and portrayed in a circle. In the second version of the calendar, the months of the year are grouped as seasons but are on a traditional calendar format. Each season should be on a separate page as this allows the women

to work on one page/season at a time.[4] (By using one sheet for each season, the sheets can be put in chronological order).

Using the "Instruction for Use" for the calendar (reference Appendix E), women are invited to record on the calendar when the abuse happened, either by month or by season, starting with the current season and working backwards. If starting in summer (June, July, August), the next season to be filled in would be Spring (March, April, May), then Winter (December, January, February) and finally the previous Fall (September, October, November). Filling out the calendar is best done by the woman talking aloud (telling her story without going into detail) and then marking the instances of abuse on the Calendar. For legal reasons, it is best if the calendar is filled out in the woman's own hand. If, for some reason, the woman chooses not to or is not able to complete the calendar in her own handwriting, the Eagle Feather Worker can document the abuse for her. It is important that the Eagle Feather Worker then sign and date the calendar and indicate that she was the individual who completed the calendar based on information from the woman.

Aboriginal symbols can be used for persons and events when documenting incidences of abuse on the calendar (see Instructions for Use, Appendix E). The calendar can also be used to record other events in the woman's life that have affected the abuse or are important happenings during the prior four seasons. Recording the abuse will help both the woman and the Eagle Feather Worker to visualize the abuse that occurred and to understand the linkages between events in the woman's life and the abuse that she experienced.

Women are supported to use the scale for **Physical Abuse** (P1-P5) to indicate the seriousness of the physical abuse.

She is also asked to mark each date she experienced other forms of abuse as follows:

- **Cultural/Customs abuse (C)** – using culture or customs to control her, for example forcing her to clean or do something "because it's the role of First Nations or role of a woman";
- **Emotional abuse (E)** –name calling, put-downs, threats;
- **Spiritual abuse (SP)** – keeping her from using or going to her spiritual or cultural supports and/or rituals, or making fun of them;
- **Choking (CH)**
- **Sexual abuse (S)**forcing her into sexual activities; and/or
- **Financial abuse (F)** – telling her how to spend the money, taking money from her, forcing her to turn over her paycheck, spending money on himself instead of on the family.

4 Recommendation of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell.

She can also mark other events on the calendar that triggered abusive incidents (pay days, drinking episodes in his life, etc.), and positive events such as family birthdays, holidays, celebrations, healing strategies or other noteworthy events that decreased the abuse or helped her deal with or heal from the trauma in her life.

WTPT DA Circle and Questionnaire

After completing the Calendar, each woman is given a copy of the WTPT Danger Assessment Circle to view while the EFW leads her through answering each question on the WTPT DA Questionnaire. As she answers the question, the woman can rotate the 20 questions on the WTPT Danger Assessment Circle in a way that reflects the impact of a particular type of abuse upon her physical, emotional, spiritual and mental well-being. This process encourages a woman to view how one aspect of her being affects the others.

For example, consider Question 9: "Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?" Being sexually abused affects an individual physically (because of the act), affects an individual emotionally (because of the humiliation), affects one spiritually (because of her sense of self and her beliefs) and mentally (because of the shame or guilt a woman may feel). As a woman looks at each of these aspects, she is more likely to understand how the abuse has affected her in the various areas of her life.

As each question is asked, EFWs ask women to respond with a yes or a no. The EFW records the woman's responses for each question on the WTPT DA Questionnaire. If there is more than one partner (or ex-partner) who is currently abusive or has been abusive in the past year, the calendar should identify Partner A and Partner B and there should be two WTPT Danger Assessment Questionnaires completed for each. If the EFW is seeing the woman once a month, then the WTPT DA Questionnaire should be filled out every three months.

After the woman has answered all of the questions, the WTPT DA Questionnaire is scored.

- **More than 10 yeses** indicate the potential for **high danger** and it is urgent that she take measures to keep herself and the children safe.
- **10 or less is called variable danger as the score can change quickly if circumstances change.** The woman needs to trust her instincts when she is afraid and she needs to get help quickly. Meanwhile she can be supported to develop a safety plan (see below).

WTPT Danger Assessment Caregiver Questionnaire

Traditionally, the care of a child is the overall responsibility of an extended family with members of that extended family playing various roles. There are times when the child may be in the care of a member of her or his extended family as opposed to the parents. The WTPT Danger Assessment Caregiver Questionnaire is to be used in situations where the primary caregiver of the child or children is not the individual that was in an intimate relationship with the abusive person.

For example:
The Eagle Feather Worker is working with a grandmother whose daughter was abused. As the main caregiver for the WTPT child, the grandmother is asked to complete the calendar portion of the Danger Assessment. She is asked to reflect on what she knows about her daughter's abuse. She is also asked to identify any abuse she may have experienced from the abusive individual.

Once the calendar has been completed, the EFW asks the Grandmother the 20 questions on the WTPT Caregiver DA questionnaire. She is asked to respond with yes, no, don't know or not applicable. There are also comment sections for many of the questions. In order to gather more information about the unique situations that individuals are in it is important to complete the comments sections wherever possible.

Creating Safety

Attention to women's safety takes precedence over all else. This may mean that completion of all or part of the WTPT Danger Assessment is delayed until the woman's safety is assured. For example, it may be appropriate if a woman is in immediate danger to administer the WTPT DA Questionnaire first, completing the Calendar at a later time. That being said, safety planning should be individualized to the woman's circumstances and to the patterns revealed through the Danger Assessment Calendar. For example, supporting the woman to identify the pattern of abuse happening around payday (either her's or his) and how the abuse could be anticipated and possibly avoided. Safety planning needs to also take into account the specific questions on the DA. For example, if her abuser owns a gun or guns, how can they be stored safely so that the gun(s) cannot be picked up easily when angry?

The WTPT team developed the **Walking the Path Together POP TARTS tool**: **P**rotection, **O**ptions, **P**lanning: **T**aking **A**ction **R**elated **t**o **S**afety. This tool was created as an alternative to standard safety plans found not to be useful for women living on-reserve. Factors such as crowded living conditions, high levels of risk and the young age of women results in complexities when safety planning with Aboriginal women living on-reserve.

The goal is to help a woman think about her successful protection strategies and when she needs to use them.

> Above all else, the victim is the best source of information. Her input is invaluable because several of the important risk factors may be known only to her. Her prediction of risk significantly enhances the usefulness of any instrument. The importance of her perceptions should never be underestimated—if she is positive that he is enormously dangerous, this perception should be believed no matter what other risk factors are present or not present.
> Campbell ,J. Risk and Lethality Assessment in the Field of Intimate Partner Violence. A synopsis of the presentation Assessment of Dangerousness in the Field of Intimate Partner Violence: What Practitioners Need to Know. Retrieved from *(http://www.praxisinternational.org/files/praxis/files/Safety%20Eval%20Ch%202%20Risk%20Lethality%20Assess.pdf)*.

POP TARTS has 3 steps:

Step 1: Identify her signs of protection mode.
Protection mode is what individuals think, feel and do when the potential for a violent incident is building and they have to protect themselves until the threat blows over. There may be common themes across women, but each woman has her own unique signs. Eagle Feather Workers ask women to think and talk about what "protection mode" looks and feels like in their lives. WTPT developed a chart: Signs You Are Moving Into Protection Mode which lists how women can recognize when they are in "protection mode". This first step in the WTPT POP TARTS tool, that helps women prepare themselves and their children and encourages them to recognize dangerous situations. It looks at "signs" in the abuser's behavior, "signs" that they may see in their children and encourages women to trust their own feelings, body sensations, and intuitions.

Step 2: List her Options.
EFWs strive to ensure that women know all of their options, including the services of the specific shelter. Examples of questions that may be useful in this step include: Who can you call for help if you need to get away fast? How will you get away? Who can give you a ride? Where can you stay if you need to leave for a while? What worked in the past?

Step 3: Make a realistic plan to get out fast.
A plan involves the details of steps a woman will take when she recognizes that she is in danger. A plan is a strategy for alerting a woman's helpers that she needs to get out of a situation, and for arranging a place she can stay, like a shelter. A plan may also describe when a good time to leave is. A woman may create a code word or phrase to signal that she is in trouble without alerting the person she is afraid of.

In summary, the steps to complete the Walking The Path Together Danger Assessment include:

1. Complete the WTPT Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendar— using one of the two Seasonal Calendars and incorporating Aboriginal symbols if appropriate.
2. Provide a woman with the WTPT Danger Assessment Circle.
3. Ask a woman the 20 questions on the WTPT Danger Assessment Questionnaire. Or if appropriate, ask the Caregiver the 20 questions on the WTPT Danger Assessment Caregiver Questionnaire.
4. Score the Questionnaire and provide information about the score to the woman.
5. Support the woman to create a safety plan.

Conclusion:

Although much work has taken place to develop a culturally appropriate version of the Danger Assessment to better meet the needs of First Nations women living on-reserve, the work is not yet complete. The Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment will continue to evolve based on further testing and additional revisions made during the second phase of the WTPT project now underway. It is important to make sure that the tool is relevant, easy to use and is acceptable to First Nations women who are requesting service. Based on the experience to date, the Walking the Path Together team is hopeful that the WTPT Danger Assessment will support enhanced safety for women and their children. The following story of one of the participants in WTPT affirms this hope:

Trinity was only two years old when her mother was killed by her father. She was in the house when it happened. This tragedy impacted the entire community and young Trinity was traumatized by the brutal and abrupt loss of her mother.

Family violence was the reality she knew. As an adult, Trinity herself became involved in an extremely abusive relationship, and was immersed in the terrible cycle of violence when she joined the Walking the Path Together (WTPT) project. In joining WTPT, Trinity began the difficult work of re-routing her life journey to live free from abuse.

Part of her agreement to be involved in WTPT included completing the Danger Assessment (DA) with her Eagle Feather Worker. In particular after completing the DA, those around her noticed that Trinity was transformed. There was something in the process of the calendar and the questions that made real the level of danger she was in. She cut off all ties with her former partner and chose to charge him, finding the strength to seek justice.

Trinity is a proud single mom well-aware of the challenges she will continue to face, as well as the long-term healing she needs: she knows she will forever be affected by the domestic violence she has witnessed, by the loss of her mother that it caused, and by the domestic violence that she herself has experienced— but now she has hope for a better future.

Trinity and her family are very thankful for WTPT and her sisters have outwardly acknowledged how much better Trinity is doing since joining the project. Walking the Path Together leaders and staff are inspired by Trinity's journey and the depth of her courage to make a new life for herself.

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendar

SPRING

Outcome Tracker #: _____
Client Name: _____
Date: _____
Completed By: _____

Walking the Path Together

ACWS
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendar

SUMMER

Outcome Tracker #: _____

Client Name: _____

Date: _____

Completed By: _____

Walking the Path Together

ACWS
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendar

FALL

Outcome Tracker #: _____

Client Name: _____

Date: _____

Completed By: _____

Walking the Path Together

ACWS
Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendar

WINTER

Outcome Tracker #: _____

Client Name: _____

Date: _____

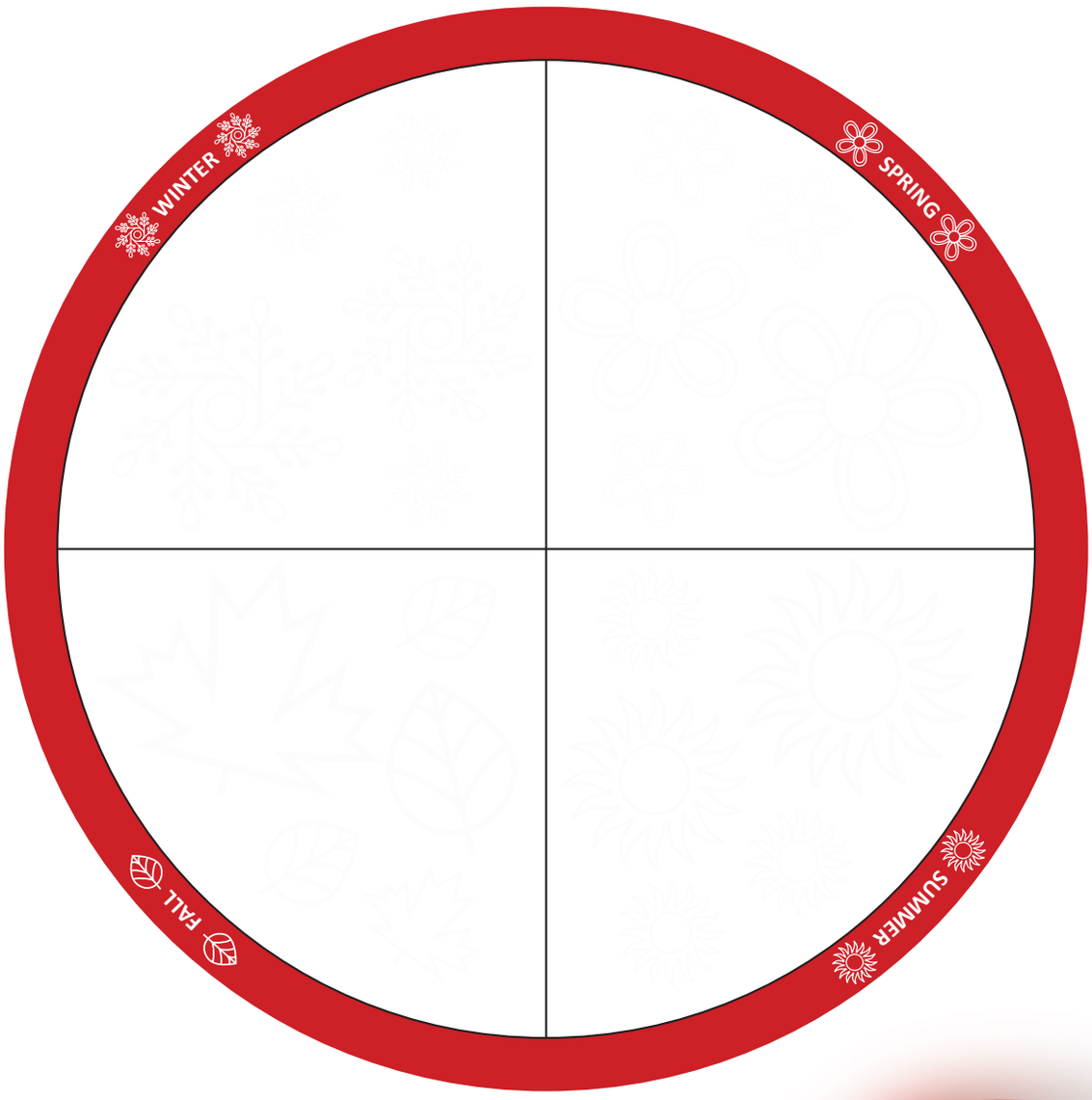
Completed By: _____

Walking the Path Together

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Walking the Path Together Seasonal Calendar: all seasons, circular format

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendar



Outcome Tracker #: _____
Client Name: _____
Date: _____
Completed By: _____

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APPENDIX B:

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Questionnaire

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Questionnaire

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., R.N.

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Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in violent relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation.

Before completing the Questionnaire below, complete the Seasonal Calendar per the attached Instructions.

Mark **Yes** or **No** for each of the following. ("He" refers to your husband, partner, ex-husband, ex-partner, or whoever is currently or was physically hurting you – could be a she.)

_____ 1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
_____ 2. Does he own a gun?
_____ 3. Have you left him after living together during the past year?
3a. (If have never lived with him, check here___)
_____ 4. Is he unemployed?
_____ 5. Has he ever used a potentially lethal weapon against you or threatened you with a lethal weapon?
5a. (If yes, what was the weapon?_____)
_____ 6. Does he threaten to kill you?
_____ 7. Has he avoided being arrested for domestic violence?
_____ 8. Do you have a child that is not his?
_____ 9. Has he ever forced you to have sex when you did not wish to do so?
_____ 10. Does he ever try to choke you?
_____ 11. Does he use illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, "meth", speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures. If no but there are problems with other drugs – e.g. T3's or Oxytocin note what_____
_____ 11a. If the abuser uses prescription drugs, does he become more abusive when the drugs are not available?
_____ 12. Is he an alcoholic or problem drinker?
_____ 13. Does he control most or all of your daily activities? For instance: does he tell you who you can be friends with, when you can see your family, how much money you can use, or when you can take the car? (If he tries, but you do not let him, check here: ____)
_____ 14. Is he violently and constantly jealous of you? (For instance, does he say "If I can't have you, no one can.")
_____ 15. Have you ever been beaten by him while you were pregnant? (If you have never been pregnant by him, check here: ____)
_____ 16. Has he ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
_____ 17. Does he threaten to harm your children?
_____ 18. Are you afraid that that he could kill you?
_____ 19. Does he follow or spy on you, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your property, or call you when you don't want him to?
_____ 20. Have you ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?

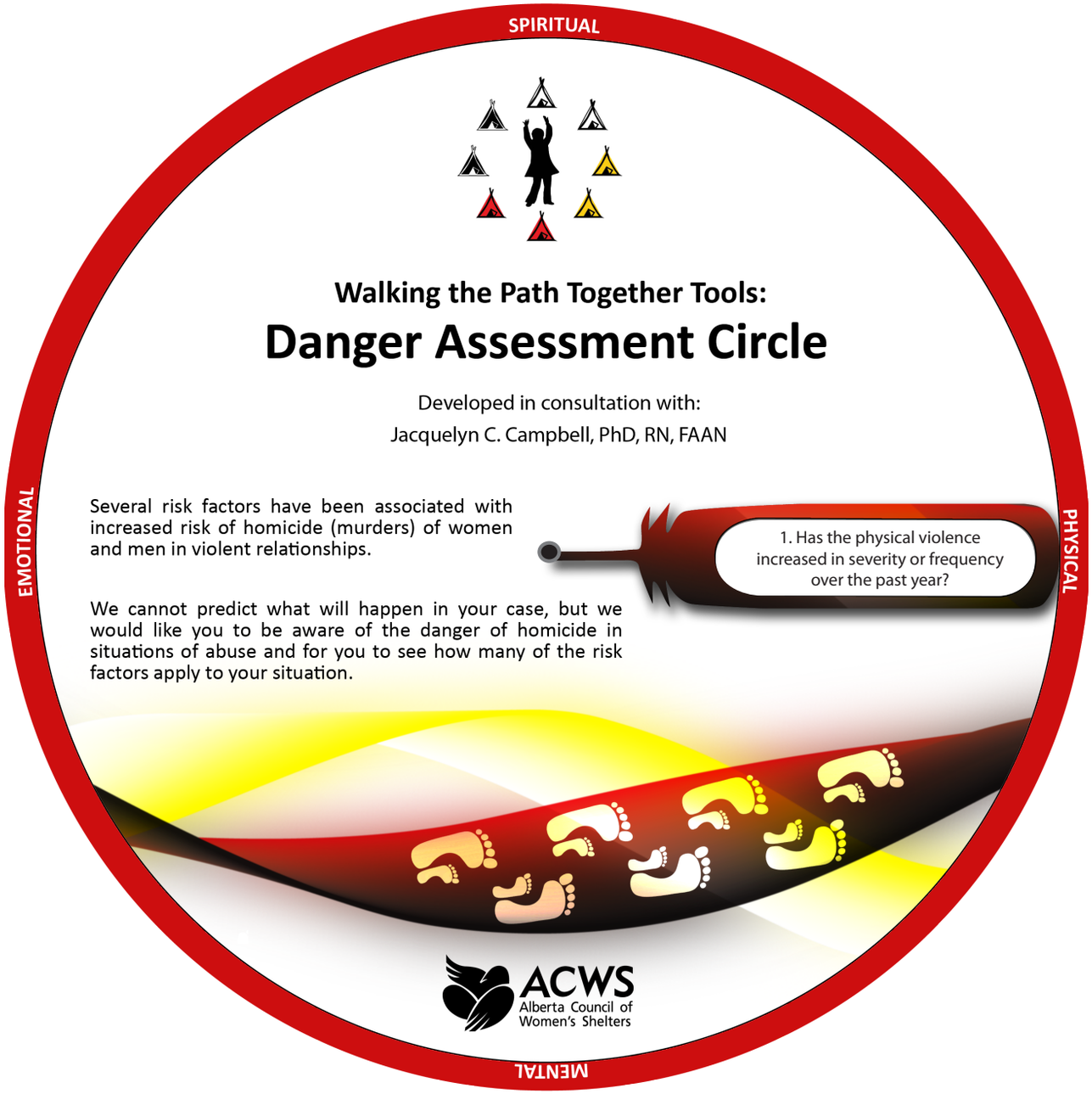
_____ Total "Yes" Answers

Thank you. Please talk to your Eagle Feather, advocate, nurse or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in terms of your situation.

ACWS Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

Walking the Path Together

APPENDIX C:
Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Circle



APPENDIX D:

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Caregiver Questionnaire

Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Caregiver Questionnaire

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, Ph.D., R.N.

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Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of homicides (murders) of women and men in current or past violent or abusive relationships. We cannot predict what will happen in your case, but we would like you to be aware of the danger of homicide or near homicide in situations of abuse and for you to see how many of the risk factors apply to your situation.

Name of abused person _____
Name of abuser _____
Their relationship _____
Caregiver relationship with abuser _____
Caregiver relationship with abused person _____
Date _____

Before completing the Questionnaire below, complete the Seasonal Calendar per the attached Instructions.

Mark **Yes** or **No** (or **DK** – Don't Know or **N/A** – Not Applicable) for each of the following.

_____ 1. Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 2. Does the abuser own a gun? Notes/Comments _____

_____ 3. Has the abused person left the abuser after living together during the past year?
3a. (If abused person has never lived with abuser, check here_____)
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 4. Is the abuser unemployed?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 5. Has the abuser ever used a weapon against you or the abused person or threatened you or the abused person with a lethal weapon? (If yes, what was the weapon?_____)
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 6. Does the abuser threaten to kill you, and/or the abused person (or others)?
If someone else, who: _____
Notes/comments _____

_____ 7. Has the abuser avoided being arrested for domestic or family violence?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 8. Does the person who was (or is being) abused have a child that is not the abuser's child (not his/her biological child) - if they were in an intimate relationship?
Notes/Comments _____
Has the abuser ever forced you (or anyone) to have sex when you (or they) did not wish to?
If someone else was forced into sex, who?_____

_____ 9. Does the abuser ever try to choke you (or has s/he tried to choke others)?
If someone else, who? _____
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 10. Does the abuser use illegal drugs? By drugs, I mean "uppers" or amphetamines, "meth", speed, angel dust, cocaine, "crack", street drugs or mixtures. If there are problems with other drugs – e.g. T3's or Oxytocin note here _____

_____ 11. If the abuser uses prescription drugs, does he become more abusive when the drugs are not available? Notes/Comments _____

_____ 11a. Is the abuser an alcoholic or problem drinker? Notes/Comments_____

_____ 12. Does the abuser control most or all of your or the abused person's daily activities? For instance, does the abuser tell you or the abused person who you/they can be friends with,

_____ 13. when you/they can see your family, how much money you/they can use, or when you/they can take the car?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 14. Is the abuser violently and constantly jealous of you or the abused person? (For instance, does he say "If I can't have you, no one can." Notes/Comments _____

_____ 15. Has the abuser ever beaten the abused person (or you) when they were pregnant? (If neither you nor the abused person have never been pregnant by him, check here: ____)
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 16. Has the abuser ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 17. Does the abuser threaten to harm your children or those children in your care?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 18. Do you believe the abuser is capable of killing you or the abused person or anyone in the family? Notes/Comments _____

_____ 19. Does the abuser follow or spy on you or the abused person, leave threatening notes or messages, destroy your or the abused person's property, or call when you or the abused person doesn't want him/her to?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ 20. Have you or the abused person ever threatened or tried to commit suicide?
Notes/Comments _____

_____ Total "Yes" Answers

Thank you. Please talk to your Eagle Feather, advocate, nurse
or counselor about what the Danger Assessment means in terms of your situation.

ACWS Alberta Council of Women's Shelters

Walking the Path Together

Instructions for completing the Walking the Path Together Danger Assessment Seasonal Calendar

Use the calendar to document incidents of physical abuse by your partner.

Identify the approximate dates using the numbers to indicate the severity of the incident:

1 = slapping, pushing, no injuries and/or lasting pain
2 = punching, kicking, bruises, cuts, and/or continuing pain
3 = "beating up"; severe contusions, burns, broken bones
4 = threat to use a weapon; head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage
5 = use of a weapon; wounds from a weapon

Other types of abuse can be indicated by the following letters:

C = cultural/customs **E** = emotional; verbal and psychological **F** = financial **S** = sexual **CH** = choking **SP** = spiritual

Identify Person Implementing Abuse:

Spouse 

Cousin 

In-Laws 

Family Friend 

Son 

Brother 

Father 

Uncle 

Grandfather 

Daughter 

Sister 

Mother 

Aunty 

Grandmother 

* If any descriptions for the higher number apply, use the higher number.

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