

# THE RESEARCH NOOK

A Waypoint Research Institute Newsletter

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## ➤➤➤ JOIN US FOR THE INSPIRE 2025 CONFERENCE IN JUNE!

InSPIRE 2025  
Integrating Science, Practice, Innovation, Research and Experience

The [Waypoint Research Institute](#) is excited to resume our annual conference series, starting with Integrating Science, Practice, Innovation, Research and Experience (InSPIRE) 2025. This conference aims to highlight and explore innovative and inclusive approaches to research, practice, and engagement in the mental health and substance use sector. InSPIRE 2025 will take place at the [Village Conference Centre](#) in Blue Mountain, Ontario from June 2nd-4th, 2025.

The target audience for this conference is anyone with an interest in knowledge translation and implementation science, and issues relating to evidence-based practices in mental health and addictions. The call for abstracts closes January 31st, 2025. Click [here](#) to submit your abstract & learn more!

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE WRI

## ➤➤➤ CELIA TEAM HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING EVENT

The [CELIA team](#) hosted a successful networking event in October which aimed to bring researchers from across Canada together to identify needs and gaps for future research on coercive control within intimate partner relationships. Nine researchers in diverse psychology, criminology, sociology, and mental health fields, three graduate students, and a team from Waypoint, Carleton University, and Niagara University in Ontario spent a day presenting their related research and discussing its implications for understanding, defining, and advancing research on coercive control. Finally, researchers at the event discussed collaborations in future research in a number of priority areas related to coercive control.



## ➤➤➤ WRI WELCOMES A NEW HEALTH SYSTEMS IMPACT FELLOW



The Waypoint Research Institute is excited about its most recent Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Health System Impact Fellow, Dane Mauer-Vakil, who has received federal funding for a project that will utilize hospital data to validate risk-assessment tools on Waypoint's forensic units. The Health System Impact Fellowship supports doctoral and post-doctoral trainees to carry out a project under joint supervision of a university-affiliated researcher and a health organization. Dane is a PhD candidate in the School of Public Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo, and a CIHR Health System Impact Fellow embedded at Waypoint for the current academic year. The objective of his project is to utilize hospital data to validate risk-assessment tools pertaining to aggression, violence and seclusion, thus ensuring a safer health care environment. Welcome Dane!

## ➤➤➤ WRI AT THE GALA

The WRI team was pleased to attend and support the 2024 Evening to Shine the Light Gala in November. Congratulations to our colleagues for their successful fundraising efforts to support the Breakthrough Fund and Emergency Fund. You can learn more about the event [here](#).



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Evans, C., Deljavan, S., Zimmermann, K., Allen, K., Moghimi, E., Canning, C. (2025). **Determinants of readiness to implement forensic patient-oriented research: a study of barriers and facilitators in a high-secure hospital.** *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 15, 1509946.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2024.1509946>

Weissflog, M., Batinic, M., Scott, S.B., Wesenberg, M., Widmer, D. (2024). **Behind the badge: Early-career insights on advancing IPV risk assessment in Canadian policing.** *Crime Scene*, Vol. 31, Issue 2, 20-23.

[https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Sections/Criminal%20Justice%20Psychology/Crime%20Scene\\_FallWinter2024.pdf](https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Sections/Criminal%20Justice%20Psychology/Crime%20Scene_FallWinter2024.pdf)

Hilton, N. Z., Hanson, R. K., Campbell, M. A., & Jung, S. (2024). **Police and researcher use of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA): Interrater agreement and examination of published norms.** *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/tam0000239>

Evans, C., Canning, C., Ambreen, M., Lo, B., Van Kesteren, M.R., and Stergiopoulous, V. **A Canadian Call for Addressing Physical Health in Specialized Mental Health Settings.** *Healthcare Policy* 20(1).

[doi:10.12927/hcpol.2024.27475](https://doi.org/10.12927/hcpol.2024.27475)

## WRI IN THE NEWS



### LOCAL RESEARCHERS INITIATE STUDY DURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

November 7, 2024. This article is available on [CTVNews.ca](https://www.ctvnews.ca).



### WAYPOINT CEO REFLECTS ON ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR.

December 30, 2024. This article is available on [OrilliaMatters.ca](https://www.OrilliaMatters.ca).



### PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL DEVELOPING EARLY WARNING SYSTEM USING AI

October 2024. This article is available on [OHA.COM](https://www.OHA.COM).

## THE PCFC CORNER

The Patient/Client and Family Council (PCFC) is involved in a number of research projects with the WRI, particularly ones focused on patient-oriented research (POR).

### **Patient-oriented research (POR)**

POR recognizes that patients have lived expertise of their health condition(s) and the relevant health care systems. POR values this knowledge and engages patients as equal partners to conduct research that is relevant to them. This ultimately leads to better patient outcomes!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO YVETTE BROOK ON HER RETIREMENT

There are some big changes happening at PCFC!

After over 11 remarkable years as the Executive Director of PCFC, Yvette Brook has retired. Kayla Zimmermann is stepping into the role as Interim Executive Director of PCFC in Yvette's absence.

The partnership between PCFC and the WRI developed and flourished under Yvette's leadership. PCFC is so proud to have played an integral role in the development of Patient-Oriented Research at Waypoint. It's amazing to see patients being given the platform to use their voice in such groundbreaking ways with this project, and we are thankful to Yvette for laying this foundation.

As Yvette's successor, and experienced POR project lead, Kayla is dedicated to strengthening PCFC's role in POR and seizing all opportunities for further innovative projects in partnership with the WRI. Kayla is excited to continue to support this amazing work, with patients engaged as research partners, and actively contributing to research that will have a meaningful impact on their lives.

We wish Yvette a wonderful retirement and an exciting new chapter in Canada's east coast!





## WRI OPPORTUNITIES

- **Research Analyst STREAM (TFT)**

Keep an eye on our **Careers Page**, as we are continually offering exciting employment opportunities within the department!

## A FAREWELL (BUT NOT GOODBYE) TO YVETTE BROOK

Like everyone at Waypoint, I'm sad to say farewell to our colleague and friend, Yvette Brook, who retired as the Executive Director of PCFC this month. I met Yvette almost four years ago when I started as the Director of Research & Academics in March 2021. I knew immediately that Yvette and I would get along well. I connect with and trust people who live their values, who say the right thing even when it's the hard thing, who challenge us to think and do differently. She does all of those things with grace and wit. I connected with Yvette because she is exactly who she is: an advocate and authentic human who dedicated her career to ensuring patient voices are heard at Waypoint. I'm forever grateful for knowing her.

In early 2022, the WRI and PCFC signed an agreement to work closely together in patient-oriented research, including co-funding a lead position to serve as a central lived experience leadership voice. At the time, we had just one or two patient-oriented projects getting off the ground. Now we have nine projects underway, with some supported by funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Yvette's leadership and vision have been key to this progress, putting Waypoint on the map as an organization that not only values patient voices in research and practice but ensures people with lived experience are leaders at the table.

Thank you, Yvette, for your leadership, your friendship, and everything you've done to make Waypoint a better place. I'm looking forward to working with Kayla as the interim ED to carry your vision forward.

*Christopher Canning, Director of Research & Academics*



### YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

We want your input. What stories or updates would you like us to profile in our next edition? If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute to writing for our newsletter, please email us at [waypointresearchinstitute@waypointcentre.ca](mailto:waypointresearchinstitute@waypointcentre.ca)



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