

## THE ROLE OF ADVOCACY IN COORDINATION WORK SHEET

**What are some of the things you would need to consider as chair of a coordination initiative that was going to address the following situation?**

A woman has come to an advocate to say that she is attempting to leave an abusive relationship but cannot get emergency funding from MHR. The advocate knows there is a Ministry of Human Resources (MHR) policy in place that allows for emergency grants to women in this situation. She calls the worker directly on behalf of the woman in order to sort out the problem. After several months, the advocate has encountered several women who have been unable to access emergency grants, and recognizes there is a systemic problem with her local MHR office. She calls the Chair of her local VAWIR initiative and asks to have the issue put on the agenda.

**In your table group discuss how you as Co-Chairs would facilitate addressing this problem.\***

- What questions would you need to ask?
- What information would you need to gather?

**Develop a strategy for action that is inclusive, respectful and creates a learning experience for all involved.**

45 minutes

\*The strategy developed collaboratively by the coordination initiative will ideally be one that builds relationships and community capacity rather than blames and isolates one agency. Any time an advocacy action is taken we must consider and plan for the potential for backlash either on the clients or on collaborative relationships